



South Asian Studies Association

# SOUTH ASIA and THE WEST

## ENTWINED, ENTANGLED, ENGAGED

THE 4TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE APRIL 10 - 11, 2010  
@ THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA





# SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Understanding South Asia's Peoples, Cultures, Issues and Opportunities

April 10, 2010

**Welcome.** On behalf of the South Asian Studies Association Board of Directors, welcome to our fourth annual conference. SASA is a 100% volunteer effort; we can't thank all of those involved enough. While everyone on the Board has played a part, the key players this time around include:

- Vandana Asthana, program chair. At one time or another you all have been in contact with Vandana. Thank god Spokane is located on the Palouse, a lovely topography that does not encourage wool gathering. It offers almost no enticement to venture outside and away from her Internet connection with all of us. Calm, diligent and unflappable, she is an absolute pleasure to work with.
- Paul Hanson, exhibits chair. In this time of sharp economic cutbacks Paul has done a fantastic job pulling together exhibits that excite the eye and stimulate curiosity.
- Deepak Shimkhada, all around master of many talents. An extraordinary negotiator, Deepak assumed responsibility for banquet catering, reception entertainment, wrangling panels and recruiting several needed panel chairs.
- Joe Pellegrino, webmaster. Unbelievably, in real life Joe spends most of his time in Celtic Studies. He has redesigned our website and implemented our new online registration and automated paper submission system. Because of Joe's talents an enormous amount of work has been automated.
- Ken Silverman, Iteamworks. Ken is a SASA board member, charter member of TiE Southern California, and our tie to the real world. He is self-effacing and generous to a fault in sharing his contacts to pull together a range of people who enriched both this and last year's conferences more than any of us will ever know.
- USC. Without a university host there is no way we could stage a conference like this. Hotel facilities are simply too costly. The facilities here at USC are on a par with the best to be found anywhere. We were able to move ahead because of the extraordinary support received from Dean Varun Soni and the Office of Religious Life. Sumun "Sumi" Pendakur, USC's Director of Asian Pacific American Student Services, has provided invaluable liaison assistance to the various parts of the University's administrative structure. Thank you both.

Enjoy the conference, make new friends.

**Dr. William Vanderbok**  
SASA President  
wv@sasia.org

The South Asian Studies Association is a non-political, non-profit professional association open to everyone interested in the Indian subcontinent. We promote the scholarly study of and public interest in South Asian history, culture, and contemporary affairs, provide networking opportunities, and build bridges of understanding linking the academic, entrepreneurial and diaspora communities.

Website: <http://www.sasia.org> email: [info@sasia.org](mailto:info@sasia.org) 5613 Fairhaven Avenue Woodland Hills, CA 91367 +1 (818) 456-0434



April 10, 2010

**Office of the Provost**

**C. L. Max Nikias**  
Executive Vice President  
and Provost

Malcolm R. Currie Chair  
in Technology and  
the Humanities

Dear attendees:

It is my pleasure to welcome you on behalf of USC to the South Asian Studies Association's 2010 conference! Our university is delighted to be hosting one of the most important and far-reaching South Asian Studies conference that will be held in the United States this year.

It is fitting for this to campus serve as the setting for such a momentous conference: USC is home to more Indian students than any other American university, just as it is home to more international students overall than any American university. USC takes seriously its role as one of the first truly global universities, actively building social and intellectual partnerships across the Pacific Rim and South Asia.

I would like to thank Varun Soni, our dean of Religious Life, and Sumun Pendakur, director of our Department of Asian Pacific American Student Services, for their extraordinary efforts in helping to arrange this conference, which convenes more than 100 top scholars from around the world as well as officials from the U.S. Department of State.

The thirty different panels at this weekend's conference will examine every crucial facet of contemporary South Asian Studies, a field that has never been more important to the well-being and security of societies around the globe. We trust that the discussions and encounters that will begin this weekend, and that will continue far beyond, will have far-reaching consequences.

