



**CENTER FOR  
SOUTH ASIAN  
STUDIES**

**SAVE THE PLANET**



**BENGALURU**

**University of  
Michigan**

**Winter 2009**

**Newsletter**

## From the Director

*Dear Friends and Colleagues:* Our first Trehan India Initiative theme year, “State, Space, and Citizenship: Indian Cities in a Global Era” has gotten off to a great start! Enabled by the generosity and forward vision of Ranvir and Adarsh Trehan and the Trehan Foundation, this initiative will enable a wealth of scholarly programming at the Center, expand student and faculty research opportunities, and help establish institutional connections between UM and partners in South Asia over the next three years. The Initiative was formally announced last October with a visit by Indian Ambassador Ronen Sen to UM, who gave generously of both his time and his intelligence. Ambassador Sen presented a well-attended formal lecture in the evening and engaged in extensive informal conversations with students following his talk. Ranvir and Adarsh Trehan, along with their daughter Veena Trehan and niece Mansi Mehan, accompanied Ambassador Sen on his visit. Both the Trehans and the Ambassador met with UM faculty and graduate students while they were here, and enjoyed a dinner in their honor that evening hosted by Provost Teresa Sullivan. All of us at the Center and at the University of Michigan are grateful to the Trehan family for their

ongoing financial support, their intellectual engagement, and their personal commitment to this great institution.

The keynote event in our series took place across a long weekend in January, beginning with a panel discussion by three leading figures in the growing coterie of activists, artists, and intellectuals showing renewed interest in the South Asian city. Filmmaker Paromita Vohra (from Mumbai), political scientist/planner/urban activist Solomon Benjamin (from Toronto), and urban theorist Ravi Sundaram (from Delhi) each talked for twenty or thirty minutes before opening the conversation up to the audience. Rather than recount all of the provocative issues introduced at that session, I would simply direct those of you who are interested to the audio recording made during the event, which is downloadable on the UMich iTunes site (<http://itunes.umich.edu/International/CSAS/>)

On the Saturday following the panel discussion, Paromita Vohra presented her films, *Q2P, Where's Sandra?* and *Cosmopolis: Two tales of a City* to a standing-room only audience at the International Institute. And finally, Solomon Benjamin elaborated on ideas he introduced at the Friday panel in a Monday morning

lecture at the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning on north campus. Those who attended any or all of these events were given privileged access to cutting edge research and creative thinking on the city in South Asia today. We look forward to Ravi Sundaram's return to UM next Fall when he will teach a graduate seminar focused on the Trehan Initiative's first theme.

There are many more important speakers coming to the Center this term, and many more opportunities ahead to both enjoy and keep informed about the arts, culture, history, and politics of South Asia at UM. You will find information on all of these events on the CSAS website and in the pages of this Newsletter. There is also a lot of work going on these days at the Center that many of you will seldom actually see. I'm thinking of the multiple teams of faculty at work right now—even as I write—evaluating applications for fellowship opportunities, FLAS (language) grants, summer research funding, and admissions to the Center's excellent MA program. They work hard, and quietly, and with little recognition (and no compensation), but their voluntary service contributes crucially to the education and experience of our core con-

stituency: our incredible students. In particular, earlier this month a faculty team undertook the final review of undergraduate fellowship candidates hoping to intern with organizations in India this summer as part of our “Summer in South Asia” program. As our regular readers already know, the “Summer in South Asia” undergraduate fellows program is entering its fourth successful year, and competition for the seven funded fellowships was as keen as ever. (Details on page 13).

This program is unique on the campus, and we are very proud of what our previous undergraduate fellows have accomplished. We are also deeply grateful to the anonymous donor who made this opportunity available; the donor’s heartfelt goal is to enable bright young UM students to experience India first-hand by creating their own research or internship program. Judging from the quality of projects already completed, and from the gratitude shown by our students for this wonderful opportunity, we believe their goal is being well met. As always, you can keep track of our fellows this summer by tuning in to their weblog from time to time ([www.ii.umich.edu/csas](http://www.ii.umich.edu/csas)).

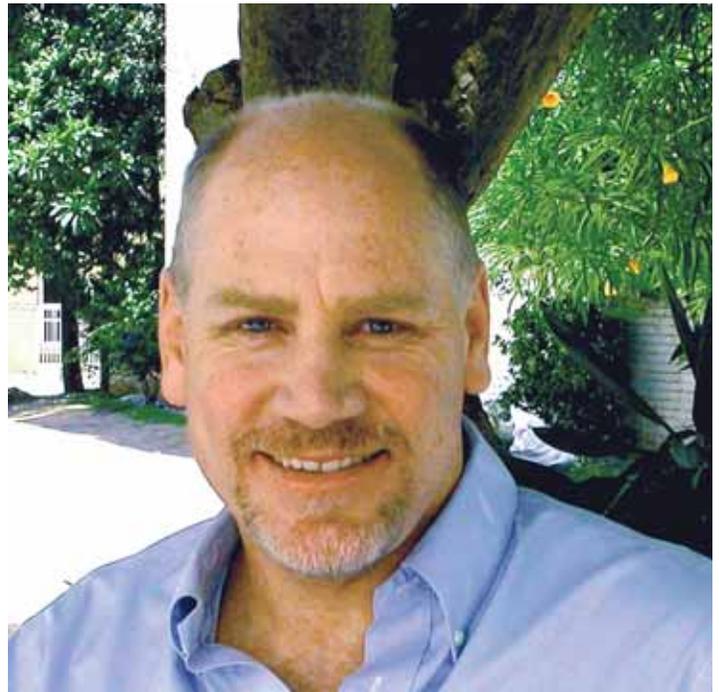
Finally, looking ahead to summer (and to the end of “ice dams,” “fenderbergs,” and slushy walks to campus,

among other Ann Arbor winter specialties), Sreyashi Dey is leading a group of faculty, students, community members, and local area high school teachers in organizing our second annual summer high school and middle school teacher workshop on South Asia. Responding to a legislated requirement to include world history courses in middle- and high school curricula, CSAS is organizing a day-long workshop focused on bringing South Asia into area K-14 classrooms with the richness and importance it deserves. Building on what we learned at our “first annual” workshop last summer, this time around we will devote some of our time to brainstorming lesson plans. If you or someone you know would like to participate in this project please be in touch with Sreyashi ([sreyashi@umich.edu](mailto:sreyashi@umich.edu)).

