

Claremont Mckenna College
March 24-26, 2017

SASA 2017

CONFERENCE

*South Asian Studies:
Never More Relevant*



SASA

SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION
Understanding South Asia's Cultures, Histories, Issues, and Opportunities

SASA 2017 IS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART VIA A GRANT FROM THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA (SAN FRANCISCO)



March 24, 2017

My Heartfelt Welcome to SASA 2017 –

What an honor and privilege it is for me to share with each of you the results of the many months of dedicated effort by so exceptional a team of talented and passionate individuals. We come from many backgrounds and many parts of the world, but we share a single vision and a single purpose. Each of us is resolutely committed to strengthening and expanding the field of South Asian studies. I also extend sincere appreciation to each of you who join us at SASA 2017 for committing your time, efforts, and resources to participate in SASA 2017. I know that you will not be disappointed.

Over the course of this very special weekend in a very special place, Claremont McKenna College, we will be gifted with the individual and combined wisdom of scholars from around the globe. We will dive deep into South Asia from multiple perspectives --- its history, cultures, governance, religions, philosophies, arts, business and economics, and more. We'll have longstanding views both challenged and affirmed. And we'll learn and experience much that is new. Still further, we will also be treated to some of the region's very special food, music, and films...all enveloped in the warm collegial atmosphere for which SASA conferences are so widely known and appreciated.

As we commence SASA 2017, I want to especially recognize and salute our Founder and President Emeritus, Dr. William Vanderbok. It is because of Bill's vision and herculean efforts, unrelenting over the course of our first decade, that the South Asian Studies Association thrives today.

I additionally extend special thanks to those who have worked so hard to bring this event together including our Conference Committee, led by Chair Vandana Asthana, and Co-Chair Carol Davis, as well as David Blundell, Deepak Shimkhada, and Mishka Michon. I additionally acknowledge the stellar individuals at Claremont McKenna College, including President Hiram Chodosh, Associate Vice President Cynthia Humes, and Director of Special Events, Dorothy Buchanan.

Finally, I express special gratitude, personally and on behalf of our SASA Board of Directors, to the gifted and gracious Consul General of India, Ambassador V. Ashok. His vision, warmth, and generosity have contributed greatly to our Conference and our future.

Here's to an exceptional SASA 2017,

Ken Silverman
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION • 251 S. ORANGE GROVE BLVD • PASADENA, CA 91105 • (626) 793-3124
WWW.SASIA.ORG



SASA 2017 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY MARCH 24

- 4:30 - 6:00 pm Presenters' Welcome Reception
6.30 - 8:00 pm South Asian Cultural Program



SATURDAY MARCH 25

- 8:30 - 9:00 am Registration
9:00 - 9:10 am Welcome Remarks: Ken Silverman, SASA Chairman
9:10 - 9:25 am Welcome by Host: Cynthia Ann Humes,
Claremont McKenna College
9:25 - 9:30 am Welcome by Mayor of Claremont: Sam Pedroza
9:30 - 9:45 am Opening Plenary Session: Dr. William Vanderbok
9:45 - 10:45 am Forum: South Asia Engaged
10:45 - 11:00 am Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30 pm Panel Sessions I (4 concurrent sessions)
12:30 - 1:30 pm Luncheon
1:30 - 2:45 pm CMC President's Forum: Uniform Civil Code in India
2:45 - 3:00 pm Coffee Break
3:00 - 4:30 pm Panel Sessions II (4 concurrent sessions)
4:30 - 5:30 pm Forum: Doing Business in India
5:30 - 6:00 pm Reception
6:00 - 8:30 pm Banquet
Keynote Address: Ambassador V. Ashok
2017 SASA Exemplar Award Honorees:
Dr. Rafiq Dossani, Pratima & Navin Doshi



SUNDAY MARCH 26, 2017

- 9:00 - 10:30 am Panel Sessions III (3 concurrent sessions)
10:30 - 10:45 am Coffee Break
10:45 - 12:15 pm Panel Sessions IV (4 concurrent sessions)
12:15 - 1:15 pm Luncheon
1:15 - 2:45 pm Panel Sessions V (3 concurrent sessions)
2:45 - 3:00 pm Coffee Break
3:00 - 4:30 pm Panel VI (3 concurrent sessions)
4:30 pm Adjourn!





CITY OF CLAREMONT

City Hall
207 Harvard Avenue
P.O. Box 800
Claremont, CA 91711 - 5492
Fax: (909) 399-5492
Website: www.ci.claremont.ca.us
Email: contact@ci.claremont.ca.us

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Corey Calaycay
Joseph M. Lyons
Opanyi K. Nasiali
Sam Pedroza
Larry Schroeder

March 25, 2017

The South Asian Studies Association
2017 South Asian Studies Association Conference
Claremont McKenna College Claremont
400 N. Claremont Boulevard
Claremont, CA 91711

Dear South Asian Studies Association Conference Attendees,

On behalf of the City of Claremont City Council, staff, and citizens, welcome to our beautiful city. It is with great pride that I invite you to tour the renowned Claremont Colleges and experience our downtown Village district.

The City of Claremont is a community that celebrates diversity and was founded on the principle of civic engagement. Our City leaders embrace a community rich and diverse in culture, education, and religion. Recently the City adopted a resolution affirming its commitment to diversity and ensuring the civil rights of all who live, work, and visit Claremont. Our rich 130 year history is influenced by the academic energy of the colleges and the vitality of our citizenry.

