



SOUTH ASIAN NEWS

Center for South Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii, Manoa
www.hawaii.edu/csas

Spring 2011

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Letter From the Director / Monisha Das Gupta

CSAS has had an active year of programming – a mix of academic talks, performances, and community events. The collaborations we have been able to enter with departments across campus to host South Asian Studies experts as well as the support for our events from community members outside of the university have allowed the Center to continue to be dynamic, and made my first year as the director very fulfilling. The Center has been able to maintain its support for the teaching of Urdu. We have welcomed a newly-hired colleague in Philosophy, Dr. Rajam Raghunathan, to our affiliate faculty. She brings a rare expertise in Indian, Buddhist and Ancient Greek philosophical traditions. While the process of hiring for the next academic year is not over as I write, several departments interviewed scholars whose research and teaching focused on South Asia.

At a time of economic challenges, we are encouraged by the growing visibility of and interest in South Asia at the university. The CSAS is proud to announce the Jagdish P. Sharma Memorial Scholarship, that has been set up to support a graduate student in a degree program in the College of Arts & Sciences. The scholarship honors late UH South Asian historian Jagdish Sharma, who was a key member of

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75th Anniversary of South Asia Collection

By Monica Ghosh, South Asia Librarian UHM

Seventy-five years ago, when the Oriental Institute began collecting materials on India, South Asia was not yet regarded as an Area of study. The British Parliament had just passed the Government of India Act, which would lead to Independence, and Persia had just changed its name to Iran.

Led by university philosophy professor Charles Moore, the Oriental Institute began acquiring materials on Sanskrit, Indian philosophy, and religion. Later, rare materials from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries were added to the collection.

In 1962, the East-West Center Library joined the South Asia Cooperative Acquisitions Program, and stepped up collecting South Asia materials in an increasingly wide variety of disciplines and languages, including vernacular languages. In 1970, the East-West Center Library was absorbed into the University of Hawai'i Library, and the materials were relocated (first to Sinclair and then Hamilton Library).

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Letter From Director

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our academic community, and unstintedly mentored countless students, all of whom remember him fondly.

During the summer, the CSAS held a very unique event to celebrate Urdu poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz's centennial with an afternoon of his liquid poetry, and a glimpse into Faiz the poet, the political figure, and a father in his daughter, Moneeza Hashmi's reminiscences. We also learned about the time he spent here as an East-West Center scholar through historian Arfa Sayeda Zehra. The gathering gave me chance to meet many members of our community, who were crucial to the very first CSAS event in the fall semester, a teach-in about the floods in Pakistan and the havoc it had wreaked. Faculty and student presenters shed light on the causes and cost of the disaster, and pointed out the various ways in which we could help. I want to thank our community members, students, and faculty for the tremendous outpouring of support, and for their donations – half of which went to the Edhi Foundation, one of the largest humanitarian assistance organization in Pakistan, and the other half to Tahira Abdullah, human rights activist, who has been working directly with those affected by the flood in Swat Valley.

In addition to the academic ferment created by the speakers who are brought to campus through the Rama Watumull Collaborative Lecture Series, we were able to host two dance lecture-demonstrations, one featuring Bharatnatyam, and the other Kathakali. We are delighted to announce that Bharatnatyam dancer and teacher, Dr. Anita Shanmugathan, the creative director of the Aeka Academy of Fine Arts in Chennai, will be the Rama Watumull Distinguished Indian Scholar in the fall of 2011. She will be based in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Our annual Spring Symposium this year to be held between April 6 and April 8 is themed, "Media, Culture, Democracy." As a result of the enthusiastic response to the topic, we have been able to put together an exciting program that will feature Dr. Arvind Rajagopal, who has written extensively on how media shapes the Indian public sphere, Ms. Mehreen Jabbar, an acclaimed Pakistani director/producer, and Dr. Nitasha Sharma, who has recently published a book about South Asian hip hop artists in the United States. Scholars from universities in the United States, Fiji, and Asia will be presenting at the symposium. Please join us for our events.

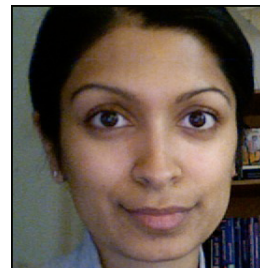
The symposium will also launch the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Hamilton Library's South Asia collection, which has been a premier resource for scholars who visit us from South Asia as well as for those of us who work on the region at the university. Please find updates about CSAS news and events at <http://www.hawaii.edu/csas/>. With the generous support of the School of Pacific and Asian Studies we are in the process of redesigning our webpage to give it a new and dynamic look. Please also check our new Facebook page, and "like" us. Our symposium will come in the wake of the Asian Studies conference (March 31-April 3) to be held in Honolulu this year. There are more than 50 panels and roundtables on South Asia, and we will get a chance to reconnect with several out-of-town friends of CSAS.

