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## The Newsletter of the American Institute of Indian Studies

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*AIIS Junior fellow Jennie Miller conducting her research in Madhya Pradesh*

### **Modeling Tiger and Leopard Attack Risk to Reduce Livestock Kills**

By Jennie R. B. Miller

In rural areas of India where people share forests with tigers and leopards, attacks on livestock cause substantial livelihood losses and can prompt villagers to retaliate against these rare carnivores. Large cats kill more than six domestic animals every day in the state of Madhya Pradesh, costing the Forest Department \$140K yearly in compensation payouts to villagers. Many of these attacks occur in Kanha Tiger Reserve, and though Kanha covers only 0.6% of the state's 308,200 km<sup>2</sup> land area, the park's

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**The American Institute of Indian Studies is pleased to announce that the following scholars and artists have been awarded fellowships to carry out their projects in India in 2012-2013:**

Zaheer Abbas, a graduate student in the Department of History at the University of North Carolina, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out his project, "Who is a Minority? Elections, Electorates and Bengali Muslim Identity in Bengal, c. 1920-2000."

Amit Ahuja, an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara, was awarded a senior fellowship to carry out his project, "Inclusion and Cohesion: Managing Diversity in a Multiethnic Army." Professor Ahuja's fellowship is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Monamie Bhadra, a graduate student in Human and Social Dimensions of Science and Technology at Arizona State University, was awarded a junior fellowship for her project, "The Politics of Knowledge within Anti-Nuclear Movements in India."

Laura Brueck, an assistant professor in the Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Colorado, was awarded a senior-short term fellowship for her project, *Jasusi Upanyas: The Hindi Detective Novel in Late 20th Century India.*

Gregory Maxwell Bruce, a graduate student in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Texas, was awarded a junior fellowship for his project, "Historiography, Aesthetics and Reform in Shibli Nomani's Scholarship."

Owen Cornwall, a graduate student in the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies at Columbia University, was awarded a junior fellowship for his project, "Islamicate Astral Knowledge Systems in Early Modern South Asia."

Sabrina Dato, a graduate student in the Department of History at the University of Chicago, was awarded a junior fellowship for her project, "Observant Muslims: Medicine and Muslim Subjectivity in Colonial North India, 1870-1935."

Pankhuree Dube, a graduate student in the Department of History at Emory University, was awarded a junior fellowship for her project, "Museums as Sites of State Making: Bharat Bhavan and Gond Art, 1932-2001."

David Engerman, a professor in the Department of History at Brandeis University, was awarded a senior short-term fellowship for his project, "The Global Politics of the Modern: India and the Three Worlds of the Cold War."

Eben Graves, a graduate student in the Eben School of Music at the University of Texas, was awarded a junior fellowship for his project, "Bengali Vaisnava Kirtan in Kolkata's Public Sphere, 1930-Present."

Aseem Hasnain, a graduate student in the Department of Sociology at the University of North Carolina, was awarded a junior fellowship for his project, "Being Shia, Being Muslim: Identity Switching in Lucknow and Hyderabad."

Sarah Hicks, a graduate student in the Department of South Asia Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, was awarded a junior fellowship for her project, "Mediating Worlds: Jain Literati and Textual Practice in the Medieval Western Deccan."

Hayden Kantor, a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology at Cornell University, was awarded a junior fellowship for his project, "The Struggle to Have Enough."

Darakshan Khan, a graduate student in the Department of South Asia Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, was awarded a junior fellowship for her project, "Shaping This World and the Next: Tablighi Women and the Discourse of Perfection."

Matthew Lane, a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Irvine, was awarded a junior fellowship for his project, "Scrap: Value Creation and Meaning in the Indian Steel and Recycling Economy."

Randall Law, II, an independent scholar in the field of Archaeology, was awarded a senior short-term fellowship for his project, "Identifying Harappan Copper, Lead and Silver Sources."

Katherine Lemons, an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at McGill University, was awarded a senior short-term fellowship for her project, "Fatwas and the Making of Law in Contemporary Delhi."

Jonathan Loar, a graduate student in the Graduate Division of Religion at Emory University, was

awarded a junior fellowship for his project, “The Death of Shirdi Sai Baba, Hagiography and Religious Identity.”

Rochona Majumdar, an assistant professor in the Department of South Asian Studies at the University of Chicago, was awarded a senior fellowship for her project, “A History of the Film Society Movement, 1957-1980.”

Cristin McKnight Sethi, a graduate student in the Department of History of Art at the University of California, Berkeley, was awarded a junior fellowship for her project, “Mapping Phulkari: Producing, Collecting and Displaying Folk Embroidery from Punjab.”

Mahboob Mohammad, a lecturer in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Texas, was awarded a senior-short term fellowship for his project, “The Networks of an Early Sufi Saint: Pilgrimage and Public Rituals in South Indian Islam.”

Debashree Mukherjee, a graduate student in the Department of Cinema Studies at New York University, was awarded a junior fellowship for her project, “Moving Pictures: Tracking a Material History of Bombay Cinema (1920s-1940s).”

Elizabeth Oliver, a graduate student in the Department of Art History at Northwestern University, was awarded a junior fellowship for her project, “Aesthetics of Mercantilism: Painted Textiles, Natural History and the French-Indian Exotic, 1664-1757.”

Amy Piedalue, a graduate student in the Department of Geography at the University of Washington, was awarded a junior fellowship for her project, “Intimate Interventions: Gender Violence and Development in Northern India.”

Usha Sanyal, an adjunct instructor in the Department of Philosophy and Religion at Queens University of Charlotte, was awarded a senior short-term fellowship for her project, “Exemplary Lives: Two

Sets of Ideals of Moral Conduct for South Asian Muslim Women.”

