

# SASA VIII

WESTMINSTER COLLEGE  
SALT LAKE CITY

APRIL 11-13, 2014



**THE SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**

**UNDERSTANDING SOUTH ASIA'S CULTURES, HISTORIES, ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES**



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April 2014

Dear South Asian Studies Association members:

On behalf of Westminster College, it's my pleasure to welcome you to our college campus for the Eight Annual Conference of the South Asian Studies Association. We are proud to host your organization's scholars, researchers, and students and especially support your dedication to the interdisciplinary study of South Asian histories, cultures, and peoples.

As one of Westminster College's College Wide Learning goals is "global consciousness, social responsibility, and ethical awareness," we are honored that you chose our institution as your gathering location in 2014. All members of the Westminster College – students, faculty, and staff – value the study of other cultures and peoples in a responsible learning environment that highlights the ethical and social implications of cultural diversity in both global and domestic contexts.

Your organization's commitment to the study of South Asian histories, cultures, and peoples, through various academic disciplines and focusing on all periods to address the rich tapestry of the region is in par with our core values about diversity and global learning.

We encourage you to engage with the Westminster College community while you are here and to take advantage of what our neighborhood of Sugar House has to offer.

May your gathering produce a meaningful exchange of ideas and perspectives to further your studies and commitment to academic excellence and teaching. And may you visit us again in the future!

We look forward to your visit and conference.

Sincerely,

Nohemy Solórzano-Thompson  
Associate Provost for Diversity and Global Learning

**Conference Chair**  
**Muthusami Kumaran**  
**University of Florida**

**Conference Committee**  
**Veena Howard, University of San Diego**

**Deepak Shimkhada, Claremont Lincoln University**  
**William Vanderbok, President, SASA**  
**Ranjan Adiga, Site Coordinator**  
**Joe Pellegrino, Georgia Southern University**

SASA wishes to thank the Nepalese Association of Utah, and especially Raju Subedi, for organizing our Nepali folk dance cultural program. Special thanks go to these performers for their time:

**Anjela Dhungana**  
**Aarati Ghimire**  
**Sitasma Khatri**  
**Pratik Lohani**  
**Medona Samuel**  
**Deepika Shah**  
**Ashma Shrestha**  
**Sudha Shrestha**

## Volunteers

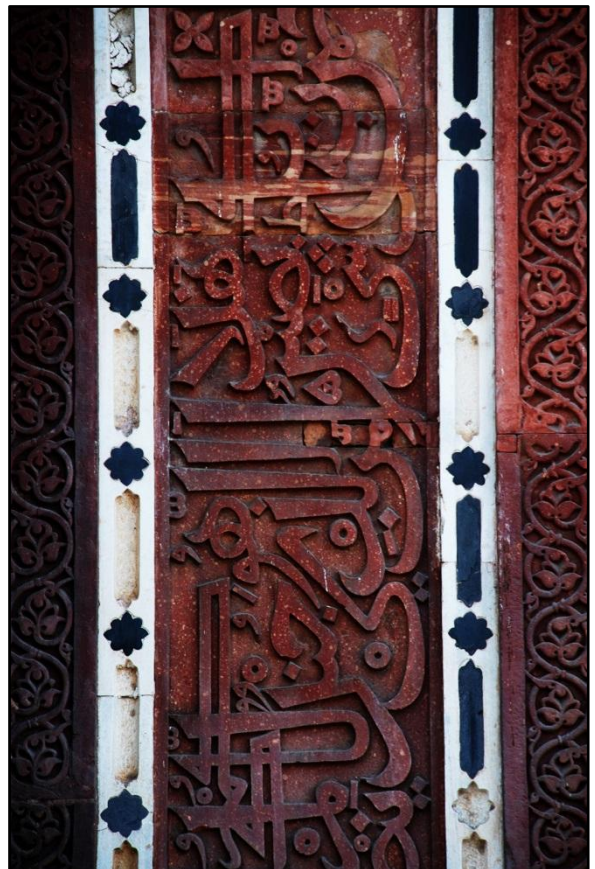
We thank countless volunteers, both on- and off-site, for their time and advice. Without their kind support, this conference would not have been possible. We specially recognize the time and work of the following individuals:

**Natnaree Harnmaythee**  
**Jamie Mills**  
**Bibek Neupane**  
**William Palomo**

**Cover photo: Village elders in front of Buddhist prayer wheel at Paro Valley, Bhutan**  
**by: Muthusami Kumaran**



Architectural detail, Achmedabad, Guajarat.  
Photo: Paul Hanson.