In closing, I want to thank the members of the CSAS Executive Committee, who are most generous with their time, and the work of the CSAS coordinator, Rohan Kalyan. All these activities have been made possible with their support, and with the endowments of the Watumull family.

Aloha!

CSAS Welcomes Dr. Rajam Raghunathan

The Department of Philosophy at UHM added Dr. Rajam Raghunathan to its faculty. Dr. Raghunathan received her doctorate in the Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies at Harvard University in 2010. Her primary areas of focus include Indian Buddhist Philosophy, Indian Philosophy and Ancient Greek Philosophy. We had a chance to sit down with Dr. Raghunathan to find out more about her.



CSAS: Where are you from originally?

Rajam: I was born in Ottawa, Canada, and grew up in a French-speaking area. My parents are from Tamil-speaking Kerala, and my dad migrated to Canada in 1967.

CSAS: So in addition to French and English, what other languages do you speak?

Rajam: I also speak Tamil, Japanese, and I read Sanskrit, classical Tibetan and Attic Greek.

CSAS: Wow, that is awesome! How did you become interested in philosophy?

Rajam: Before I was interested in philosophy I was very much a student of science. I was most interested in Biology and Chemistry. I never considered myself a good writer, but I kept trying. And I also read a lot. I got into novelists like Salman Rushdie and became an avid reader before going full-fledged into the humanities. I got into philosophy because of my dad. He was very interested in ancient Indian philosophy and Sanskrit.

CSAS: What are your impressions of the presence of South Asia on campus and in the community?

Rajam: I've been thrilled with the people I have met so far who are engaged with or come from South Asia. I also had a chance to go to the Diwali function this past fall, which was great!

CSAS: How do you like Hawaii so far?

Rajam: I love Hawaii so far! It is very pretty and nice, one of the most beautiful places I've ever lived.

75th Anniversary of South Asia Collection

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Under the direction of South Asia Librarian Lynette Wageman, who managed and developed the materials until 1994, the South Asia Collection, as it was now called, grew into one of the preeminent repositories of South Asia materials.

Today, the collection is rich in resources about South Asia, and filled with treasures. Several of these are rare items, held in the Special Research Collection, such as Views of India, an album of fifty-four water-color views of architectural sites at Agra, Delhi, and Mathura; Thomas Pennant's Indian Zoology, a beautifully illustrated volume on animals and birds on the subcontinent; travel accounts by William Hodges, who accompanied Captain Cook on his second voyage; and art prints of Hindu icons by Atul Basu, a Calcutta (Kolkata) artist, active in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

While rare materials and original documents, in any form, are a prized feature of library collections, the South Asia collection actively works to make its holdings digitally accessible, and to partner with other institutions on digitization projects. Some recent in-house moves in this direction include two photo digitization projects--photos of Mohandas K. Gandhi, and images of India post-independence.

Faculty and Student News

Sai Bhatawadekar (Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures)

Dr. Sai Bhatawadekar has been reinventing and expanding the Hindi-Urdu program in the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures. In April 2010 she presented her Hindi curriculum design and “contextual, cultural and creative pedagogical approach” in the South Asian Language Teachers’ Association conference held in conjunction with National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages. Her article entitled “Locating the Diaspora: *Delhi 6* and Its Challenge to Bollywood’s Image of the Transnational Indian” is forthcoming in the *Journal of South Asian Popular Culture*. Her research in transnational studies also expands to the field of comparative philosophy and cross-cultural hermeneutics. She is currently working on an article entitled “Schopenhauer’s ‘tat tvam asi:’ Hermeneutic Complexity, Deductive Recontextualization, and Discrepancies” for an upcoming anthology on Orientalism and Transnationalism. Dr. Bhatawadekar continues to work on her two book projects: Hegel’s and Schopenhauer’s interpretation of Hinduism, and elementary and intermediate Hindi language textbook and video workbook. This year she will present her research at several conferences, including those organized by the Comparative and Continental Philosophy Circle, South Asian Language Teachers’ Association, Athens Institute for Education and Research, and Task Based Language Teaching.