Here’s to a wonderful spring and summer ahead, and I hope to see many of you at upcoming Center events. As always, all our events are free and open to the public; we welcome your participation.



Director, Center for South Asian Studies  
Associate Professor  
Architectural History and Theory



*All of us at the Center and at the University of Michigan are grateful to the Trehan family for their ongoing financial support, their intellectual engagement, and their personal commitment to this great institution.*

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# Faculty Research

With financial support from a Trehan Foundation grant at the University of Michigan, Professor Jerome Nriagu (School of Public Health) is engaged in timely cross-country research on the risks of arsenic exposure for people consuming contaminated drinking water and food in West Bengal, India and southeastern Michigan. An important part of this project is the institutional collaboration professor Nriagu has established with colleagues at the University of Kalyani (Dr. Debashis Chatterjee) and the Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research in Calcutta (Dr. D.N. Guha Mazumder). In addition to pursuing research that promises to better people's health and well-being, professor Nriagu and his colleagues are training a young cohort of Indian students in new, more reliable methods of early detection.

## ARSENIC POISONING IN INDIA

**Jerome Nriagu**

**Professor, Department of Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health**

*Arsenic in Groundwater of West Bengal, India.* Prolonged exposure to arsenic (As) in drinking water is the cause of morbidity (including various cancers, arsenical dermatosis, hyperkeratosis and several other symptoms of arsenicosis) and mortality in millions of people globally. In Bangladesh and its adjoining part of West Bengal (India) alone, about 100 million people are at risk of As poisoning because of drinking contaminated groundwater with concentrations of As that well exceed the maximum permissible limits (10 µg/L) laid down by both World Health Organization (WHO) and US Environmental Protection Agency. Nadia District (area: 3927 square kilometers; population: about 4.6 million) is one of the most impacted areas in West Bengal. A recent study showed arsenic concentrations >10 µg/L in 51.2% of hand tubewells (primary source of drinking water), >50 µg/L in 17.2% of the wells and > 300 µg/L in 1.8% of the tubewells. Arsenic concentrations above 1000µg/L were found in 13 tubewells with the maximum reported level in the district being 3200µg/L. It is estimated that well over 2 million people in the Nadia district may be at risk of being poisoned by arsenic in their drinking water (Figure 1). Arsenic enters the bodies of unsuspecting villagers not only through drinking water but also through food and vegetables grown in contaminated land around the village. Attempts made so far by both governmental and non-governmental organizations to provide As-free drinking water to the highly affected areas of Nadia are grossly inadequate, and arsenic poisoning remains a major public health problem in the district.



Figure 1: Example of tube well contaminated with arsenic.

## Elevated Levels of Arsenic in Groundwater of Southeast Michigan

In Michigan, elevated levels of arsenic have been found in 11 counties in the southeastern part of the state, with most common concentrations being in the 5-50 g/L range. These counties have a combined population of about 2.7 million people and a large percentage of this population has been considered to be at some risk of being poisoned by arsenic in their water supplies. Although the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) has issued a Health Advisory for owners of private water wells in the 11 counties against ingestion of drinking water with elevated levels of arsenic, no systematic epidemiological investigation has been undertaken to assess the risks of exposure to the waterborne arsenic until the University of Michigan was funded by the National Cancer Institute to fill this gap. The NCI grant has enabled the PI to develop unique methods and models for assessing the health effects of arsenic at low exposure doses.

## Goals of the Trehan Grant

Southeast Michigan and Nadia District (India) illustrate the bifurcation in current studies on arsenic carcinogenesis which have tended to focus only on the two ends of the spectrum – high end exposures found in India, Bangladesh and other developing countries and low end exposures found typically in the United States. A goal of this collaboration is to bridge this gap by using the research protocols developed at the University of Michigan to study cohorts in India and Michigan exposed to arsenic levels (in water) in the widest range possible (10-500 µg/L). The dose-response relationship in this concentration range is currently unknown and the project funded by the Trehan grant is designed to provide critically important information needed to assess the risk of exposure to arsenic in drinking water in the general population.

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## In Michigan, elevated levels of arsenic have been found in 11 counties in the southeastern part of the state, with most common concentrations being in the 5-50 g/L range.

I shall only dwell on two key aspects of the study in this report, namely, a new biomarker for arsenic exposure and differential expression of effects in exposed family members. Studies of people exposed to comparable levels of arsenic in drinking water in different parts of the world reveal varying degrees of individual susceptibility to arsenic-induced methylation capacity, genetic damage, skin lesions and other health effects (Gosh et al., 2008). Within a population exposed to the same level of arsenic, only a small number of people may develop skin lesions that are often considered to be the hallmark of arsenic poisoning. Although much has been written recently on arsenic metabolism, pharmacokinetics, modes of carcinogenic action, and health effects, little is currently known about the heritability of risk, specifically, the genes that may be involved in individual susceptibility or resistance to arsenic poisoning. This project is trying to fill this critical gap in knowledge, and focuses on skin lesions as the health endpoint.

### Planned Research Activity

We will recruit 100 cases with skin lesions and 100 controls with no such symptoms – for total sample size of 200. The cases will be selected from the cross-sectional survey and will include all the individuals who have already been diagnosed to have arsenic-induced skin lesions in Nadia district. Controls will be household members who do not have skin manifestation of arsenicosis and whose main source of drinking water is similar to those of the cases. The controls will be matched with cases for age ( $\pm 5$  years) and gender. Each participant will be required to (i) undergo a detailed face-to-face interview; (ii) provide a spot urine sample; (iii) provide a saliva sample; (iv) allow the project staff to visit their home to take a water sample; and (v) sign a consent form. The survey questionnaire will collect a detailed history of arsenic and other exposures potentially associated with development of skin lesions. Water consump-

tion profiles will be constructed from residential history, the source of the water supply (well or public) for each residence, and the amount of water they consumed each day. Participants will be asked about their dietary habits. Height and weight of participants will be collected. A medical history will be obtained with an emphasis placed on dermal conditions, skin lesion history and medication use. Finally, participants will be asked to provide demographic information (age, education and marital status).

