

डाक ड्याक
کاک ڈاک
SL& ডাক



DAK

ডাক ডাক
ডাক ডাক
ডাক ডাক

The Newsletter of the American Institute of Indian Studies

Number 29

Autumn 2016



Charlotte Giles and CLS Urdu students enjoying mangoes

A New Role for a Veteran Urdu Student by Charlotte Giles

I arrived in Lucknow the second week of June 2016 as the new Urdu summer resident director for the Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) program, oddly not as a student for what would have been my sixth Urdu AIIS program. Regardless of the many months I had spent in the city, this position forced me to reminisce on those first

Continued on page four

AIIS Director-General Purnima Mehta Receives Award from MAC-CAE



Professor Arlene Maclin (*above right*) the Executive Director of the Mid-Atlantic Consortium-Center for Academic Excellence (MAC-CAE), presented AIIS Director-General Purnima Mehta with a special plaque for her extraordinary service to MAC-CAE during its five years of collaboration with AIIS to bring students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities to India in the summer for intensive language instruction and participation in service learning. MAC-CAE students have been participating in the programs, held at the AIIS language centers in Jaipur and Lucknow, since the summer of 2012. One highlight of the summer 2016 program for ten MAC-CAE students in Jaipur was an overnight field trip to Pushkar and Tilonia in early July. Pushkar, one of the oldest cities in India, is one of five sacred dhams (pilgrimage sites for devout Hindus) and is often called Tirth Raj—the king of pilgrimage sites. It lies on the shore of Pushkar Lake. Tilonia is the site of the Barefoot College, which connects rural communities to solar power, water, education, professions and advocacy to help communities and individuals take control of their lives and the wellbeing of their communities. The Barefoot College especially promotes women's empowerment. Its Solar Energy Center hosts more than thirty female interns from nine African countries who learn to assemble solar lanterns. After finishing their training, they will go back to their countries to open training centers. The Solar Energy Center also trains people to create solar ovens.



2016 MAC-CAE students with Mr. Bunker Roy, founder of Barefoot College

AHIS 2016 Book Prize Awarded to Anand Taneja

The Joseph W. Elder Prize in the Indian Social Sciences was awarded to Anand Taneja, an assistant professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Vanderbilt University, for *Jinnealogy: Time, Islam, and Ecological Thought in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi*.



Jinnealogy: Time, Islam, and Ecological Thought in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi, which is under contract with Stanford University Press, centers on Firoz Shah Kotla, a ruined medieval palace which has become a prominent *dargah*, or Muslim saint shrine, in contemporary Delhi. Built circa 1354 and long fallen into disrepair, the site began acquiring widespread popularity as a *dargah* in 1977. Firoz Shah Kotla is frequented by both Hindus and Muslims, and the saints venerated at this *dargah* are not human, but Islamic spirits known as *jinn*. Visitors write letters of petition to these *jinn*-saints as if petitioning a government official, including their name, address, and passport photos in their appeals. They deposit multiple copies of these letters in various niches and alcoves throughout the ruins. Firoz Shah Kotla is also a place where animal life flourishes, especially cats, snakes, and kites. As the *jinn* are shape-shifters in Islamic mythology, often taking the form of animals, these animals are imbued with sacrality in this space.

Situated in the heart of the bustling capital of the largest democracy in the world, Firoz Shah Kotla casts new light on the relation of theology to post-colonial politics, the ethical potentialities that popular Islam holds open for Muslims and non-Muslims, and the relation of the ecological to urban sacrality. At a time when reformist Islam is dismissive of the *jinn* and the realm of the unseen, following the familiar script of modernity and disenchantment, here we see the *jinn* being sanctified. In this book, Taneja shows that the enchanted nature of popular Islam that we encounter here is not a pre-modern relic, but an ethical, political, and theological stance emerging anew in response to the post-colonial condition.

The book consists of an introduction, an afterword, and seven chapters, divided into three interlinked sections. The first two chapters are concerned with temporality: the ways in which the veneration of *jinn*s and saints amongst medieval ruins brings memories of the pre-colonial past into the post-colonial present, and holds open alternate temporalities and political theologies. The middle three chapters are concerned with Islam: they analyze the Islamic ethics encountered at Firoz Shah Kotla and look at the forms of translation through which these ethics have become part of the shared moral world of urban North India, across religious identities. The last two chapters explore the sacred landscape of pre-modern Delhi, and its links to the city's ecology, examining the ways in which colonial and post-colonial development has radically reshaped this landscape, and replaced it with new forms of legal enchantment.

Anand Vivek Taneja was born in Bangkok, and grew up in Lucknow and Kochi. He studied at Delhi University, Jamia Millia Islamia, and at Columbia University, where he received his PhD in Anthropology in 2013. His research and teaching interests include urban ecologies, enchantment and ethics, animality, historical and contemporary Islam and inter-faith relations in South Asia, post-colonial urbanism, Urdu literature, and Bombay cinema. His peer-reviewed articles have been published in the *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, and *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* (CSSAAME). He has also published popular essays on urban life, historical amnesia, and alternative forms of remembrance in *The Book Review*, *Time Out Delhi*, *The Indian Quarterly*, and on the websites *Kafila.org* and *Chapati Mystery*. In 2015, he co-edited a volume on the theme of "Animals, Ethics, and Enchantment in South Asia" for CSSAAME. He is currently beginning a project on religion, infrastructure, and shifting ontologies in urban North India.

continued from page one

few months in India and Lucknow, and reflect on what my 29 students, many who had never been to India let alone outside the US, might need to know to stay sane and healthy. I was supposed to present them with as many tidbits of assorted information as possible when they first arrived.