Mosque Portal Detail, Bapa Nagar, New Delhi.  
Photo: S.N. Johnson-Roehr.



## South Asian Studies Association

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

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April 11, 2014

**Welcome.** On behalf of the South Asian Studies Association Board of Directors, welcome to our eighth 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:

- **Muthusami Kumaran**, University of Florida, program chair. At one time or another you all have been in contact with Kumaran. SASA has developed a tradition of two terms as program chair. But for Kumaran, 2014 is his *third* consecutive year. Has done us all proud with his enormous dedication and attention to detail both last year and this. He is an absolute pleasure to work with.
- **Veena Howard**, University of San Diego, program co-chair. The program chair workload is overwhelming and growing as SASA grows. Veena stepped into the breach in a timely manner, full of first-rate expertise and enthusiasm. We now face the problem of cloning her.
- **Joe Pellegrino**, Georgia Southern University, publications and publicity. Joe is an interdisciplinary Renaissance man providing indispensable service in a wide range of areas. He is great at photography and invaluable at tech support.

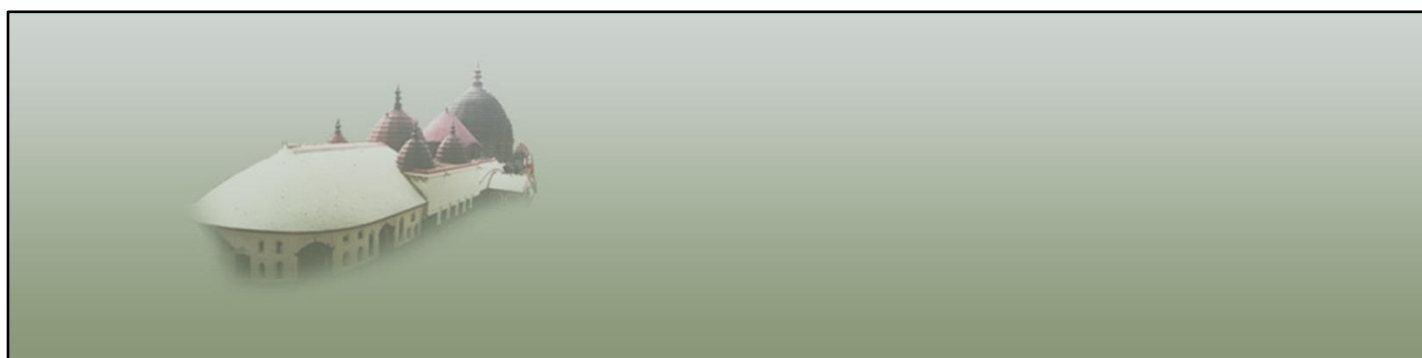
Our Salt Lake City conference marks the eighth and final time that I welcome you as SASA president. At approximately 3 pm on Sunday, April 13, 2014 the gavel will pass to new leadership. While a lot of work, it has been both a pleasure and an honor to guide SASA in developing programming which benefits both the academic, the diasporic, and the cultural communities: annual conferences, Brown Bag Radio, SASA Books, and *Exemplar: The Journal of South Asian Studies*. I hope you find the conference this year a valuable intellectual and networking experience. Planning is underway for a truly extraordinary conference next year. We, the SASA Board, all hope to see you there.