We will measure the single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) for the genes that are involved in arsenic biotransformation, or have received attention as diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers of arsenic effects. Various tissues and biofluids have been used in epidemiological studies as biomarkers of arsenic exposure or effect. Our study will explore, for the first time, the use of saliva as a biomarker of arsenic exposure by relating the arsenic in this matrix to the levels in urine (an established biomarker) and quantitative estimates of arsenic exposure from the questionnaire data. Saliva is easier to collect from local villagers compared to the traditional biomarkers (urine, blood or toenail). This project is a collaboration between scholars at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and two institutions in West Bengal, India. Its Principal Investigators are Professor Jerome Nriagu of the University of Michigan School of Public Health; Dr. Debashis Chatterjee of the Department of Chemistry, University of Kalyani; and Dr. D.N. Guha Mazumder of the Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research in Calcutta.

The collaboration serves to enhance local research skills. Some members of the research team in India are shown in Figure 2; the picture was taken when Dr. Nriagu visited the study site in August, 2008.



Figure 2: Dr. Nriagu with his collaborators in Calcutta.



## CORPORATE SOCIAL HYPOCRISY

**Aneel Karnani**  
**Associate Professor of Strategy**  
**Ross School of Business**

The idea that private firms have a corporate social responsibility (CSR) to better society has caught the attention of executives everywhere, including in India. The annual report of virtually every large company claims its mission is to serve some larger social purpose besides making profits. For example, Hindustan Unilever's (HUL) website explicitly states that its corporate social responsibility is rooted in its Corporate Purpose - the belief that "to succeed requires the highest standards of corporate behavior towards our employees, consumers and the societies and world in which we live." Do companies really act on CSR or is this just lip service?

My research has examined the case of 'Fair & Lovely,' a skin whitening cream, marketed by HUL. I chose this particular case study because Unilever and its Indian subsidiary HUL are often praised in the business literature as socially responsible companies. Also, Fair & Lovely is mentioned as a positive example in the literature on 'bottom of the pyramid' strategies for alleviating poverty.

### Fair & Lovely

Fair & Lovely, the largest-selling skin whitening cream in the world, is certainly doing well. Launched in 1978, it holds a commanding 50-70% share of the skin whitening market in India, a market that is valued at over Rs. 1200 crores and growing at 10-15% per annum. HUL christened Fair & Lovely as one of its six 'mega brands' and has successfully launched new product formulations from lotions to gels and soaps.

Beyond doing well, HUL claims that it is also doing good. The company argues that 90% of Indian women want to use skin whiteners because it is "aspirational.... A fair skin is like education, regarded as a social and economic step up."

UM Professor CK Prahalad (who is also a member of the board of directors of HUL) cites a young female street sweeper who expressed pride in being able to use a fashion product that is tailored for her needs; she now "has a choice and feels empowered."

### Not Doing Good

Many dermatologists and activists in women's movements dispute these claims that Fair & Lovely is 'doing good' and improving social welfare. Since Fair & Lovely is not categorized as a pharmaceutical product, HUL has not been required to prove efficacy. Many dermatologists are skeptical of the efficacy of whitening creams. Some dermatologists go further and are concerned about safety.

More controversial than its safety and efficacy is the manner in which Fair & Lovely is marketed. Fair & Lovely's heavily aired television commercials typically contain the message of a depressed woman with few prospects who gains a brighter future by either attaining a boyfriend/husband or a job after becoming markedly fairer from using Fair & Lovely. These advertisements have attracted much public criticism, especially from women's organizations.

Brinda Karat, General Secretary of the All India Democratic Women's Congress (AIDWC), calls the Fair & Lovely advertisements "highly racist" and "an affront to a woman's dignity." After a lack of response from HUL to their complaints, AIDWC filed a complaint with the Indian government, which eventually banned two of the advertisements in 2003. Ravi Shankar Prasad, India's Information and Broadcasting Minister, said, "Fair & Lovely cannot be supported because the advertising is demeaning to women and the women's movement." The Maharashtra State Commission for Women recently gave to Fair & Lovely the dubious 'award' for the most gender-insensitive television advertisements.

More disconcerting is evidence that young girls use fairness creams. The poor also are a significant target market for Fair & Lovely. HUL markets the product in 'affordable' small size pouches to facilitate purchase by the poor and, as cited by Prahalad, it is a product that is targeted at those at the 'bottom of the pyramid.'

### Dove

In a recent speech, Unilever CEO Patrick Cescau said "that Dove is a brand whose social mission is to change people's stereotypical views of female beauty... Much of the problem lies with the unrealistic way women are portrayed in advertising, fashion and the media." Unilever launched the Campaign for Real Beauty in the US and Europe to promote the Dove brand, arguing "for too long, beauty has been defined by narrow, stifling stereotypes... We believe real beauty comes in many shapes, sizes and ages... [Our aim is to offer] a broader, healthier, more democratic view of beauty." Dove is "a brand that keeps to its clinically proven promises... Our commitment to delivering real results is mirrored in our advertisements. For over 40 years, we've been using real women in our ads, without any re-touching."

### Hypocrisy

How do we reconcile the same company, Unilever, telling women in the US and Europe that their real beauty is inside, while telling the women in India (and other countries in Asia and Africa) that beauty lies in the color of their skin? Research has shown that for most large public companies, "CSR is little more than a cosmetic treatment" - an ironically appropriate conclusion for HUL.

