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New AIIS Center at D-31 Defence Colony in Delhi

Much Ado at D-31 By Philip Lutgendorf

On December 28, 2011, I had the privilege of sitting next to a smoky *havan* fire in South Delhi and regularly spooning oblations of ghee, as well as other offerings, into it, to the accompaniment of Sanskrit mantras. The occasion was the puja performed on the solemn occasion of *griha pravesh* (“entry into a house”), and I was serving as *yajamana* on behalf of the Institute, for our nearly-completed building at D-31 Defence Colony. Although the building still needed some finishing work, we held the opening

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AIIS Holds Faculty Enrichment Workshop on Women in South Asian Muslim Societies

On Friday December 2, 2011, the American Institute of Indian Studies, in partnership with the American Institute of Pakistan Studies, the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies, and the University of Chicago South Asia Language and Area Center, held a faculty enrichment workshop intended to provide tools and resources for promoting the study of women in Islamic Society in South Asia. Participants were fourteen faculty members, mainly from small institutions of higher education in the northern Illinois/southern Wisconsin area. The workshop was targeted towards faculty members who do not have area studies resources at their institutions, and who do not have a background in South Asia or the study of Muslim societies. Funding for this workshop was provided by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) through a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

The goals of the workshop included: 1) providing participants with the tools and resources they need to incorporate the study of women in Islamic societies into existing courses or to create new courses; 2) providing information about how the AIIS, AIPS, AIBS and the Title VI South Asia Center can facilitate the development and enhancement of educational and scholarly programs at the participants' home institutions through opportunities for student and faculty travel and exchanges, fellowships, language study, internship and volunteer opportunities with NGOs located in South Asia; 3) generating a discussion among participants to create a process and mechanism for creating and maintaining ongoing projects and collaborations between student and faculty at the participants' institutions and partners located in South Asia; 4) encouraging and providing resources to participants to apply for Title VI A and Title B grants and Fulbright Group Projects Abroad grants that will enhance area studies, language study and global education at their home institutions.

The workshop facilitators were:

Rafia Zakaria, attorney, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Political Science at Indiana University
Sylvia Vatuk, Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, University of Illinois
Fatima Imam, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Lake Forest College
Laura Ring, Assistant Bibliographer for South Asia, University of Chicago Library
Elise Auerbach, U.S. Director, AIIS

Laura Hammond, Administrator, AIBS and AIPS
Michael Burt, Outreach Coordinator, South Asia Language and Area Center, University of Chicago
Arjumand Thompson, Office Manager, South Asia Language and Area Center, University of Chicago.

One of the principal outcomes of the project is the web site <http://southasia.uchicago.edu/caorc-workshop/> which has resources for professional development, curriculum, language training, internship and study abroad opportunities. The web site is currently being reconfigured to make it more interactive, allowing users to meet in virtual space to share ideas and hopefully strategize about joint ventures to create international learning programs focused on women in South Asian Muslim societies. The web site is intended to be a tool and resource that can be of service to all those who did not have the opportunity to attend the workshop in Chicago.

The morning session was taken up with presentations by facilitators followed by questions and discussion.

The first presentation, by Rafia Zakaria, was called "Muslim Women in South Asia." Ms Zakaria noted that the workshop on Muslim women in South Asia was an opportunity for educators to discover how they can go beyond stereotypes and learn about the complex opportunities and challenges facing Muslim women in South Asia. These include the politicization of women's bodies, the centrality of covering and uncovering as an act of political identity, the emergence of "Islamic feminism" and efforts to define women's empowerment in religious terms. Through looking at how Muslim women's identity and roles vary in countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh where Islam is the dominant religion to India where Muslims are a minority, the interplay of gender and political identity can be explored to reveal their crucial roles in each context. In exploring the story of South Asian women, educators can learn how issues like political identity, assimilation, women's empowerment and justice can be taught in American classrooms using the cases of Muslim women in South Asia as an illustration of their interplay.