Claremont is a multicultural community with strong representation from South Asia. Our civic, academic and religious institutions reflect the many cultures found in our community.

We are honored to be the host city for the 2017 South Asian Studies Association Conference. Enjoy your stay in Claremont and I hope you will return again and again.

Sincerely,

Sam Pedroza
Mayor





Office of the President

March 24, 2017

Dear Friends:

Welcome to Claremont McKenna College and The Claremont Colleges!

We are excited to host you at the South Asian Studies Association's 11th anniversary conference. Many congratulations for your invaluable contributions.

South Asia is a strong focus of our global liberal arts program. We attract an extraordinary group of leading students from the region each year. Our college features leading scholarship and teaching in international relations, economics, history, and religion in South Asia. Our faculty focus on ancient texts, education, religion, globalization, the environment, and law reform in India. We also offer many student opportunities for research and sponsored internships in the region each summer. Thus, we are eager to learn from your scholarly contributions in South Asia over the course of the weekend.

I look forward to joining some of the sessions and wish you all the very best for a fun weekend and successful conference.

Very best,

Hiram E. Chodosh

HEC:dab



Bauer Center, 500 E. Ninth Street, Claremont, California 91711-6400 Tel: 909.621.8111 Fax: 909.621.8790 president@cmc.edu www.cmc.edu
Member of The Claremont Colleges

AMBASSADOR V. ASHOK

CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA ~ SAN FRANCISCO

Hon. Ambassador Venkatesan Ashok has served as India's Consul General in San Francisco since 2014. In this capacity he represents the interests of the Government of India in 11 western US states and the territory of Guam. In addition to his extensive official duties, he speaks regularly at business, trade, educational, and cultural conferences and seminars throughout this extensive region.

Ambassador Ashok previously held diplomatic assignments for the Indian government in Hong Kong, Malaysia, China, Austria, and Sri Lanka. He was Director of External Relations in the Department of Atomic Energy, between 1995 and 1998, and was later appointed Alternate Permanent Representative in the International Atomic Energy Agency, in Vienna. Ambassador Ashok was additionally the Division Chief of Central Europe in the Indian Ministry of External Affairs prior to his subsequent assignment as Ambassador of India to the Republic of Zimbabwe, and Ambassador to the Czech Republic.

Ambassador Ashok was born in Orissa, India, and graduated in Civil Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1982. Ambassador Ashok speaks Chinese, English, and multiple Indian languages. He also authored the book, *Dasavatara: The Ten Incarnations of Vishnu*, and numerous technical articles.

ABOUT THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA ~ SAN FRANCISCO

The interests of the Government of India, and its initiatives on behalf of Indians living in or traveling into the United States, are represented by the Embassy of India in Washington, D.C., and the five Consulates General of India, spread across the U.S. These are located in New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Houston, and San Francisco. The Embassy and the Consulates, including San Francisco, also provide a vast array of services to American businesses, universities, organizations, and citizens that do business in or with India, seek to do so, or simply wish to visit India. The Consulates also help facilitate visits by Indian dignitaries, business persons, educators, and others, who visit the US. Additionally, Indian Consulates help coordinate trade missions and delegations going from the US into India, or from India into the US.

The vast territory served by the Consulate General of India (San Francisco) includes the 11 states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, as well as the territory of Guam. Information and assistance related to business and tourist visas, passport related services, all other applicable Indian government documents, the movement of money, inter-country trade, and related matters, can be readily accessed through contact with the Consulate.

FOR ADDED INFORMATION SEE:

WWW.CGISF.ORG

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PHONE: (415) 668-0683

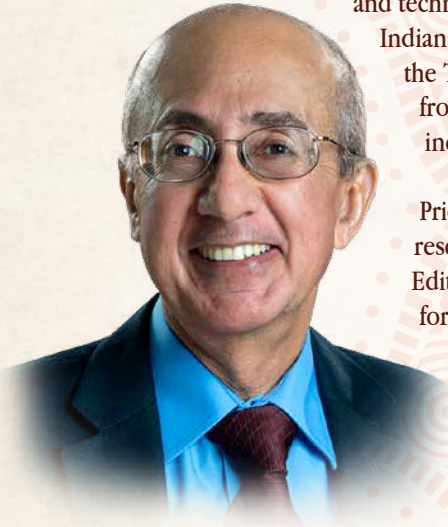


DR. RAFIQ DOSSANI

2017 EXEMPLAR HONOREE ~ ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Rafiq Dossani is director of the RAND Center for Asia Pacific Policy, a senior economist at the RAND Corporation, and a professor at the Pardee RAND Graduate School. His research interests include education, regional development, security, finance, and technology issues. His diverse work focus has included Muslim minorities in Asia, the role of Chinese and Indian engineers in Silicon Valley, the growth of venture capital in India, regional integration in South Asia, the Trans Pacific Partnership, and India-Pakistan negotiations over Kashmir. His advisory work has ranged from strategic planning for the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq, to the telecommunications industries in India and Pakistan; to the World Bank on improving trade relations in South Asia.