# Focus on Alumni

**Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Kelley** was a graduate student in the Center for South Asian Studies from Fall 2002 to December 2003, earning an MA in South Asian Studies. He is currently stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal as the Chief, Office of Defense Cooperation. He recently wrote a book entitled *Imperial Secrets: Remapping the Mind of Empire*. In this article, he recounts the experiences that led to the development of this work.

One sweltering morning in 2005, I sat perched on my cot in a windblown tent beside the Mazar-e-Sharif airfield. As I pulled on my boots, the Norwegian officer beside me cryptically asked, “What rank are you?” Since the oak leaf on my collar made this fairly obvious, I didn’t reply at once, and he asked again in the same slightly odd tone of voice.

I realized then, in a slightly Monty Pythonesque moment, that he was staring pointedly at the Masonic symbol tied to a piece of cord around my neck, which was peeping through the gap in my desert camouflage jacket. Blushing, I explained I wasn’t actually a Mason, but that this was something of an inside joke. I had carried the trinket to Afghanistan as reminder of the role a similar item had played for a pair of 19th Century British imperial soldiers in the John Huston film, “The Man Who Would Be King.” That tale, of course, was drawn from the short story by

Rudyard Kipling, who in turn was inspired by an odd assembly of real life Western adventurers who wandered about Afghanistan during the 1800’s in various states of fancy dress – including an American who really was, for a brief time, the “Prince of Ghoree.” So, in fact, I was a real life American indulging in a bit of ironic self-reference, based on a fictional British film character, based on a fictional British literary character, based on a real life American. The Norwegian still thought I was a Mason.

The setting for such a reflection on the Matroshka dolls of identity was suitably and similarly embedded in multiple potential readings. That evening, we were guests of the British Gorkha battalion assigned to the sector. As an American military officer, sitting in Afghanistan on an airbase once used by the Soviets, eating lamb curry while listening to bagpipes played by Nepalis in British uniforms...well, the imperial overtones weren’t hard to miss. Unpacking and exploring such issues, for me and for those around me, constituted a task far more urgent than simple navel-gazing. As the senior strategic analyst at Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan Headquarters, a significant portion of my duties revolved around precisely these challenges of identity and understanding. Military analysis is well attuned to seeking out deception (e.g. are those really American

tanks being pre-positioned for a cross-channel invasion at Calais, or just plywood mock-ups?). But in a counter-insurgency environment, particularly a cross cultural one, the questions – and their answers – are naturally far less simple. A question like, “Is individual ‘X’ a member of the Taliban?” is practically meaningless. He might be, or he might not. Or he might be only between the hours of 3 and 5 AM during the lean months just before the harvest; except when his nephew’s pirated DVD business is doing well; but only in relation to issues associated with law, order, and narcotics, rather than education, and infrastructure; and only within the frames of his own family and tribal allegiances. The caveats and conditions can pile up endlessly until any given label or category becomes completely un-tethered from the reality it is intended to describe.

As a card-carrying member of a relatively rigid and hierarchical bureaucracy, I’m aware that you can only go so far with that sort of reflection before you have to get about the practical business of preparing the morning command briefing; and after fifteen years in uniform, my thinking generally tends to default back into Powerpoint bullets. And yet, and yet...most deployments include plenty of idle time, and during those hours, these issues continued to percolate away in the back of my mind. Progressively, I found myself turning less to generally conventional military frames of

reference, and more towards some of the academic approaches I encountered during my graduate work at the Center for South Asian Studies at the University of Michigan. To be completely frank, during my time on campus, I was extremely uncomfortable with many of these approaches, especially the ones with prefixes. Whether one considers post-modernism, post-colonialism, or sub-altern studies, people like me, and the institutions and perspectives I represent, come in for a regular dose of pointed criticism – some fair, some not. Even more challenging, these frequently destabilizing, shifting and often self-referential paradigms fit poorly with a military perspective, which is extremely outward focused and oriented on finding the round peg for the round hole. Nevertheless, the challenges I encountered in Afghanistan suggested there might be some value to a more polyvalent approach. Perhaps even more importantly, the very fact that I found myself so uncomfortable highlighted the potential utility in engaging more thoroughly with alternative frames of reference. At the University of Michigan, the majority of the faculty and fellow students I encountered were roughly similar to me in terms of class and social background – yet I frequently found the way they viewed the world to be nearly unintelligible. If my professional duties as a lower middle-class white male from the suburbs



*Patrick Kelly in Jomsom (Mustang), being felicitated by a Nepal Army officer who commands their Mountain Warfare Training Center.*

of Detroit included analyzing the thoughts and intentions of a Saudi millionaire in the caves of the Hindu Kush, well...I calculated I might profitably invest some effort in learning to “think different.” So, I bought a MacBook laptop and authored a White Paper for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), briefly sketching out how post-modern theories might be applied to intelligence analysis.

Not surprisingly, that paper failed to prompt a strategic overhaul of our national intelligence practices and policy. It did, however, open up the space for me to spend a year as an independent research fellow, sponsored by the ODNI and the National Defense Intelligence College, to reflect more extensively on these topics. That year of research produced the book,

“Imperial Secrets.” Nominally, at least, the text considers how intelligence and information were collected, analyzed and acted upon in three historical, imperial contexts: the Roman Empire, the Ottoman, and the British Raj in India. There is fascinating material there, rewarding to research and write about on its own merits. More importantly, for my purposes, the historical material provided a space to explore issues of enduring, modern relevance with more freedom than a serving military officer might otherwise enjoy if he were considering, say, the composition of the latest National Intelligence Estimate. But how strong is the analogy between past empires and our current context – whether articulated in triumphalism or critique?

Regardless of how one chooses to characterize modern American foreign and

defense policy, I believe many of our current intelligence-related challenges are more akin to those faced by the Romans in Egypt or the British in Sindh than they are to what America faced in conventional nation-state contexts like the Second World War. In regard to the current active conflicts the U.S. is involved in, the work of counting enemy weapon platforms and throw weights - the sort of information required for Effects Based Operations - is relatively modest. Information about beliefs, values, emotions and intentions – the sort of information required for Affect Based Operations – is in much higher demand. That challenge, I feel, is not unlike the one faced by Tacitus, for example, when he attempted to articulate the presumptive ideas expressed by Boudica, the 1st Century British insurgent leader. Similar, too, with British experience are the risks we face when we try to impose a certain framework of order over disparate streams of poorly understood information. Some of the purely academic work I did in Ann Arbor regarding the British campaign to suppress Thuggee came back years later with a flash of recognition when I encountered modern approaches to analyzing and countering transnational criminal and terrorist networks.