The next presentation by Sylvia Vatuk was called, "Muslim Women's Legal Rights And Legal Rights Activism In Contemporary India." Professor Vatuk discussed the work of some Muslim women legal rights activists and their organizations, outlining their various approaches to the task of bringing about

changes in both the letter and the practice of Muslim personal law in India. She focused on some of the internal and external challenges these women face, particularly to the growing tension between those who are attempting to promote gender equity through a re-interpretation of the religious law—using a so-called “Islamic feminist” approach—and those who view Muslim women’s legal disabilities from a “human rights” perspective.

Fatima Imam then gave a presentation called “Indian Muslim Women as Critics, Intellectuals and Social Activists” which addressed the importance of the perspective of Muslim women on critical issues such as the formation of Indian Muslim identity, trauma of partition, reasons for economic disparity, and social activism to foster a peaceful environment. Muslim women have been the advocates for change through legislation, and activism to reform the society during the colonial period and in contemporary India. She highlighted the efforts of Muslim women in curbing sexual violence, female feticide, and educational empowerment to argue how they universalize the struggles of Indian women.

Finally, Laura Ring gave a talk called, “Women’s Work: Violence, Peace, and Everyday Life in Karachi” in which she shared her own ethnographic research involving participant observation while living in an apartment building in Karachi. She demonstrated that “peaceful coexistence” in this space rested on a kind of relentless, creative labor – labor carried out almost exclusively by women. Through their intensive engagement in exchange relations with neighboring households (borrowing, lending, visiting, helping), women assumed responsibility for the emotional regulation – both personal and collective – of local life. Reading these everyday practices as pivotal tactics of peace can help rethink the nature and political implications of Muslim women’s social labors in local and domestic contexts. It can also help complicate the notion of peace, which, unlike violence, has remained woefully under-theorized in anthropological literature.

The afternoon session was devoted to presenting and discussing resources available for curriculum development, research, professional development, language study, study abroad and service learning opportunities in South Asia.

Elise Auerbach presented information about the American Institute of Indian Studies, its scholarly development fellowships for faculty, language programs for students, and its services to study

abroad and Group Projects Abroad programs in India. She also presented resources available from the U.S. government, including Group Projects Abroad, the Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative, and some collaborative projects undertaken by consortia of small public and/or minority-serving institutions that have taken place or will be taking place. Laura Hammond presented resources available through the American Institute of Pakistan Studies and the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies. Arjumand Thompson and Michael Burt shared information about resources held by the South Asia Language and Area Center, including a library, film archive, lecture series, conferences, curricula on different topics and databases with information about internships and study abroad opportunities.

The participants came from Oakton Community College, Luther College, Joliet Junior College, Truman College, Marquette University, Northeastern Illinois University, and even as far away as California State University, Monterey Bay.

The participants had a variety of backgrounds and reasons for attending the workshop. One attendee teaches ESL and English composition classes and has many South Asia students. She believed the workshop would give her insight into cultural issues that could enhance her teaching methods. Another participant is interested in becoming more involved in his institution’s global studies program but has had very little exposure to South Asia. Another is a nurse and educator and wrote, “I would like to be more informed on how to be sensitive to the cultural needs and expectations of patients and students, and to be a role model for my students.” Another participant had little background in South Asia but had some very definite goals in mind: redesigning courses to “include and foster greater awareness of South Asian literatures and of social and cultural pressures on women in South Asia particularly as these pressures are shaped by Islam; 2) create a deeper intellectual exchange both within [local institutions] as discourse communities through closer contact with scholars in the field; 3) redirect my own scholarly activities to be inclusive of South Asia along with the current interests in Africana, and Mediterranean studies; 4) establish enduring contacts through faculty travel and exchange; 5) extend greater global awareness in all of my courses to inform students and faculty to be open-minded about study in these areas. As soon as possible, I would like to use the resources presented in the workshop to travel in the region and volunteer with NGOs.”