Prior to joining RAND, Dossani was director of Stanford University's Center for South Asia, and a senior research scholar at Stanford University's Institute for International Studies. He was earlier the Deputy Editor at Business India magazine and a member of the Bombay Stock Exchange. He has been a reviewer for several journals and academic groups, including World Development, and the National Science Foundation. His non-profit work includes serving as a trustee for Hidden Villa, an environmental initiative in the Bay Area, and, earlier, serving as a Director of the Aga Khan Rural Support Program in India. He holds a Ph.D. in finance from Northwestern University, an M.B.A. from the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, and a B.A. in economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi.



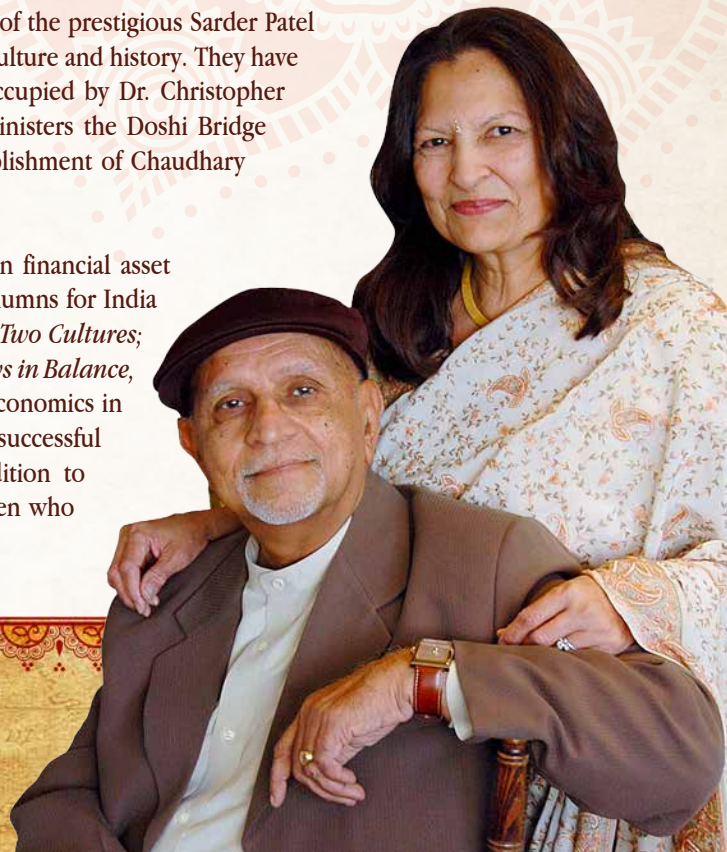
NAVIN DOSHI & PRATIMA DOSHI

2017 EXEMPLAR HONOREES ~ COMMUNITY SERVICE

Navin and Pratima Doshi are longtime passionate and activist supporters of the field of South Asian studies. Through their hands-on philanthropic initiatives, they have established chairs, professorships, and awards in this field at multiple colleges and universities. Beginning in 1999, they endowed the Doshi Chair of Indian History at UCLA, and they have been active as fund raisers and consultants at UCLA on numerous projects that particularly address education, culture, tradition, history, and archaeology.

The Doshis are also founding members and contributors for establishment of the prestigious Sarder Patel Award at UCLA, for exceptional doctoral dissertations in the field of Indian culture and history. They have additionally endowed a professorship at Loyola Marymount University, occupied by Dr. Christopher Chapple, the highly recognized scholar of Indic traditions, who also administers the Doshi Bridge Builder Award Program. And they are major contributors toward the establishment of Chaudhary Chair for Indic studies occupied by Dr. Debashish Banerji at CIIS.

Navin Doshi is also an engineer, philosopher, philanthropist, and trader in financial asset management. He is additionally a prolific author and writes widely-read columns for India Journal. His most recent books are *Light with No Shadow, My life Bridging Two Cultures*; *Transcendence: Saving Us from Ourselves*, and *Economics and Nature: Essays in Balance, Complementarity and Harmony*. Pratima Doshi, who earned a degree in Economics in India, migrated with Navin to the US, in the 1960s, and developed her own successful career in real estate management and interior design. Together, in addition to collaborative philanthropic initiatives, they've raised two successful children who have blessed them with six grandchildren.



SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017

PICKFORD AUDITORIUM, BAUER SOUTH

- 8:30 - 9:00 am Registration
- 9:00 - 9:10 am **Welcome:** Ken Silverman,
SASA Chairman
- 9:10 - 9:25 am **Welcome by Host:** Cynthia Ann Humes,
Claremont McKenna College
- 9:25 - 9:30 am **Mayor of Claremont:** Sam Pedroza
- 9:30 - 9:45 am Opening Plenary Session:
Speaker William Vanderbok,
President Emeritus SASA
- 9:45 - 10:45 am **Forum 'South Asia Engaged'**
Moderator:
Ken Silverman, SASA Chairman
Panelists: Deepak Shimkhada,
Vandana Asthana, Carol Davis,
Purnima Bhatt, David Blundell
- 10:45 - 11:00 am Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30 PM SASA CONCURRENT SESSIONS 4 BAUER SOUTH

Panel 1A: Aesthetics in Indian Art Bauer South Room 23 • Chair: Ingrid Hall

- Sthaneshwar Timalisina, San Diego State University:
Tantric Visual Culture: A Cognitive Approach
- Debashish Banerji, CIIS:
The Aesthetics of Raga and Darshan
- Nalini Rao, Soka University of America:
Aesthetics of Indian Architecture