I found myself turning to old friends and students, asking them what they wish they had known when they first arrived. One student told me they wished they had advice on how to deal with people taking their photos without asking, or how to confront the beggars on the street with respect and caring. One piece of advice I picked up from a PhD student during my first summer was to wear earbuds without music playing to save my ears from the car horns. I believe in the importance of building up relationships with host families if they're willing because they will be the students' greatest connection to the city and language when they are not in the institute. I was extremely spoiled with my host mother over the years and wanted everyone to experience that comfort of having someone away from home who could make them feel like you're home. These were all lessons that I had learned as I went along, following the lead of the many senior students I was able to study with over the years.

But even more than this, I wanted to tell the CLS students anything and everything about Lucknow. I felt that this, as much as any other city in America, was my home. I had grown up there. I was a 19-year-old clueless undergraduate that first summer in 2008. I had come a long way from that summer and everything I knew I wanted to tell them. And I was gifted with 29 students who actually wanted to listen to me jabber on about where the best kebabs, biryani, saris, cloth, and books could be found.

Chaat, for instance. Chaat, or street food, is one of those things that you're not supposed to support your students consuming because it will more often than not result in spending the day in the clinic with said students. Most of the summer I was too busy and tired to go to my favorite chaat stand in Hazrat Ganj which opens only in the evening. There was a coterie of students who were chaat enthusiasts and had remarkably not gotten (too) sick. When I mentioned this place, Shuklaji's chaat, I was met with a cheer and requests to go that night. Imagine my joy when they told me that Shuklaji's was the best chaat they had had yet! The summer was full of moments like these.



CLS Urdu students visit Buland Darwaza at Fatehpur Sikri

In addition to my job as food and clothing recommender, I also encountered the problem of what to say when students (especially those who had never been to India or taken classes about the region) read reports in the news about caste- and gender-based violence, or themselves had less than positive experiences on the streets of Lucknow.

I did what any self-respecting academic would do and sent them articles and recommended books, although I'll never know if anyone actually read them. As I was not the only veteran of AIIS and India, some of my students from other graduate programs offered perspectives that I would not have thought of. These were the moments that have made my experiences in AIIS programs memorable learning experiences.

In the beginning of the summer, I was worried that I would have to tell them everything. Don't just walk into traffic, but you do have to be assertive. Don't go to rickshaws for rides in a huge crowd of other students. They will overcharge you. Stay for those extra cups of chai in whatever store you go into. Some of my longest-standing friends in the city are from clothing shops. Take the shared auto rickshaws to Hazrat Ganj. It's much cheaper. Go to Chowk for the best food and shopping. The list could go on forever. I found that my students, like me eight years ago, knew how to operate on their own, and that when I was needed, I would be summoned. Interestingly I found that I needed my students perhaps more than they needed me. I wanted them to have a positive experience in Lucknow. This city is not as flashy as Delhi, with fewer opportunities for going out and socializing in the ways that students

going abroad may typically want. Past programs have taught me that some people will connect with the city while others will not, but this trip was different. I felt it my responsibility to help the students acclimate to a different way of operating than what they may have perhaps been used to. I would like to think that I was successful to a certain extent.

The most amazing transformation, however, was not of the students exploring more of the city as the summer progressed. They were more adventurous than I was my first summer. But it was rather watching them do what they were there to do: learn a new language. Students who were absolute beginners when they arrived in Lucknow gave full presentations in Urdu by the end of the program about traveling, literature, education. They had steadfast commitment to learning the language or improving from whatever level they were when they entered the program. As someone not involved in the actual teaching process, I was allowed to just sit back and enjoy the Urdu.

Charlotte Giles is a graduate student in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Texas, Austin. Her dissertation research focuses on women working in the textile embroidery industry in northern India.



Virtual Museum of Images and Sounds Presents The Grandeur of Chola Temples Exhibit



The Virtual Museum of Images and Sounds (VMIS) launched a highly acclaimed virtual exhibit The Grandeur of Chola Temples (http://vmis.in/upload/Assets/Exhibition/26/chola_exhibition/index.html). VMIS, which is supported by the Indian Ministry of Culture, makes available to the public the collections of AIIS's two research centers—the Center for Art and Archaeology (CAA) and the Archives and Research Center for Ethnomusicology (ARCE). The Grandeur of Chola Temples exhibit consists of photographs that feature the temple architecture, sculpture and bronzes created during the rule of the Chola dynasty, from the late ninth to the late eleventh centuries, a period of about two hundred years.

The photo exhibition was originally organized by the High Commission of India in Malaysia and by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India in association with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, Malaysia, the Center for Art

and Archaeology (CA&A) of the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS), India and the National Visual Arts Gallery, Malaysia. The archival photographs of the CA & A were digitally restored and specially printed for the first time for viewing in Malaysia. This underscores the importance of archiving and preserving film negatives and photographs as part of our historical resources.

The Exhibition is curated by the renowned art historian Dr. K. L. Mankodi. The other image contributors of the exhibition are Ecole Francaise D'Extreme Orient (EFEO), French Institute of Pondicherry (FIP), the Chennai Museum (Formerly Madras Museum) and Emma Natalya Stein, a Ph.D. candidate at Yale University, who held an AIIS junior fellowship to work on Chola temples in 2014-15.