In addition to these types of substantive issues, the book is also offered structurally as a challenge – or perhaps alternative would be more tactful –

to modern practice. I deliberately did not troll back through history looking for analogies to categories like Human Intelligence, Signals Intelligence, Counter-Intelligence, etc. Rather, much of the discussion follows themes like Law, Dress, Discourse and Imagination – topics rarely discussed in current intelligence affairs. Equally rare in that context are the kinds of citations which appear in this work, with names like Foucault, Deleuze and Derrida appearing in the bibliography alongside the more usual suspects. Even in its overall organization, “Imperial Secrets” attempts to break out of expected convention. Three different historical eras suggest a fairly obvious narrative framework, but the text chooses for its organizing principle Bach’s Fuge No. 2 in C Minor rather than the sequences of the calendar.

Ultimately, none of this is genuinely intended to entirely supplant the basic mechanics of how intelligence is practiced – I shudder to contemplate the fate of the analyst who prepares a President’s Daily Brief item based on Baroque chamber music. My hope simply is that it prompts reflection apart from the daily grind of operations on how we might approach problems differently, expand our perspectives and broaden the dialogue community which addresses national security affairs. Should that fail, well, I’m actually pretty good at Powerpoint.

# Focus on Student Organization

## A REPORT ON THE SAAN 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**FROM FRIDAY** January 23rd to Sunday January 25th around 350 students and faculty participated in the 7th annual South Asian Awareness Network (SAAN) Conference held at the Michigan Union. These participants represented many different universities including Michigan State, Ohio State, Illinois and Wayne State and they ranged from college freshmen to alumni to retired faculty.

The conference also played host to 26 speakers who led workshops and delivered plenary speeches on a variety of different matters focusing on South Asia but resonating globally. The list of speakers consisted of leaders from many fields including Medicine, Entertainment, Business, and Social Justice to name a few. Much like the participants, the group of speakers was diverse in area of expertise, location, ideology, ethnicity, age and many other counts. Most importantly, however, the speakers went beyond the usual cursory analysis of some of these matters and used their expertise to raise awareness on rarely addressed issues. Although broad in their range of topics, each workshop had one common thread—making a point of empowering participants to take action no matter how great the challenge and no matter what the issue.

As a complement to what they learned from the speeches and workshops, participants were also able to contribute to small group discussions, critiquing, analyzing and questioning everything that was said during the entire conference. These discussions were led by 34 well-trained facilitators, all of whom were chosen from a competitive pool of undergraduate and graduate students from throughout The University of Michigan.

While the conference was a logistical and financial challenge to organize, participants and speakers gave rave reviews of the ease, efficiency and quality of every aspect of the conference. Speaker Sonali Gulati said, "You guys put up a brilliant show and I was honored to be a part of SAAN 2009." First-time attendee Neil Patel of the Ross School of Business pointed out that "every aspect of the conference was incredibly professional, I couldn't believe this was put on entirely by students."

None of this would have been possible without the help of the University, The Center for South Asian Studies, and support from countless other sources throughout the community. Because of this, SAAN is always open to collaborating with groups and organizations from throughout the University regardless of racial, religious, political or ethnic affiliation.

If you are part of a group looking to develop a mutually rewarding relationship with SAAN please e-mail [saan.community@umich.edu](mailto:saan.community@umich.edu) for more information.

If you would like to become part of the 2010 Central Planning Team please contact [saan@umich.edu](mailto:saan@umich.edu), applications for Chairs and Central Planning Team will be out in early February. Facilitator applications will be out in the fall of 2009 contact [saan.groups@umich.edu](mailto:saan.groups@umich.edu) for more information.



### REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

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**Mary Sue Coleman (ex officio)**

— The 2009 SAAN Central Planning Team

# Center Activities 2008/09

## F A L L L E C T U R E S 2 0 0 8

**Friday, September 12, 4 pm**

**Anshu Malhotra**

University of Delhi  
*Abduction, Conversion, and a Scandal in Mid-Nineteenth Century Punjab: Religious Conflict and Syncretistic Culture in Peero's 160 Kafis*

**Thursday, September 25, 12 pm**

**Aamir Mufti**

University of California, Los Angeles  
*Orientalism and the Institution of World Literatures*

**Friday, September 26, 4 pm**

**Saloni Mathur**

University of California, Los Angeles  
*Contemporary Indian Art and the War in Iraq: On Vivan Sundaram's Engine Oil Work*

**Friday, October 24, 4 pm**

**Thomas Blom Hansen**

University of Amsterdam  
*Conversations on South Asia Series, The Unwieldy Fetish: Desire and Disavowal of Indianness in South Africa*

**Friday, October 31, 4 pm**

**K. (Shivi) Sivaramakrishnan**

Yale University  
*Nature, Nationalism, and Public Intellectualism in India*

**Friday, November 7, 4 pm**

**Arindam Dutta**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
*Calcutta Coefficients: Styles of State-Building, Styles of Computations*

**Friday, December 5, 4 pm**

**Sanjay Kak**

Independent Filmmaker, New Delhi  
*Screening of Jashn-e-Azadi (How we Celebrate Freedom) and post screening discussion*

## W I N T E R L E C T U R E S 2 0 0 9

**Friday, January 23, 4 pm**

*State, Space and Citizenship: Indian Cities in the Global Era\**

Keynote Panel:

**Solomon Benjamin**

University of Toronto

**Paromita Vohra**

independent filmmaker, Mumbai

**Ravi Sundaram**

CSDS, Delhi

**Friday, February 13, 4 pm**

**Sandeep Ray**

University of Michigan  
*The Earnest Years*  
Film Screening and discussion

**Monday, February 16, 4 pm**

**Janaki Nair**

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta  
*Caste, Gender and the Body Politic: Bengaluru's Experiments with Democracy\**

**Thursday, March 12, 4 pm**

*Colloquium: Afghanistan: The Once and Future War*  
Co-sponsored by the Center for Russian and East European Studies, Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, Center for South Asian Studies, and Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies

**Friday, March 13, 5 pm**

**Swati Chattopadhyay**

University of California, Santa Barbara  
*Infrastructure\**

**Friday, March 20, 4 pm**

**Sanjay Joshi**

Northern Arizona University  
*Free to Wander: Some Questions, Predicaments and Possibilities about Family Histories and Domestic Archives*

**Friday, March 27, 4 pm**

**Amita Baviskar**

Delhi University  
*Cows, Cars and Cycle-rickshaws: The Politics of Nature on the Streets of Delhi, India\**

*\*part of the Trehan India Initiative Theme Year*

**Wednesday, March 25th, 4 pm**

**A Conversation with Wendy Doniger**

*"Found in Translation: Rendering Sanskrit Narratives into English Histories"*

# Trehan Theme Year

## The Trehan India Initiative at the University of Michigan Presents: State, Space, and Citizenship: Indian Cities in the Global Era

A year of thematic programming on key issues confronting Indian cities, sponsored by the Center for South Asian Studies at the University of Michigan.

The Trehan India Initiative at the University of Michigan is made possible by the principled generosity of Ranvir and Adarsh Trehan and the Trehan Foundation Fund. The initiative, housed at the Center for South Asian Studies, will span three years. Each year will be organized around a particular theme and include thematic programming on specific issues relating to that theme. The first Trehan India Initiative Theme Year at the University of Michigan will take place during 2009. The theme for this year is “State, Space, and Citizenship: Indian cities in the Global Era”. The title of the theme year evokes the three central issues that we will explore during the year: questions of the shifting roles of the state in urban development that has occurred as globalization and demographic change have brought new actors and interests to bear in urban politics; the changes in urban space that have resulted from changes in the political realm; and issues of citizenship that have emerged around questions of who benefits and who pays the costs of the physical and social changes Asian cities are experiencing. The United Nations estimates that India’s urban population will nearly double to reach 586 million by 2030. This urbanization is taking place as the country grapples with the dramatic challenges and promises presented by economic liberalization and exposure to global flows of people, ideas, finance, investment, and media. The various events organized during the theme year will address how urbanization is transforming contemporary India socially, economically, politically, culturally, and environmentally. It will focus on three closely related areas of investigation:

1) Transformations in urban politics and the role of the state in urban development. The liberalization of the Indian economy has fostered new models of private sector involvement in urban politics and development. What impacts have this change had on representations of civil and political society in urban governance?

2) Changes in the production of urban space. Liberalization has also brought the emergence of global urban forms (malls, condominiums, new towns and industrial estates), and investment in metro systems, highways and flyovers. What implications do these new urban forms have for social and cultural change?



3) Issues of citizenship and politics in the urban realm. Some have argued that the emergence of new enclaves of wealth has led to new forms of social exclusion. Are we seeing a fragmentation of citizenship, as lower income groups suffer increasingly unequal access to rights and privileges in Indian cities?

### THEME YEAR PROGRAMMING COMPONENTS

- A lecture series will bring leading contributors to debates on contemporary urban development in India to UM.
- A grant program will provide graduate students at UM the opportunity for summer study in India on urban development issues.
- A Visiting Scholar, Ravi Sundaram, will be in residence during the Fall semester. Dr. Sundaram is a Fellow at the Center for the Study of Developing Societies in New Delhi.
- Dr. Sundaram will teach a graduate seminar on urban change in India. This seminar will involve collaborative instruction between UM and institutions in India.
- A theme-based film series will feature post-screening discussions by an inter-disciplinary group of faculty and graduate students at the University of Michigan, invited filmmakers, and visiting scholars.
- A graduate student panel will be organized by UM graduate students to address an issue related to the theme that is of interest to them.
- A year end conference will bring scholars from the US and India together to assess the year’s findings.

# Trehan Theme Year

## LONGER TERM OUTCOMES

The longer term objective of the theme year is to strengthen links between UM and institutions of higher education in India. Our eventual objective is to establish a center for the study of contemporary Indian urban development to be based at an institution in India with an interdisciplinary research focus.

## CO-COORDINATORS OF THE THEME YEAR

### Gavin Shatkin,

Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning.

### Neha Sami,

Doctoral candidate in Urban and Regional Planning.

### William Glover,

Associate Professor in Architecture and Director of the Center for South Asian Studies.

## LECTURE SERIES SCHEDULE AND PARTICIPANTS

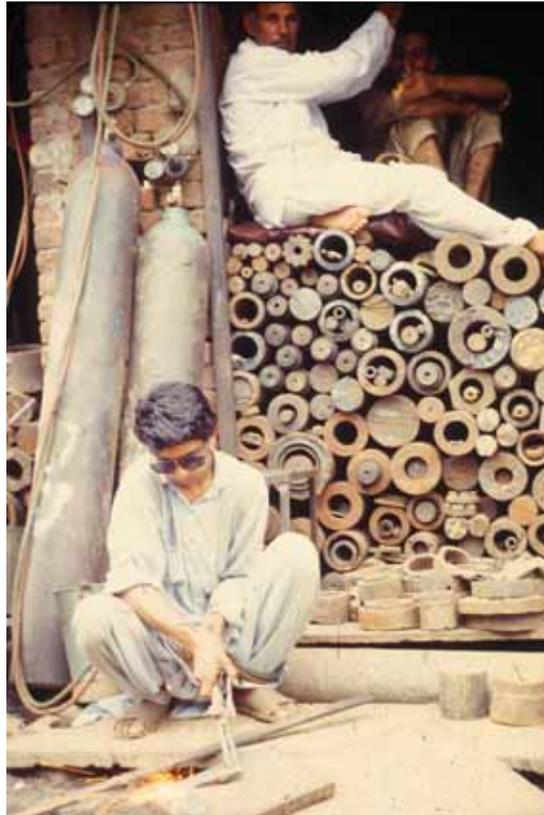
### January 23

#### Keynote Panel Discussion

Solomon Benjamin is an assistant professor of political science at the University of Toronto. He was previously a consultant on urban development issues and an independent scholar based in Bangalore. He has published widely in international journals on issues of urban poverty and land development in the Global South.