**Enjoy the conference; make new friends.**

Dr. William Vanderbok  
SASA President  
bill@sasaonline.org

# Program Schedule

Friday, April 11	
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Welcome Reception
Saturday, April 12	
9:00 – 10:00 am	Opening Plenary - Speaker: Paul Brass
10:00 – 10:30 am	Network Coffee Break
<b>10:30 am – 12:00 noon</b>	<b>Panel 1 (3 concurrent sessions)</b>
12:00 – 1:30 pm	Luncheon - Speaker: Nushin Arbabzadah
<b>2:00 – 3:30 pm</b>	<b>Panel 2 (3 concurrent sessions)</b>
3:30 – 4:00 pm	Network Coffee Break
<b>4:00 – 5:30 pm</b>	<b>Panel 3 (2 sessions and one film screening)</b>
6:00 – 7:30 pm	Banquet - Speakers: SASA honorees
Sunday, April 13	
<b>8:30 – 10:00 am</b>	<b>Panel 4 (3 concurrent sessions)</b>
10:00 – 10:15 am	Network Coffee Break
<b>10:15 – 11:45 am</b>	<b>Panel 5 (2 sessions and one film screening)</b>
11:45 am – 1:15 pm	Luncheon - Speaker: Christopher Queen
<b>1:30 – 3:00 pm</b>	<b>Panel 6 (3 concurrent sessions)</b>
3:00 pm	Adjourn!



The Kamakhya Temple complex in the fog, Nilachal Hill, Guwati, Assam, India. Photo: Kamakhya Temple.

# Friday, April 11

## 4:30 – 7:30 pm — Welcome Reception

Special Events Room	Welcome, introductions, and cultural program. Dances presented by Nepalese Association of Utah. Snacks & soft drinks served.
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# Saturday, April 12

## 9:00 – 10:00 am — Opening Plenary

Gore Auditorium 112

**Speaker: Paul Brass, Professor Emeritus, University of Washington**

**"Criminalization of Politics in North India"**

## 10:00 – 10:30 am — Network Coffee Break

Gore Auditorium 112

## 10:30 – 12:00 noon — SASA Concurrent Session 1

**Panel 1A: Art, Culture, Ritual, and Power:  
Cross-Cultural Explorations**

Gore 107

Chair:  
William Richter

Purnima Mehta Bhatt  
Hood College

**Rethinking and Re-visioning the African Presence in India:  
Perspectives from Art and Architecture**

Sagarika Sripalee  
Independent Scholar, Sri Lanka

**A Few Character Performances in "Kolam" and "Sokari":  
Exploring the Sinhalese Folk Plays in Sri Lanka**

Nicole Karapanagiotis  
Georgia Southern University

**The Efficient Ritualist: Hindu Cyber-Ritual and Devotional Texts**

**Panel 1B:**

**New Research on Indian Mahayana Buddhism**

Gore 133

Chair:  
Bradley Clough

Bradley Clough  
The University of Montana

**Mediation as Miraculous: The Perfection of Dhyana in Indian  
Mahayana Buddhist Texts**

Christian Haskett  
Centre College

**Self-Reference and Self-Acclaim in Major Mahāyāna Sūtras**

Joseph Walsler  
Tufts University

**How Did Perfection of Wisdom Become Emptiness?**

Jason McCombs  
UCLA

**A New Buddhist Text and a Shift Away from Early Mahayana**

**Panel 1C:**

**Infusions of Horizons: War, Trade, and Conflict**

Gore 205

Chair:  
Lynn Ate

Pradeep S. Mehta  
CUTS International, India

**Reforming Trade Barriers in South Asia: The Case for a  
Participatory Approach**

Taj Hashmi  
Austin Peay State University

**Trying "War Criminals" in Bangladesh: The Politics, Biases, and  
Controversies**

Vashishtha Doshi  
JKSIS, University of Denver

**The Kashmir Conflict through the Lens of Realism: Analyzing India-  
Pakistan Treaties**

Murad Ali  
University of Malakand, Pakistan

**Is Underdevelopment the Sole Cause of Extremism? Exploring  
Multiple Dynamics behind Religious Militancy in Swat, Pakistan**

## 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm — Luncheon

Gore Auditorium 112

**Speaker: Nushin Arbabzadah, Journalist, Author & Visiting Scholar, UCLA**

**"Media in Afghanistan and the Key Narratives that Reveal Afghan's Relationship with the United States"**

## 2:00 – 3:30 pm — SASA Concurrent Session 2

### Panel 2A:

Epics of South Asia

Gore 107

Chair:

Veena Howard

Marco Ferrante

Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria

**A City Ruled by a Villain or by a Lawful King? A Short Note on the Description of Lañkā in Rāmāyaṇa's *Sundarakāṇḍa***

Rajnish Dhawan

University of the Fraser Valley, Canada

**Heroes in Limbo — A Comparative Study of the Heroic and the Un-heroic in the *Iliad* and the *Mahabharata***

Veena Howard

University of San Diego

**Rethinking the Presence of Goddess Amba through the Narrative of Amba in the *Mahabharata***

### Panel 2B:

Identity, Indigenization & Class

Gore 133

Chair:

William Vanderbok

William L. Richter and Linda K. Richter  
Kansas State University

**Persistent Princely India**

John Paul

Fitchburg State University

**Indigenization of the Western Medical Profession in the Nineteenth Century in Southern India**

Geoffrey Cook

Independent Scholar

**History, Economy, and Class: Marxist to Subaltern**

Annapurna Pandey

University of California, Santa Cruz

**Co-existence of Tradition and Modern: An Account of Women Weavers in the Buddhist Villages of Odisha**

### Panel 2C: Roundtable Session:

Speaking in Tongues: English and the Vernaculars

Gore 205

Chair:

Ranjan Adiga

William Palomo

Westminster College

**Combating Discourses**

Natnaree Harnmaythee

Westminster College

**Right Where I Belong**

Pratik Raghu

Westminster College

**Indian Boy, British School, Malaysian Nation: Critically Contextualizing my Sociolinguistic Tug-of-War**

## 3:30 – 4:00 pm — Network Coffee Break

Gore Auditorium 112



The Buddha Dordenma Statue, Thimpu, Bhutan. One of the largest statues of Buddha in the world, it is filled with 125,000 smaller Buddha statues. Photo: Tourism Council of Bhutan.



Detail from Seated Pensive Bodhisattva. Swat Valley, Pakistan, 3rd Century CE. Photo: Art Gallery of New South Wales.

## 4:00 – 5:30 pm — SASA Concurrent Session 3

<b>Panel 3A</b> Negotiating Tradition: Nepali Contemporary Artists Respond	Gore 107	Chair: Deepak Shimkhada
Maureen Drdak Independent Scholar & Visual Artist	<b>"The Prakriti Project"; Materiality, Eternality, and Form in Contemporary Art Practice in Nepal</b>	
Deepak Shimkhada Claremont Lincoln University	<b>Sacred Art Comes to the Bedroom</b>	
Binod Shrestha University of Wisconsin La Crosse	<b>Intimacy, Distance, and the Transience of Memory in Art Production</b>	
Kathryn Hagy Mount Mercy University	<b>"Namaste Nepal": Tracing the Continuum from Traditional Arts to Postmodernism in Nepali Contemporary Art</b>	

<b>Panel 3B:</b> Buddhism, Identity, and the Search for Freedom: Modern Debates	Gore 133	Chair: Joe Pellegrino
Wijitha Bandara Salt Lake Community College	<b>Buddhist Identity and Inter-Monastic Debates in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Sri Lanka</b>	
Laurence R. Simon Brandeis University	<b>The Reclamation of Human Personality: Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar and Paulo Freire in Comparative Perspective</b>	
Chipamong Chowdhury University of Tartu, Estonia	<b>Continuity and Discontinuity: Marma Buddhists and New Religious Movements in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (Bangladesh)</b>	

<b>Film Screening</b> <i>Kamakha: Through Prayerful Eyes</i>	Gore 205	Chair: Indira Athawale
Aparna Sharma, UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures / Dance		

## 6:00 – 7:30 pm — Banquet

Gore Auditorium 112

**Speakers: SASA Honorees**



Gurung dancers, Nepal. Photo: EPA/Narendra Shrestha.



An international study class: "The University of Florida in India: NGOs and Development." Chennai, India. Photo: Muthusami Kumaran.



# Sunday, April 13

## 8:30 – 10:00 am — SASA Concurrent Session 4

<b>Panel 4A:</b> B.R. Ambedkar and His Legacy	Gore 133	Chair: Chris Queen
David Blundell National Chengchi University, Taiwan	<b>B.R. Ambedkar and Caste in India: A World View from Anthropology at Columbia University</b>	
Indira Athawale RNC Arts College, India	<b>Ambedkarite Feminism</b>	
Christopher Queen Harvard University	<b>What Ambedkar Learned from Dewey: Centennial Reflections on the Columbia Years, 1913-1916</b>	
Raju Kamble Independent Scholar	<b>Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: Greatest Indian of 20<sup>th</sup> Century</b>	