ARCE Partners with India Foundation for the Arts to Support Archival Fellows

The AIIS Archives and Research Center for Ethnomusicology (ARCE) is partnering with the India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) to sponsor the Archival Fellowship Program. The Archival Fellowships provide creative practitioners— artists, researchers, curators - the opportunity to engage with ARCE's audiovisual archives in innovative and original ways. There are currently two Archival Fellows. Priya Sen is a Delhi-based filmmaker. During her fellowship period, Ms Sen is exploring the music of migrations and sees two points of entry into the archive's collections. First, she would like to look at the music of indentured populations from East India and Uttar Pradesh and their migrations to Mauritius, Trinidad and Fiji. The second is the music of the Siddi community in Gujarat. Siddis are descendants of Southeast Africans, who were merchants, mercenaries and indentured servants. Ms Sen is engaging with these collections in different ways—by gathering more material around the already existing collections in the archive through interviews, reading maps and books, and looking at found footage and other audio-visual forms. Shubhasree Bhattacharyya has been working in the field of sound studies and practices since 2008. Working with the ARCE collections, Ms Bhattacharyya found that though the archive has extensive material related to 'work music' it is dispersed across collections. One of her objectives during her fellowship period is to catalogue these scattered pieces of music into a logical framework using the theme of the 'body' and the 'listening experience' as guiding factors. Thus she will develop a creative 'finding aid' for future researchers of the archive. These fellowships were made possible with support from the Tata Trusts.

ARCE Receives Grant for Digitization of its Audio and Video Collections

ARCE received a grant of \$16,000 from the International Information and Networking Centre for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region (ICHCAP), which is under the auspices of UNESCO. The grant is for a project that would be a part of ICHCAP's goal of building information systems for safeguarding the intangible cultural heritage in the 48 member states of the Asia-Pacific region with a primary function of disseminating information and building networks in the ICH field. ARCE will be providing 500 hours of digitized data. In addition, a ten-CD set of materials from this digitization effort will be prepared and used for educational purposes. ICHCAP staff visited ARCE on July 21-22, 2016 and an MOU was later signed by ICHCAP and Purnima Mehta. Four members of the ARCE digitization team visited Korea for a workshop from August 30-September 2, 2016.

AIIS Welcomes Four New Member Institutions in 2016

AIIS is pleased to announce the addition of four new member institutions: Florida State University, George Washington University, Kennesaw State University, and the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Florida State University has a particularly robust South Asia presence in its Department of Religion. Institutional Delegate Kathleen Erndl focuses her research on Hindu Goddesses, Women in Hinduism, Hindu-Muslim Interactions, Indian Cinema and Religion and teaches courses on South Asian

religions, especially Hinduism, as well as gender and religion, popular Hindi cinema, and Sanskrit. In the last several years, three students from the Religion Department have participated in AIIS Hindi and Bangla programs, including two who did both summer and full academic year programs. Several other students in the departments of Religion, Ethnomusicology, and International Affairs have studied Indian languages through the Critical Languages Scholarship program and the South Asian Summer Language Institute. The South Asia Media

Research Group, founded by Professor Stephen McDowell of the Communications Department, is an interdisciplinary group of faculty and graduate students that sponsored two South Asia Media and Cultural Studies Conferences. The 2015 conference was devoted primarily to student presentations as well as invited plenary speakers, while the 2016 conference was expanded to include a faculty research session as well. The plan is to make the conference an annual event. The Communication Department is conducting a collaborative research project on South Asian visual images and brings in guest speakers from South Asia. The Religion Department also hosts at least one guest speaker a year to speak about South Asia for its Tessa J. Bartholomeusz Memorial Lecture. Recent courses have included: India Through Bollywood Film, The Ramayana in Indian Culture, Buddhism and the Mythology of Evil, Islamic Movements of Revival and Reform, Goddess, Women and Power in Hinduism, and Hinduism and Ecology.

The Sigur Center for Asian Studies in **George Washington University's** Elliott School of International Affairs offers a range of courses and study abroad programs on India, coordinated within their Asian Studies Program (Professor Emmanuel Teitelbaum, Director). GWU currently has 14 faculty members with teaching and/or research interests in India from departments including Anthropology, English, Geography, History, Political Science and Art History. GWU's MA in Asian Studies requires nine courses, with at least three courses in South Asia required for a concentration in that field. India-related courses include: Health and Development in South Asia; Mughal Cosmopolitanism and the Patronage of Art; Buddhist Art of Asia; Gender, Ethnicity and Migration in Indian Literature and Culture; Geography of South Asia; Conflict and Stability in South Asia; and Comparative Politics of South Asia. In the last three years, 134 GWU students took part in study abroad programs in India. GWU also has a wide range of cultural organizations offering India-related programs, including the GWO Indian Students Association, the South Asian Society, the Hindu Students Association, GW Bhangra and GW Raas (the latter two are competitive dance organizations).

Kennesaw State University has been developing the international focus of its courses and programs to include more about the study of India. The University offers an Asian Studies Minor, which includes a number of courses on India, and has developed an interdisciplinary BA Program in Asian Studies which allows students to select from a list of courses in

literature, art, history, archaeology, philosophy, geography, and politics on India/Asia and from a longer list of courses that include India within a comparative framework. Kennesaw State University offers introductory and intermediate Hindi and study abroad in India. Nine members of the faculty at Kennesaw State University (from the departments of Anthropology, Sociology, History and Philosophy, Marketing, International Conflict Management, and Biology) teach courses on India or that include India. Former AIIS fellow Sarasij Majumder, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Studies, will serve as the institution's AIIS Delegate. Kennesaw State University is in the process of planning 2017-2018 as 'The Year of India.' In addition to special lectures, exhibitions, films, and performances in the arts, the University will encourage the development of new courses, research projects, study abroad, and international partnerships. Significantly, Kennesaw's 'Year of India' programs will involve the community and the local schools.

