

South Asian Resilience: Environments, Politics, Economics

2023 South Asian Studies Association Zoom conference

Hosted by Loyola Marymount University

Pacific Daylight Time: Friday, March 24 morning, 8 a.m. through Sunday, March 26 evening, 10:30 p.m. PST

Indian Standard Time (concurrent): Friday, March 24 evening, 9:15 p.m. through Monday, March 27 morning, 11:30 a.m. IST

South Asian countries emerged as independent resilient nations from the mid-20th century. These milestones ushered in new political and economic structures, as well as created fertile ground for national pride and a redefinition of religious and even gender identities. Our SASA gathering will examine the intersections of tradition and modernity from multiple perspectives.

Opening segment: Welcome; SASA Exemplar Awards
Friday, March 24 morning, 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Pacific
Friday, March 24 evening, 8:30 to 10 p.m. India

SASA Exemplar Honorees 2023: Drs. Deepak Shimkhada and Rita Sherma

Session One: The Resilience of Gandhi and the Bhagavad Gītā
Friday, March 24 morning, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Pacific
Friday, March 24 evening, 10 to 11 p.m. India

The Tartan Gandhi: Mahatma Gandhi and Scotland
9:30 to 10 a.m. PST / 10 to 10:30 p.m. IST

Professor Chandrika Kaul, Professor of Modern History, University of St Andrews

Talks on the Gītā: Opportunity for Interfaith Intersection
10 to 10:30 a.m. PST / 10:30 to 11 p.m. IST

Dr. Swasti Bhattacharyya, 2023 Fulbright Nehru Scholar, Banaras Hindu University

Dr. Bernadette McNary-Zak, Associate Professor, Rhodes College

Session Two: Environmental Difficulty and Resilience in South Asia
Friday, March 24 evening, 8 p.m. to 10:15 p.m. Pacific
Saturday, March 25 morning, 8:30 to 10:45 a.m. India

Exploring 'Tribal Ecologies' in Post-Independent India: A Panel Discussion
8 to 8:30 p.m. PST / 8:30 to 9 a.m. IST

Stephen Christopher, University of Copenhagen
Raile Rocky Ziipao, India Institute of Technology, Bombay
Matthew Shutzer, Bard College

'How Can We Leave Our Lands Barren?': Climate Change Induced Threats to Tribal Ecology and Subsistence Farming

8:30 to 8:45 p.m. PST / 9 to 9:15 a.m. IST

Jay Sharma, Syracuse University

Conservation and Displacement in the Dampa Tiger Reserve Forest in Mizoram

8:45 to 9 p.m. PST / 9:15 to 9:30 a.m. IST

Shyamal Chakma, PhD, SOAS, University of London

Climate Change; Origins and Outcomes on Pakistan and Prospect Resolutions

9 to 9:15 p.m. PST / 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. IST

Iram Ahmad, Faculty Member, Forman Christian University

Political Ecology: A Framework for Analysing Water Quality Conflict

9:15 to 9:30 p.m. PST / 9:45 to 10 a.m. IST

Aditya Raj Kashyap, Banaras Hindu University

Laying Down Pipes, Connecting Households Unequally: Transnational Contractors

Constructing a Water Distribution System in Khulna, Bangladesh

9:30 to 9:45 p.m. PST / 10 to 10:15 a.m. IST

Sonia Ahmad, Cornell University

Negotiating Environmentalisms: Indigenous Ecology and the Bishnoi of North India

9:45 to 10 p.m. PST / 10:15 to 10:30 a.m. IST

Vincent Burgess, Cornell University

Ecological Sustainability and the Resilience of the Buddhist Community in Tamil Nadu, India

10 to 10:15 p.m. PST / 10:30 to 10:45 a.m. IST

Gauthama Prabu, Director of the Foundation of His Sacred Majesty, Chennai

Session Three: The Resilience of Women in South Asia

Saturday, March 25 morning, 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Pacific

Saturday, March 25 evening, 8:30 to 11 p.m. India

Behind the ‘First Great Mughal’: Khanzada Begum

8 to 8:15 a.m. / 8:30 to 8:45 p.m.

Chandini Jaswal, Panjab University, India

The Systemic Erasure of Feminine Voices from Indian History and Mythology: Panel

8:15 to 9 a.m. / 8:45 to 9:30 p.m.

Moupia Basu, Nandini Sengupta, Koral Dasgupta, Independent Scholars

Transformation of Tradition from Buddhism to Hinduism: The Footprint of the

Goddess at Sannati 9 to 9:15 a.m. / 9:30 to 9:45 p.m.

Chandrika Sunkad, Deccan College

Discovering the Yoginis: Women and Cultural Diplomacy

9:15 to 9:30 a.m. / 9:45 to 10 p.m.

Sowmya Ayyar, Malviya Center for Peace Research, Banaras Hindu University

Pragya Bhatt, Independent Researcher

Biography as History

9:30 to 9:45 a.m. / 10 to 10:15 p.m.

Purnima Bhatt, Hood College

Session Four: Buddhism/Jainism/Meditation

Saturday, March 25 evening, 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Pacific

Sunday, March 26 morning, 8:30 to 11 a.m. India

The Practice of Mindfulness in Sri Lanka 8 to 8:15 pm. / 8:30 to 8:45 a.m.