Rumela Sen, a graduate student in the Department of Government at Cornell University, was awarded a junior fellowship for her project, “From Bullets to Ballots: The Lure of Democracy and the Maoists in India.”

Sudipta Sen, a Professor in the Department of History at the University of California, Davis, was awarded a senior short-term fellowship for his project, “Imperial Justice: Law, Punishment and Society in Early Colonial North India, 1770-1830.” Professor Sen’s fellowship is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Miles Shrewsbury, III, an artist in residence at the Center for World Music, was awarded a performing/creative arts fellowship for his project, “Tabla Accompaniment (Sangat) Intensive.”

Rohit Singh, a graduate student in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, was awarded a junior fellowship for his project, “A Comparative Summary of Public Ceremonies in Ladakh.”

Mudit Trivedi, a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, was awarded a junior fellowship for his project, “The Place of Politics: Alterity and Materiality in Mewt.”

Ananya Vajpeyi, an assistant professor in the Department of History at the University of Massachusetts, was awarded a senior fellowship for her project, “B.R. Ambedkar: A Life.” Professor Vajpeyi’s fellowship is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Richard Kent Wolf, a professor in the Department of Music at Harvard University, was awarded a performing/creative arts fellowship for his project, “Advanced Vina Training: Improvisations and Composition.”



**Sindhi for One**  
**Andrew Amstutz and Philip Lutgendorf**

Although all the languages of South Asia qualify as “Less-Commonly Taught” by American standards, some (to paraphrase George Orwell) are Less Less-Commonly Taught than others. Indeed, many quite robust languages with tens of millions of speakers are decidedly un-commonly taught in the US academy, or indeed, are never taught at all. One of the goals of the AIIS Language Programs in India is to make high-quality instruction in all the country’s

languages available to qualified students who desire to learn them, and it is not unusual for the Institute to design a complete course of study for a single deserving student.

Such was the case, in summer 2012, with Andrew Amstutz and Sindhi. A Ph.D. candidate in South Asian History at Cornell University, Andrew is working with Professor Durba Ghosh and planning to focus, for his dissertation research, on “the political contours and geographic shifts of Urdu print culture in the early 20th century,” and as a component of this, is “hoping to analyze the interactions between Urdu and Sindhi publishers following the movement of many Urdu publishing houses to Karachi, Sindh, during Partition.” He is interested in how publishers “drew on early modern Indo-Persian textual traditions in narrating a long history for Urdu in different parts of South Asia, and how these Urdu publishers engaged Sindh’s early modern Sindhi textual traditions after 1947.” He already knew the value of language study with AIIS, having studied Advanced Urdu and Mughal Persian in our Lucknow Program during 2010-11 (it offered, he says, “a unique opportunity to develop my knowledge of Indo-Persian since many American universities primarily teach modern Iranian Farsi”), but as his need for Sindhi training became clearer, he faced an obvious problem: “The ability to access Sindhi sources is an important component of my dissertation, but there aren’t a lot of options for studying Sindhi.”



*Andrew Amstutz in Pune*

Although Sindhi is formally the “official language” of the Pakistani province of Sindh and also as a “scheduled language” recognized by the Constitution of India, it is rapidly losing ground to Urdu in Pakistan and to Hindi in India. Despite having a large literature, and perhaps as many as 30 million speakers (mainly in Pakistan), it can rightly be classed as an “endangered language” on the Subcontinent. Fortunately, the AIIS Language Program staff knew from prior experience that excellent resources for teaching Sindhi exist in Pune, where some 100,000 Sindhis (mainly the descendants of Partition refugees) now live, and where the Institute also teaches Marathi, Sanskrit, and Prakrit.

Like other AIIS Language Programs, the Sindhi course does not consist solely of classroom time with a single instructor. Andrew was served by two teachers (for variety and specialization), and his program involved fieldtrips (to meet Sindhi native-speakers and associations in the Pune area) and cultural activities. During the mid-semester break, he visited Sindhi publishers in Delhi, to whom his teachers provided introductions. He reported, “The Sindhi program is going really well. This program has been a great opportunity for me and I feel like I’m learning a lot.” Incidentally, AIIS also offered single-student instruction during summer 2012 in Kashmiri (in Delhi, to Marios Falaris of Yale), Prakrit (also in Pune, to Gregory Klines of Harvard University), and Tibetan (in Dharamshala, to Catherine Hartmann of the University of Chicago).



Other rarely taught languages for which AIIS has arranged instructional programs in recent years, often for individual students, include Assamese, Kannada, Oriya, and the Modi script variant of Marathi. In addition, existing infrastructure for some of our smaller language programs (e.g., Marathi and Telugu) is regularly maintained for single-student instruction, especially during the academic year. Providing this service is extremely costly for AIIS, as tuition for one-student programs does not even come close to meeting expenses. U.S. government-funded scholarships, especially during the summer, go primarily to the support of the four South Asian languages deemed “critical” by the Department of State (Bengali, Hindi, Punjabi, and Urdu) and cannot be used to assist other instructional programs. Yet the Institute tries to provide quality instruction on demand to any qualified student, in any Indian language, irrespective of “enrollment” numbers, considering this to be a vital service to the South Asia scholarly community, and to our own goal of providing comprehensive and accurate knowledge of India to the world. As we celebrate our fiftieth anniversary, and nearly a half-century of offering language programs, we especially seek private support for instruction (e.g., through donations or endowed fellowships) in the less-commonly taught tongues that constitute such a vital part of India’s heritage and contemporary life. If you are interested in making such a gift, please contact our New Delhi or Chicago offices ([purnima.mehta@aiis.org.in](mailto:purnima.mehta@aiis.org.in), [aiis@uchicago.edu](mailto:aiis@uchicago.edu)).