The University of Massachusetts, Boston College of Liberal Arts has an interdisciplinary BA Program in Asian Studies (made a full Department in 2015), with a South Asian concentration as well as a new Minor in South Asian Studies. Students majoring in Asian Studies with a concentration in South Asia enroll in four core courses on Asia plus seven electives related specifically to South Asia. The interdisciplinary Minor in South Asian Studies requires one core course: *Survey of Contemporary Asia* plus six courses from a range of disciplines including Asian American Studies, Asian Studies, Economics, History, Modern Languages, Philosophy, Sociology, and Women's Studies. India-related courses include: Yoga in History, Philosophy and Practice; Post-colonial India; Popular Indian Cinema: Image, Text, and Context; and Gender, Religion, and Politics in South Asia. UMass Boston offers an introductory course on Hindi language. The College of Management and other branches of the University also offer courses and programs that relate to India. The College of Management has an MBA Study Away experience, with ten days in India. The Department of Biology has mentored six PhD students studying environmental issues in India while the McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies has three PhD students currently engaged in research on India. UMB frequently hosts lectures and cultural events with a South Asia focus and in spring 2016 it launched a South Asia Colloquium where faculty, graduate students, and regional scholars present their research.

Exciting News About Current, Recent and Former Fellows

AIIS (2015-2016) senior fellow **Hilary Silver**'s film "Direction Home" about homelessness in India, was screened at three venues in India in the spring of 2016: on 3/20/2016 at the Alliance Francaise de Delhi Cine Club, in collaboration with the Centre for Social Science and Humanities of the Embassy of France. The screening was followed by a panel discussion and drew an audience of about 80 people; on 4/10/2016 in Chandigarh at the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development; and on 4/28/2016 at Studio X, Columbia Global Centers in Mumbai, followed by a panel discussion on the issue of homelessness in India. Hilary Silver is a professor in the Department of Sociology at Brown University.

AIIS (2015-2016) senior fellow **Vidya Dehejia**, a professor in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University, delivered the annual A. W. Mellon Lectures in the Fine Arts at the National Gallery in Washington once a week for five weeks in April and May 2016. She discussed the topic, "The Material Life of Sacred Bronzes in Chola India, c. 850-1280" which was the subject of her AIIS research project. In her first lecture, she addressed the issue of where the copper used to make the bronze statues came from as the region where the statues were created lacked copper deposits. A piece about the lecture series—which was free and open to the public, appeared in the Washington Post on April 8, 2016: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/arts-and-entertainment/wp/2016/04/06/the-national-gallery-mellon-lectures-off-to-promising-start/>

Cynthia Packert, a professor in the Department of History of Art at Middlebury College, whose most recent AIIS fellowship was in 2011, was awarded a prestigious fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation to carry out her project on the Swaminarayan Hindu sect, based in Gujarat, that has established a recognizable sectarian identity through its distinctive visual culture of elaborate temple arts and architecture. This year the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation awarded fellowships to 178 scholars, artists and scientists.

AIIS (2015-2016) senior fellow **Sumathi Ramaswamy**, a professor in the Department of History at Duke University, received the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation's Anneliese Maier Research Award for this year. She will spend her award period at the Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies at Heidelberg University. Each award is valued at €250,000 and is granted to

outstanding humanities scholars and social scientists who are nominated by collaborative partners at German universities and research institutions.

Current AIIS fellow **Indira Peterson**, a professor in the Department of Asian Studies at Mount Holyoke College, and who is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, has been very busy sharing her research with audiences in cities around India. On October 17, 2016 she delivered the 2016-2017 Lokmanya Tilak Memorial Lecture at the Department of History, Savitribai Phule Pune University in Pune on the topic "Ganga Kaveri Samvad: The Hybrid Culture of the Maratha Court of Tanjavur." Dr. Nirmala Kulkarni of the Centre for Advanced Study in Sanskrit, Pune chaired the session. The program was attended by more than 50 people. On October 18 Professor Peterson gave a talk at the India International Centre in New Delhi entitled "A European Library in Nineteenth-Century India: The Enlightenment World of King Sefroji II of Tanjore." The talk was attended by approximately 40 people, including noted historians Romila Thapar and Kapila Vatsayan. The following day she delivered a lecture at the Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi called "Drama, the Court, and the Public in Maratha Thanjavur: The Multilingual Yakshaganas of Shahji." She also delivered a lecture "King Serfoji and the Thanjavur Temple: Chola and Maratha Heritage in Colonial South India" at the National Museum, New Delhi on October 21. She will deliver additional lectures in Mumbai and Pune in December.

On July 26, 2016 current AIIS senior fellow **Priti Ramamurthy** of the University of Washington, together with her research collaborator, AIIS senior fellow Professor **Vinay Gidwani** of the University of Minnesota, made a presentation entitled, "Geographies of Care and Intimacy: Early Insights from Oral Histories of Informal Sector Migrants in Delhi and Hyderabad" at the Centre for Policy Research, Chanakypuri, Delhi as part of their Urban Workshop Series, sponsored by the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and Centre des Sciences Humaines (CSH), Delhi. The workshop, open to all, was attended by 44 policy researchers, academics, graduate students, activists, and interested lay people. The presentation, in which Indian project collaborators, Sunil Kumar and Lokesh (labor activists and researchers) also participated, was followed by a lively discussion for more than one and a half hours. Professor Ramamurthy and her

colleagues presented preliminary insights on their research into the intimate lives of first- and second- generation rural-to-urban migrants in Delhi and Hyderabad. Professor Ramamurthy gave another presentation about her research on August 17, 2016 at the Indian Institute of Technology in Hyderabad. The talk was sponsored by the Department of Liberal Arts as part of their weekly seminar series.