Sirinanda Unaleeye, University of the West, Rosemead, California

The Digital Dhāraṇī Project: Preserving Rare Incantation Manuscripts from Nepal

8:15 to 8:30 p.m. / 8:45 to 9 p.m.

Miroj Shakya, Associate Professor, University of the West

Collection of Records Concerning the Buddhist Canon:

A Catalog of South Asian Texts by Seng You

8:30 to 8:45 p.m. / 9 to 9:15 a.m.

Alex Amies, University of the West

Redefining Religion: Jain Śetāmbara Terāpantha Saman Order Initiation (1980)
8:45 to 9 p.m. / 9:15 to 9:30 a.m.

Rohini Pragma Samani, Associate Professor, Jain Vishwa Bharti Institute

Meditation in the Yoga of Gurāṇi Añjali: Panel 9 to 10 p.m.; 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Keren Eshed, Colure Caulfield, Christine Gabaly, Christopher Key Chapple, Loyola Marymount University

Session Five: Resilience in Literature, the Arts, Maritime Trade, and Dalit Communities

Sunday, March 26 morning, 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Pacific

Sunday, March 26 evening, 8:30 to 11:00 p.m. India

Literature and Empathy: Leadership within the South Asian Context

8 to 8:15 a.m. / 8:30 to 8:45 p.m.

Mayuri Deka, Assistant Professor, University of the Bahamas

Indigenous Stitch-Arts of India: Tradition and Revival in a Global Age

8:15 to 8:30 a.m. / 8:45 to 9 p.m.

Punam Madhok, Associate Professor, East Carolina University

Tradition and Modernity in South Asian Arts: Panel Presentation

Modernism in the Bengal School of Art: Reflections on the Centenary of a Bauhaus Exhibition in Calcutta, 1922

8:30 to 8:45 a.m. / 9 to 9:15 p.m.

Debashish Banerji, Haridas Chaudhuri Professor of Indian Philosophies and Cultures, California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS)

Portrayals of Women and Neo-Tantrism in Indian Modern Art

8:45 to 9 a.m. / 9:15 to 9:30 p.m.

Nalini Rao, Professor of World Art, Soka University of America

Nepali Art at the Threshold

9 to 9:15 a.m. / 9:30 to 9:45 p.m.

Deepak Shimkhada, Adjunct Professor, Chaffey College

Resilience Through Kirtan in India and Beyond

9:15 to 9:30 a.m. / 9:45 to 10 p.m.

Gustavo Moura, PhD, Wilfrid Laurier University

Indo-Pacific Historical Continuity and Transformation: A View of Understanding Local Change and Global Impact through Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

9:30 to 9:45 a.m. / 10 to 10:15 p.m.

David Blundell, University of California, Los Angeles

Researching Dalit Rights

9:45 a.m. to 10 a.m. / 10:15 to 10:30 a.m.

Neel Agrawal, JD, MLIS, Digital Projects Librarian, Loyola Marymount University

Session Six: The Jain Haribhadras: Traditions of Tolerance

Sunday, March 26 evening, 8 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Pacific

Monday, March 27 morning, 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. India

Several Scholars Named Haribhadra

8 to 8:15 p.m. PST / 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. IST

Abhishek Jain, Bhagwan Mallinath Visiting Assistant Professor, Loyola Marymount University

Haribhadra's Philosophy in the *Yogabindu*

8:15 to 8:30 p.m. PST / 8:45 to 9 a.m. IST

Alba Rodriguez, University of California, Riverside

A Non-Absolutist (*anaikāntika*) Apology for Philosophical Disagreement

8:30 to 8:45 p.m. PST / 9 to 9:15 a.m. IST

Ben Zenk, University of Hawaii at Hilo

Haribhadrasūri's Buddhist Influences and Opponents

8:45 to 9 p.m. PST / 9:15 to 9:30 a.m. IST

Anil Mundra, Alka Siddhartha Patel Post-Doctoral Fellow, Rutgers University

Remembering the Eight Yogas of the *Yogadr̥ṣṭisamuccaya*

9 to 9:15 p.m. PST / 9:30 to 9:45 a.m. IST

Christopher Key Chapple, Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology, Loyola Marymount University

Session Seven: RaagRang Visual Exploration

Sunday, March 26 evening, 9:15 p.m. to 10 p.m. Pacific

Monday, March 27 morning, 9:45 to 10:30 a.m. India

RaagRang: A Visual Exploration of North Indian Classical Rāgas

Dipankar Goswamy, DreamWorks Animation, Glendale, CA

Session Eight: Is Nepal a Shangrila? A Roundtable

Sunday, March 26 evening, 10 p.m. to 10:45 p.m. Pacific

Monday, March 27 morning, 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. India

Nepal, a Shangri-La? Narratives of Culture, Contact and Memory

Deepak Shimkhada, Iswari Pandey, Santosh Khadka, Tika Lamsal, Janice Sacherer, Khem K. Aryal, Khusbu Mishra, Mathusami Kumaran, Aryaa Rajouriya, Riti Shimkhada, Leepi Shimkhada, Sayam Moktan, Maureen Drdak, Yuvak Tuladhar, Subodh Ghimire, Benjamin Linder, Sadhana Ghimire, Charles Whitney, Bhikshuni Trinlae