Ravi Sundaram is a fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), and a founding member of SARAI, a coalition of researchers that has had a major impact on contemporary scholarship on urban issues in India. His research interests focus on the relationship between the city and contemporary media experiences. He will be in residence at UM as a visiting scholar in Fall 2009 as part of the theme year.

Paromita Vohra is a filmmaker and writer whose work plays with fiction and non-fiction to focus on ideas of gender, urban life and popular culture. Her films as director include the documentaries *Ek Manohar Kahani* (Best Short Doc IVFK2008), *Q2P* (Best Doc IFFLA and Stuttgart, 2007), *Cosmopolis: Two Tales of a City*, and *Unlimited Girls* (Women's News Award, WFFIS, Seoul; Best Doc, Aaina FF). She is also the writer of



the feature film *Khamosh Pani* (Best Screenplay, KARA FF; Best Film, Locarno FF) and the documentaries *A Few Things I Know About Her*, *If You Pause* and *Skin Deep*.

### January 26

#### Occupancy Urbanism: Unexpected Contestations to Indian Metros' Globalization Lecture by Solomon Benjamin

### February 16

#### Caste, Gender and the Body Politic: Bengaluru's Experiments with Democracy

Janaki Nair is professor of history at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata, India. Her research focuses on 19th and 20th century history of Karnataka and Mysore, on feminist histories, and on urban studies. Her books include *The Promise of the Metropolis: Bangalore's*

*Twentieth Century* (Oxford University Press), and *Miners and Millhands: Work, Culture and Politics in Princely Mysore* (Sage Publications).

### March 13

#### Infrastructure

Swati Chattopadhyay is an associate professor of art and architectural history at the University of California at Santa Barbara. She is interested in the ties between colonialism and modernism, and in the spatial aspects of race, gender, and ethnicity in modern cities. She is the author of *Representing Calcutta: Modernity, Nationalism, and the Colonial Uncanny* (Routledge), and co-editor of a special issue of *PostColonial Studies*.

### March 27

#### Cows, Cars and Cycle-rickshaws: The Politics of Nature on the Streets of Delhi, India

Amita Baviskar is a professor of anthropology and researcher at the Institute for Economic Growth, University of Delhi, whose research explores issues of cultural politics of environment and development. She is the author of several books, including *Waterscapes: The Cultural Politics of a Natural Resource* (Permanent Black), and *In the Belly of the River: Tribal Conflicts over Development in the Narmada Valley* (Oxford University Press). She has held visiting faculty positions at Cornell and Stanford Universities.



## Summer in South Asia 2009 Fellows

### September 18

#### Title: TBA

Partha Chatterjee is an internationally renowned Subaltern Studies and Postcolonial scholar, and a founding member of the Subaltern Studies Collective. He is professor of anthropology at Columbia University and Director of the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. His numerous books include *Nationalist Thought and the Colonial World* (Zed Books), *The Nation and its Fragments* (Princeton University Press), *Texts of Power* (University of Minnesota Press), and *The Politics of the Governed: Popular Politics in Most of the World* (Columbia University Press).

### October 16

#### Title: TBA

Charles Correa is an internationally renowned architect, planner, activist and theoretician. His work addresses issues of architecture, low-income housing and urban planning. He was the Chief Architect for 'Navi Mumbai', the new city of 2 million people built across the harbor from Mumbai. He has taught at several universities, both in India and abroad and currently spends part of his time at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as the Farwell Bernis Professor in the School of Architecture and Planning.

### November 20

#### Globalization and Globalization and Democracy: A Theoretical Perspective on Inequality and Citizenship in Contemporary India

Leela Fernandes is a professor of political science at Rutgers University. Her research focuses on questions of cultural politics, gender and political economy. Her books include *India's New Middle Class: Democratic Politics in an Era of Economic Reform* (University of Minnesota Press), *Producing Workers: The Politics of Gender, Class and Culture in the Calcutta Jute Mills* (University of Pennsylvania Press) and *Transforming Feminist Practice* (A. Lute Books).

CSAS is pleased to announce the 2009 fellows for the Summer in South Asia program. The following seven undergraduate students will work on their projects in India this summer:

**Sairah Husain**, majoring in Economics and South Asian Studies, will research the effectiveness of targeting women in employment generating schemes in urban infrastructure in the Kolkata metropolitan area.

**Adam Khan**, majoring in Business Administration and English, and returning to UM to attend Medical School, will conduct a market and strategy assessment of the "Hub and Spoke" model for serving primary and tertiary healthcare needs of people in rural West Bengal.

**Ye Wang**, majoring in Economics, will conduct an exploratory study on supermarket oriented supply chain in the context of the advent of direct procurement in India and its impact on small farmers in terms of livelihood and welfare. She will work with an NGO in and around Bangalore for this project.

**Meha Pandey**, majoring in Biomedical Engineering, will work with an NGO to assess the needs and improve the infrastructure of a hospital in Rajasthan in the areas of safety, hygiene, patient experience, etc. She will also work with the NGO on a literacy program aimed toward women and children.

**Rory Crook**, majoring in Kinesiology, will work with disabled children in impoverished areas around Durgapur to teach them simple exercise techniques to improve their physical and psychological conditions. He will develop a sustainable model for ongoing work, keeping in mind the lack of resources available to this group of children.

**Caleb Heyman**, majoring in History and English, will work with a nonprofit organization which provides welfare services, including informal education, to Kolkata's impoverished children. While working on this project, he will research the history of the organization as well as the history of children's aid organizations in the city.