Former (2013-2014) AIIS performing arts fellow **Aakash Mittal** performed at the Indian Embassy in Washington, DC on April 22, 2016 at an event called 'New World Raga': Communicating Across Musical Cultures, that was part of the Indian Embassy's Performing India Series. Aakash Mittal, who played the saxophone, was joined by fellow musicians Payton MacDonald and Reena Esmail.

Amy Allocco, associate professor of Religious Studies at Elon University (AIIS fellow 2015-2016) who was supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, organized a conference at the University of Madras in Chennai called "To Take Place: Culture, Religion, and Home-making in and beyond South Asia" together with James Ponniah, assistant professor in the Department of Christian Studies at University of Madras. The conference, which was held on July 28-29, 2016, attracted more than 50 attendees and featured 16 presenters from throughout India and five other countries. Speakers addressed the means and practices by which migrants, displaced persons and various other sub-communities in South Asia establish physical, conceptual and emotional spaces that put them at home or give rise to conflict with other groups.



Professor Amy Allocco and conference participants in Chennai, July 2016

AIIS Works with University of Virginia Study Abroad Program

Launched in spring 2016, The UVA in India spring semester program in Delhi offers an immersive experience for students interested in India, South Asian Studies, and Hindi language, with the opportunity to engage in an integrated research methods and internship/research component. The program is led by Professor Geeta Patel of the UVA Department of Middle Eastern and South Asian Languages and Culture. It is supported by AIIS and hosted at Jamia Millia Islamia University in South Delhi. The students take classes at Jamia Millia Islamia University with other Indian students. The courses include The Pleasures of Bollywood, Interdisciplinary Research Methods, Global Studies Research, Beginner Hindi and Intermediate Hindi. In addition to their course work, students carry out internships twice a week. One UVA group at the feminist NGO "Action India" worked on urban space and waste, sanitation, informal building, class and gender; designing future plans for the capital city. Students also take field trips, including one on which they had the opportunity to ride camels.

U.S. Ambassador to India Richard R. Verma said the University of Virginia's new program in India is a model for the types of engagement his office is encouraging with its Passport to India program, which is aimed at increasing Americans' engagement with India.



UVA program participants at Humayun's Tomb in Delhi

AIIS Partners with the University of Chicago Center in Delhi on Lecture Series

AIIS is a partner in the University of Chicago Center in Delhi's "Connection Series." Other partners are the American Center and the U.S.-India Educational Foundation (USIEF). AIIS co-sponsored a talk given by Professor John Echeverri-Gent of the University of Virginia entitled "India and the United States in the New Global Order" at the University of Chicago Center in Delhi in July 2016. The discussant was Eswaran Sridharan, the Academic Director of the University of Pennsylvania Institute for the Advanced Study of India in Delhi. Further lectures in the series are being planned for 2017. AIIS launched another collaboration with Jadavpur University in Kolkata to cosponsor the AIIS/Jadavpur University Lecture Series. These ventures are intended to increase opportunities for AIIS fellows and former fellows to present their research to scholarly audiences and also to provide enhanced opportunities for scholarly interaction among all scholars associated with AIIS.



AIIS Sponsors Showcase on New Research Panels at AAS Meetings for the Third Year

AIIS has been sponsoring panels at the Association for Asian Studies annual meetings for the past three years. These panels are intended to be an opportunity for young scholars—mostly former AIIS junior fellows—to share their dissertation research with the scholarly community and to highlight the AIIS fellowship program. This year the AIIS sponsored two panels—AIIS Showcase on New Research-- at the AAS meetings in Seattle on April 1-2, 2016. The panels were supported by a grant from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

The first panel, entitled, "Urban Charisma and the Margins of Democracy in Urban India" probed the enchantments and incitements of the contemporary Indian city from the vantage point of the 'margins,' exploring the scope and limits of urbanism as the site of democratic possibility in contemporary India. Building on neo-Lefebvrian urban theory, the panelists conceptualized the city not as a geographically discrete location, but as a particular and contingent manifestation of broader urban sociocultural and material processes. The four

panelists brought together ethnographic research that explores the 'margin' as a location from which to assess the 'urban', as well as urban marginality as a dense intersection of heterogeneous processes, practices and flows of materials, social ties, finance, ideas, technologies and images.

Lisa Bjorkman, who held an AIIS junior fellowship in 2008-2009 and is now an assistant professor of Urban and Public Affairs at the University of Louisville, contributed a paper entitled, "Brokerage from the Margins: Mumbai's Vital Infrastructures of Urbanism." Atreyee Majumder, who held an AIIS junior fellowship in 2011-2012 and is now a post-doctoral fellow in the Jackson Humanities Institute at the University of Toronto, delivered a paper, "Differentiated Charisma and the Crossing of a River." Uday Chandra, who held an AIIS fellowship in 2011-2012 and is currently an assistant professor of Government at Georgetown University Qatar, presented a paper "Stitching Selves, Spanning Spaces: Migrants and Mobility in Mumbai." Rohan Kalyan, an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, gave a presentation called, "Deception in the Postcolonial City: A Cinematic Critique."