Panel 1B: The Mahabharata and the Issues of War and Ethics Bauer South Room 24 • Chair: Cynthia Ann Humes

- Aditya Adarkar, Montclair State University:
Steadfastness, Growth, and Limits of Loyalty
- James W. Earl, University of Oregon:
**The Battle Books: Terms of Engagement,
Rules of Representation**
- Veena Howard, CSU, Fresno:
**The Divine Eye and the Battlefield:
Queen Gandhari's Revelations of the War**

Panel 1C: Diaspora Bauer South Room 25 • Chair: Muthusami Kumaran

- Purnima Bhatt, Hood College:
**The African Diaspora in India: An Exploration of
Assimilation, Change and Cultural Identity**
- Nawang Phuntsog, CSU, Fullerton:
**Tibetan Language at Home in the Diaspora:
Homage to India's Educational Lineages**
- David Blundell, National Chengchi University, Taiwan:
**Early Historical South Asian Maritime Routes of
Economic and Religious Networks in Monsoon Asia**

Panel 1D: Sikhism in the World Bauer South Room 34 • Chair: Deepak Shimkhada

- Kuldeep Singh, Nanak Sadan Sikh Temple:
Sikh Perspective on World Harmony
- Niranjan Kaur Khalsa, Loyola Marymount University:
Teaching, Living, Learning Sikhism and Jainism
- Taylor Bagnall, Loyola Marymount University:
**Using Sikh Teachings to Thrive in the Face of
Discrimination**

12:30 - 1:30 pm LUNCHEON Bauer Forum, Bauer South

1:30 - 2:45 PM PRESIDENT'S FORUM ON UNIFORM CIVIL CODE PICKFORD AUDITORIUM, BAUER SOUTH

- Dr. Hiram Chodosh,
President, Claremont McKenna College
- Professor Shimon Shetreet,
Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- On Uniform Civil Code for India
Proposed Blueprint for Scholarly Discourse**
- Moderator:**
Professor Aseema Sinha, Wagner Chair of South Asian
Politics and George Roberts Fellow at Claremont
McKenna College

2:45 - 3:00 pm Coffee Break



3:00 - 4:30 PM
SASA CONCURRENT SESSION 4
BAUER SOUTH

Panel 2A: Image Building, Discrimination, Representation and the Media in India
Bauer South Room 23 • Chair: William Vanderbok

Purvi Mehta, Colorado College:
Caste in Anti-Caste Activism: Categories and Conceptualizations of Violence and Discrimination in Dalit Rights Campaigns

Tanya Sharma, University of British Columbia, Canada:
Representations of Demonetization in the Media: A Critical Discourse Analysis of a Critical Moment in Indian Economic History

Antonia Luxzczykiewicz, Jagiellonian University:
The Evolution of the Image of Jawaharlal Nehru in the Context of Pancha Shila

Panel 2B: The Holy Serpent of Asia; Relevance, Reimagining and Revitalization in Cultural Production
Bauer South Room 24 • Chair: Chris Chapple

Youdhistir Maharjan, Ananta Shesha:
The Naga in Contemporary South Asian Art

Deepak Shimkhada, Claremont School of Theology:
The Kathmandu Valley: Here Comes the Pregnant Clouds

Maureen Drdak, Independent Scholar:
Naga: Cultural Negotiation and Reimagining of a Sacred Signifier

Kurchi Dasgupta, Artist/Art Critic:
The Naga in Contemporary South Asian Art: A Glimpse

Panel 2C: Capacity Building in Contemporary South Asia
Bauer South Room 25 • Chair: Carol Davis

Muthuswami Kumaran, University of Florida:
Strengthening Capacities of South Asia's NGO Sectors in Gender and Nutritional Development: Experiences from the USAID-funded 'Integrating Gender and Nutrition into Agricultural Extension Services' (INGENAES) Project in Nepal

Jo Anne Pandey, CSU, Northridge:
Helping Nepalese Teachers Help Their Students Cope with Earthquake Related Trauma

Thomas Grehl:
A CEO Leading a Diverse, Multi-Cultural Workforce in a Time of Rapid Change in an External and Internal Corporate Environments: Discussion of Business and Economic Development in Interrelated Regions of Asia

Panel 2D: Dr. Ambedkar's Relevance Today
Bauer South Room 34 • Chair: Purnima Bhatt

