South Asian Studies Conference
April 27-29, 2007

Organized by ASPAC and the South Asian Studies Alliance
Sponsored/Hosted by Loyola Marymount University
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Cover art "Elephants"
By Mohammad Yasin, India, 1986
East-West Center Permanent Collection
Welcome!

Welcome to Los Angeles and Loyola
Marymount University. For the past forty years
Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast (ASPAC),
the Pacific Coast affiliate of the Association for
Asian Studies (AAS), has organized an annual conference devoted to networking, collegiality
and scholarship about Asia. Meanwhile, South Asia scholarship as increasingly turned away
from AAS.

Last year the ASPAC board approved an “Initiating Committee” to organize a South Asian
Studies Conference and committed to the project for three years. Professor Christopher Key
Chapple arranged for Loyola Marymount University to sponsor the event. Numerous
institutions and individuals also stepped forward to help with time and resources. Special
thanks are owed to:

- Dinesh and Kalpana Patel Foundation
- Mr. Navin Doshi
- Foundation for Indic Philosophy and Culture
- Southern California Consortium for International Studies
- Religious Studies Department, California State University, Northridge
- Pacific University, Forest Grove, Oregon
- State Bank of India (California)
- Oracle Corporation
- Magazine Clothing Co. (110 E. 9th St., Ste B-870, Los Angeles, CA 90079)
- Ms. Bubbles, Inc. (2731 S. Alameda St., Los Angeles, CA 90058)
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for their generous financial support.

Also deserving recognition for their tireless support are my colleagues on the organizing
committee:

- Deepak Shimkhada, Claremont-McKenna College
- Christopher Chapple, Loyola Marymount University
- Paul Hanson, California Lutheran College
- Dean McHenry, Claremont Graduate University
- Phyllis Herman, California State University, Northridge

Finally, the John Mortimer novel Summer’s Lease, set in Tuscony, has an essential character
nicknamed “Mr. Fixit” for his uncanny ability to solve any problem British tourists might
encounter summering in their Italian villas. The receptionist at LMU Extension, Peggy
Bobreer, a real-life Ms. Fixit. Without her help we would all be lost.


William G. Vanderbok
ASPAC President
Conference Chairperson
LMU Welcome
Panel Sessions

Throughout the conference University Hall 1859 may be used as a “Quiet Room” for sitting, reflecting, resting.

Friday Morning, April 27, 2007

Session 1 (Plenary): 8:00-9:30 Friday
Video Conference on South Asia Engaged
University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)
At LMU
  Dr. William Vanderbok, ASPAC President, moderator
  Dr. Stanley Wolpert, University of California, Los Angeles
  Mr. Gunjan Bagla, Amritt Ventures
Via video conference
  Ambassador B.S. Prakash, Consul General of India, from San Francisco
  Mr. Larry Schwartz, Consular for Cultural Affairs, US Embassy, New Delhi, from India
  British Association for South Asian Studies, from London

9:30-10:00 Friday
University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)
Coffee and Registration

Session 2: 10:00-12:00 Friday

Panel 2A: God, Goddess and Puja
(sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies, California State University, Northridge)
University Hall 1775

An Embodiment of the Goddess
Deepak Shimkhada, Claremont McKenna College.

Online Puja: God Posters on the WWW
Natalie R. Marsh, Miami University Art Museum.

The Six Pointed Hexagram
N.S. Valluvan, Independent Scholar.

The Role of Hindu Goddesses in the Rebirth of Goddess Worship in the West
Tim Ward, Independent Scholar.

Moderator/Discussant
Phyllis Herman, California State University, Northridge
Panel 2B: Metropole’s Impact on Colonial India.
University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)

Liberal Toleration as the Herald of Religious Fanaticism in Colonial and Postcolonial India
Jakob De Roover, Ghent University

Photography and the representation of famine in India, 1876-1945
James R. Ryan, University of Leicester.

Mobility, Nobility, and the Politics of European Architecture in Late 19th Century Hyderabad
Alison Mackenzie Shah, University of Colorado at Denver.