The second panel was organized by AIIS junior fellows who participated in the January 2015 annual junior fellows conference in New Delhi and decided that their different research projects addressed some common themes. The panel that grew out of these discussions was "The Unexpected Functions of Temples: India, ca. 600 CE to the Present." This panel addressed the dynamic ways in which temples in India function, by stressing their material and

cultural production and reproduction over time. Taking a broad historical view, the panelists discussed topics including: how does the sourcing of stone link a temple to regional communities? How does high-tech production inspire iconicity? Does the tourist photographing a temple say something new about the apparatuses of devotion, or does it reinforce existing patterns of seeking darshan and recording pilgrimage? How do temples impact their worlds, both as architecture and as spaces of the imagination? Four scholars, all of whom were AIIS junior fellows in 2014-2015, delivered papers:

Emma Natalya Stein, graduate student in the Department of History of Art at Yale University, delivered a paper "Building Kanchi in the Temple-Boom Age (ca. 8th-13th Centuries CE)." Jay Ramesh, a graduate student in the Department of Religion at Columbia University gave a presentation entitled, "Monuments and Memory: The Literary Imagination of Early Modern Kumbakonam." Kartik Nair, a graduate student in the Department of Cinema Studies at New York University, gave a paper, "The Monster and the Shrine: Temples in 1980s' Hindi Horror Films." Ankur Desai, a graduate student in the Department of History of Art at Ohio State University, delivered the last paper, "Shipping the *Mandir*: Creating Stone-crafted Temples in the Contemporary World." Padma Maitland, a graduate student in the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, and 2014-2015 AIIS junior fellow, was the discussant on this panel; he considered the role of temples as memorials in contemporary political debates.



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 2016-2017:

Tenzin Bhuchung, a graduate student in the Graduate Division of Religion at Emory University, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out his project, "Maitripada: A Missing Link in the Transmission of Buddhism to Tibet." Mr. Bhuchung's fellowship is funded by a grant from the U.S. State Department Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), through the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC).

Erica Bornstein, an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, was awarded a senior short-term fellowship to carry out her project, "New Avenues, Changing Landscapes: Regulatory

Reform of the Voluntary Sector." Professor Bornstein's fellowship is funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC

Damien Carriere, a graduate student in the Department of Geography at the University of Minnesota, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out his project, "Filtering Class Through Space: The Geography of Delhi's Security Guards."

Utathya Chattopadhyaya, a graduate student in the Department of History at the University of Illinois, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out his project, "Intoxication and Imperialism in Eastern India, 1840-1940." Mr. Chattopadhyaya is the

recipient of the Metcalf Fellowship in Indian History.

Amy Cohen, a professor in the Moritz College of Law at Ohio State University, was awarded a scholarly development fellowship to carry out her project, "The Legal and Regulatory Architecture of Supermarkets in India." Professor Cohen's fellowship is funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

John Echeverri-Gent, an associate professor in the Department of Politics at the University of Virginia, was awarded a senior short-term fellowship to carry out his project, "The Politics of India's Financial Market Reform." Professor Echeverri-Gent's fellowship is funded by a grant from ECA through CAORC.

Aleksandra Gordeeva, a graduate student in the Department of Religious Studies at Yale University, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out her project, "The Making of Jain Drama in Medieval Gujarat: Jain Monks as Poets and Politicians at the Caulukya Court, ca. 12th-13th Centuries." Ms Gordeeva is the recipient of the Rachel F. and Scott McDermott Fellowship.

Samana Gururaja, a graduate student in the Department of South Asia Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out her project, "Patronage, Performance and Sociability: A Study of Hoysala Temples as Courtly Centers." Ms Gururaja is the recipient of the Thomas R. Trautmann Fellowship. Ms Gururaja's fellowship is funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

Brian Hatcher, a professor in the Department of Religion at Tufts University, was awarded a senior short-term fellowship to carry out his project, "Networking Shiva: The Movement and Emplacement of Religion in Colonial Bengal." Professor Hatcher's fellowship is funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

Randeep Singh Hothi, a graduate student in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Michigan, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out his project, "Global Disseminations of Sikhism: An Ethnographic Study of Sikh Television Production in Punjab." Mr. Hothi's fellowship is funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

Ansley Joye Jones, a Hip Hop artist, was awarded a

performing/creative arts fellowship to carry out her project, "The Jukeboxx Movement: Hip Hop Feminist Campaign Against Sexual Assault."

Sonal Khullar, an associate professor in the School of Art, Art History and Design at the University of Washington, was awarded a senior short-term fellowship to carry out her project, "The Art of Dislocation: Conflict and Collaboration in Contemporary Art from South Asia."

Julia Kowalski, a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology and Sociology at North Dakota State University, was awarded a senior short-term fellowship to carry out her project, "Between Rights and Kinship: The History of Family Counseling in Jaipur, Rajasthan." Professor Kowalski's fellowship is funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

Neema Kudva, an associate professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning at Cornell University, was awarded a senior fellowship to carry out her project, "Waste in the Nilgiris." Professor Kudva's fellowship is funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

Robert Linrothe, an associate professor in the Department of Art History at Northwestern University, was awarded a senior fellowship to carry out his project, "Donor Portraits on 9th-13th Century Sculpture in Eastern India." Professor Linrothe's fellowship is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

Puja Maewal, a film maker, was awarded a performing and creative arts fellowship to carry out her project, "Estranged from Justice: Divorce from the Female Perspective in Modern India."