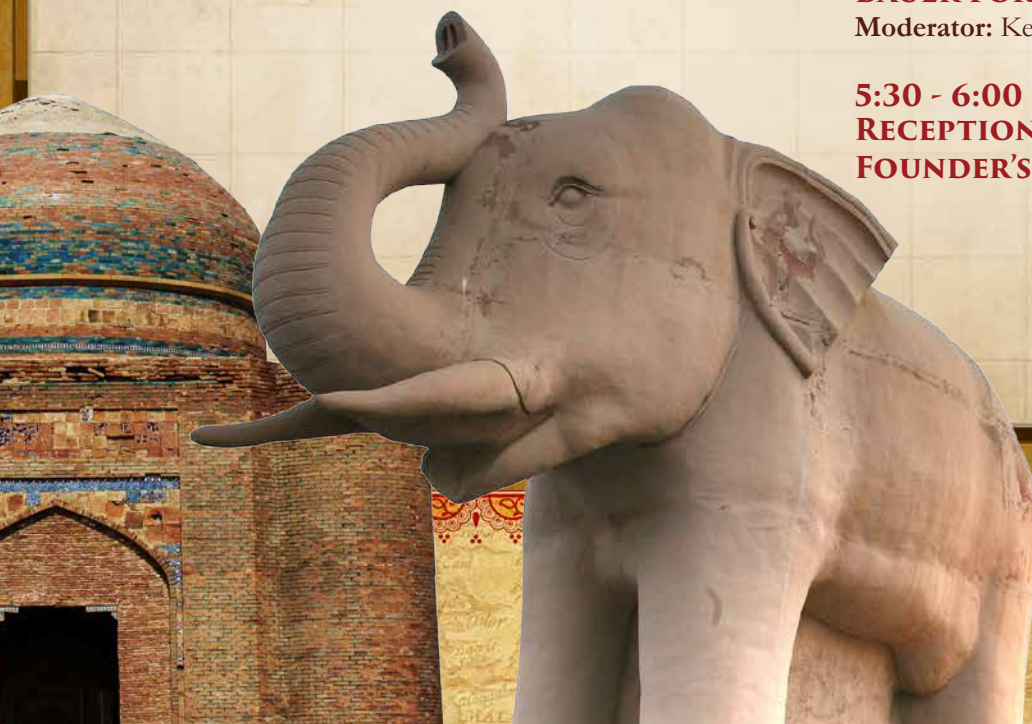
David Blundell, National Chengchi University, Taiwan:
Today's Importance of Dr. B R Ambedkar: Education and Socioeconomic Engagement

Christopher Queen, Harvard University:
Ambedkar Buddhists: To Meditate or not?

V. Rajunayak, University of California, Berkeley:
The Politics of Difference in the Higher Education of India

4:30 - 5 :30 PM
FORUM:
DOING BUSINESS WITH INDIA
BAUER FORUM
Moderator: Ken Silverman, Sannam S4 Group

5:30 - 6:00 PM
RECEPTION
FOUNDER'S ROOM, BAUER NORTH



6:00 - 8:30 PM
BANQUET, KEYNOTE, AND AWARDS
FOUNDER'S ROOM, BAUER NORTH

Keynote Address by Ambassador V. Ashok,
Consul General of India (San Francisco)

Honorees:

Dr Rafiq Dossani, Director,
Rand Center for Asia Pacific Policy
Professor of Economics
Pardee RAND Graduate School

And

Mr. Navin Doshi & Pratima Doshi,
Philanthropists
and founder of Nalanda International

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2017

9:00 - 10:30 AM
SASA CONCURRENT SESSION 3
BAUER SOUTH

**Panel 3A: Classical and Urban Studies in Art,
Architecture and Identity**

Bauer South Room 23 • Chair: Nalini Rao

Clarissa Pulley, University of North Texas:
Chakreshvari at Mount Shatruunjaya

Iris Miller, Catholic University of America:
**Connecting 3 New Urban Models:
Washington D C, Jaipur and New Delhi, India**

Christine Ege, Zaman University, Cambodia:
**Visualizing a New Kampuchea: How Young
Cambodian Artists and Designers are Developing a
Post Khmer Rouge National Identity**

Panel 3B: Bias and the Other
Bauer South Room 24 • Chair: Purnima Bhatt

Rajunayak Vislavath, University of California, Berkeley:
**Lambda Oral History: A Critique of
Development and Exploring Other Alternative
Discourses in South India**

Mayuri Deka, University of the Bahamas:
**Roots of Prejudice: Empathy and the
South Asian Literature classroom**

Anjeanette LeBoeuf, Claremont Graduate University:
**Outlawed Performance in Female Ordination:
How Buddhist Nuns are using Queer Theory**

Panel 3C: Classical Studies Revealed
Bauer South Room 25 • Chair: Ingrid Aall

Vesna A Wallace, University of California, Santa Barbara:
Dandin's Influence on Mongolian Poetics

Ashok Awasthi, Brahmanand College, Kanpur, India:
Plants in Mythology of India: Nature Conservation

Maureen T. Drdak, Independent Scholar:
**Eternal Visions—Contemporary Forms;
Preservation and Viability of the Twenty-first
Century Guru-Shikshya Relationship**

10:30 - 10:45 am Coffee Break

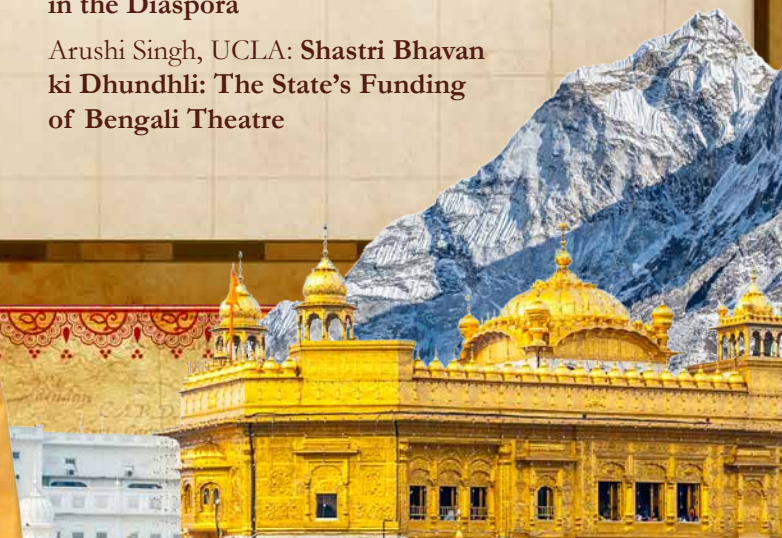
10:45 - 12:15 PM
SASA CONCURRENT SESSION 4
BAUER SOUTH

**Panel 4A: Performance and Patronage: South Asian
Arts and Issues of Funding in India and Beyond**
Bauer South Room 23 • Chair: Shanti Pillai.