### **HBCU Consortium Program in Jaipur**

A group of thirteen students from the Mid-Atlantic Consortium-Center for Academic Excellence led by Morgan State University, arrived in India in May 2012 for a seven-week program. The consortium consists of Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. Most of the students—whose majors included biology, political science, and business administration--had never traveled abroad prior to this trip. The group was led by Professor Camellia Okpodu. Mark Nachtrieb, the Cultural Attache from the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi addressed the students at their orientation on May 20. After spending some time in New Delhi the students went to Jaipur where they studied intensive Hindi for four hours every day, participated in weekend field trips and engaged in their community service learning projects. Some of the students’ projects’ topics included “Biosensors and Global Air Quality” and “Microfinance and Rural Development in India.” They lived with Indian host families while they were in Jaipur. The Executive Director of MAC-CAE, Professor Arlene Maclin of the Department of Physics at Morgan State University, accompanied the group when they traveled to Jaipur and spent the first three weeks with the group in India. For the summer of 2013, students from MAC-CAE will be located in both Jaipur and in Lucknow, site of the AIIS Urdu program.



*MAC-CAE students enjoying their visit to the Taj Mahal*

(continued from page one)  
ravenous population of tigers and leopards are responsible for 5% of livestock attacks in the state. This high rate of livestock killing equates to substantial losses for rural villagers in animal investment, field labor, milk, cash income, social status and personal security.

A more cost-efficient and effective solution would be to prevent livestock kills in the first place by grazing domestic animals in areas where tigers and leopards are less likely to attack. This topic is the focus of my dissertation: modeling the probability of a large cat attack on livestock across the central Indian landscape. My goal is to produce 'attack risk' maps that I can offer to villagers and Forest Department ground staff to aid them in managing livestock grazing in Kanha Tiger Reserve and Madhya Pradesh state at large. Herders could use the maps as tools to graze livestock in lower risk areas, reduce the number of attacks on livestock and hopefully prevent villagers from poisoning tigers

and leopards, thereby protecting these endangered and rare carnivores.

The risk of an attack varies geographically and depends on factors such as predator hunting mode, visibility, vegetation structure and the distribution of carnivores, livestock and wild prey. I spent November 2011 to September 2012 measuring many of these potential drivers of conflict in Kanha Tiger Reserve. Kanha is one of India's largest, oldest and most efficiently managed strongholds for tiger conservation. The park consists of a 940 km<sup>2</sup> core zone covered in dense sal and bamboo forest interspersed with grassy meadows, fringed by a 1,134 km<sup>2</sup> multiple-use buffer zone comprised of a matrix of villages, agricultural fields and forests. The protected area supports large breeding populations of tigers and leopards, and in an effort to sustain coexistence between the park's carnivores and the people who share their forests, the Forest Department provides compensation to villagers whose livestock are killed by wild animals.



*Jennie Miller captured this elusive female leopard on film*

I used these livestock compensation reports to identify attack sites and visited locations with Forest Department beat guards or livestock owners. At each site, my field assistants and I measured ground-level habitat structure such as visibility through the vegetation, grass and shrub height and vegetation species communities in plots around each livestock carcass. We also interviewed livestock owners and Forest Department officers to collect information on the

attack event (e.g. date, time, presence of herder), prey attributes (e.g. livestock species, age, sex) and the owner's opinions on compensation, livestock protection and attack risk. We also collected tiger and leopard feces to later analyze for spatial dietary patterns. Finally, I obtained historical Forest Department records on livestock compensation to examine depredation trends.

During my nine months of fieldwork, my research assistants and I visited 448 livestock attacks in Kanha Tiger Reserve. Tigers were responsible for slightly more attacks than leopards. Both cats primarily attacked cattle, likely because cattle were the most abundant livestock species available in the Kanha landscape. Tigers also attacked buffalo whereas leopards hunted goats and more occasionally buffalo and pigs. Interestingly, tigers and leopards both targeted middle-aged cattle and buffalo that ranged an average of 4-7 years of age rather than very young or old livestock as is common for wild predators. Although leopards attack cattle and buffalo less frequently than tigers, results show that leopards can and do kill large animals and should be considered a greater threat to adult livestock.

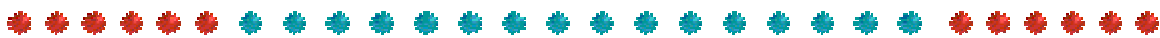
The majority of livestock attacks were located in forested areas and many occurred on the edge between forest and grassland/shrubland or agricultural fields. Stalking predators like tigers and leopards commonly utilize forest edge for hunting because these areas provide dense vegetation where the cats can stalk unseen directly adjacent to open areas where prey graze, enabling a stealthy attack. For example, many attack sites were located around thorny lantana bushes (where cats can hide) interspersed by small open grassy paths (where livestock can feed). Livestock are particularly vulnerable in these environments because visibility is low (they cannot see very far due to the thick vegetation) and quick escape is difficult (thorny lantana bushes prevent them from running). Understanding the vegetation structure where tigers and leopards attack can enable

management adaptation to control vegetation or change grazing patterns in vulnerable areas. For instance, uprooting and burning lantana in grazing fields may be an easy method to reduce livestock vulnerability to tigers and leopards.

Having completed fieldwork, I am now working from Yale University, analyzing which landscape factors tigers and leopards select when successfully killing livestock. In May-June 2013, I will return to Kanha Tiger Reserve to distribute this information as brochures and posters during meetings with villagers to illustrate 'attack hot spots' where their livestock are most at risk. I will specifically work with local village herders to discuss how grazing routes may be shifted to feed livestock in microenvironments where tigers and leopards are less likely to attack. The aim of these outreach activities will be to increase awareness about where tigers and leopards attack and to identify and implement local strategies to reduce livestock depredation and human-cat conflict.