**Adhiraj Vable**, majoring in Electrical Engineering, will implement a solar array to power a computer lab in a school in a village north of Bangalore. The project aims to work with community members to sustainably ensure that computer access is not limited during school hours due to electricity outages, and will serve as a pilot project of solar energy viability in rural southern India.

# Urban Flow Report



Hartland High School students interacting with the cast post-performance.

**ON FEBRUARY 19 AND 20**, the Centers for South Asian and Southeast Asian Studies were proud to jointly present performances of “Urban Flow,” an innovative theater piece exploring life in the burgeoning cities of the two regions. Scenes explored such issues as old and new existing side-by-side, different ways of getting around in traffic, the lives of women who travel to work away from their homes, and how Americans experience spaces very different than their own, among others. The cast was multi-ethnic, with student and faculty actors from South Asia, Southeast Asia and North America, and the play was directed by a similarly multi-cultural team of acclaimed drama professionals: Gulshirin Dubash from Mumbai, India; Pomrat Damrhung from Bangkok, Thailand; and Carrie Morris from Ypsilanti, Michigan. The performances were very well received and audiences were impressed with the high artistic quality as well as its educational value.

On the morning of Thursday, February 19 there was a special performance for Hartland High School as part of an educational outreach partnership. This performance included a chance for students to “talk back” to the directors, cast and writers, and was followed by brief presentations by Urban Planning graduate students from India. Preparatory materials, at a high school level, was made available to the students.

The Centers for South Asian and Southeast Asian Studies present:

## Urban Flow

an innovative theater project on South and Southeast Asia's rapidly growing cities

free admission  
video/performance studio  
duderstadt center

thursday FEB 19  
friday FEB 20  
7:30-9:00 pm

USING an original script written by University of Michigan students and faculty, and directed by acclaimed theater professionals, this multimedia work will explore the changing nature of city spaces, the lifeways those spaces help enable, and how transformations in the urban environment brought about by globalization and economic change are affecting the daily life of residents of and visitors to South and Southeast Asian cities.

**Directed by**  
Gulshirin Dubash Mumbai, India  
Pomrat Damrhung Bangkok, Thailand  
Carrie Morris Ypsilanti, Michigan

Questions? Email [Urban.Flow@umich.edu](mailto:Urban.Flow@umich.edu)

Co-sponsored by Arts on Earth, Center for International and Comparative Studies, Center for World Performance Studies, Department of Recreational Sports, International Institute, Office of the Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, and Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning



Actors in performance.

# Faculty News .....

## FACULTY PUBLICATION:

Agrawal, A. and Fred Nelson. 2008. "Patronage or Participation: Community-based Natural Resource Management Reform in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Development and Change* 39(4): 557-85.

## AWARDS AND GRANTS:

### William Glover

Making Lahore Modern (University of Minnesota Press, 2007) received the American Institute of Pakistan Studies Junior Book Prize for 2008.

### Arun Agrawal

2008-10 (PI): Exploring the Conservation Investments Landscape and the Role of Aid in the Effectiveness Conservation Programs. Advancing Conservation in a Social Context, University of Arizona (\$75,000).

Congratulations to **Prof. C.K. Prahalad**, Paul and Ruth McCracken Distinguished University Professor of Strategy at the Ross School of Business, on receiving two awards recently. As an eminent overseas Indian, he received the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman from the President of India, Pratibha Patil in January 2009. He also received the prestigious Padma Bhushan award from the Government of India this year, during the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi.

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## HOW TO MAKE A GIFT

Our Center depends upon your generosity. If you would like to make a gift you may do so online at [www.giving.umich.edu](http://www.giving.umich.edu) or call the Gift Help Line toll-free (1-888-518-7888) Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. EST. Whether giving online or by phone it is important that you specify that your donation be directed to our Center. You may select one of two accounts:

### 312354: S Asian Studies, President's Challenge for Grad Support

Purpose: To provide funds for graduate student support. Donations to this fund will receive a 50% match from the University of Michigan President's Challenge, i.e., each dollar donated will be matched by an additional 50 cents from the President's Fund.

### 362651: South Asia Studies

Purpose: To provide general funding for CSAS programming needs.

### If making your gift online you will also need to follow a few simple steps.

1. At the top of the page select "I want to choose the areas my gift should help." And then follow the link to "View areas I can give to."
2. You will be presented with a list of schools and colleges. In the bottom right hand corner check the box next to "Other Area" and then enter the name of one of the two funds listed above. Hit the continue button and proceed through the donation process.

Thank you for considering a gift to the Center for South Asian Studies.

# Summer Teacher Workshop

INDIA IN THE WORLD: An Interactive Workshop for Michigan

High School Social Studies Teachers

JULY 21, 2009

**IN 2007** the Michigan Department of Education introduced new World History mandates for a much-revised Social Studies curriculum. Both the State and local school districts realized that Social Studies teachers would need considerable professional training to teach World History in an exciting, relevant manner. With that in mind, the Center for South Asian Studies organized an interactive workshop in July 2008, offering the expertise of its faculty to approximately twenty teachers. Following the success of this workshop and the feedback received from the teachers who attended, as well as interest among teachers for more such sessions, CSAS has decided to offer another workshop this summer.

This year's workshop will offer curriculum materials relevant to South Asia on themes as diverse as Foundations (Indus

Valley), Belief Systems (ideology), Networks (trade, intellectual, family, ambassadorial and military recruitment), Empires and Slavery. Apart from presentations on some of these topics by UM faculty, the workshop will include hands-on sessions in which the teachers will work on actual lesson plans in small groups. Teachers will be provided resources which will be useful in their research and preparation of classroom materials. These include bibliographies, websites, images, books, museum objects, music, films and recipes.

We look forward to another workshop of fruitful interaction with high school teachers and contribution to the teaching of South Asian history in the area high schools. Please check our website for workshop dates and registration information: <http://www.ii.umich.edu/csas/>



**CENTER FOR  
SOUTH ASIAN  
STUDIES**

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