Shweta Saraswat, UCLA:
**Privatizing Creativity: Impacts of the
Non-Profit Model of Patronage on
Contemporary Dance in India**

Arnab Banerji, Loyola Marymount University:
**Classicism in the Transnational Era:
Shifting Patronage for Indian Classical Dance
in the Diaspora**

Arushi Singh, UCLA: **Shastri Bhavan
ki Dhundhli: The State's Funding
of Bengali Theatre**



Panel 4B: Environmentalism and Religion
Bauer South Room 24 • Chair: Vandana Asthana

Christopher Chapple, Loyola Marymount University:
**Inscape and Environmentalism in Hindu,
Buddhist, and Jain Yogas**

Michael Reading, Claremont School of Theology:
Hindu and Jain Tapas, and Eco -conscious Living

Christopher Miller, University of California, Davis:
**Film: Modi(fying) Yoga: Biopolitics and Climate
Change in an Aspiring Neoliberal Nation State**

Panel 4C: Religions' Engagement with Society
Bauer South Room 25 • Chair: Ingrid Aall

Indrika S. Abhayaratne, University of the West:
**Buddhist Clergy and Their Evolving Role as
Propagators and Protectors of the Buddhist Religion
in Sri Lanka**

Kenny Schumacher, Loyola Marymount University:
Eyes Wide Open

Deepa Mahadevan, University of California, Davis:
Religion in Bharatnatyam

Panel 4D: Mahabharata and Ramayana
Bauer South Room 34 • Chair: Veena Howard

Vishwa Adluri, Hunter College:
**The Mortal Condition:
Two Birds in the Mahābhārata**

Adam Pave, San Bernardino Valley College:
Gambling and Fate in the Mahabharata

Keiko Takioto Miller, Mercyhurst University:
**Vamiki's Use of the 'Structural Invisible' as the
Ontological Consort of the 'Structural Visible' to
Seminally Realign Dharma in His Ramayana**

12:15 - 1:15 pm **LUNCHEON**
Bauer Forum, Bauer South

1:15 - 2:45 PM
SASA CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3
BAUER SOUTH

Panel 5A: Rights, Ideology and the 'Other'
Bauer South Room 23 • Chair: Muthusami Kumaran

Julia Szivak, Central European University:
Bollywood Crossing the Border

Enakshi Ganguly, University of Texas, Austin:
**Prostitutes or Laborers: Complications Surrounding
Sex Workers in India and Their Rights as Workers**

Mansoor Ahmed, École des hautes études
en sciences sociales (EHESS), Paris:
**Tracing the 'Role of Council of Islamic Ideology' in
Islamisation of Pakistan during Bhutto era 1973-1977**

**Panel 5B: Visions of the Divine
Feminine in Hinduism – I**
Bauer South Room 24 • Chair: Deepak Shimkhada

Jason Mitchell, Claremont School of Theology:
**She Persisted: Contaminated Women
& The Trial by Fire**

Rachel Halder, Claremont School of Theology:
**Divine Feminine Uprising: Sexual Embodiment of
the Mahavidyas in Today's Political Climate**

Margaret Helen Arter, Claremont School of Theology:
**An International Fable: The Matriarchal Valkyrie
and Saptamatikas Join to Incarnate and Transform
the Spirit of Heinrich Himmler into a Contemporary
American Leader**

Panel 5C: Women and Gender in Classical Texts
Bauer Center Room 25 • Chair: Carol Davis

LaChelle Schilling, Oklahoma State University:
**Women in the Eyes of Mahavira: Sinner or
Redeemer**

Mayuri Bhandari, Loyola Marymount University:
**Sita Versus Draupadi: Exemplars of Ideal Women in
Indian Society**

Mugdha Yeolekar, Loyola Marymount University:
**Analyzing Gender in Gurucaritra in the Light of the
Concept of Gurukrpā**

2:45 - 3:00 pm Coffee Break



3:00 - 4:30 PM
SASA CONCURRENT SESSION 4
BAUER SOUTH

Panel 6A: Birth, Death and Nature
Bauer Center Room 23 • Chair: Nalini Rao

Igor Kokhan, La Sierra University:
**Prenatal Rites in Newar Buddhist
Ceremonies of Image Consecration**

Srinivas Bharadwaj, Santa Clara University:
**The Missing Spiritual Link: The Purano Vedic
Origins of Abraham and Noah**

Frank Tedesco, True Dharma International:
**A Good Death and an Auspicious
Rebirth in America**

**Panel 6B: Visions of the Divine
Feminine in Hinduism-II**
Bauer South Room 24 • Chair: Chris Chapple

Jamie Mills, Claremont School of Theology:
Linga Consecration: A Goddess is Born

Khang Bao Nguyen, Claremont School of Theology:
**Ontological Realization of the Nondual and
Panentheistic Nature of the Feminine Divine Being**