AIIS resources and institutional support have been invaluable during my studies and have played a critical role in easing my research. I express deep gratitude to AIIS for its support during my Hindi language study in Jaipur as well as for the Junior Research Fellowship to enable my dissertation research in Kanha.

Jennie R. B. Miller is a PhD Candidate at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, a Research Affiliate at the Wildlife Institute of India and an AIIS Junior Research Fellow for 2012-2013.



### **Annual conference of the International Association of Sound and Audio Visual Archives hosted by ARCE**

The 43<sup>rd</sup> annual International Association of Sound and Audio Visual Archives conference was hosted by the AIIS Archives and Research Center for Ethnomusicology at the India International Centre in New Delhi in October 2012. The theme of the conference was "In Transition: Access for All." Presenters at the conference hailed from Australia, France, India, Israel, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, Uganda, the United States, and Zimbabwe, among other countries. Presentations included, "Preserving the recordings of the Composers Forum: a case study," "The Digital Object of Desire: Cognition and Access," and "Large Scale Video Migrations in context of customer experiences." The keynote address was given by Lawrence Liang of the Alternative Law Forum in Bangalore, on the topic, "From Ownership to Trusteeship: archival challenges to the imagination of intellectual property." Conference participants also were able to enjoy visits to ARCE, the Central Archives of the All India Radio (Akashvani), the Doordarshan television archives, and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Archive. There was also a Music of the Manganiyars concert and a farewell dinner held at the Sangeet Natak Akademi.

## Second AIIS workshop on internships with NGOs held in Jaipur

AIIS held its second interactive workshop on best practices for internships with NGOs in India. The importance of these workshops is underscored by the fact that, on the one hand, there has been a large increase in interest among American students and study abroad programs to engage in international service learning projects, and on the other, that India now has about 600,000 NGOs, many of them founded quite recently. The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Dr. R. Mehta, the founder and chief patron of Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS) in Jaipur, an organization dedicated to providing artificial limbs and prosthetic devices (including the “Jaipur Foot” and the “Jaipur Knee”) to those needing them, generally at no cost to the recipients. Some topics of discussion involved the ideal pairing of internships with NGOs together with intensive language study; how to provide students with an appropriate orientation that will prepare them for possibly difficult living conditions; and how the various NGOs could continue with ongoing contacts with each other to work out best practices. Participants also discussed drafting a model memorandum of understanding between study abroad providers in the U.S. and NGOs in India. AIIS is currently building a list of vetted NGOs for the AIIS web site. This list will be updated regularly. The AIIS Hindi program, which is based in Jaipur, already has established ties to local NGOs. Students on the AIIS Hindi program visited BMVSS in the fall of 2012 while other Hindi students volunteered at the Quality of Life Improvement Society, teaching high school students about health, nutrition and disease prevention.



## AIIS Welcomes a Record Six New Member Institutions in 2012

The roster of institutional members of AIIS has now increased to 71, with a record six new institutions approved for membership by the AIIS board of trustees in 2012. These new members are: Brandeis University, Claremont McKenna College, Cleveland State University, George Mason University, Georgetown University, and Wake Forest University.

Brandeis University’s South Asian Studies (SAS) Program was formed in 2007 and offers both an undergraduate minor as well as a vehicle for students and faculty interested in the region to come together for courses, colloquia, discussions and other events. Created in 2007-08, the Brandeis-India Initiative is pursuing a wide variety of projects aimed at connecting the University more closely with India by deepening student, faculty and alumni relationships with the nation. Projects include partnerships with Indian institutions, hosting campus events, and supporting student involvement in social justice efforts in India. The Brandeis-India Initiative is housed under Brandeis’s Office of Global Affairs. Activities have so far included Brandeis Presidential Trips to Delhi and Mumbai in 2010 and 2012; a Brandeis-India Initiative Fellows Program which provides undergraduate students opportunities to study, work, or conduct research in India; the creation of the Soli Sorabjee Lecture Series in South Asian Studies; the beginnings of a partnership with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) based in Delhi; an increase in Brandeis campus events focused on India and the growth of the South Asian Studies Program; and the creation of a modest Brandeis-India Initiative Fund, supported by alumni and friends, to

seed some of these activities. In the fall of 2009, Brandeis University launched the Soli Sorabjee Lecture Series in South Asian Studies. The lecture series has hosted notable scholars including Sugata Bose, Bina Agarwal, Vijay Prashad and Soli Sorabjee himself. Current and prospective India-related courses include: “South Asian Culture and Society,” a new course in urban and environmental anthropology that will involve taking a small group of undergraduate students to Mumbai for an Experiential Learning winter session in advance of the semester course, “Bollywood: Popular Film, Genre, and Society,” “Filmi Fictions: From Page to Screen in India,” “The Novel in India,” and “Decolonizing Fictions.” Brandeis faculty member David Engerman is also an AIIS senior short-term fellow in 2012-2013. Furthermore, the Brandeis South Asian Students Association (SASA) is an active and robust student club aiming to educate the Brandeis community about this culturally-rich part of the world. SASA produces the largest annual cultural show on campus, MELA; offers various arts, crafts, and pastimes at Desi Fest; and organizes a number of other activities including charity dances, discussions, socials, and dinners.

Claremont McKenna College president Pamela Green visited India in December 2011, accompanied by the vice president for academic affairs, the vice president for student affairs and the executive director for international programs, in order to explore opportunities in India for CMC students and faculty. Plans are currently being made to offer a three-week program and course in India in December 2012



through January 2013 in collaboration with IES. The program will be based in Delhi with field trips to Agra and Jaipur and site visits in Delhi and its environs. In recent years CMC has built faculty expertise in India in the departments of Government and International Relations, Economics and Finance, History, Religious Studies and Psychology.