AIIS works with NGOs to facilitate internship and service-learning opportunities for students

On 7 January 2012, AIIS marked a new initiative by its International Learning program by convening a half-day workshop with local NGOs. In the first of what hopefully will be annual gatherings, AIIS explored with these potential partners what is needed to create optimum circumstances for U.S. students to work with Indian NGOs, contributing to positive change in India. Thirteen NGOs participated, providing a fascinating sampler across the spectrum of NGO activity (even though all were local to the Delhi/Haryana area), from at-risk women and children to environmental emphases; from crafts support to civil-society activism.

We learned much from them. We have, now, the start of a good list of guidelines for both students and host organizations that will help ensure the most successful internships and service-learning opportunities. We also collected what can serve as model contracts that can also be uploaded onto an expanded International Learning section of the AIIS website.

In the process, we identified important ways in which the organizations differ (for example, in their ability to absorb interns for a short period compared to those that need to have student volunteers for a longer period of time). Moreover, some NGOs have the capacity to invite students to create their own projects – because they have a number of branches into which special projects can be fitted – while others need to place students into their ongoing programs. All of these characteristics will be noted on the uploaded list of vetted NGOs that AIIS will post, providing much more information and a review process for students and their faculty mentors to work from in designing placements.

The conversations also highlighted ways in which AIIS can assist NGOs, even now. For instance, a number of the NGOs felt unable to issue letters of invitation when students requested them, because this incurred responsibility by the host NGO for the students' welfare, while providing this assurance is already part of the student-visa process that AIIS offers.

None of the NGOs would have known about this capacity of AIIS – or of its language offerings and its ability to tailor some language instruction to help interns become comfortable in their volunteer context – without this workshop discussion.

In fact, the capacity of the language program locales to serve as a base for NGO placement and collaboration has led us to think that one logical way to expand AIIS' connections to NGOs will be to work out from these language program operations (there are some 14-16 locales dotted across the country). We will still pursue other leads, of course, including meeting with organizations whose missions seem to especially serve student interests, wherever they are located. Another promising outcome was the expression of interest by some of the NGOs (e.g. The Environmental Research Institute or TERI) to sign MOUs with AIIS. All of these developments point to a very substantial expansion of our capacity to support internships and service-learning opportunities, quite quickly.

The success of this workshop may be attributed especially to efforts by Rajender Kumar, the staff member whose job description includes a substantial proportion of time devoted to working on internships and service-learning, along with Director General Purnima Mehta. Also present at the meeting were Philip Lutgendorf, AIIS President; Sandria Freitag, Chair of the international Learning Standing Committee; and four heads of AIIS' largest language programs. We can be really pleased with the progress the staff has made in this new initiative we identified just a short time ago.

Participant organizations included: All India women's Conference; Center for Environment Education; Craft Revival Trust; Deepalaya; Indo-Global Social Service Society; Institute for social Sciences; Naz; Pravah; Prema; Society for the Promotion of Women and Children Welfare; Society for Welfare & Rehabilitation of Oldie's; St. Joseph's Service Society; The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

(continued from page one)
ceremonies on the 28th and 29th December, at a time when many of our officers and friends from the US were able to be present. The little puja, held on the ground floor in what will be the parking area for the building, was basically a “family affair” for AIIS staff, and it ended with the distribution of tea and delicious *halwa* and a tour of the building. Since I had previously only seen groundplans and drawings, and a skeletal framework when I left India last spring, I was delighted to see how architect Vinod Gupta’s vision has been carried out. The two upper floors that are intended for AIIS use are bright, airy, and have some lovely touches—not least of which is that traffic noise is only barely audible in the interior, thanks to well-insulated windows. The conference facility on the top floor, adjacent to our future office, is spacious and well equipped, and includes space for small language classes.