Sincerely,

C. L. Max Nikias  
Executive Vice President and Provost

SASA PROGRAM 2010  
**DAILY PROGRAM**  
SATURDAY 10 APRIL 2010

REGISTRATION OPENS AT 8:15 AM  
OPENING PLENARY SESSION 9:00 - 10 AM

Speaker: **Bonita Chamberlain**  
Institute for Continuing Education, La Mesa, CA  
Board Room  
Topic: **Women and Girls in Contemporary Afghanistan**

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Mixer/Book Browse, 10:00 - 10:30 AM  
Beverages and Snacks Served

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**SESSION – 1 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Panel 1A: Figueroa A**

Empire and Information: Intelligence Gathering, Nationhood and Media in India

Chair: Arnold P. Kaminsky, California State University, Long Beach

- Freedom of the Press: India and the Empire/Commonwealth Press Union, 1940-50
  - Chandrika Kaul, University of St Andrews
- Tristao Braganca Cunha and Nationalism in Colonial Goa: Mediating Difference and Essentialising Nationhood
  - Parag Datta Parobo, Goa University
- Colonial State of Exception and Criminalization of the Political: British Indian Intelligence and Nationalist resistance in the Early Twentieth Century
  - John R. Pincince, Loyola University

**Panel 1B: Alumni A**

Postcolonial Perspectives in Literary Writings and Musical Orientalism

Chair: James McHugh, University of Southern California

- Mughals, Music, and "The Crown of India" Masque: A Reconsideration of Elgar and the Raj
  - Joe Pellegrino, Georgia Southern University
- Reincarnating the Raj on the Roof of the World: Postcolonial Critique and Tibetan Nationalism in Jamyang Norbu's The Mandela of Sherlock Holmes
  - Sumangala Bhattacharya, Pitzer College
- Identity Politics and the Politics of Patriotism: A critique of writings of some Contemporary Diaspora and India Writers of Historical Fiction
  - Nita Jain, Christ Church College,
- "Pull Up the People": M.I.A. and Global Alterity
  - Namita Thakker, Emory University

**Panel 1C: Figueroa B**

Roundtable: India-U.S. Relations in the Obama Era

Chair: Ram M. Roy, California State University, Northridge

- Parkes Riley, Cal Poly, Pomona
- William Vanderbok, Independent Scholar

**Panel 1D: Board Room**

Screening of "Not in God's Name" - A Documentary on Religious Tolerance

- Discussant: Paula Fouche, Paradise Filmworks

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**LUNCH 12:00 Noon**  
**Vineyard Room**  
**Speaker: Gunjan Bagla, Amritt Ventures**  
**Topic: Globalization: India and the U.S.**

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**SESSION 2: 1:30 – 3:00 PM**

**Panel 2A: Alumni A**

India a Land of Business Opportunity

Chair: Smita Bagla, Amritt Ventures

- How India is Changing and Why Does India Need American Help
  - Praful Kulkarni, GKKWorks
- What's New about the Interaction between the Two Largest Entertainment Centers? How do "Slumdog" and "My Name Is Khan" Change the Way the World Looks at South Asia?
  - Ken Silverman, Tata Elxsi and Interactive Teamworks
- Working for Home Grown Top Company in the News India
  - Sandeep Muju, Moser-Baer
- How People from Outside South Asia can Identify and Overcome Cultural Pitfalls when Working with South Asians and South Asian Companies. Examples of How Mistakes can Cost Business or Hurt Career Prospects
  - Sangeeta Gupta, Cross Cultural Communication Consultant

**Panel 2B: Figueroa B**

Exploring the Creation of a Security Community in South Asia

Chair: Majid Sharifi, Eastern Washington University

- Contemporary European Security Processes and Scholarship
  - Kristen Edquist, Eastern Washington University
- Strategic Altruism and Role of United States in Evolution of the Security Community in South Asia
  - Vandana Asthana, Eastern Washington University
- A Regime of Insecurity: Killing the "Bad" Guys and Implementing Good Policies
  - Majid Sharifi, Eastern Washington University
- Security Community: Resource Security and Insecurity in South Asia
  - Ashok C. Shukla, Independent Scholar, Environment and South Asian Studies

**Panel 2C: Figueroa A**

Roundtable: Challenges and Opportunities around South Asian Studies at the University of Southern California

Chair: Varun Soni, University of Southern California

- Priya Jaikumar, University of Southern California
- James McHugh, University of Southern California
- Indra Mukhopadhyay, University of Southern California
- Sumun Pendakur, University of Southern California

**Panel 2D: Alumni B**

Religion and Political Identity

Chair: Carlos Lopez, University of South Florida

- Common Concepts in Syrian Orthodox Church and Sikhism
  - Zbigniew Igeilski, Warsaw University
- Examining Political Islam in Bangladesh as a Transnational Phenomenon
  - Mubashar Hasan, Al Makhtoum Institute
- Scriptural Authority, Religious Identity, and Science in Hindu Nationalism
  - Jim Sharp, Claremont Graduate University
- The Roots of Anti – West sentiments in Modern South Asia: A Case Study of Fatawa Literature
  - Mujeeb Ahmad, International Islamic University