Cleveland State University has a vibrant Study Abroad Program that includes a study trip to India every summer and an India Scholar Program that invites scholars from India to teach and research for a semester at the university. The study program takes place in Kerala and affords students a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the life of India while learning about important social issues. The program also includes tours of important historical sites and cultural activities, such as attending a traditional wedding ceremony, participating in classical Indian dance and music performances, shopping at artisan markets, and visiting wildlife habitats, mountains, and beaches. In addition to the academic programs, Cleveland State University and the Department of Music have been hosting every year since 1978, in spring, the Cleveland Thyagaraja Aradhana Festival, the biggest Carnatic music festival in North America. The two-week long festival attracts musicians and dancers from all-over the world and about 8,000 attendees. India-related courses are offered in the several departments, including Art, History, Religion and Urban Studies.

George Mason University's Center for Global Studies sponsors the Globalization and Society in India Working Group, fosters intellectual exchanges and academic discussions among scholars, hosts a bi-annual conference, and offers campus lectures on India throughout the academic year. Several George Mason faculty have strong ties to Indian institutions. One GMU faculty member is the chair of an international advisory panel established by the Indian Ministry of Earth Sciences. GMU School of Public Policy faculty members have relationships with the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore, the Indian Institute of Technology in Delhi, Birla Institute of Management Technology in Noida, The Management Development Institute in Gurgaon, and the Institute of Management Technology in Ghaziabad. The College of Health and Human Service's Global and Community Health Program supports an undergraduate program in conjunction with the International Honors Program in Boston that includes five weeks in India. Faculty in the School of Public Policy have led field studies trips to India.

Georgetown University offered 33 courses in 2011-2012 with a significant focus on Indian topics. Beyond individual courses, students can focus on India through the Regional and Comparative Studies major in the School of Foreign Service and the Asian Studies Certificate. The International Health major in the School of Nursing and Health Studies also provides significant opportunities to understand health conditions in India. This year, seven undergraduates studied at Fergusson College in Pune through The Alliance for Global Education. Global Health students at the School of Nursing and Health Studies gained practical experience with healthcare issues in India through visits to the Vector Control Research Centre (VCRC) in Pondicherry. Georgetown's graduate programs have exchange partnerships with Indian universities, including the Indian Institutes of Management in Lucknow and Delhi and the National Law School University in Bangalore. Two groups of MBA students visit India each year on their Global Residencies, where they conduct consulting projects for companies and learn about the business culture in India. In the past year, Georgetown has hosted several programs on India. Perhaps the highest profile was the U.S.-India Higher Education Summit in cooperation with the U.S. Department of State and the Indian Ministry of Human Resource Development. Throughout the past year, the School of Foreign Service, the Asian Studies Program, and the Mortara Center for International Studies brought eleven distinguished scholars of India---including David Ludden, Aseema Sinha, Cecilia Van Hollen and Ashutosh Varshney--to campus for the Global India Lecture Series to explore the wide array of political, social, historical and economic dynamics at play as India emerges to new levels of political and economic prominence on the world's stage. Several of these talks will be made available as podcasts. The Lannan Center for Poetics and Social Practice hosted a series of lectures on literature and social justice in India. Faculty with a scholarly interest in South Asia include C. Christine Fair in the Center for Peace and Security Studies (CPASS), within Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Henry Schwarz in the Department of English, and Aparna Vaidik in the Department of History.

Wake Forest University offers a six-week summer study abroad program in India that focuses on culture and Communication. The program is based in Kolkata and Delhi and includes excursions to Agra, Jaipur, and Ladakh. Wake Forest has also hosted a number of lectures and special events dedicated to India. Speakers this year included Dr. Omar H. Ali (University of North Carolina, Greensboro) on "The

Swahili Coast as part of the Indian Ocean Diaspora"; Dr. Diane Mines (Appalachian State University) on "The Tiger Got Away: A Story about Servitude, History and Power at a Roadside Shrine in South India"; Dr. Jason Kirk (Elon University) on "India and the World Bank: The Evolution of Development Assistance and Implications for Global Economic Governance"; and Dr. Anna Bigelow (North Carolina State University) on "Sharing Sacred Space: Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs in Punjab, India." These programs have served the Wake Forest campus and the wider community of scholars of South Asia based at universities in the Triad Region (Greensboro, High

Point, and Winston-Salem). Faculty with research interests in India include Chanchal Dadlani, of the Department of Art, a scholar of Mughal Art and Architecture, Neil DeVotta of the Department of Political Science, a scholar of contemporary Indian politics and international relations, Charles H. Kennedy of the Department of Political Science who works on several South Asian countries, Mohammad Raisur Rahman of the Department of History who has written about Muslim social and intellectual life in colonial India, and Jarrod Whitaker of the Department of Religion whose research has focused on ancient India.

### **AIIS hosts affiliating institutions conference "The Long 1980s: Recovering a 'Lost Decade'"**

In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the American Institute of Indian Studies is hosting three two-day conferences to provide an opportunity for U.S. based scholars to interact with scholars at the Indian institutions that provide research affiliations for AIIS fellows. The purpose of the initiative is to showcase, in India, AIIS's deep commitment to India-focused research and to provide an opportunity for dialogue between U.S.-based and India-based scholars. By involving scholars at institutions with which AIIS fellows and faculty members affiliate, AIIS would like to acknowledge the important role of Indian institutions and scholars in hosting AIIS researchers, and to deepen and strengthen relationships between AIIS member institutions and affiliate Indian institutions. These conferences are being funded through grants from the U.S. Department of States, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, through the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.