<b>Panel 4B:</b> Bodies, Emotions, and Narratives	Gore 227	Chair: Purnima Bhatt
Ross Freedenberg Syracuse University	<b>The Two Legal Bodies: Indian Indenture, Anthropology, and the Law in Nineteenth Century British Guiana</b>	
Muhammad Safeer International Islamic University, Pakistan	<b>Anger, Apathy, and Empathy in the Stories of 1971</b>	
Sushumna Kannan San Diego State University	<b>The Role of Women in Three Hindu Texts</b>	
Jamie Mills Claremont Lincoln University	<b>A Case Study of Shri Lakshmi Narayan Mandir Through the Lens of a Hindu Devotee</b>	

<b>Panel 4C:</b> Imagination and Social Reality in the Indian Context	Gore 228	Chair: Alan Johnson
Alan Johnson Idaho State University	<b>Gender, Outlaws, and Landscapes in Indian and American Imaginaries</b>	
Jennifer Koester Cornell University	<b>Producing "Indianness"</b>	
Stephanie Honchell Ohio State University	<b>The Story of A Drunken Mughal</b>	

## 10:00 – 10:15 am — Network Coffee Break

Gore Auditorium 112

## 10:15 - 11:45 am — SASA Concurrent Session 5

<b>Panel 5A:</b> Knowledge Exchange Through Study Abroad Programs in South Asia	Gore 133	Chair: Muthusami Kumaran
Shobha Hamal Gurung Southern Utah University	<b>Southern Utah University Study Abroad in Nepal: Experiential Learning and Global Civic Citizenship</b>	
Shane Brant, Meskerem Tadesse, & Shaun Wright Southern Utah University	<b>Cultural, Social, and Political Differences between South Asia and the United States: Field Research from SUU's AKD Study Abroad</b>	
Muthusami Kumaran University of Florida	<b>Establishing Transformative Learning Experiences for American Students through Study Abroad Programs in India: Opportunities and Challenges</b>	

<b>Panel 5B: Narratives, Devotional Poetry, and Fiction: Tracing the Divine</b>	Gore 227	Chair: David Blundell
Lynn Ate Washington State University	<b>Rants Against God: Are Negative Sentiments Valid Expressions of Devotion in Tamil Bhakti Literature?</b>	
Biplab Chakraborty University of Calcutta, India	<b>South Asian Poetry and Style: "Lokaabharani" as Socio-Cultural Narration</b>	
Zahida Rahemtulla New York University, Abu Dhabi	<b>Tracing the Small Things: The Way We Feel History in <i>The God of Small Things</i></b>	

<b>Film Screening: <i>Bhunda in our Culture</i></b>	Gore228	Chair: Ranjan Adiga
Kuldeep Singh Himachal Pradesh University, India		

## 11:45 am – 1:15 pm — Luncheon

Gore Auditorium 112

**Speaker: Chris Queen, Professor, Harvard University**

**"Ambedkar Now! Arundhati Roy's *The Doctor and the Saint*: Its Reception in the Press, the Academy, and on the Street"**

## 1:30 – 3:00 pm — SASA Concurrent Session 6

<b>Panel 6A: Iconography, Ritual, and Narrative: From Sacred Space to Market Place</b>	Gore 133	Chair: John Paul
Naseem A. Banerji Weber State University	<b>Basavannacharya's Virasaivism and Its Impact on the Multi-Shrined Shiva Temples of Medieval Karnataka, India</b>	
Mujeeb Ahmad International Islamic University, Pakistan	<b>Occidentalism in Modern South Asia: A Case Study of <i>Fatawa Literature</i></b>	
R. Jeremy Saul University of Michigan	<b>When Urban Merchants Became Devotees of Rural Gods: A Modern Story</b>	

<b>Panel 6B:</b>	Gore 227	Chair: Veena Howard
<b>Motherland: Female, Bodies, Health, &amp; Empire</b>		
Nita Verma Prasad Quinnipiac University	<b>British Bodies, Native Bodies: Imperial Medicine and the Treatment of Women in India, 1890-1930</b>	
Balkrishan Shivram Government College, Shimla, India	<b>Wet Nurses of Imperial Mughal</b>	
Tracy Sachs Loyola Marymount University	<b>Experiencing the Mundane as Mystical in the <i>Upanisads</i>: A Pragmatic Approach to a Global Food and Health Crisis</b>	
Rama Cousik Indiana U-Purdue U Fort Wayne	<b>Pregnancy and Childbirth Practices among Immigrant Women from India: Towards a Preventive Agenda</b>	