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MIXER/BOOK BROWSE 3:00 – 3:30 PM  
Beverages and Snacks Served

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**SESSION 3: 3:30 – 5:00 PM**

**Panel 3A: Figueroa A**

Enlightenment Impacts, Cultural Resilience and Labor Migration in South Asia

Chair: Paul Hanson, California Lutheran University,

- From Palashi to Psthuns, the Deciphering Continues
  - Koushik Ghosh, Central Washington University
- Oral Histories of Labour: Listening To the Diaspora in Manitoba, Canada
  - Emma Alexander-Mudaliar, University of Winnipeg
- South Asia or Southern Asia: Debating the Region
  - Satyabrat Sinha, Sikkim University
- Recent Developments in the Conversation on Nature and Culture in South Asia
  - Jana Fornier, University of California, San Diego

**Panel 3B: Alumni A**

South Asia to the West: Linkages in Arts and Photography

Chair: Ingrid Aall, Cal State University, Long Beach

- The Evolution of Tantric Art: On the Artistic Genius of the Newars of the Kathmandu valley
  - Siddhartha Vibhakar Shah, Independent Art Historian
- Frameworks for the Exhibition of Contemporary Pakistani Art in the West
  - Allison White, Art Institute of Chicago
- Looking in From the Inside/Outside on Falkland Road: Examining Mary Ellen Mark's Photographs of Sex Workers in Bombay
  - Liz Lance, University of Missouri

**Panel 3C: Alumni B**

South Asia and the Search for Dialogue: Using the Internet and Web

Chair: Parkes Riley, Cal Poly, Pomona Cal Poly, Pomona

- India and Pakistan: Connecting Through the Web
  - Madhavi Bhasin, Global India Foundation
- Birds of a Feather – Professional Uses of Internet Social Networking Sites
  - William Vanderbok, Independent Scholar
- Fraternity of Civilizations: Prospects for Dialogue and Search for Common Thread
  - Maryam Sakeenah, Pakistan

**Panel 3D: Board Room**

Screening of "Arising Light" A Documentary on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

- Discussant: David Blundell, National Chengchi University

**RECEPTION & CULTURAL PROGRAM 5:00 PM**  
**Patio by the Fishbowl**  
**AWARDS BANQUET: 6:00 - 8:30 PM**  
**United University Church**

**Honoring Dr. Stanley Wolpert and Mr. Navneet Chugh**

Welcoming remarks:

Dr. Arfa Sayeda Zehra, former Chairperson,  
Pakistan National Commission on the Status of Women

Concluding remarks:

Dr. Muhammad Khalid Ejaz, (Acting) Consul General of Pakistan



Music for reception provided by:

Pundit Radheya Prasad on flute and Akash Pujara on tabla  
310-316-7599

Banquet Catering by:

Mayura Indian Restaurant  
10406 Venice Boulevard  
Culver City, CA 90232  
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**Sunday 11 April 2010**  
**REGISTRATION OPENS AT 8:15 AM**

**SESSION 4: 8:30 -- 10:00 AM**

**Panel 4A: Embassy Room**

Hinduism and Sexuality

Chair: Phyllis Herman, California State University, Northridge

- Hinduism: Love and Sexual Fluids
  - Deepak Shimkhada, Claremont Graduate University
- The Divine Feminine in Jayadeva's Gitagovinda: Reading Radha as Divine Guide
  - LaChelle Elisabeth Marie Shilling, Claremont Graduate University
- Hindu Concepts of Male and Female Divine Union
  - Adam Pave, Claremont Graduate University
- Homoerotic Trope in the Seduction of Rasyamga (MHB 3.110-113)
  - Carlos Lopez, University of Florida

**Panel 4B: Figueroa A**

Poetry, Fiction and Intellectual History in South Asian Cultures

Chair: Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawaii at Manoa

- The New Agents: Variations in Form and Society in Swarup's six Suspects
  - Tanvi Patel, University of Washington
- Indivisible the Poetry of South Asian American
  - Pireeni Sundaralingam, University of Oxford
- An Autobiography of Ismat Chughtai as a source for the Intellectual History of South Asia
  - Sadaf Jaffer, Harvard University
- Environmental Literature in Hindi: A new vista for Global Understanding
  - Sujata Chaturvedi, Christ Church College