Ned Bertz (Department of History)

This past year, Ned published an essay in a University of Mumbai working paper series entitled “Africa and its ‘Outsiders’: Nationalism, Race, and the Problem of the Indian Diaspora in African History.” He also contributed a feature article in a special journal edition dedicated to Indian Ocean studies titled “Indian Ocean World Cinema: Viewing the History of Race, Diaspora, and Nationalism in Urban Tanzania.” This spring a third article should see the light of day, a book chapter called “Traces of the Past, Fragments for the Future: South-South Cooperation in the Indian Ocean.” In April 2010 he gave a talk (“Portals to the Indian Ocean World: Islam, Maritime Exchange, and the Doors of Zanzibar”) at the lovely Shangri-La, the Doris Duke Museum of Islamic Art (the scenery stole the show that day!). In November, Ned was invited to give a

special lecture at a colloquium in Sydney, Australia, about his research on transnational South Asian cinema in the Indian Ocean region. In addition to speaking about the Indian Ocean world, he traveled to Tanzania and India over winter break 2010-1 to conduct follow-up research for his manuscript on the history of race and nationalism in the region. Back in the classroom, last summer he taught at the “Infusing South Asian Studies into the Undergraduate Curriculum” summer institute offered by the Asian Studies Development Program of the East-West Center. Last fall Ned realized a long-term dream and raised the curtain on a brand new course about the history of Indian popular cinema. In conjunction with this class and his survey courses on South Asian history, his ongoing UH Bollywood film series over the course of the year drew almost 1000 (mostly enthusiastic, sometimes bewildered or bemused) students and members of the campus community. In addition to offering a graduate seminar and an independent readings courses on South Asia, advising three MA students and sitting on two Ph.D. committees related to South Asia, Ned was also proud to assist two honors students complete their respective theses on colonial Indian history (Richard Forster) and youth in contemporary Nepal (Nada McClellan), and assist a third to conduct fieldwork in Dhaka, Bangladesh for her forthcoming thesis (Kathy Nii). He received an excellence in teaching award from the College of Arts and Humanities and the UH Board of Regents in recognition of his efforts.

Priyam Das (Department of Urban and Regional Planning)

Priyam Das attended the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Conference, held in Minneapolis, from October 6-10, 2010. While in Minnesota, she presented a paper entitled “Collective action around service delivery: does gender matter?” She also attended the Urban Affairs Association (UAA) Conference, which was located right here in Honolulu, from March 10-13, 2010. She presented a paper entitled “Community management of water supply for the urban poor: glass half empty or half full?” Both these papers were based on research in Madhya Pradesh, India.

Richard Forster (Department of History)

Richard Forster, who is currently working on his MA in South Asian History with the help of the East-West Center in the form of a Graduate Degree Fellowship, received a Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship to study

intermediate-level Urdu at the University of Wisconsin at Madison's South Asia Summer Language Institute (SASLI) during the summer of 2010. He reports that it was a challenging but rewarding experience with five hours per day in class and as many more required just to keep up with the homework, and that he loved that there are a lot of great Indian restaurants within walking distance of campus. His article "Mughals, Maghs, Portuguese Pirates and Persian Poets: Early Modern Arakan in a Cosmopolitan Bay of Bengal World" is due to be published in *Explorations*, the graduate journal of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Monica Ghosh

South Asia Librarian

Monica Ghosh, South Asia Librarian, attended a Focus Group Meeting (FGM) in Chicago on November 12. The FGM was sponsored by the Taylor and Francis Group to discuss the best possible way to develop the South Asian Cultural & Historical Archive (SACHA), an online digital archive of a very large collection of rare Indian reports, government documents, ephemera, vernacular language journals and other material from 1700 through the early 20th century (1950). Ten South Asian Studies expert librarians, and ten South Asia teaching faculty were invited to attend the FGM -- besides UH, participants represented the University of Chicago, UCLA, Stanford University, NYU, Syracuse, University of Illinois, Rutgers University, Missouri State, University of Cincinnati, University of Colorado, Fairfield University, and from Canada, University of Toronto, and York University. Selected individuals will continue to provide input as the South Asian Archive Expert Group.

Uzma Khan

(Department of English)

Uzma Khan's third novel *The Geometry of God* (Interlink/Clockroot Books 2009) was the winner of the Bronze Award in the Independent Publishers Book Awards 2010, was Foreword Magazine's Best Books of 2009 Finalist, and featured in Kirkus Reviews' Best Books of 2009. In 2010, *The Geometry of God* was released in the UK, France, and Italy. On October 9, 2010, Uzma appeared on West Coast Live, Sedge Thomson's radio show. She read from *The Geometry of God*, followed by a discussion of her ideas and work. The program was aired live from the San Francisco Ferry Building. On October 12, 2010, Uzma read from *The Geometry of God* at Revolution Books, Berkeley, CA. In September 2010, Uzma's short story "Ice, Mating" was published in *Granta* 112: Pakistan. She launched the

magazine's West Coast release in San Francisco in a series of readings, including, on October 9, at LitQuake/LitCrawl, Modern Times Bookstore, San Francisco. And on October 11, with two readings at the Marin School in Sausalito. At both events, she read portions of "Ice, Mating," followed by a lively Q & A. In October 2010, Uzma presented a paper at a "War in Literature and Film" panel at the Rocky Mountain Modern Languages Association (RMMLA) conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Her paper was entitled "Consequences of War in a Literature of Conflict Course". In January 2011, her short story "The Missing" was published in *Tehelka* magazine's Fiction Issue.