<b>Panel 6C: Education and Civilization: A Cross-Cultural Perspective of South Asia</b>	Gore 228	Chair: Biplab Chakraborty
David Blundell National Chengchi University, Taiwan	<b>Metropolitan Ascent of Southern Asia: Dharma Civilization and Austronesian Navigation</b>	
Amy Moyer and Jill Sperandio Lehigh University	<b>Opportunities in Teacher Education: A Cross-Case Analysis from Bangladesh</b>	
Dinithi Wijesuriya University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka	<b>Vaddhas in Transition: With Special Reference to Dambana Vaddha Village in Sri Lanka</b>	
Sethu Kumanan Sethu Bhaskara Schools, India	<b>Education for Visually Challenged Children in India: Current Challenges, and the Need for Resources and Policy Direction</b>	



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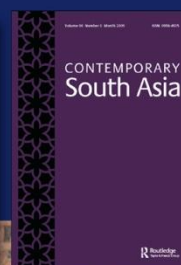
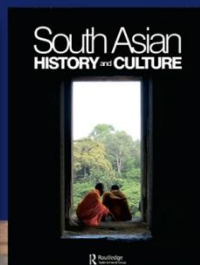
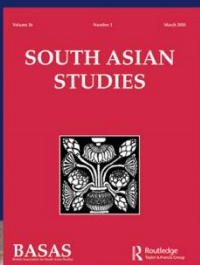
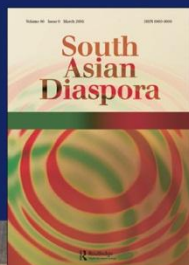
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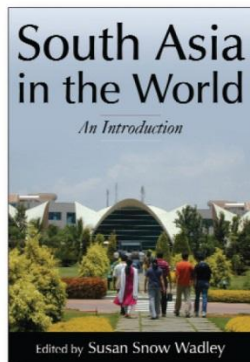
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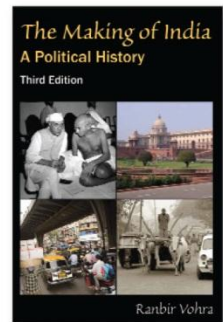
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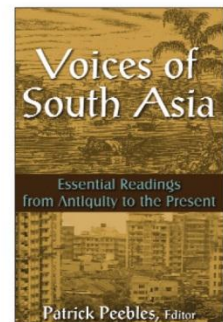
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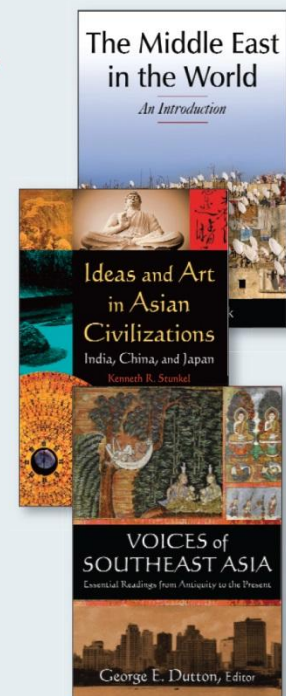
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# EXEMPLAR

THE JOURNAL OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

VOLUME 1  
NUMBER 2  
FALL 2012



South Asian Studies Association  
Understanding South Asia's Peoples, Cultures, Issues and Opportunities

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***Exemplar* invites submissions of interest to academics and others interested in South Asian studies. Our publication process allows us to produce a journal with high-quality full-color artwork and photographs, so articles which require such capabilities are especially welcome.**

## EXEMPLAR

THE JOURNAL OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

VOLUME 1  
NUMBER 1  
SPRING 2012



South Asian Studies Association  
Understanding South Asia's Peoples, Cultures, Issues and Opportunities

***Exemplar* maintains a double-blind reviewing policy. Manuscripts for publication must be written in English and submitted electronically in a recent MSWord format (.doc or .docx). Foreign text must be transliterated in a Roman typeface with diacriticals.**