*Some of the workshop participants at AIIS headquarters at Gurgaon*

The first of these conferences, "The Long 1980s: Recovering a 'Lost Decade'" was held in New Delhi on December 21-22. The conference was organized by Rebecca Brown (Johns Hopkins University), Arvind Rajagopal (New York University), Sumathi Ramaswamy (Duke University), and Karin Zitzewitz (Michigan State University). The first day of the conference was located at the AIIS headquarters at Gurgaon and the second day at the Nehru Memorial Library in New Delhi. A reception was held for participants at the India International Centre on the evening of December 21.

Book-ended by the dramatic historical markers of the Emergency on the one hand and economic liberalization and the Mandal and Masjid controversies on the other, the period was chosen to delineate as “the long 1980s” is typically dismissed as an era of economic stagnation and political authoritarianism. And yet, in many ways, the 1980s was a period of extraordinary importance. In areas as distinct as the visual arts, classical and popular music, cultural patronage, the writing of national histories, and print and audio-visual media, the 1980s was an era of consolidation and productive re-alignment. Furthermore, these years witnessed a critical deepening of scholarship in the interpretive sciences on these realms both in the Indian academy and around the world. Propelled by this realization, the conference organizers sought to bring together scholars from across the humanities and social sciences to pursue three interlocking projects: (1) to identify what we are calling the long 1980s as a pivotal turning point in India’s twentieth-century history; (2) to take stock of the scholarship on the areas we have identified as historically constitutive of that period; and (3) to connect studies of cultural production with those of political practice and political economy.

The conference program was as follows:

Friday December 21:

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome and Introductory Comments

9:30 – 12:30 Panel One: Moving on From the the Nehruvian Era

*Paranjoy Guha-Thakurta, Chair*

Arvind Rajagopal, “Scandal and Irresolution: The Success and Failure of the Shah Commission of Inquiry”

Radhika Krishnan, “The Road not Taken: Shankar Guha Niyogi and the rise and demise of Gandhian-Marxism in India”

Aditya Nigam, “Populist Capital and Middle Class Desire”

2:00 – 5:00 Panel Two: Performing the 1980s

*Shuddhabrata Sengupta, Chair*

Lakshmi Subramaniam, “Theme Concerts and Jaya T.V Classical Music in an Age of Global Consumption”

Shikha Jhingan, “Sonic Ruptures: National Boundaries, Female Voice and Hindi film Songs in the 1980s”

Ranjani Mazumdar, “Bombay’s Vigilante Films”

Saturday December 22:

9:00 – 11:00 Panel Three: The Modernist as Critic

*Abhay Sardesai, Chair*

Ashish Rajadhyaksha, “Realism in Political Times”

Karin Zitzewitz, “The Iconographic Turn in Indian Modern Art: Anachronism and the ‘Late Style’ of Tyeb Mehta and K. G. Subramanyan”

11:30 – 1:30 Panel Four: The Return of the Raj

*Janaki Nair, Chair*

Sumathi Ramaswamy, “Hating the Raj Properly: M. F. Husain’s Reflections on Empire and Nation”

Rebecca Brown, “India is ‘All the Raj’: Fashion and Folk Art at the U.S. Festival of India”

2:45 – 4:15 Film: *My Mother India* (2001, Safina Uberoi, dir.)

Discussion with Safina Uberoi following the film.

*Film produced by Chili Films in association with SBS Independent and financed with the assistance of the Australian Film Finance Corporation*

4:30 – 6:00 Roundtable Discussion: The Long 1980s: The Vicissitudes of a Historical Period

Paranjoy Guha-Thakurta, Janaki Nair, Abhay Sardesai, Shuddhabrata Sengupta

### **Report from AIIS Senior short-term fellow Jeffrey Wilson**

Jeffrey Wilson from the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Michigan, was awarded a senior short-term fellowship for 2011-2012 to carry out his project “India’s Cretaceous Reptiles: Paleobiogeography and Evolution.” He conducted his research in India from February to May 2012.

Professor Wilson visited several repositories for fossil materials in an effort to better understand specimens that have already been collected from key sites in India, many of which no longer exist or no longer produce fossils. Some of



the collections are quite old, dating back to the early nineteenth century, and others have been collected within the last decade. Specimens examined range from fish to dinosaurs and include many name-bearing specimens (i.e., the holotype for the species). Places visited included: The Geological Survey of India (Central Region), Nagpur; Nagpur University; Nagpur Central Museum (“Ajab Bangla”); the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata; Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation; Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (Prince of Wales Museum), Mumbai; Bombay Natural History Society, Mumbai and other locations. Another aspect of this research involved making new collections at sites that have been explored previously as well as new sites discovered during the course of field research. Then most prolific sites are located in central and western India, in the states of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat. Late Cretaceous dinosaur fossils are known from other states (e.g., Tamil Nadu), but the fossil remains from there are not nearly as informative as those preserved in the focal areas. On 27 February 2012, Professor Wilson signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Geological Survey of India (GSI) that facilitated working in GSI fossil repositories and in the field. Professor Wilson visited GSI Repositories in Kolkata, Nagpur, Jaipur, and Gandhinagar, focusing on surveying existing collections. This was an endeavor that proved challenging because many fossils that are supposed to be present in those collections, particularly at the Central Headquarters in Kolkata, have been missing for years. Through the MoU, he was able to gain nearly complete access to collections Central Headquarters, and ferreted out several key specimens that had gone missing for decades. This included the holotypic caudal vertebra of *Titanosaurus indicus*, India’s first dinosaur, which was discovered in 1828 and has been missing since the early twentieth Century. The *T. indicus* holotype was stored together with bones of a second species, *T. blanfordi*, named in 1879. The bones were found in a room outside the Curatorial Division but still within the Geological Survey of India Central Headquarters in Kolkata.