Arathi Menon, a graduate student in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out her project, "Kerala Hipped and Gabled: An Atypical Sacred Style." Ms Menon is the recipient of the Asher Family Fellowship. Ms Menon's fellowship is funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

Daniel Michon, an associate professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Claremont McKenna College, was awarded a senior short-term fellowship to carry out his project, "Performing Piety: Female Self-Fashioning in Seventeenth Century Goa." Professor Michon's fellowship is

funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

Kartik Misra, a graduate student in the Department of Economics at the University of Massachusetts, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out his project, "Heterogeneous Wage Impact of MGNREGS in India: Are Winners Historically Determined?"

Galen Murray, a graduate student in the Department of Political Science at the University of California, Los Angeles, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out his project, "Do Criminal Politicians Deliver? Accessing State Resources in Bihar." Mr. Murray's fellowship is funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

Shailaja Paik, an assistant professor in the Department of History at the University of Cincinnati, was awarded a senior fellowship to carry out her project, "The Politics of Performance: Caste, Sexuality, and Discrimination in Popular Culture in Modern Maharashtra." Professor Paik's fellowship is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Pranav Prakash, a graduate student in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Iowa, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out his project, "Hasan- Dihlavi and Sufi Poetry." Mr. Prakash is the recipient of the Thomas W. Simons Fellowship.

Lucinda Ramberg, an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at Cornell University, was awarded a senior short-term fellowship to carry out her project, "We Were Always Buddhist: The Contemporary Life of Ancient Buddhism in South India." Professor Ramberg's fellowship is funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

Gayatri Reddy, an associate professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Illinois, was awarded a senior fellowship to carry out her project, "The Karma of Black Folk: Siddis and the Meanings of 'Race' and Masculinity in Hyderabad." Professor Reddy's fellowship is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Yasmin Saikia, a professor in the School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies at Arizona State University, was awarded a senior short-term fellowship to carry out her project, "Freedom from Colonialism: Middle Actors'

Imagination of Emancipation." Professor Saikia's fellowship is funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

Jason Schwartz, a graduate student in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out his project, "Universalizing Dharma: Juridical Foundations of Hindu Religious Diversity." Mr. Schwartz is the recipient of the Ludo and Rosane Rocher Research Fellowship in Sanskrit Studies. Mr. Schwartz's fellowship is funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

Aaron Sherraden, a graduate student in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Texas, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out his project, "In Search of Sambuka." Mr. Sherraden's fellowship is funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

Anooradha Siddiqi, an assistant professor in the Gallatin School at New York University, was awarded a senior short-term fellowship to carry out her project, "Vocal Instruments: Minnette De Silva and an Asian Modern Architecture." Professor Siddiqi's fellowship is funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

Janet Um, a graduate student in the Department of South and Southeast Asia Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out her project "Urban Space and the Poetics of Prose: Dandin's Narrative Works in Early Medieval India." Ms Um is the recipient of the Daniel H. H. Ingalls Memorial Fellowship. Ms Um's fellowship is funded by a grant from the ECA through CAORC.

Aniruddhan Vasudevan, a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Texas, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out his project, "From Pride to Self-Respect: Caste Politics and LGBT Activism in Chennai." Mr. Vasudevan is the recipient of the Joe Elder College Year in India Junior Fellowship.

Rupali Warke, a graduate student in the Department of History at the University of Texas, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out her project, "Secluded Capital: Royal Women Entrepreneurs of the Maratha States, 1750-1860." Ms Warke is the recipient of the Rajendra Vora Fellowship for the Study of Society and Culture in Maharashtra.

Honoring Our Colleagues, Aiding Our Fellows

AIIS is pleased to announce a new research award and a new named fellowship: The Vina Sanyal Research Award and the Kumkum Chatterjee Memorial Fellowship in Indian History.



Vina Sanyal, née Boolchand (1933–2011) was a vivacious person with tremendous energy and intellectual curiosity. This award has been set up by her daughter 2012-2013 AIIS fellow Usha Sanyal, as a way of honoring her memory.

Vina Sanyal's life unfolded in an international context in ways that were unusual for a woman of her generation. She was born in Delhi. In 1949, when her father, Dr. Boolchand, received a one-year appointment to UNESCO in Paris as head of Staff Training, she

traveled alone by ship at age 16 from France to the United States, to attend Smith College in Northampton, Mass. After completing her sophomore year at Smith, in 1950 she returned to France and began intensive French language study while also enrolling at the prestigious Institut d'Études Politiques (Sciences Po), University of Paris, the premier educational institution where a number of French heads of state have trained. She graduated in 1953, aged 19, one of only 62 students (out of about 1,000 in her entering class) to do so that year. Her mother, Mrs. Boolchand, studied French alongside her daughters in Paris and later became professor and head of the French department at Punjab University, Chandigarh.

In 1959 Vina joined the Government of India's Department of Tourism at its headquarters in New Delhi. She worked there in various capacities, including in its Publicity Wing where she oversaw the production of promotional literature, films, and advertising campaigns conducted by the Department's international offices worldwide. Being a fluent French speaker, she served as Director of Tourism for many years in Geneva, Switzerland, liaising with field offices in Spain, Austria, and elsewhere in Europe. In addition, she traveled widely with her diplomat husband, Bimalendu Kumar Sanyal, accompanying him on his postings to Laos, Argentina, and Algeria. She represented India at the World Trade Organization, served on the board at the Alliance Francaise in New Delhi, and after her retirement in the early 1990s ran her own tour company, Maharani Voyages, which specialized in serving the French-speaking traveler market to India.

This award of \$1,000 will be given annually to a junior fellow with a particularly ambitious project for which a research supplement would be merited.