**The approximate length should be between 4,000 and 5,000 words, and must follow the MLA Style Manual (7th edition) format.**

## EXEMPLAR

THE JOURNAL OF SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

VOLUME 2  
NUMBER 1  
SPRING 2013



South Asian Studies Association  
Understanding South Asia's Culture, History, Issues, and Opportunities

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**THE SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION**  
 UNDERSTANDING SOUTH ASIA'S CULTURES, HISTORIES, ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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**TV News from South Asia**  
 CNM/NBN live  
 NDTV: English news from India

**Current Time in South Asia**

Afghanistan	Fri, Mar 28, 2014, 2:30 AM AFT
Bangladesh	Fri, Mar 28, 2014, 4:00 AM BST
Bhutan	Fri, Mar 28, 2014, 4:00 AM BTT
India	Fri, Mar 28, 2014, 3:30 AM IST
Maldives	Fri, Mar 28, 2014, 3:00 AM MVT
Myanmar	Fri, Mar 28, 2014, 4:30 AM MMT
Nepal	Fri, Mar 28, 2014, 3:45 AM NPT
Pakistan	Fri, Mar 28, 2014, 3:00 AM PKT
Sri Lanka	Fri, Mar 28, 2014, 3:30 AM IST

**48 hour forecast Colombo**

	Friday			Saturday			Sunday
	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Night	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Temperature	86 °F	90 °F	80 °F	77 °F	86 °F	89 °F	78 °F
Wind	3 mph ↘	11 mph ↘	9 mph ↗	5 mph ↑	5 mph ↘	12 mph →	5 mph ↖

login

Clicking on "Exemplar" opens a dropdown list of four items including a list of books available for review. Interested scholars are invited to offer to write a review for the journal.

Clicking on "Bulletin Boards" opens a dropdown list of four posting categories, including calls for papers, grant and research opportunities, job openings, and miscellaneous postings.

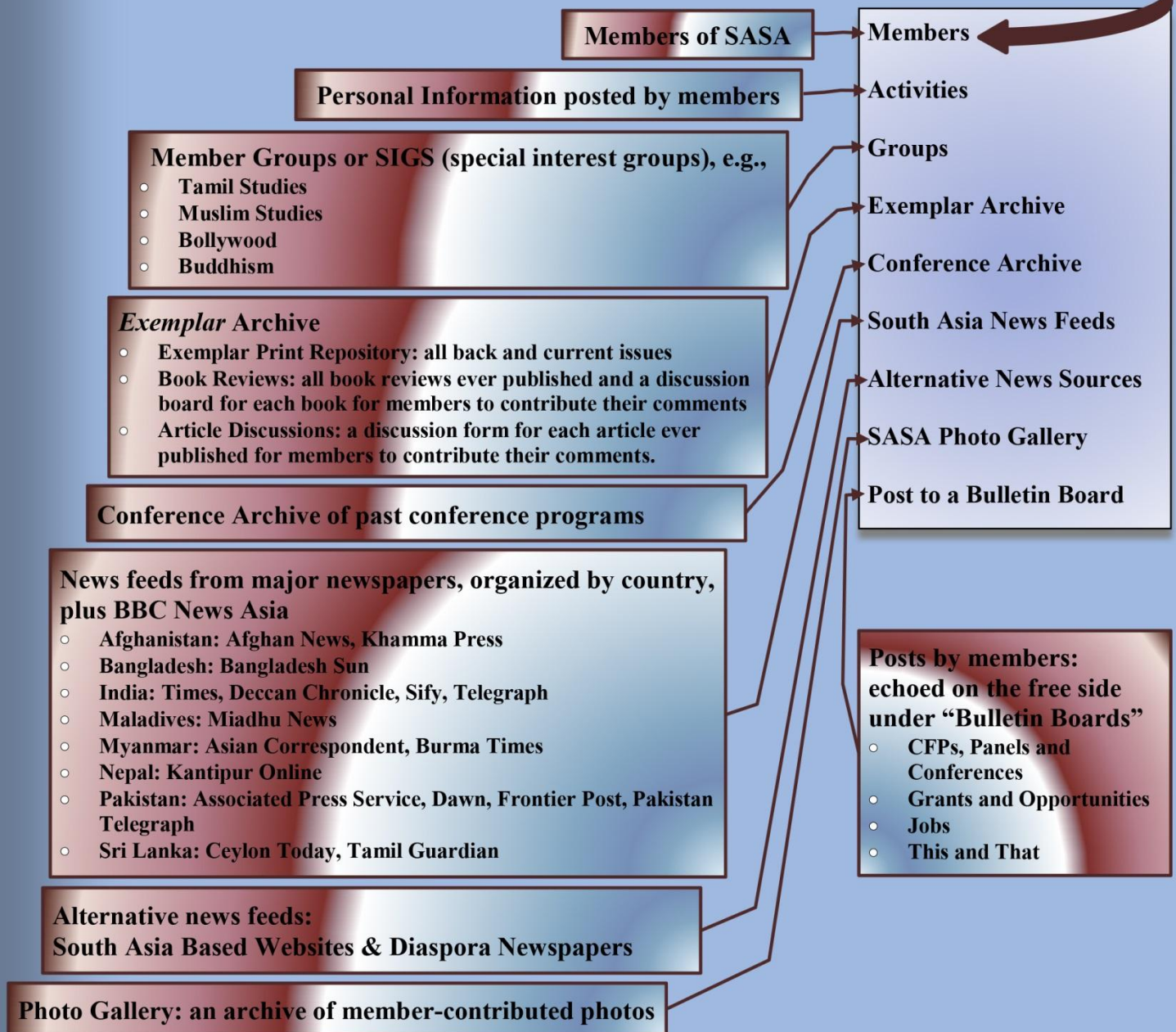
Clicking here takes you to a live TV / web-enabled English language news broadcast from India.