S. Shankar

Department of English

S. Shankar completed his second term as Director of CSAS in 2010. He spent the Fall semester of 2010 directing a Study Abroad Program in London. In 2010, his article "Necessity and Desire: Water and Coca Cola in India" appeared in the anthology *Cultural History and the Global Corporation* edited by Purnima Bose and Laura Lyons. He gave invited lectures on translation, on Coca-Cola and the politics of water, on Bollywood, and on literature and caste respectively at the Central University of Tamil Nadu in India, the National University of Ireland in Galway, Michigan State University, and Roehampton University in London. In addition, he presented at the Rethinking Marxism conference and the Annual Convention of the Modern Language Association. He is currently finishing a critical volume entitled *Flesh and Fish Blood: Postcolonialism, Translation and the Vernacular*, and is simultaneously at work on his third novel.

Lee Siegel

Department of Religion

Lee Siegel of the Department of Religion, working on a book about hypnosis in India, has spent the academic year in Goa as an associate of the Xavier Research Center and as a Senior Research Fellow of the American Institute of Indian Studies. He was a featured author at both the Goa Literature and Arts Festival and the Jaipur International Literature Festival, and was the keynote speaker at the South and Central Asia Fulbright Conference in Goa.

Kathakali Residency at UHM

by Devika Wasson

Kathakali, a classical dance-drama from south India, Kerala, dates back to the 17th century. It is characterised by dance, song and codified gestures of the hands, eyes and face. It is rare to see kathakali in the United States and even rarer to see it in Hawaii. From October 21 to 24, 2010, two kathakali artists and one scholar from Kerala, India, visited the University of Hawaii, Manoa for three days of workshops and a performance. This was sponsored by the Center for South Asian Studies, the Department of Theatre and Dance, Diversity and Equity Initiative, and Lotus.

Scholar V. Kaladharan, actor Kalamandalam Shanmughan and makeup artist Kalamandalam Sukumaran made Honolulu the last stop on their month-long tour of the U.S. During their visit, they gave a lecture-demonstration, a makeup demonstration and a movement workshop. These were well-attended and participants, who included students, professors and residents, were satisfied with what they learned. On the final day, Shanmughan presented a one-hour performance of Ravanodbhavam (the state of mind of Ravana) to a full house. The performance was enthusiastically received.

The artists received first-rate hospitality from the South Asian students on campus and were able to engage in wonderful cultural exchanges with the students.



Dr. Anita Shanmuganathan Visits UH Manoa Fall 2010

Dr. Anita Shanmuganathan, Bharatnatyam dancer, choreographer, and teacher from Chennai, India, came to UH Manoa campus the week of September 27, 2010 and has been invited back for the entire fall 2011 semester as the Rama Watumull Distinguished Visiting Indian Scholar. She gave a bharatnatyam lecture and demonstration entitled "Nayika Bhavana: an Aesthetic Expression of Love," which CSAS was proud to co-sponsor. On Friday, October 1st, Dr. Shanmuganathan gave a master class in bharatnatyam in the Dance Building Studio. This event was co-sponsored by the University of Hawai'i at Manoa Department of Theater and Dance and CSAS. We had a chance to meet up with Dr. Shanmuganathan during her stay here and ask her a few questions about her background, her interests in dance and the arts, as well as the work she does in other parts of the world, including South East Asia.

CSAS: You began training in dance at the age of 4. How has your dancing evolved since then?

Dr. Shanmuganathan: It has developed quite a bit since then. My first twenty years or so of training was very technical and in the classroom. It was not until I went to Bangkok that this orientation changed. My training was technical but not very practical. Once I got to Bangkok, I changed the way I looked at dance. I had to translate bharatnatyam into Thai traditional dancing, without losing the essence of the former. But it immediately struck me that there were many similarities and differences between the two. In Bangkok and Myanmar, I learned to blend traditional dancing with different approaches. So my dancing has evolved into a softer, less technical orientation. Now it is more fluid and interactive.

CSAS: You also choreograph your own performances. What do you try to highlight or emphasize in your choreography?

Dr. Shanmuganathan: When I decide on a piece, a lot of the choreography depends on how strong the characters are emotively. I try to express these characters and their emotions in the choreography. I am constantly looking for new challenges in my choreography, and explore contemporary dance and theater in Chennai. One interest of mine is to blend folk and classical forms of dance. Over the years, I have taken a lot from folk traditions and have learned a lot from folk artists.