Caste and the Legal Code in Colonial India: 1772-1883
Dana Lightstone, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Moderator/Discussant
Alka Patel, Independent Scholar

Friday Afternoon, April 27, 2007

12:00-1:30
Hosted Lunch
University Hall 1762 A&B, 1775 (overflow, if needed)

Remarks
Peter J. Kovach, Diplomat in Residence, University of California at Los Angeles

Session 3: 1:30-3:00 Friday

Panel 3A: Politics of Place
University Hall 1762 A&B

Discourses of Power and Resistance: The case of Delhi Water Reform Project
Vandana Asthana, Eastern Washington University

Discourses of Power and Resistance: The case of Delhi Water Reform Project
Community Participation and NGOs: Water Management in Bangladesh
Kumiki Shuto, University of Bristol, UK

Breeding Prosperity: Politics of Fertility and Economic Development in India’s States
Siddharth Swaminathan, La Sierra University

Moderator/Discussant
Dean McHenry, Claremont Graduate University
Panel 3B: Art, Authority and Ideology in India.
University Hall 1775

Mauryan Art, Authority and Ideology: The Royal Artisans (Raja Kumbhakaras) of the Mauryan Kings
Katherine Anne Harper, Loyola Marymount University

Formulation of Royal Space through Representation and Ideology in Pre-colonial India
Nalini Rao, Soka University of America.

Art and Power in the Colonial/National Interchange
Debashish Banerji, Pasadena City College.

Moderator/Discussant
Robert Brown, University of California Los Angeles

Panel 3C: Globalism and Ideas in Asian Political Economy.
University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)

Globalism and Ideas in Asian Political Economy
Ravi Roy, Claremont Graduate University.

Neo-Liberals in India
Arthur Denzau, Claremont Graduate University.

Moderator/Discussant
Surupa Gupta, Whittier College

3:00-3:30
University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)
Coffee Break

Session 4: 3:30-5:00 Friday

Panel 4A: Bollywood as a Lens on India
University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)

Lucknow Ki Sar-Zameen (Lucknow from Head to Toe): Naming ‘the Muslim’ Through Citation in Bollywood’s Lucknow Muslim Social Films
Usamah Ahmad, Simon Fraser University, Canada

India Shining? A Reading from Bollywood
Meenu Gaur, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London

Moderator/Discussant
Ken Silverman, President, Interactive Teamworks
Panel 4B: Philosophy of the Yogavasishta.
University Hall 1775

*Dreams, Fictions and the Quest for Morality*
Menaha Ganesathasan, University of Hawaii, Hilo

*The Concept of Abhasa in Yogavasistha*
Sthaneshwar Timalsinha, San Diego State University

*The Philosophy of Nature in the Yogavasistha*
Christopher Key Chapple, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles.

*Moderator/Discussant*
Katherine Anne Harper, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles

Panel 4C: Focus on Sri Lanka.
University Hall 1762 A&B

*Where Have All The Vedda (Vanniyaletto) Gone? Sri Lanka Cultural Heritage Revisited*
David Blundell, University of California, Los Angeles

*Problems and Prospects for Small and Medium Scale Enterprises, The Case of Sri Lanka*
S.W.S.B. Dasanayaka, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

*Pentagon to Hexagon: Recalling Cultural Capital*
Chandima Daskon, University of Otago, New Zealand

*Moderator/Discussant*
Paul Hanson, California Lutheran University
Saturday Morning, April 28, 2007

See page 13 for the schedule of documentaries. Screening will take place all day long, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, in University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)

Session 5: 8:30-10:00

Panel 5A: Politics, Identity and Party
University Hall 1218

Do Elections Foster Separatism? The Case of Telangana
Dean E. McHenry, Jr., Claremont Graduate University

Escaping India: An Explanation of Pakistan's Middle East Orientation
Aparna Pande, Boston University.

War and Conflict in South Asia: Problems and Prospects
Raj Kishore Singh, University of Agra.

Beggars of Lahore
Sheba Saeed, Birmingham University, UK.

Reappraisal of the Arthasastra of Kautilya
Night Queen Pankaj, Banaras Hindu University.

Moderator/Discussant

Panel 5B: Religious Narratives
University Hall 1222

Anthropology of Economy in the Sikh Concept of kirat karn
Zbigniew Igielski, Skarbek Graduate School of Business Economics, Warsaw.

From Royal Palaces to Tribal Jungles (The long journey of the Dhola-Maru narrative)
Aleksandra Szyszko, Warsaw University, Poland

Historical and Pictoral Evidence for Jain Monks at the Mughal Court
Rochelle Kessler, Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena

Affirmation of the Body, Affirmation of the Soul: Jainism Engaged and the Ensuing Transformations
Andrea R. Jain, Rice University

Moderator/Discussant
Deepak Shimkhada, Claremont McKenna College
10:00-10:30
University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)
Coffee Break

Session 6: 10:30-12:00

Panel 6A: Gender and South Asia
University Hall 1218

Gender and Development in India: Are Theory and Practice Out of Sync?
Bipasha Baruah, California State University, Long Beach.