**Panel 4C: Alumni A**

Discovering the State of Art in Pakistan: Archaeological Perspectives

Chair: Rita Sherma, Taksha University

- South Asia and the West: Entwined, Entangled and Engaged From Its First Civilization till Present through Amphorae
  - Nargis Rashid, University of Karachi
- Badalpur a New Discovery of Buddhist Monastery in Taxila (Gandhara) Pakistan
  - Muhammad Ashraf Khan, Quaid-i-Azam University
- Present State of Buddhist Period Rock Art of the Swat Valley of Pakistan
  - Badshah Sardar, Allama Iqbal University

**Panel 4D: Alumni B**

Governance and Politics in India

Chair: Uma Singh, Jawaharlal Nehru University

- Norm Setting in India
  - Shazia Aziz Wulbers, University of Bremen
- Does the Use of "the Supernatural" Distinguish "Western" Secularism from "Eastern" Communalism in Indian Politics?
  - Dean Eugene McHenry, Claremont Graduate University
- Democracy in the East: Understanding the Continuity and Crisis of the World's Longest Elected Government
  - Dwaipayan Bhattacharyya, Claremont Graduate University
- Governance in Indian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Sector
  - Muthusami Kumaran, University of Florida

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MIXER/BOOK BROWSE 10:00 – 10:30 AM

Beverages and Snacks Served

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**SESSION 5: 10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon****Panel 5A: Figueroa A**

Empowering Women in South Asia

Chair: Chandrika Kaul, University of St. Andrews

- Re-evaluation of Gandhian Political and Economic Thought and Its Relevance to the Empowerment of Women
  - Purnima Mehta Bhatt, Hood College
- Western Feminist Movement and "Women Protection Bill 2006" of Pakistan – An Analytical Study
  - Muhammad Hammad Lakhvi, University of Punjab
- Educating Sita: Academics as a Vehicle for Promoting Gender and Caste Balance
  - Ramdas Lamb, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Dr. Ambedkar – Quest for Liberation: Rights for Women and Religious Toleration
  - David Blundell, National Chengchi University

**Panel 5B: Embassy Room**

Reshaping Spiritual, Cinematic and Artful Negotiations in the East

Chair: Joe Pellegrino, Georgia Southern University

- Transforming the Object Art: Devotional Fanscapes and M.F. Husain
  - Shalini Kakar, University of California at Santa Barbara
- "Psy –Babas" Spiritual Labor and Ritual Exoticism in Tourist Goa
  - Pavithra Prasad, North Western University
- Quest for Individuation: An Analysis of Deepa Mehta's "Water" through the Jungian Therapeutic Lens
  - Paulson V.Veliyannoor, Pacifica Graduate Institute
- New Media Empowerment for Rural India
  - Ramesh Srinivasan, University of California, Los Angeles

**Panel 5C: Alumni A**

Contextual Utilization and Interpretation of Gandhi's Philosophy

Chair: Dean Eugene McHenry, Claremont Graduate University

- The Hermeneutic of Re-constructing the Paradigm of Nonviolent Resistance and the Modern-Day Challenge of Terrorism
  - Veena Rani Howard, University of Oregon
- Gandhi on Palestine
  - Geoffrey Cook, The Muslim Observer



#### **Panel 5D: Alumni B**

Peace and Conflict Resolution: Diaspora and Developing Societies in South Asia

Chair: Vandana Asthana, Eastern Washington University

- Diasporas, Development and Conflict resolution: A Sri Lanka Case Study
  - Asoka Bandarage, Georgetown University
- Storm and Calm in Swat, Pakistan
  - Zahid Anwar, University of Peshawar
- Intra-ethnic Electoral Violence in Divided Societies: The Case of Sri Lanka
  - Seema Shah, University of California, Los Angeles

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### **LUNCH 12:00 Noon**

#### **Vineyard Room**

#### **Roundtable Discussion: Public Diplomacy, Cultural Identity, and Diasporic Engagement**

#### **Panelists:**

- **Shamila N. Chaudhary** joined the Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff in February 2009 and is responsible for South and Central Asia. She also advises on Pakistan issues for Richard C. Holbrooke, the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- **Sajit Gandhi** currently serves as a South Asia Analyst in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research at the U.S. Department of State. Immediately prior to this he was the Deputy Director for Strategic Communications in the office of the Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- **Christopher Steinitz** is a Research Analyst in the Center for Strategic Studies at CNA, a Congressionally established, non-profit think tank in Alexandria, VA. His areas of expertise are the Arab world, the Muslim world, and Terrorism/Counterterrorism.