CSAS: I understand you have opened up an arts academy. Can you tell us a little about it? What is its central philosophy?

Dr. Shanmuganathan: The academy began with the belief that all the arts can be experienced together, as one. This is why the academy is called Aeka, or one. We work with students from 2.5 to 5 years old, and teach them drawing, swimming, and more. We have sixty students at present, and the philosophy of the academy is to just do art, without having to understand it in an abstract or theoretical way.

CSAS: How do you use dance to work with autistic children?

Dr. Shanmuganathan: In Bangkok, I spent one year working with autistic children in a project. Through movement, I felt we could help improve the motor skills of these children. The dance choreography and sequences helped children with autism to learn social behavior, and to take their emotions and express them through art. The program was a tremendous success, and helped me understand that dance has an important role to play in society, in contrast to its otherwise individualistic pursuit.



The Center for South Asian Studies at the University of Hawai'i

28th Annual Spring Symposium



Media, Culture and Democracy in South Asia

April 6 - April 8, 2011

Center for Korean Studies Auditorium

Invited Lectures:

Arvind Rajagopal will deliver a talk titled “The Life of the Image in the Time of the Nation: the Mediation of Political Culture in India” on Thursday, April 7 at 9:00 am. Dr. Rajagopal is Professor of Media Studies at NYU. He has written the book *Politics After Television: Hindu Nationalism and The Reshaping of the Public in India* (Cambridge, 2001) and edited *Indian Public Sphere: Structure and Transformation* (Oxford, 2009). He has won awards from the MacArthur and Rockefeller foundations.

Mehreen Jabbar will participate in a special presentation entitled, “Inside the Director’s Studio: A Conversation with Mehreen Jabbar” on Thursday, April 7 at 1:30 pm. Ms. Jabbar is a film director/producer who has made numerous gritty, hard-hitting films for Pakistan Television. Her award-winning films include ‘Daughters of the Late Colonel’ and a four-part television show. ‘Ramchand Pakistani’ is her first feature length film and has been released in Pakistan and India in 2008 to international acclaim.

Nitasha Tamar Sharma will deliver a talk titled “Music, Empire, and South Asian Americans” on Friday, April 8, at 9:00 am. Dr. Sharma is Assistant Professor of African American Studies and Asian American Studies at Northwestern University. Her book *Hip Hop Desis: South Asian Americans, Blackness and Global Race Consciousness* (Duke) was just published.

Panel Discussions:

Producing Publics (4/7, 10:30 am)

Cinematic Spaces (4/7, 3:00 pm)

Mediating the Margins (4/8, 10:30 am)



Film Screening:

Pakistani Filmmaker **Mehreen Jabbar's** Critically Acclaimed Film *Ramchand Pakistani* Wednesday, April 6, at 3:30 pm in POST 127.

Evening Reception:

Pupus and Conversation. Sponsored by the Graduate Student Organization. Thursday, April 7, at 6:00 pm.

Music and Party:

Featuring Dr. Sai Bhatawadekar's Hindi Class and South Asia/Diaspora Music from DJ Cookie Head Jenkins . Thursday, April 7, at 7:00 pm.



Made possible through the generous support of the
G.J. & Ellen Watumull Foundation
 Co-Sponsored by Graduate Student's Organization

THE J. WATUMULL SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE STUDY OF INDIA

The J. Watumull Scholarship for the Study of India aims to promote understanding of India through scholarship support of University of Hawai'i students who present a focused and well-developed proposal to study for a minimum of two months in India. The scholarship is generously supported by the J. Watumull Fund.

The scholarship supports University of Hawai'i students in areas of study such as the visual and performing arts, history, philosophy, religion, and politics as well as any other field, including the professional schools and community college programs. These students are expected to be enrolled in courses at a recognized Indian institution or to be conducting some pre-approved independent study overseen by a faculty member at UH in cooperation with a scholar in India. Students may also choose to participate in an approved study abroad program sponsored by another U.S. institution.

Complete information about the J. Watumull Scholarship for the Study of India is available on the CSAS website: www.hawaii.edu/csas. Applications are typically due in the early Spring of the award's calendar year.



J. Watumull Report by Ladini Conder

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the J. Watumull Scholarship Foundation for giving me the opportunity to complete my proposed language study program in India during the summer of 2010. I participated in an intensive Summer Hindi Program at the Landour Language School, located in Mussoorie in the Indian State of Uttaranchal. The school is located in the Lal Tibba area of Landour cantonment more than 7,000 feet above sea level, thus providing spectacular views across the Himalayas.