Clicking on a time/date for a country brings up the current weather and local forecast.

Our certification of web-safe browsing.

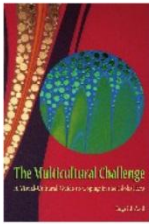
# The New SASA website, Member Side

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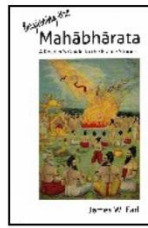




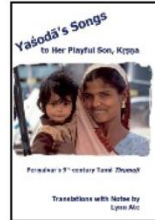
## SASA Books: in print



Ingrid Aall, California State University Long Beach  
**The Multicultural Challenge**  
ISBN: 978-0-9834472-0-7  
182 pages



James W. Earl, University of Oregon  
**Beginning the Mahābhārata**  
ISBN: 978-0-9834472-2-1  
121 pages



Lynn Ate, Washington State University  
**Yaśodā's Songs to her Playful Son, Kṛṣṇa**  
ISBN: 978-0-9834472-1-4  
250 pages



## SASA Books: forthcoming

The Early  
Hindu  
Temple

In May –  
Cathleen Cummings, University of Alabama  
**The Early Hindu Temple in Society: Dharma and Liberation in the Iconographic Program of the Virupaksha Temple, Pattadakal**

Open  
Pages

In June –  
Alexander Stolyarov, convenor; Wiliam Vanderbok and Joe Pellegrino, editors.  
**Open Pages in South Asian Studies: Proceedings of the First Biennale on South Asian Studies hosted by the Russian State University for the Humanities**

Metro-  
Politan  
Ascent

In July –  
David Blundell, National Chengchi University  
**Metropolitan Ascent of Southern Asia: Dharma Civilization and Austronesian Navigation**

Le  
Nepal

In August –  
Deepak Shimkhada, editor  
**Sylvian Lévi's Nepal: A Historical Study of a Hindu Kingdom**



## About SASA Books

Legacy publishers, particularly those who are keenly interested in preserving a scholarly reputation, function as academic “gatekeepers.” They certify quality. However, they are always concerned about marketability unless they receive a subvention for publishing a given title. A great many titles of scholarly merit go unpublished. Lifetimes of research pass unnoticed. SASA Books works as a gatekeeper within this niche of quality work with limited mass market potential. We operate as a 100% volunteer organization. Services normally performed by a publisher are assumed by the author. We do not offer contracts for proposed projects, provide advances or consider incomplete manuscripts. Only projects related to South Asian Studies that are in or nearly in penultimate form are considered, i.e., we do not provide editorial services. Our primary concern is strengthening the reputation of our imprint and thereby our value to our authors.

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