Angela Fiona Scott, Claremont School of Theology:
Taming and Transforming Tara

Jarrol Taylor, Claremont School of Theology:
Fifty Shades of Kali

**Panel 6C: Education, Identity
and Marginalized Communities**
Bauer Center Room 25 • Chair: Christopher Queen

Tushar Meshram, Independent Scholar:
Contemporary Dalit Identity in Marathi Bhim Geet

Benjamin P Kaila, Friends for
Education International (FFEI):
**Empowering Marginalized Communities in India
through Education**

Karthikeyan Shanmugam, Ambedkar King Study Circle
Bay Area Free Software Movement Karnataka:
**Determination to Help Society from the Strengths
of Dr Ambedkar's Legacy and Free Software
Movement**

CONFERENCE ADJOURNS



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SASA recognizes and thanks those individuals who have contributed so greatly to the planning and production of SASA 2017. In addition to our many dozens of gifted speakers and presenters who are referenced elsewhere within this SASA 2017 journal, we wish to make special note of the following individuals.

SASA 2017 CONFERENCE CHAIR

Vandana Asthana

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR

Carol Davis

SASA 2017 PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Vandana Asthana

Mishka Michon

Purnima Bhatt

Deepak Shimkhada

David Blundell

Ken Silverman

Carol Davis

SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

The Board of Directors of the South Asian Studies Association extends particular appreciation to the administration and staff of Claremont McKenna College for their exceptional generosity, kindness, and support of the field of South Asian studies and of SASA 2017. We particularly acknowledge the following individuals.

DR. HIRAM CHODOSH

President

CYNTHIA HUMES

Associate Vice President

Chief Technology Officer

Associate Professor of Religious Studies

DOROTHY BUCHANAN

Director of Special Events

SASA 2017 PLATINUM SPONSOR

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The generous support of our Sponsors helped to make this Conference possible.

SPECIAL THANKS

MS. SWARMA GUNARATINE

Consul General of Sri Lanka (Los Angeles)

MR. AUNG KYAW ZAN

Consul General of Myanmar (Los Angeles)

MR. GEORGE M. PAPPAS

Honorary Consul General of Nepal (Los Angeles)

DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS

SASA additionally thanks all of the countless volunteers, both on-site and off-site, for their time, talents, and counsel. Without their kind and tireless support, the full scope achieved by SASA 2017 would not be possible. We specially recognize the time and work of the following individuals:

MARTIN BECK

Web Content Developer | Claremont McKenna College

BRIAN HILL

Media Tech Specialist | Claremont McKenna College

ARVIND GUPTA

Films Screening Associate | UCLA

STUDENTS OF CLAREMONT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY:

MARGERET ARTER, RACHEL HALDER, JAMIE MILL,
JASON MITCHELL, KHANG BAO NGUYEN, ANGELA
FIONA SCOTT, JARROL TAYLOR

CULTURAL EVENING

SASA wishes to additionally thank the Myanmar Cultural Dance Academy, the Sri Lankan Foundation for Performing Arts, Bollywood Dance Studio, Sri Pashupatinath Foundation, and their individual performers for their participation and performances in our evening cultural program. Special thanks to the following performers:

JYOTSANA DHAKAL, ANUSKA KARKI, MONICA SARIN,
MARUKO MYINT, SANDI WIN KHINE, SARA MAUNG,
VALERIE NAING, ASIAH THAZIN K SOE, CHRISTINA
KHIN TUN, KAI TAMSIN AYE, LAL THILAKARATHNA,
DHYAN NIMSARA HEWAGE

SASA 2017 CONFERENCE JOURNAL

Special appreciation is also extended for the vision, talents, commitment and long hours devoted by the team responsible for designing and producing our SASA 2017 Conference journal:

FRED TATLYAN, GOLIATH GRAFFIX

Pasadena, CA | GoliathGraffix.com

ABOUT THE SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Now commencing its second decade, the South Asian Studies Association was founded in 2007, in California, as an IRS designated 501(c)3 tax exempt organization. It was created by an impassioned group of South Asia scholars affiliated with institutions throughout the US and globally. These individuals, under the leadership of founding President, Dr. William Vanderbok, formed SASA's first Board of Directors, and many still serve on the SASA Board.

In late 2016, upon Dr. Vanderbok's retirement as SASA President, longtime SASA Board Member Ken Silverman was elected as Chairman. Mr. Silverman is a veteran US and international business executive with more than 20 years' history of engagement specifically with and within South Asia. This has included his representation of leading South Asian organizations doing business in the US, and with many leading US organizations doing business in South Asia. He also organizes and speaks regularly at South Asia focused conferences worldwide. SASA's Board of Directors is committed to revitalizing and expanding SASA's activities and reach. This includes encouragement of all interested parties to join and participate in designing and building the South Asian Studies Association of the 21st century.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

SASA 2008 CONFERENCE DR. NEENA BANSAL

President & CEO, State Bank of India (California)

SASA 2009 CONFERENCE ANIL DESPANDE & CHITRA DESHPANDE

Philanthropists; Founders, Park Square Homes

SASA 2010 CONFERENCE NAVNEET CHUGH

Managing Partner, The Chugh Firm

SASA 2011 CONFERENCE RON SOMERS

President, U.S.-India Business Council

SASA 2012 CONFERENCE DHIREN MEHTA

Southern California President, Pratham USA

SASA 2013 CONFERENCE GUNJAN BAGLA

Managing Director, Amritt, Inc.