The dedication ceremony was held on the 29th morning. In addition to the AIIS contingent, distinguished guests included members of the Indian Advisory Committee and Bi-National Committee that help guide the Institute on the Indian side, Adam Grotzky, the Delhi-based

Executive Director of USIEF (Fulbright), David Meese, the newly-arrived Cultural Attaché, and Stephanie Morimura, Cultural Attaché for Education and Exchanges at the US Embassy. The front of the building was festooned with strings of marigolds and ashoka leaves. On the first floor, which will soon be offered to potential tenants, colorful cotton carpets and draperies covered the unfinished floors and walls, and attractive exhibits were mounted that highlighted the work of the two research centers in Gurgaon. Following brief welcoming remarks by myself, Ralph Nicholas, and Rick Asher, everyone moved to the front yard, where, in morning sunlight and under the (thankfully) surviving majestic old peepul tree on the northeast corner of the lot, a ribbon stretched over the building entrance was cut by Jeanne Marecek of Swarthmore College, the Chair of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), of which AIIS is a proud member. Jeanne, who is a longtime friend of AIIS and also the past President of the American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies, was officially representing CAORC Director Mary Ellen Lane and her colleagues in Washington DC, who could not be present.



AIIS Director-General Purnima Mehta and Professor Naseem Hines at Inauguration Ceremony

Following tea, and with the building now officially “open,” we again moved to the first floor for a kathak dance performance by Natalia Hildner, an eminent student of Pandit Birju Maharaj and an AIIS Performing Arts Fellow in

2008. This was followed by a sumptuous lunch organized by the Institute’s resident culinary genius, Amrit Kaur (whose “day job” is in our projects office in Gurgaon, but whose secret talent is winning the hearts of all visitors who

enjoy a meal there with her amazing touch at dishes from many regions of the subcontinent). All this, in a building that is still a construction site, required a tremendous amount of organization and effort, which Purnima and her team cheerfully contributed alongside the many other activities they are managing at this always-busy time of the year. Hopefully, they will be in their beautiful new offices by the time you read

this report. As the exterior of the building nears completion, including an attractive system of louvers designed to manage sunlight and reduce the use of a/c, Purnima is receiving numerous inquiries from potential tenants, and I hope to soon be able to report success on renting out its lower floors to provide much-needed income for the Institute.



AIIS Participates in CAORC Workshop in Dhaka

AIIS supported two scholars—recent AIIS fellow Trevor Birkenholtz and Indian scholar Surjit Singh-- to attend the Water, Waves, and Weather: Climate Change and the Future of South Asia Conference, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh from July 17 to 21. The conference was sponsored by CAORC and hosted by the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies. More than 100 people from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the United States attended the conference. Professor Birkenholtz of the Department of Geography at Rutgers University presented a paper entitled, “Knowing Climate Change: Local Social Institutions and Adaptation in Rajasthan's Groundwater Irrigation.” Dr. Singh of the Institute of Development Studies in Jaipur presented his paper, “Water User Associations in Rainfed Region: Lessons from Experience.”



Workshop: Transforming your dissertation into a book Sponsored by AIIS and other SA regional organizations

Sponsored by the several organizations devoted to the study of South Asia, this workshop aims to help a select number of recent PhDs re-vision their doctoral dissertations as books. Applications to participate are due by June 15, 2012, emailed to Susan S. Wadley, sswadley@syr.edu. Participants must arrange their own transport to Madison, Wisconsin for the Annual Conference on South Asia in October 2012. The workshop will begin at 7 pm Wednesday evening, Oct. 10, and all participants are expected to be present at this time.

For selection: Required is an email containing a current cv; the dissertation abstract, its table of contents, and its first chapter plus a draft book prospectus. Email to sswadley@syr.edu by midnight on June 15, 2012.

Senior Faculty Participants: Susan S. Wadley (Anthropology, Syracuse), Convener; Geraldine Forbes (History, SUNY Oswego). Joyce Flueckiger (Religion, Emory, Barbara Ramusack (History, University of Cincinnati); others tba. Our role is to read the materials prior to the meeting and be prepared to intervene and comment, “in the background” primarily, though with key interventions as needed.