*Professor Jeffrey Wilson and colleagues at the new dinosaur museum in Rahioli, Gujarat*

Recovery efforts have also turned up several other bones. One of the holotypic cervical vertebrae of the small theropod *Laevisuchus indicus* (GSI K20/613) was found in three separate pieces in unmarked boxes, together with other unnumbered fragments in the Invertebrate Gallery of the Indian Museum. A complete abelisaurid femur (GSI K27/569) was found in five pieces in the Siwalik Gallery of the Indian Museum. In that same cabinet was found a collection of theropod cranial, caudal, and limb elements collected by Charles Matley in 1919 but never described, along with undescribed rib fragments of the Chhota Simla specimen of *Jainosaurus* still in their original wrappings. In each of these cases, the ‘rediscovered’ specimen had no accession number—either because it never received one (e.g., *T. indicus*, *T. blanfordi*) or because the number had been separated from it by breakage (e.g., *Laevisuchus*, *Jainosaurus*). Rediscovery of *Titanosaurus indicus* and other misplaced fossils bodes well for recovery of other important missing specimens, such as *Lametasaurus indicus*, *Indosaurus matleyi*, and *Indosuchus raptorius* all of which are key specimens that survive for researchers only in the form of fairly crude line drawings or photographs of one or two views. The circumstances associated with the loss of the bones—no accession number, stored outside the ‘normal’ area—underscore the need for better practice in our collections facilities. The pattern associated with



recovered elements is also instructive. It suggests that future rediscoveries may rely on visual recognition of unlabeled specimens that may be stored apart from other collections.

Professor Wilson co-authored a recent article about this latest research, “India’s first dinosaur, rediscovered,” in *Current Science* 104, 1 (January 2013).



### **AIIS Dissertation into Book workshop held in Madison October 2012**

For the fourth year, AIIS held a “Dissertation into Book” workshop for young scholars at the Madison South Asia conference in October 2012. The program was organized by Professor Susan Wadley of Syracuse University and was co-sponsored by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies, the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies, and the American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies. Twenty young scholars of South Asia—all of whom earned their Ph.D. degrees recently—participated in an intensive workshop designed to help them convert their doctoral dissertations into publishable book manuscripts. The list of participants is below. The group was divided into two—one for scholars in the social sciences and the other for scholars in the humanities. The senior scholar mentors who led the workshop included Professor Susan Wadley, Professor Joyce Flueckiger of Emory University, Professor Geraldine Forbes of SUNY-Oswego, Professor Brian Hatcher of Tufts University, and Professor Barbara Ramusack, of the University of Cincinnati. Each participant sent in their book prospectus and a chapter for the mentors and other participants to read beforehand. Each participant was then assigned to present another participant’s project to the group. They were asked to comment on the strongest points as well as the weakest, and to try to find sites where the project could be pushed to engagement with broader issues and a wide readership. Then the other participants were asked to discuss the project while the author of the project remained silent. During the second section, the project author is invited to speak, to first respond to the more important queries, issues, and suggestions raised in the first session. The respondents were advised to identify two or three ideas/themes that they feel they can implement in rethinking their work. In the next session, the mentors contributed their own suggestions.

The editor of DAK, who attended the workshop for the first time, was very impressed with the collaborative spirit among the animated participants, who were all committed to helping each other produce the best possible manuscripts for eventual publication. One common theme was the need to rethink how to organize one’s arguments when converting the dissertation into a book. Another was how to make a specialized topic appeal to a wider academic audience, although not necessarily for a book that would be appropriate for an undergraduate course. One participant broached the topic of how to use material collected for dissertation based on quantitative analysis to write a more descriptive and ethnographic narrative. They also agreed that it would be better to remove “extraneous” material that is not essential to the book to be spun off into separate articles and to resist the temptation to try to include everything in one magnum opus (especially at the beginning of one’s scholarly career). Participants debated the merits of submitting their manuscripts to regular university presses or to specialty scholarly presses. Other topics included: the increasing importance of crafting an engaging abstract to be captured by search engines; how to encapsulate the gist of the project upfront in the prospectus sent to the publisher; how to integrate a review of the literature so that it did not seem “dissertation-like”; in the case of a project based on one person or for instance one novel, how to make it appeal to a wider audience; the need to not fixate too much on the title of the book since the publisher may decide to change it; the need to clarify terminology for non-specialists early in the manuscript; and how to deal with reviewers who appear to want authors of the books they are reviewing to write a book they themselves would want to write. Participants with their current affiliations and project topics were:

Sai Bhatawadekar (University of Hawaii) “Hindu Philosophy and Religion”

Amy Bhatt (University of Maryland) “Globalization and IT Workers”

Laura Brown (University of Pittsburgh) “Commerce and Talk, Tamil Nadu”

Patton Burchett (Columbia University) “Bhakti religion and tantric magic in Mughal India”

Tapoja Chaudhuri (Haverford College) “Social Universe of a Protected Area: Community-Based Ecotourism in Periyar”

Laura Childers (Alfred University) “Visual Culture of Opium”

Jennifer Dubrow (University of Washington) “From Newspaper Sketch to Novel: The Writing and Reception of Fasana-e Azad in North India, 1878-1880”