SASA 2014 CONFERENCE DINESH PATEL

Partner Emeritus, Signal Peak Ventures

SASA 2017 CONFERENCE PRATIMA DOSHI & NAVIN DOSHI

Philanthropists; Founders, Naladna International

PAST SASA CONFERENCES

2007	LOYOLA MARYMONT UNIVERSITY
2008	CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY
2009	UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
2010	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
2011	VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
2012	CLAREMONT GRADUATE UNIVERSITY
2013	RUSSIAN STATE UNIVERSITY FOR THE HUMANITIES / MOSCOW
2014	WESTMINSTER COLLEGE
2016	TERI UNIVERSITY / NEW DELHI
2017	CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

EXEMPLAR ACADEMIC AWARDS

SASA 2008 CONFERENCE DR. PRATAPADITYA PAL

South Asia Curator, Boston Museum of Fine Art and Los Angeles County Museum of Art

SASA 2009 CONFERENCE DR. HAROLD GOULD

Professor South Asia Studies, University of Illinois and University of Virginia

SASA 2010 CONFERENCE DR. STANLEY WOLPERT

Professor Emeritus, History University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)

SASA 2011 CONFERENCE DR. JOE DYE

South Asia Curator, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

SASA 2012 CONFERENCE DR. ALFRED HILTEBEITEL

Professor of Religion, George Washington University

SASA 2013 CONFERENCE DR. ALEXANDER DUBIANSKY

Professor, Tamil Studies, Moscow State University

SASA 2014 CONFERENCE DR. PAUL R. BRASS

Professor Emeritus, Political Science & International Studies University of Washington

SASA 2016 CONFERENCE MINOTI CHAKRAVARTI KAUL

Author, Professor, Delhi University

SASA 2017 CONFERENCE DR. RAFIQ DOSSANI

Director, RAND Center for Asia Pacific Policy Sr. Economist & Professor, Pardee RAND Graduate School



KEN SILVERMAN
SASA
Chairman & CEO



BILL VANDERBOK, PHD
SASA
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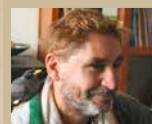
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HOW TO GET INVOLVED

SASA is committed to growth and expansion...not only of the South Asian Studies Association, but of the field of South Asian studies itself. We believe that, relative to the importance of South Asia, colleges and universities worldwide, as well as government agencies, elected officials, policy makers, think tanks, journalists and the media, and concerned private citizens spanning multiple fields, need to be reinigorated. This is a cornerstone of SASA's cause and its mission.

CONTACT US

Let us know that you're interested, and how much you'd wish to engage.

Please send an email to SASA Treasurer, Mishka Michon, via: MishkaM@SAsia.org,

or write to us at: South Asian Studies Association, 251 S. Orange Grove Blvd., Suite Two, Pasadena, CA 91105.

MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS

Share your views about our Conference. Visit our soon-to-be-revitalized website, www.SAsia.org. Let us know what does and doesn't work for you. Let us also know of suggested opportunities for SASA's further strategic engagement, ranging from individuals and institutions to potential sources of incremental nonprofit financial support. We believe that a stronger SASA is in all of our interests.

SASA PUBLICATIONS

PUBLISHED BOOKS



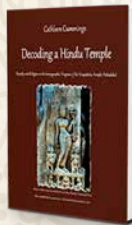
CULTIVATING COMMUNITY: INTEREST, IDENTITY, AND AMBIGUITY IN AN INDIAN SOCIAL MOBILIZATION
by Michael Youngblood, Anthropologist



OPEN PAGES IN SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES
by Joe Pellegrino, Georgia Southern University, and Alexandre Stolyarov, Russian State University for the Humanities



YAŚODĀ'S SONGS TO HER PLAYFUL SON, KRṢṆA
by Lynn Ate, Washington State University



DECODING A HINDU TEMPLE: ROYALTY AND RELIGION IN THE ICONOGRAPHIC PROGRAM OF THE VIRUPAKSHA TEMPLE, PATTADAKAL
by Cathleen A. Cummings, University of Alabama at Birmingham



BEGINNING THE MAHĀBHĀRATA: A READER'S GUIDE TO THE FRAME STORIES
by James W. Earl, University of Oregon



THE MULTICULTURAL CHALLENGE: A VISUAL-CULTURAL GUIDE TO COPING IN THE GLOBAL ERA
by Ingrid Aall, California State University, Long Beach

JOURNAL/EXEMPLAR

EXEMPLAR is designed as bi-annual, peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the field of South Asia studies. It publishes discipline-specific, interdisciplinary, and cross-cultural articles, interviews, and creative writings. These encompass the histories, the literatures, the politics, and the arts, whose focus, locales, and/or subjects involve South Asia. To date we have published five volumes of EXEMPLAR, spanning more than 500 pages and more than 60 individual articles from contributors around the globe. These can be accessed via the SASA website. Our last issue, published in the Spring of 2015, was a special edition devoted to the ascendance and impact of India Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is our goal to resume publication of EXEMPLAR later in 2017. We welcome communications from all of those interested in participating in the relaunch and revitalization of EXEMPLAR.



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The Consulate General of India
(San Francisco)
for their most generous friendship,
encouragement, and support.