The summer Hindi Language Program involved critical preparation necessary to enter Professor Sai Bhatawadekar intermediate Hindi class this fall. The daily schedule consisted of 50 minute classes between the hours of 8:20 am to 4:50 pm. All were conducted in a one-to-one instructional format. Our daily sessions consisted of core lessons in grammar, reading, writing and oral practice. The summer intensive training satisfied my language requirements for my Masters in History (South Asia) and facilitated my preparation for preliminary thesis research. Spending the summer in India gave me the opportunity to progress at a more rapid pace. Thus, I was able to into practice the language skills I developed. One of the many advantages to studying Hindi in India was the opportunity to engage in conversation with native speakers.

I recall with profound appreciation my Hindi teachers at Landour Language School, especially longtime educator Dinkerji and his family for their warmth and hospitality. Also, many wonderful friendships with people from all over the world made my trip especially memorable.

One of the many highlights of my stay in India included a wonderful visit to the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi. In doing so, I was able to see original artwork representing a long and vibrant history steeped in artistic expression. Moreover, this trip was my initial inspiration for my thesis topic centering on aesthetic strategies of nationalist artists, and cross-cultural affiliations with Asia.

For his guidance and encouragement, I would like to thank my academic advisor Dr. Ned Bertz. I wish also to acknowledge here both the Watumull Foundation and the Center for South Asian Studies for making this trip possible.

J. Watumull Report by Bryce Beemer

Thanks to the support I received from the J. Watumull Scholarship, I was able to become one of the first Western scholars to ever affiliate with Manipur University's Center for Manipur Studies and its recently opened Center for Burma Studies. Manipur, located in far Northeast India on the border with Burma (Myanmar), is a fascinating place that remains little studied by scholars of India or Southeast Asia. This likely has to do with the state's "in-between" quality. It is in most senses a culturally Southeast Asian place, and its historical and cultural links were more often eastward towards Burma, than westward towards India and Bengal. Unfortunately, Manipur seems to slip through the academic cracks-- its location in India means it is overlooked by Southeast Asianists while Indianists see it as an exotic, non-Indian cultural space. Fortunately, the Manipuris themselves will have none of this, and currently there is vibrant research being conducted at Manipur University on Manipur culture and history, and there is a strong interest in the state's long historical relations with Burma and other parts of Southeast Asia. For this reason, even a cursory study of Manipur history necessitates the difficult travel to Manipur itself, and so I remain grateful to the J. Watumull Scholarship for funding my research trip this past summer.

My interest in Manipur grew out of research that I've been conducting in Burma. My history thesis is about slavery and cultural exchange with a focus on the slave-gathering warfare conducted by the Burmese between c. 1750 and 1830. In this time period Burma invaded Manipur on numerous occasions, and the joint effect of slave gathering and flight from the invading armies virtually depopulated the Manipur valley. I've been conducting research in numerous villages in Burma that are populated by the descendants of these captured people. I've been busy documenting the religious and artistic practices that these descendants believe originated in Manipur. However, it became clear to me that I had no way of knowing which aspects of these cultural traits were actually brought from Manipur and which parts may have developed later in Burma. Travel to Manipur became crucial for the future success of my project.

Manipur scholars, and Manipuris in general, are fascinated by their own diaspora. Repeated Burmese invasions propelled the Manipuri across borders into areas in Assam, Nagaland, and Bangladesh where many remain today. Manipuri scholars have been studying their diasporic community for more than a decade, but the fate of those Manipuris taken to Burma as captives (likely more than 100,000 people) has remained tantalizingly out of reach. Difficult political relations between India and Burma has meant that formal research in upper Burma has been impossible for Manipur University scholars. For this reason, my research trip became a fantastically fun two-way exchange. I gave five two hour lectures on my research to different groups of scholars, and a final lecture, open to the public, that was attended by more than 100 people. At the same time, I was able to meet with the university's anthropologists, historians, and theater specialists who would go through my research notes, videos and pictures and help me to better understand how the communities I've been studying relate to the Manipur culture of 200 or so years ago.

I would like to close by thanking a few of the many dozens of scholars that helped to make my study in Manipur successful. Dean Amar Yumnam, the Director of the Center for Manipur Studies, facilitated my trip and made all the arrangements for my stay and research; the Anthropologists MC Arun and Vijayalakshmi Brara spent many hours explaining the fine points of Manipur traditions to me; and many other kindnesses were extended to me by Dr. Suresh Laishram, Amal Sanasam, Matua Bahadur, and Nongthombam Jiten of the Center for Burma Studies. I would also like to thank the scholar Arambam Lokendra for sharing his deep knowledge of Manipur dance and theatrical traditions with me. These are just a few names among the many kind scholars who assisted me during my stay in Manipur.