Kumkum Chatterjee, a professor in the Department of History at Pennsylvania State University passed away in State College, PA on December 13, 2012, after a courageous battle against cancer. Her colleague Professor Mrinalini Sinha described her as "a distinguished scholar of South Asian history, a wonderful colleague, an inspiring teacher and mentor, a dedicated citizen at Penn State University and in the profession at large, an exceptional human being, and a very dear friend." Professor Chatterjee had been the AIIS trustee from Penn State from 2001 until the time of her death, had served on the AIIS executive committee from 2002-2005 and also served three years on the AIIS selection committee, the second year of her service as the committee chair.

Professor Chatterjee received her Ph.D from Calcutta University in Kolkata and taught in the History Department at Penn State starting in 1989. She was a preeminent scholar of early modern South Asia whose corpus of work helped to redefine the field of the early modern period in South Asia as well as its place in the world. She was the author of two monographs--*Merchants, Politics and Society in Early Modern India, Bihar 1733-1820* (1996) and *The Cultures of History in Early Modern India: Persianization and Mughal Culture in Bengal* (2009) and of several articles published in leading journals, including *Modern Asian Studies* and the *American Historical Review*. She was working on a new project on the currency of Mughal political culture in eastern India at the time of her death.

Professor Chatterjee's work on India covered a period from roughly the seventeenth century to the early nineteenth century, from the Mughal through the post-Mughal to the early "Company" period. Her work focused on merchants and scribes, on trade and political culture, on historical and travel writing, on Bihar and Bengal, and on courtly and popular culture. She worked with official East India Company archives as well as with a range of published and unpublished manuscript sources in Sanskrit, Persian, Bengali, and English. More recently, she was branching out into exploring visual culture. This unusual range shares a central theme: a commitment to understanding the contours of the early modern world in its own terms.

Every year an AIIS fellow will be designated as the recipient of this fellowship. The honor will be accompanied by a research supplement to support the recipient's project in India.

Bernard Bate Tamil Language Student Scholarship



AIIS and the friends and colleagues of the late Bernard Bate established the Bernard Bate Tamil Language Student Scholarship in partnership with the longstanding AIIS language program. Donations to the scholarship fund will go towards the support of students dedicated to the intensive study of Tamil language and culture at the AIIS language center in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. This scholarship honors the memory of Professor Bernard Bate who, tragically, died suddenly in the prime of life in March 2016. Barney Bates' longtime love of Tamil, and remarkable proficiency in this beautiful language, were fostered by the year he spent as a student and recipient of a fellowship for the AIIS Advanced Tamil Language Program in Madurai in 1988-89. His friends and

colleagues determined that creating a fund to support instruction in this less commonly taught language that Barney loved would be an excellent way to honor his memory and celebrate his scholarly career.

Bernard Bate explored the theory, ethnography, and history of political oratory and rhetoric in the Tamil worlds of South Asia. The). He was a member of the inaugural faculty of Yale-NUS College, National University of Singapore. At the time of his passing, he was a Stanford Humanities Center Fellow where he was working on his book project *Protestant Textuality*. He was the author of *Tamil Oratory and the Dravidian Aesthetic*, (Columbia, 2009/Oxford India, 2011) which offers a genealogy of Tamil political oratory and the emergence of vernacular politics in the Tamil-speaking lands of India and Sri Lanka. The book argues that sermonic genres introduced by Protestant missionaries in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, fused with culturally and historically deeper forms and aesthetics of language, provided the communicative infrastructure that enabled a new kind of agent, the vernacular politician, to address and mobilize a modern Tamil people within a distinctive social imaginary. Barney had received an NEH-supported AIIS Senior Research Fellowship in 2008-09 for the project "Speaking the Public Sphere: Tamil Oratory and Linguistic Modernity," that resulted in his book. Professor Bate was a Linguistic Anthropologist with a PhD from the University of Chicago.



American Institute of Indian Studies

1130 E. 59th Street
Chicago, IL 60637
Telephone: (773) 702-8638
aiis@uchicago.edu

President
Philip Lutgendorf

Director-General
Purnima Mehta

U.S. Director/Newsletter Editor
Elise Auerbach

Members of the American Institute of Indian Studies

American University	Stanford University
Amherst College	SUNY, Buffalo
Arizona State University	SUNY, Stony Brook
Boston University	Syracuse University
Bowling Green State University	Temple University
Brandeis University	Texas A & M University
Brown University	Tufts University
Bucknell University	University of Arizona
Carleton College	University of California, Berkeley
Claremont McKenna College	University of California, Irvine
Cleveland State University	University of California, Los Angeles
Colby College	University of California, Santa Barbara
College of Charleston	University of Chicago
Colgate University	University of Cincinnati
Columbia University	University of Colorado
Cornell University	University of Dayton
Dartmouth College	University of Florida
Davidson College	University of Hawaii
Duke University	University of Houston
Emory University	University of Illinois
Florida State University	University of Iowa
George Mason University	University of Kansas
George Washington University	University of Massachusetts, Boston
Georgetown University	University of Michigan
Harvard University	University of Minnesota
Independent Scholars of South Asia	University of Missouri
Indiana University	University of Nebraska
James Madison University	University of North Carolina
Johns Hopkins University	University of North Texas
Kansas State University	University of Oregon
Kennesaw State University	University of Pennsylvania
Loyola Marymount University	University of Pittsburgh
Michigan State University	University of Texas
Middlebury College	University of Utah
New School University	University of Virginia
New York University	University of Washington
North Carolina State University	University of Wisconsin
Northern Arizona University	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Oberlin College	Wake Forest University
Ohio State University	Washington University, St. Louis
Pennsylvania State University	Wellesley College
Princeton University	Wesleyan University
Rutgers University	Yale University