Organization:

Wednesday evening: Introductions plus discussion by one or two recent successful authors of the transformation process. We hope to have a representative of a press present as well to talk about what publishers are looking for. Thursday morning is divided into half-hour segments for discussion of the projects). For each half-hour session, one participant will have been assigned to make a 5 minute presentation of someone else's project—preferably how that individual would revise the dissertation, and the key themes to be emphasized. During the remaining 25 minutes of that session, all of the other participants join in discussing the project On Thursday afternoon, each participant is given a longer minute time slot to respond to the more important queries, issues, and suggestions raised in the morning, and, most important, to seek feedback or further discussion of areas of their projects with which they recognize they are having difficulty. Conversations can carry over into Friday and Saturday at the South Asia Conference!

AIIS Partners with HBCU Consortium Led by Morgan State University for a New Study Abroad Program in India

AIIS is pleased to announce its new partnership with the Mid-Atlantic Consortium-Center for Academic Excellence (MAC-CAE) led by Morgan State University, on a new cultural immersion program in Jaipur that will begin in late spring 2012. The consortium consists of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina, including Bowie State University, Elizabeth City State University, Morgan State University, Norfolk State University, and Virginia State University. Students at these institutions, many of whom are majoring in science and technology fields, would previously have had very little opportunity to participate in international learning programs. The MAC-CAE was established to address research in areas in human terrain systems (HTS) and bio-systems that include an international learning component, particularly focused in South Asia.



Professor Arlene Maclin visits AIIS headquarters at Gurgaon

The program will take place between May and July 2012 in Jaipur. AIIS will provide eight weeks of intensive Hindi instruction. The approximately 22 students will live with host families and will engage in community service projects organized by AIIS. AIIS will also provide lectures on history, culture, and society, and visits to historical sites and cultural events. In addition, as a part of their capstone projects, students will be expected to develop a 25-page group paper of publishable quality on one of the following topics: (1) Micro-Finance and Rural Development in India; (2) Hindi Art, Language and Religion; (3) Biosensors and Global Environmental Air Quality (particular emphasis on India); (4) Technology Infusion into Indian Education and Culture (pervasiveness of the Internet, etc...) and (5) Feasibility Study on the use of Solar Energy for Rural Electrification in India. Case studies and scenario analyses may be a part of the research paper. It is expected that student participants will work in self-selected groups of a maximum of five students per group with a mix of majors in each of the targeted groups.

The Executive Director of MAC-CAE, Professor Arlene Maclin, of the Department of Physics at Morgan State University, travelled to India in December 2011 to engage in site visits in Delhi and Jaipur and discussions with AIIS staff to establish the program. While in India, Professor Maclin also met with scientists and engineers at the Indian Institute of Technology to discuss their possible inclusion in a preliminary proposal to the National Science Foundation on the establishment of a Sustainable Research Network on Improved Global Air Quality.

AIIS President Philip Lutgendorf Participates in U.S.-India Higher Education Summit in Washington

The first U.S.-India Higher Education Summit was held in Washington, DC in October 2011 and was hosted by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Indian Minister of Human Resource Development Kapil Sibal. The summit, which was announced by President Obama and Prime Minister Singh in November 2010, was attended by more than 300 academics, business leaders, and government officials. Professor Philip Lutgendorf participated as a panelist in a “breakout sessions” on “Faculty Collaboration and Scholarship.” In his presentation, he emphasized the support services that AIIS offers to U.S.-based and Indian scholars through its infrastructure.

In the closing plenary, Under Secretary of State Robert Blake discussed a new initiative called “Passport to India” intended to address the perceived imbalance between the very large number of Indian students studying in the U.S. and the small number (estimated at around 2,700) of Americans studying at Indian Universities. According to their web site http://www.state.gov/p/sca/ci/in/passport_to_india/index.htm, Passport to India “seeks to dramatically increase the number of American students with first-hand experience in India by expanding the menu of study abroad options to include internships. The initiative will promote business internships linked to student’s academic interest areas, summer scientific research internships and service learning internships in India. Internships can range from two weeks to six months and may be based at either U.S. or Indian owned companies and organizations. Passport to India interns will not only work on joint projects in these environments, they will also develop important connections that can result in future collaborations and benefits for both countries.”