Portuguese Periodicals from India (1821-1961): Images of Women in "Recreio de Damas"
Liladhar R. Pendse, University of California, Los Angeles

Moderator/Discussant
Karen Leonard, University of California, Irvine

Panel 6B: Press and Empire: The British and India 1857-1947
University Hall 1222

Indians Writing in the Metropole's Victorian Press
Julie F. Codell, Arizona State University

An Imperial Information Community? The Empire Press Union, Imperial Press Conferences and India
Chandrika Kaul, University of St Andrews, Scotland

The Literary and Socio-economic Impacts of the Calcutta School-Book Society in 19th Century Bengal
Shahla Young, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London

Russian Revolution and Its Early Impact on India
Abha Trivedi, Lucknow University

Moderator/Discussant
Stanley Wolpert, University of California, Los Angeles
Saturday Afternoon, April 28, 2007

12:00-1:30
Free Time

Session 7: 1:30-3:00

Panel 7A: Nationalism and Imperialism in the Writings of Damodar SarDesai.
University Hall 1222

*The Guru and the Disciple: What Damodar SarDesai Prepared Me to Learn*
Oliver B. Pollak, University of Nebraska

*A. Madhaviah and Modern Tamil Humanism*
Sita Anantha Raman, Santa Clara University

*Modernism in India: From Le Corbusier to Louis Kahn and Beyond*
Ravi Kalia, The City College of New York

*Nehru’s Gambit: Damodar SarDesai on Indian Foreign Policy*
Roger D. Long, Eastern Michigan University

**Moderator**
Arnold P. Kaminsky, California State University, Long Beach

**Discussant**
Brenda Joseph Ness, Santa Monica College

Panel 7B: Evolution in Theology  (Because of travel uncertainties this panel may be cancelled and participants redistributed to other panels)
University Hall 1218

*Cultural and Religious Exchange between Asia and Europe before Christianity*
Wolfgang Keim, Independent Scholar, Germany

*Among the Buddhists: Intra-School Debate in Tibetan and Indian Buddhist Traditions*
Kasinath Nyaupane, Mahendra University, Kathmandu

*Ritual or No-Ritual: Mimamsakas and the Buddhists in Classical India*
Jeffrey Ruff, Marshall University.

**Moderator/Discussant**
Phyllis Herman, California State University Northridge

Panel 7C: Rethinking Religion in India
University Hall 1226

**Presenter**
Jakob De Roover, Ghent University. A discussion of the Research Centre Vergelijkende Cultuurwetenschap, Ghent University, Belgium and the Centre for the Study of Local Cultures, Kuvempu University, India, five-year conference cluster on "Rethinking Religion in India."

3:00-3:30
University Hall 1000 (Ahmanson Auditorium)
Coffee Break

Session 8: 3:30-5:00

Panel 8A: The South Asian Diaspora.
University Hall 1218

Is There a Second Diasporic Generation? India's Hyderabadis Abroad
Karen Leonard, University of California Irvine

Brahman and Hindu Communities in Bangkok: A Comparative Study of Indian Settlements in Thai History
Dulyapak Preecharushh, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

On Redefining 'Culture' in the Context of Transnational Hinduism: A Case Study of the Changes and Continuities in the Indian Culture at the Malibu Hindu Temple at Los Angeles, USA
Mugdha Yeolekar, Arizona State University.

Moderator/Discussant
Bidyut Mohanty, University of California, Santa Barbara

Panel 8B: Contemporary Violence.
University Hall 1222

Regional Terrorism: The Relationship between Kumpulan Militan Malaysia (KMM) and Jemaah Islamiah (JI) and the Implication for Regional Security
Mohd Mizan Aslam and Jim Veitch, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

The Spirit of Terrorism
Geoffrey Cook, Editor, Pakistan Weekly (Berkeley, CA).

Appropriation and Creation: Maoism in India and Nepal
Rose Sayre, City University of New York, City College

Networking Through Religion: The Case of Malerkotla
Karenjot Bhangoo, George Mason University

Moderator/Discussant
William Vanderbok, ASPAC President

Affiliate Group Meeting: East-West Center Association, Southern California
University Hall 1226

5:30-6:30
Reception
University Hall 1859
Hosted by the Southern California Chapter of the East-West Center Association
Musical performance by Pandit Radhey Prasad

6:30-8:30
Conference Banquet
(separate ticket purchase required)
University Hall 1772 A&B

Engaging South Asia: Reminiscences and Reflections.
Pratapaditya Pratapaditya Pal, keynote speaker

Sunday Morning, April 29, 2007

Session 9: 8:30-10:00

Panel 9A: The Limits of Indo-American Cooperation.
University Hall, 1222

US-India Cooperation: Limits and Constraints
Ram Roy, California State University Northridge

Domestic Political Constraints in India
Parks Riley, California Polytechnic State University Pomona

Panel 9B: Round Table Discussion: Making Documentaries in South Asia

Discussants
Michael Arlen, Arising Light
Benjamin Kalia, Arising Light
Sheba Saeed, Beggars of Lahore
Debra Kaufman, A School of Their Own

Moderator/Facilitator
Aneetha Ranjan, Independent film and documentary producer

10:15
Area tours: assemble by the flagpole at the main entrance to University Hall for transportation
Documentaries

Saturday, April 27, 2007

Ahmanson Auditorium: Each documentary will be followed by approximately 20 minutes of Q&A, normally with the producer of the film.