Connie Etter (George Washington University) “Women with No One: Community and Christianity in a Secular Women’s Home in South India”  
 Michele Friedner (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) “Deaf Sociability and Aspiration in India”  
 Walter Hakala (SUNY, Buffalo) “Diction and Dictionaries”  
 Sherry Harlacher (Denison University) “Text and image in late Colonial Sri Lanka”  
 Leah Koskimaki (National Institute of Advanced Study, Bangalore) “Youth Publics and Embodied Politics: Genealogies of Development Aspiration in North Indian Hill Towns”  
 Emily Rook-Koepsel (University of Oklahoma) “Unity, Democracy and the All India Phenomenon: 1940-1956”  
 Angela Rudert (Wells College) “She’s an All-in-One Guru”: Devotion to a 21st century Mystic”  
 Natasha Sarkar (Ohio State University) “Plague in British India”  
 Jishnu Shankar (University of Texas) “Life of Aghoreshwar Mahaprabhu Bhagwan Ram Ji”  
 Asha Shipman (University of Connecticut) “Mate Selection in Modern India”  
 Michael Slouber (St. Mary’s College) “Snake Bite and Healing”  
 James Sykes (Kings College, London) “Music in Sri Lanka”  
 Sudipta Topdar (Illinois State University) “Knowledge and Governance: Political Socialization of the Indian Child within Colonial Schooling and Nationalist Contestations in India (1870-1925)”

### Tarun Mitra 1929-2012



*Tarun Mitra (credit: Subir Sarkar)*

Tarun Mitra, counselor, guide, and friend to almost all of us who did research or studied in West Bengal in the decades since the founding of the Eastern Regional Center of the AIS, died at his home in Kolkata on May 23, 2012. He was Tarun-da, “Elder brother Tarun,” to most of us; only Ed Dimock was his senior, and that was only by a few months. Tarun-da was born September 9, 1929 in Bhoakhali, Jessore, his mother’s natal village, and grew up in his father’s village, Mitradanga, Khulna. He matriculated in Murshidabad and passed the Intermediate Arts examination at Daulatpur College, an institution his family had supported. He enrolled in Ashutosh College in Calcutta in 1949, where he was associated with the Forward Bloc. He was asked to leave Ashutosh College because of his role in a student strike. He enrolled in Charuchandra College in 1950, and completed his B.A. with Honours in Bengali from the University of Calcutta in 1952.

He joined the M.A. class in Bengali at the University of Calcutta, but was unable to sit for his final examinations. To support himself, he taught at

the Free Primary School of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation. After leaving Khulna for Calcutta he worked at various odd jobs, including porter in the agency house J. Atherton and Co., and assistant at Calcutta Telephones. At the same time, he was one of the founding editors of the literary journal *Satabhisha*, which started appearing in 1951, and which, together with *Krittibas*, defined the literary world of Calcutta of those decades. In 1956 Tarun-da joined the first M.A. class in Comparative Literature at Jadavpur University, where he studied with Buddhadev Bose and Sudhindranath Dutta. He completed his M.A. in 1958, and taught English Honours at Charuchandra College for a year.

In the late 50s he joined the Gandhi Vichar Parishad, organizing its Calcutta Centre and library under the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, where he ran a program of lectures that included Jayprakash Narayan, V. Gordon Childe, Nirmal Kumar Bose, and Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. He worked with the Bhoodan, Jayprakash, Vinoba Bhawe, and other Gandhians.

Social service took him over much of India and Sri Lanka. Tarun-da found a permanent home with the AIIS in 1965. Like the other Indian officers, his initial appointment was as administrative assistant. Then he was made administrative officer, then regional officer. In the period between 1965 and 1972 he was in charge of the office, while there was an American senior fellow resident in the flat at 12/2 Swinhoe Street. Thereafter, complete administrative responsibility for the Calcutta Center lay with Tarun-da. Intellectual life at the Center thrived through those years, which were otherwise difficult ones for American scholarship in India. The vitality of the Center improved further during the 1980s, when Tarun-da's *adda* created a kind of ongoing informal seminar that was never completely out of session. Even after his retirement in 1991, as regional director emeritus he continued to serve as a consultant and advisor and was usually present for AIIS events.

He was closely associated with the Quaker Centre of Calcutta, and the pacifist group Service Civil International, with which he continued to do social service in remote rural regions. During the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971 he worked with the International Rescue Committee to provide shelter and assistance for refugees from Bangladesh.

Pradeep Mehendiratta, AIIS Vice President and former Director General, who worked closely with Tarun-da throughout his years of service to the Institute, said, "Tarun Mitra had been associated with AIIS for almost four decades, mostly as the Director of the Kolkata center. He was a source of intellectual conversation on many issues. He had a flair for sociology and English literature. He was always simple, unassuming, warm, and humane. These are the qualities that endeared him to many

AIIS fellows and his colleagues. Tarun maintained a very cordial personal relationship with many professors and vice chancellors in his region. He was a very independent thinking person with set ideas on many issues but never tried to impose them on anyone. AIIS has lost a very faithful and sincere officer. I have lost a very warm personal friend."

Tarun-da's range of intellectual concerns was prodigious: literature, both Indian and Western; Hindustani classical music; history, philosophy, folklore, religion, and art; as well as Indian rural society. During his retirement years he took a particular interest in comparative religion, which he felt was an underdeveloped field of study in Kolkata. He was founder and president of the Academy of Comparative Religion of Kolkata. Since he read everything that came into his hands, his knowledge of the field was formidable. One always had to be careful not to show him a new book before reading it; otherwise, he would most likely be its first reader.

Besides his hundreds of friends, both Indian and foreign, Tarun-da has left behind his wife, Dr. Nita Mitra, Professor of Economics in Calcutta University, a son Dr. Aniruddha Mitra, Assistant Professor of Economics at Bard College, and daughter Anindita Mitra, a journalist with the Telegraph in Kolkata.

Tarun-da's friends and family have established The Tarun Mitra Memorial Lecture in his memory. The first lecture is planned for the fall of 2013. Contributions to the lecture fund may be sent to the AIIS office in Chicago, Delhi, or Kolkata, marked "Tarun Mitra Memorial Lecture." Donors up to publication were:

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