AIIS 2013-2014 Fellowship Competition

Deadline: 1 July 2012

The American Institute of Indian Studies announces its 2013-2014 fellowship competition, and invites applications from scholars who wish to conduct their research in India and artists who wish to carry out their creative projects in India. Junior fellowships are awarded to Ph.D. candidates to conduct research for their dissertations in India for up to eleven months. Senior fellowships are awarded to scholars who hold the Ph.D. degree. Long-term fellowships are available for six to nine months while short-term fellowships are for up to nine months of research in India. Senior Scholarly/Professional Development fellowships are available to established scholars or professionals who have not previously worked or carried out research in India. Performing and Creative Arts fellowships are available to accomplished practitioners of the arts who demonstrate that study in India would enhance their skills, develop their capabilities to teach or perform in the U.S., enhance American involvement with India’s artistic traditions and strengthen their links with peers in India. AIIS welcomes applicants from a wide variety of scholarly disciplines. It especially encourages applicants in fields such as Development Studies, Natural Resources Management, Public Health, and Regional Planning. All AIIS fellows will be formally affiliated with an Indian institution while they carry out their fellowships in India.

Non-U.S. citizens are welcome to apply for AIIS fellowships as long as they are either graduate students or full-time faculty at a college or university in the U.S. Citizens of the United States however, MAY apply for senior fellowships if they are not affiliated with an institution of higher education in the U.S. The AIIS fellowship competition is NOT restricted to applicants from AIIS member institutions.

Fellowships are funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities; the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States State Department and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers under the Fulbright-Hays Act of 1961, as amended; and the Smithsonian Institution. Some fellowships for non-U.S. citizens and artists can be funded from the AIIS Rupee Endowment in India. Fellowships for six months or more may include limited coverage for dependents.

The application deadline is 1 July 2012. Applications can be downloaded from the web site www.indiastudies.org. Inquiries should be directed to 773-702-8638 or aiis@uchicago.edu

Annual Junior Fellows Conference

On January 2nd and 3rd 2012, twelve AIIS Junior Fellows (including a bumper crop of historians and anthropologists and a political scientist; see participant list below) left their research sites, ranging from sometimes-dusty archives in Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Chennai, and Delhi, to sometimes-dusty villages in rural Jharkhand, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh, to come to the Institute's (sometimes foggy) conference center in Gurgaon to present a roughly mid-term report on their experiences, successes, and challenges in dissertation fieldwork. In meetings spaced over two very full days, but with ample time for informal conversation (over tea, and the sumptuous meals for which the AIIS kitchen is famous), each fellow had roughly half an hour for a short presentation followed by lively discussion with other researchers and the senior scholars in attendance. In addition to AIIS officers John Echeverri-Gent (University of Virginia, Political Science), Naseem Hines (Harvard, South Asian Studies), Philip Lutgendorf (University of Iowa, Asian & Slavic Languages & Literatures), and Martha Selby (University of Texas, Asian Studies), who were in India for other work, AIIS senior fellow Will Glover (University of Michigan, History and Architecture) and former fellow Jack Hawley (Columbia University, Religious Studies) generously gave of their time to offer feedback on the excellent presentations. The Fellows were stimulated by the input and camaraderie of their peers, and happily exchanged e-mail and Facebook addresses and mobile numbers.