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#### **SESSION 6: 1:30 – 3:00 PM**

#### **Panel 6A: Alumni A**

U.S. Policy in South Asia

Chair: A. C. Shukla, Independent Scholar, South Asian Studies

- Intensive U.S. Engagement for Enhanced Stabilization in South Asia
  - Umbreen Javaid, University of Punjab
- US's Af – Pak Strategy and its Impact on India and Pakistan
  - Uma Singh, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Pakistan and West: Entwined, Entangled and Engaged
  - Rana Eijaz Ahmad, University of Punjab

#### **Panel 6B: Alumni B**

Similarities and Interface of Art between the East and the West

Chair: Ingrid Aall, Cal State University, Long Beach

- Artistic Interaction between Greece and India in Northwest India: Role of Royal and Religious Establishments
  - Nalini Rao, Soka University of America
- Evidence of Mythological Similarities between Hindu and Greek Culture: Study Based On Indo-Greek Coins
  - Renu Lal, Member, Canada
- A Fresh Thought on Iconographic Symbolism of Buddhist Art: Buddha Invited by Srigupta Represented in Gandhara Sculpture, Archeology, History Art
  - Ghani-ur-Rahman, Quaid-i-Azam University

#### **Panel 6C: Embassy Room**

Science, Tradition and the Religious Landscape

Chair: Christopher Chapple, Loyola Marymount University

- Representing Hindu Traditions in the Hindu Students Council
  - Daniel Philip Cheifer, Syracuse University
- Bridging Ancient Eastern Thought with Modern Science
  - Jesse Bettinger, Claremont Graduate University
- Problems of East-West Transmission: Should Hindus Expect Gratitude for the Gifts of Hindu Civilization to the West?
  - Rita Sherma, Taksha University

**Panel 6D: Figueroa A**

Cultures, Hegemonies and Identity Politics

Chair: Kundan Singh, California Institute of Integral Studies

- Recreation of Identity among the Second Generation Transnational in the Little India Enclave in Southern California
  - Surekha Acharya and Lalit Acharya, Riverside Community College and City of Riverside
- Yoga and Public Feelings: On the Imminent Expression of Identity Politics
  - Amy Champ, University of California, Davis
- Racial and Ethnic Conundrums: South Asian-Americans and Formations of Power
  - Roksana Badruddoja, California State University, Fresno

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MIXER/BOOK BROWSE 3:00 – 3:30 PM  
Beverages and Snacks Served

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**SESSION 6: 3:30 – 5:00 PM**

**Panel 7A: Figueroa A**

Nondualism Awareness in Yoga, Trika Saivism, Vira Saivism and Advaita Vedanta

Chair: Nalini Rao, Soka University of America

- The Emergence of Power from concentrated awareness in Patanjali's Vibhuti Pada
  - Christopher Chapple, Loyola Marymount University
- Abhinavagupta and the flourishing Kashmir School
  - Viresh Hughes, Loyola Marymount University
- Poet Saints and the ascent from devotion to Union in South Asia
  - Jodi Shaw, Loyola Marymount University
- Nisargadatta, a 20th century Advaita: there is no self and there is No Self
  - Chad Richman, Loyola Marymount University

**Panel 7B: Alumni A**

South Asian Mosaic: Indigenous Knowledge, Medicine and the Fashion Industry

Chair: Rita Sherma, Taksha University

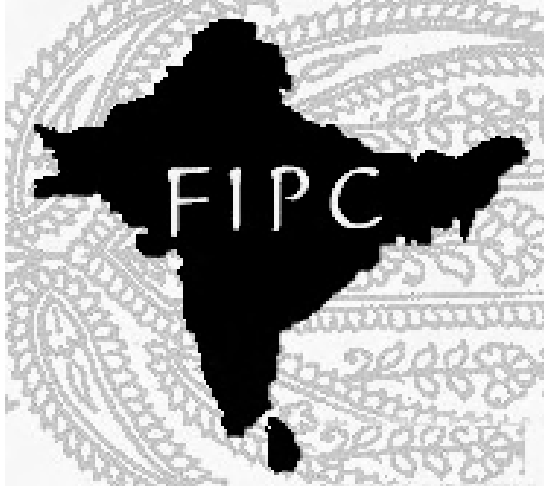
- Socio-Economic Implications, Forestlands and Tribal Knowledge of Bundelkhand, India: Local Resource and South Asian Dimension
  - Ashok Kumar Awasthi, Brahmanand College
- Indian Apparel Industry-Influencing the World
  - Divya Satyan, Institute of Fashion Technology
- From Medicine to Complementary Medicine, Ayurveda at Home and Abroad
  - Sujata Venkatesh, Jawaharlal Nehru University