8:30 The Miseducation of Pakistan. Farooq Hamid, Whittier College, discussant
A nation’s future hangs in the balance when it cannot educate its youth. Using a journalistic approach, The Miseducation of Pakistan explores the country’s appalling public education system. Schools with no teachers, schools overflowing with garbage, schools under the open sky, without drinking water or electricity; this is what most students of public schools in Pakistan can look forward to. Little wonder that a vast majority of primary school graduates can’t even be considered literate by international standards.

All the while, a corrupt hierarchy of officials and school staff line their pockets with funds meant for educating the nation’s children and powerful feudals deny the children of their peasants the right to even a basic education, while sending their own offspring to the best schools in the country and abroad. And no one is held accountable. The film also brings attention to the rise of madrassas or faith-based schooling. Using in-depth interviews and shocking footage, the filmmakers reveal a country where quality education is reserved only for a chosen few, while millions of children are denied the chance of a future.

9:30 A School of Their Own. Directed by Debra Kaufman
In remote Nepal, the Riverside School is a unique educational environment that educates low-caste and tribal children, half of whom are girls. There, children flourish in an environment free of the caste system, gender prejudice, and violence found in government schools - and in their society at large.

Follow the school’s struggle to stay afloat during the bloody ten-year civil war in which children are caught in the middle. The police accuse them of being Maoist rebels while the rebels themselves forcibly draft children over twelve years old into their army. Though Nepal is currently enjoying a tenuous peace, the future is uncertain. Through in-depth interviews and stunning footage, A School of Their Own shows how children, even in the most extreme circumstances, can lead a nation to a better future.

10:55 Arising Light. Produced by David Blundell. University of Cal., Los Angeles
This presentation introduces a documentary historical feature film project on Dr B. R. Ambedkar commemorating the 50th anniversary of his embracing Buddhism in Nagpur, India. This ushered in a new path for social welfare in India. On December 6th 1956 he passed away in New Delhi. Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar (1891-1956) rose from the dalit “undercaste” community (untouchables) in India. He educated himself in India and the West and became a national leader in India’s struggle for equality and justice. Dr Ambedkar framed the Indian constitution making it a secular state and helped provide national emblems of state, in particular the Asoka lions, and the dharma wheel on the flag. The film traces Ambedkar's life and his struggle for constitutional civil rights.
11:45 **Celestial Music of Pandit Lalmani Misra Rags: Sindura, Tilang, and Bhupali.** Laxmi G. Tewari, Sonoma State University
DVD has been released by Laxmi G. Tewari and the Music Department of Sonoma State University. To the best of my knowledge, it is the only visual media available on the playing of Vichitra Vina. The late Dr. Misra is accompanied on Tabla by Pandit Chote Lal Mishra, a disciple of the late Pandit Anokhe Lal Mishra of Varanasi. Tambura is played by Mrs. Carolyn Tewari.

1:30 **Awakening.**
*Awakening* documents the social and economic empowerment of women in Afghanistan and India whose roles have traditionally been restricted by their cultures. Awakened to new possibilities through education and access to micro-loans these women are redefining their roles in society. In Bihar, India’s poorest state, Sister Mary Lobo organizes village women into groups where they learn to save small sums and invest their capital as a group. In Afghanistan, the nation’s first woman-led micro-finance institution believes the nation’s long-term success is dependent on women’s economic freedom.

2:50 **In The Shadow of the Towers: Tourism and Modernity in Western Sichuan.** Produced by Jay Hubert. Beijing Film Academy.
Towers of an unknown origin dot a remote region of Tibet, making it become a tourist destination in recent years. In response, a new hospitality industry is springing up and altering the lives of those living in the area as they attempt to provide “authentic” Tibetan experiences in line with the expectations of tourists. Local government is directing this change by subsidizing family enterprises most likely to meet tourist expectations, thereby raising tensions in a region undergoing rapid social and economic change.

3:50 **Beggars of Lahore.** Produced by Sheba Saeed. Birmingham University.
This audio-visual dissertation investigates why there are so many beggars in Lahore, the second largest city of Pakistan. The begging phenomena is a complex problem. The documentary provides a balance of images with a traditional documentary format of talking heads which is required to conduct an examination of what could be done to provide a solution to the begging problem.
## Participant Index

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