Participating Junior Fellows, Projects, and Institutional Affiliations:

Emilia Bachrach (University of Texas, Austin, Asian Studies), "The Living Tradition of Hagiography in the Vallabh Sect of Contemporary Gujarat," Gujarat University, Ahmedabad
Debjani Bhattacharyya (Emory, History), "Marginal Itineraries: Spatial History of Mid-Twentieth Century Calcutta," Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata
Uday Chandra (Yale, Political Science), "Negotiating Leviathan: Rulers, Civilizers, and Subjects in Chotanagpur, 1854-2010," Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata
Divya Cherian (Columbia University, History), "Caste and the Politics of Locality: Statecraft, Ideology, and Hierarchy in Early Modern Marwar, ca. 1500-1818," Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Shefali Jha (University of Chicago, Anthropology), "Minority Politics and the Question of Identity: The Majlis-e-Ittehad ul Muslimeen of Hyderabad," English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad

Andrew Liu (Columbia, History), "The Curious Institution of the Tea Garden: A Comparative Study of the Mobilization of Agrarian Labor in Northeast India and South China in the 19th and 20th Centuries," Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata

Andrew McDowell (Harvard, Social Anthropology), "Propagating Prevention: Rural Rajasthani Perspectives on TB and TB Care," University of Rajasthan, Jaipur

Atreyee Majumder (Yale, Anthropology), "Peri-Urban Citizenship: Political Aspiration and Conduct in Howrah, West Bengal," Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata

Benjamin Siegel (Harvard, History), "Building Indian Agriculture: 1947-1971," Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

Vikramaditya Thakur (Yale, Anthropology), "Unintended Mobility: Life Reconfigured after Forced Relocation in Western India," University of Pune

Sundara Vadlamudi (University of Texas, Austin, History), "Mercantile Activities of Marakkayar Muslims in South India, Ca. 1800-1947," Roja Muthiah Research Library, Chennai

Hollian Wint (New York University, History), "Indian Ocean Credit Networks and East African Society, ca. 1840-1914," Gujarat University, Ahmedabad

Quotes from participants:

"A big round of thanks to everyone at AIIS for organising the JFC. I found it extremely helpful, because an event like this made me get out of the details I was embroiled in the archives and take a step back and organise my material, read and think through my material and go back and read my proposal and see how I might use the material to make the arguments I am making. It also revealed to me the gaps in the material I have collected. Finally, it was great to meet the other fellows and find out about their work and get their feedback. This event made me feel there is a community out there, since archive work can be very lonely, so the after conference discussions with other fellows were great and something I am looking forward to."
Debjani Bhattacharyya

"First of all, thank you so much for that really warm reception in Delhi. Although it was too early in my

research to contribute productively to the meeting, I'm really glad I attended and had the opportunity to meet all the others and hear about their research. I think the best part of it for me was the collegiality and the enormously productive exchange of ideas, questions and suggestions that you facilitated. The arrangements were fantastic, and I have to confess I fell in love with the building. Most impressive of all, perhaps because it was something I didn't know AIIS was involved in at this scale, was the ethnomusicology archive and the facilities available there- made me wish I were doing research connected with it in some way. Well, perhaps I will some day! Anyway, I hope you have a great year ahead- thanks once again for arranging the conference and being such great hosts. I look forward to meeting you again soon!"

Shefali Jha

"It is of course a pleasure to be able to pass on heartfelt words about a very enjoyable two days. It is too often the case that working on one's dissertation research feels like a solitary, lonely journey. There are few nicer feelings than when that journey is punctuated by the opportunity to step back, think about and then explain one's work. And there are fewer opportunities, still, that rival ones like the AIIS Junior Fellows conference earlier this week, when

one can also hear what one's peers own journeys look like, the challenges they are facing, and the discoveries they have made. I look forward to continuing conversations with other Junior Fellows as our work progresses and we find ourselves (fingers crossed) younger academics who are challenging each other and pushing our respective fields forward. Looking forward to seeing you again soon; thank you for all your efforts this week and at all other times!"