**Panel 7C: Embassy Room**

Examining Ideas of Enlightenment, Salvation and Ethics in Religions Texts and Buddhist Studies

Chair: Deepak Shimkhada, Claremont Graduate University

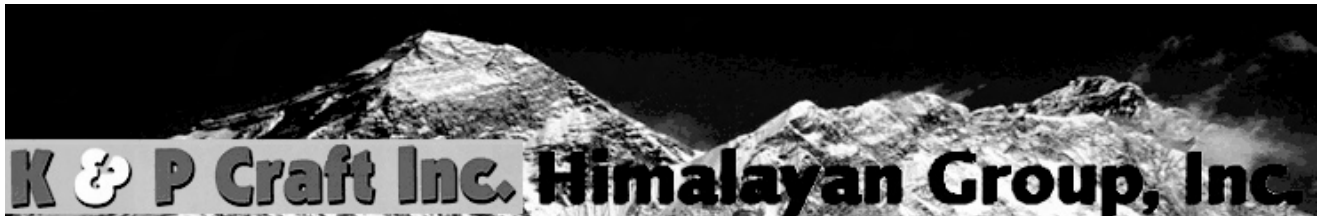
- An Examination of the Sotopanna
  - Calvin Baker, University of the West
- Religious Value or Superstition in the Soteriology of Samkaracharya: A Contemplative Hermeneutic
  - Paul Devitto, Claremont Graduate University
- Paul Hacker's Erroneous Conclusions on European influence on Swami Vivekananda's Vedanta Ethics
  - Kundan Singh, California Institute of Integral Studies



**SASA wishes to acknowledge ongoing financial support received from the Foundation for Indic Philosophy and Culture.**

The Foundation serves to facilitate communication amongst the faculty/students of The Claremont Colleges, the Indic-American community, and persons interested in the study of Indic philosophy and its impact on spirituality, art, music, dance, literature, architecture, science, medicine, and other cultural and religious traditions of South Asia.

The Foundation seeks to offer grants and fellowships to qualified researchers, endow a Chair in Hindu studies at Claremont Graduate University, and to make an annual award for distinguished achievement in the promotion of international Indic studies. The Foundation sponsors social events based on Indic culture for the purpose of raising funds. A 501(c)3 organization, donations to the Foundation are tax deductible. For more information, **please visit: [www.indic.org](http://www.indic.org).**



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Ahmad	Mujeeb	International Islamic University, Pakistan
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Bandarage	Asoka	Georgetown University
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Cook	Geoffrey	Journalist
Devitto	Paul	Claremont Graduate University
Edquist	Kristin	Eastern Washington University
Fouche	Paula	Paradise Filmworks

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Jain	Nita	Christ Church College, India
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Mchugh	James	University of Southern California
Mudaliar	Emma	University of Winnipeg, Canada
Muju	Sandeep	Moser-Baer
Mukhopadhyay	Indra	University of Southern California
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Roy	Ram M.	California State University, Northridge
Sakeenah	Maryam	Pakistan
Sardar	Badshah	Allama Iqbal University, Pakistan

Satyan	Divya	Institute of Fashion Technology, India
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Shah	Siddhartha	Independent Art Historian
Sharifi	Majid	Eastern Washington University
Sharp	Jim	Claremont Graduate University
Shaw	Jodi	Loyola Marymount University
Sherma	Rita	Taksah University
Shimkhada	Deepak	Claremont Graduate University
Shukla	A. C.	Independent Scholar, Environmental Study Center, Kanpur, India
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Singh	Kundan	California Institute of Integral Studies
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Venkatesh	Sujatha	Jawaharial Nehru University, India
White	Allison	Art Institute of Chicago
Wulbers	Shazia	University of Bremen, Germany
Zaman	Arif	Commonwealth Business Council, London

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“Oh, East is East, and West is West, and never the two shall meet;  
Till Earth and Sky stand presently at God’s great Judgment Seat;  
But there is neither East nor West, Border, nor Breed, nor Birth,  
When two strong men stand face to face,  
tho’ they come from the ends of the earth.”

RUDYARD KIPLING

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