CSAS Hosted Fundraiser for Victims of Pakistan Floods Raises over \$900

By Noelani Isabella Anderson

On Wednesday, September 8 2010, a teach-in and fundraiser was held at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa to raise awareness on the floods in parts of Pakistan and its aftermath in the region. The event, sponsored by the Center for South Asian Studies, taught participants about the affected area, and showed how they could to contribute to the aid process by donating money to reputed international organizations doing relief work in Pakistan.

“There are not a whole lot of ways people know how to donate money or even (know) what’s going on,” said Rohan Kalyan, graduate student in the Political Science department. Kalyan helped to organize the event in his capacity as Program Coordinator for CSAS. The event was held in Kuykendall Hall on Wednesday afternoon with an attendance of over fifty students, faculty and community members.

“The purpose of a teach-in is to disseminate information,” said Kalyan. “And to present things in a way that will attract attention and motivate people to help.”

The three panelists were Uzma Aslam Khan, assistant professor of English, Dr. Shabbir Cheema, senior research fellow at East-West Center, and Syed Sami Raza, a political science Ph.D. candidate at UHM.

Recent reports show 1,700 people have died and nearly 20 million have been affected. The United States has recently deployed aid to the area and has pledged \$260 million in relief efforts.

“The war on terror has filtered the way people are reacting,” Kalyan said. “Politics have filtered the way people are reacting and it has overridden the humanitarian aspect of this tragedy”

The floods were caused by ferocious monsoon rains in the north of the country that continue to leave people without homes, no access to food and water, and exposed to a number of health dangers. One-fifth of Pakistan has been flooded.

A list of organizations doing relief work in Pakistan in the aftermath of the floods was distributed and made available on the CSAS website. Please visit the homepage (<http://www.hawaii.edu/csas>) for more information on how to donate to such organizations.

The teach-in was co-sponsored by the Muslim Students Association and the Lovers of South Asian Cultures club.



UH Prof Ramdas Lamb Works with Rural Villagers in Chhattisgarh

Sahayog Foundation is a U.S. based non-profit, charitable organization established to provide support for the educational and health needs of the rural poor in the Indian state of Chhattisgarh. Its members and supporters share the belief that providing aid, support, and encouragement to those in need can help make the world a better place. It also gives them an opportunity to better understand and participate in the close relationship we have as members of the world family.



Ramdas Lamb, Associate Professor in the Religion Department, is founder and president of Sahayog. During the last two summers, the foundation held photography courses for 20 village girls, led by Dana Forsberg, photo instructor for Outreach College. The girls were taught the basics of photography as well as basic Photoshop editing skills on donated Mac laptops. Additionally, each girl was given a digital camera so she could continue to develop her photography skills on her own. Several have been able to generate an income from their subsequent efforts. During summer 2011, the foundation is hoping to similarly run an intensive sewing course, again in hopes of providing skills that can be used to generate income. The website for the NOG is: www.sahayogfoundation.org



India Post-Independence (1947-1959) Photo Collection at UH Library

The India Post-Independence Photo Collection is a collection of 36 photographs taken from the moment of Indian independence in 1947 through 1959. Some of the photographs were issued by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) of the Government of India, some by the United States Information Service (USIS), and some by Life Magazine photographers.

The content of the photographs vary. There are images of statesmen, such as Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, Lord Mountbatten, U.S. President Eisenhower, and the first President of India—Dr. Rajendra Prasad; political activities, including campaigns and protests; village life and agricultural activities; merchants engaged in business; and portraits of ordinary people in a wide variety of locations and settings, from Trichinopoly (Tiruchirappalli), and Madras (Chennai) in the south, to New Delhi, Banares (Varanasi), Jaipur, and Amritsar in the north, and villages in Bihar and Rajasthan.