Ben Siegel

"I would like to thank AIIS for organizing the two day conference for the Junior fellows. It couldn't have come at a better moment since I have finished a third of my research period in India. The questions and suggestions from the other junior fellows and the senior fellows had given me new ideas, both in seeking new sources and in interpreting the information that I have already collected. Listening to other junior fellows about their research experiences and interacting with them on the sidelines certainly created lots of positive energy that we all could take back to our research venues! In addition, Dr. Vandana indicated that she can introduce me to Archaeological Survey of India staff who might help me to access the temple records in Tamil Nadu. All in all a very useful trip and experience."

Sundar Vadlamudi

AIIS BOOK PRIZE

In order to promote scholarship in South Asian Studies, the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) announces the award of two prizes each year for the best unpublished book manuscript on an Indian subject, one in the humanities, "**The Edward Cameron Dimock, Jr. Prize in the Indian Humanities**" and one in the social sciences, "**The Joseph W. Elder Prize in the Indian Social Sciences**". Only junior scholars who have received the PhD within the last eight years (2005 and after) are eligible. This must be the first book by the author.

A prize committee will determine the yearly winners, though the committee may choose not to award prizes for any year in which worthy submissions are lacking. The prize will include a subvention of \$2500 for the press publishing the manuscript. There is no designated press for publication. Authors are advised to submit their manuscript for publication at the most appropriate press; concurrent submission to multiple presses is recommended. Manuscripts under contract at the time of application are not eligible.

Unrevised dissertations are not accepted. Applicants must demonstrate they have revised the original dissertation.

Manuscripts are due October 1st, with an announcement of the awardees in the winter of 2013 . **Send TWO copies of your manuscript, postmarked no later than October 1, 2012**, to the Publications Committee Chair, Susan S. Wadley, Anthropology, 209 Maxwell, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244. Queries can be addressed to sswadley@syr.edu.

Publications committee:

Brian Hatcher, Tufts University
Susan S. Wadley, Syracuse University
Pikh Ghosh, University of North Carolina

Steve Wilkinson, Yale University
Joyce Flueckiger, Emory University
Priti Ramamurthy, University of Washington

CAORC



Council of American Overseas Research Centers
Fostering international scholarly exchange



COUNCIL of AMERICAN OVERSEAS
RESEARCH CENTERS

In 1981, the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) was founded as a locus for cooperation among the then existing American overseas research centers. In 1986 CAORC launched full-time operations with grants from the Andrew W. Mellon, Rockefeller, and Exxon foundations, and the J.P. Getty Trust. CAORC now has 22 member centers in 24 countries, supporting American scholarship around the world.

Over the last 30 years, CAORC's mission and activities have broadened, and CAORC has been in the forefront of advancing higher learning and international scholarly research, particularly in the humanities and social sciences, by U.S. scholars and academic institutions.

In 2011, CAORC is celebrating 30 years of:

- Serving American Scholars and Helping Them Carry Out Their Research Overseas
- Promoting Advanced Scholarly Research
- Helping Preserve International Cultural Heritage
- Expanding Access to Little-Known or Hidden International Scholarly Resources
- Sponsoring Language Study in Critical and Less-Commonly Taught Foreign Languages
- Facilitating Collaborative International Research Projects
- Initiating, Sponsoring, and Coordinating Multi-Center, Multi-National, and Regional Research and Collaborative Projects
- Reaching Out to New Audiences in the U.S. and Overseas
- Building Enduring Relationships between U.S. and Foreign Scholars and Institutions
- Advocating for the Importance of Increased Support for International Scholarly Programs

The Results - we are:

- Furthering Higher Learning and International Scholarly Research, Especially in the Humanities and Social Sciences;
- Strengthening Research and International Connections That Are Vital to Continued U.S. Global Competence;
- Advancing Cordial Relations between the United States and the Host Countries;
- Increasing Americans' Knowledge of and Ability to Interact Successfully with the Rest of the World; and
- Helping to Meet the National Need for American Experts in and Citizens Knowledgeable about World Regions, Foreign Languages, and International Affairs.



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