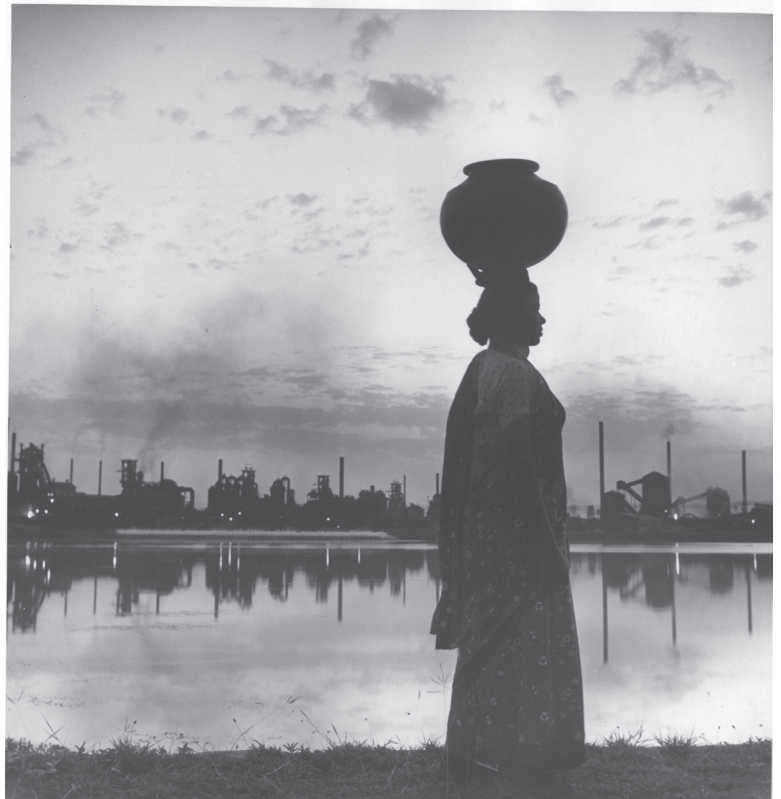


The photographs with descriptions have been transcribed into the photo's web-page, under "Notes." Not all the photographs have descriptive and/or location information.

The 36 photographs from India post-independence that have been digitized in this collection were found in 2002, in a manila envelope, while cleaning out a file cabinet used for storage. Since then the photographs have been housed in the Preservation Department at the University of Hawai'i Library.

There is a link to this collection in the Library's Digital Collections list, and may be accessed directly from this link: <http://digicoll.manoa.hawaii.edu/indiapostindependence/index.php>

This site was developed and coordinated by Monica Ghosh, South Asia Librarian, and created as a project by Andrew Ah New, LIS Intern, Fall 2010.



Center for South Asian Studies 2010/2011 Rama Watumull Collaborative Lecture Series

The Center for South Asian Studies has been happy to fund visiting scholars through our Rama Watumull Collaborative Lecture Series. The funds provided by the Center cover costs of travel, lodging, and honorarium for invited speakers. The responsibility for organizing and making arrangements for the visit and associated events as well as hosting the visiting scholar(s) are that of the faculty/department receiving funds. The invited speaker delivers a public lecture and participates in workshops with faculty and graduate students on the relationship between South Asia and/or South Asian Studies and the specific concerns of the department. We have had a wonderful array of scholars and performance artists visit our campus this year:

Kathakali Residency, featuring artists V. Kaladharan, Kalamandalam Shamughan, T. R. Sukumaran.
Hosted by the Department of Theater and Dance

Lecture-Demonstration, Friday October 22nd, 2010 9-10:15 am
Makeup Demonstration-Workshop, Friday October 22nd, 3-5:30 pm
Movement-Workshop, Saturday October 23, 2010, 9-11 am
Performance-Demonstration, Sunday October 24th 2010, 5-6:15 pm

Dr. Ishita Banerjee, Center for Asian Studies, El Colegio de Mexico.
Hosted by Department of History

Workshop, "Questions of Religion and Politics: Democracy and Secularism in Contemporary Societies." Tuesday, February 8th, 2011, 12-1:30 pm
Public Lecture, "Cultures of Colonialism: Empire, Gender, Nation in British India and Spanish America." Wednesday, February 9th, 2011, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Dr. Saurabh Dube, Center for Asian and African Studies, El Colegio de Mexico.
Hosted by Department of History

Public Lecture, "Unsettling Art: Caste, Gender, and Dalit (Untouchable) Expression." Monday, February 7th, 2011, 5-6:30 pm
Workshop, "Subjects of Modernity." Friday, February 11th 2011, 3:30-5 pm

Dr. Resina Mawani, Department of Sociology, University of British Columbia.
Hosted by Department of Sociology

Public Talk, "Racial Violence and the Cosmopolitan City." Monday, March 28, 2011
Public Lecture, "Specters of Indigeneity in South Asian Migration, 1914." Wednesday, March 30, 2011



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About Our Organization...

Strategically located, and with a multicultural heritage, the state of Hawai'i has always been uniquely international in outlook. The people, traditions, and cultural milieu of this island state in the Pacific provide a strong and continuing bond with Asia.

Beginning with the establishment of the Oriental Institute in 1935 and a still ongoing series of East-West Philosophers' Conferences in 1939. This emphasis continued with the establishment of the journal "Philosophy East and West" in 1951 and the Asian Studies Program.

The Center for South Asian Studies was created in 1985. Since then the objective of the Center has been to coordinate and integrate, by juxtaposing humanistic with scientific scholarship, and historical and contemporary data. The Center thus serves to illuminate specific questions of regional interest, and complements and bridges the disciplinary departments directly related to it.

The Center guides and assists study of both past and present societies and cultures of South Asia and promotes faculty interaction across departmental lines to foster comparative and interdisciplinary research on the region. South Asia includes contemporary Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India (including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Lakshadweep, the Maldiv Islands, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tibet.



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