Technology, Media, and the Changing Face of Asia

South Asia

The Center for Asian Studies, directed by Kathryn Hansen, has embarked upon a three-year project to investigate the transformations brought about by new technologies in Asia. Conceived as encompassing interdisciplinary topics ranging from film to science throughout all of Asia, this project was the impetus for a series of events and talks during the past year.

In April the Center in conjunction with Radio/Television/Film, Art and Art History, Women’s Studies, and Asian-American Studies hosted a conference on “Visual Media, Mass Communication, and Violence in South Asia.” During this three-day event, scholars from the United States and India grappled with representations of violence in different media formats (film, television, theatre, and calendar art), covering a number of languages and regions in South Asia.

Kajri Jain (Getty Research Institute) discussed the mass-produced images known as calendar art in “On the Efficacy of Images: The Case of Indian Mass Culture.” Tanika Sarkar (Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi) and Susan Seizer (Scripps College) both gave talks on popular theatre, the former focusing on the Bengali-speaking region and the latter on southern Tamil Nadu.

Cinema was the medium discussed by Ravi Vasudevan (Center for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi) and Lalitha Gopalan (Georgetown University). Vasudevan looked at the function and the implications of violence in a series of Bollywood and dubbed Tamil films. Gopalan, in “Cinema of Interruptions,” focused on technological innovation in film, specifically “morphing,” and its relationship to violence in society.

Shohini Ghosh (Jamia Millia University, Delhi) and Arvind Rajagopalan (New York University) focused on the advent of satellite television and the impact of commodity aesthetics on street vendors, respectively.

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The panels concluded with a lively set of discussion points by scholars from the University of Texas — Mia Carter (Asian-American Studies), John Downing (Radio/Television/Film), and Ann Reynolds (Art and Art History).

Simultaneous with the conference, the Center’s Outreach Program held a workshop to provide instruction and materials for teachers wishing to incorporate South Asian media studies in the classroom. Workshop talks were provided by UT faculty, staff, and graduate students (S. Akbar Hyder, Karline McLain, Kamal Adhikary, Merry Burlingham).

East Asia

Also in April the Center hosted independent filmmaker Peggy Chiao (Chiao Hsiung-ping), founder and director of the Taiwan Film Center and a UT graduate. An associate professor at the National Institute of the Arts in the Republic of China, Chiao has played a leading role in the international success of Chinese-language films over the past two decades. Recently her film, Tale of Three Cities, won several awards at the Berlin Film Festival. The Center, in conjunction with Radio/Television/Film, was pleased to have her present on “Contemporary Chinese Cinema in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.”

Susan Napier (UT-Austin) held an open seminar on “The Changeling Boy (and Girl): Metamorphosis in Japanese Animation.” The China Seminar welcomed Shula Zuo, Associate Editor-in-Chief of Film Art Magazine in Beijing, who talked on “Independent Film Production in Contemporary China.”

This coming year the Center will continue the theme of cultural transformation with a focus on the history of science and technology in Asia. Leading historians of science in Asia will be brought together with sociologists and anthropologists to examine the cultural consequences of the boom in information technology.

Robert L. Hardgrave Jr. Retires

Neil DeVotta, Visiting Assistant Professor, Michigan State University

“...a graduate student’s nightmare: the unexpected departure of my dissertation advisor to take up a post at another university... it turned out to be a singularly serendipitous stroke of good fortune. From my vague interest in the ways social structures influenced politics, Bob pushed me to delve deeply and to think systematically about forms of local organization, both formal and informal, and how they shaped the broader context of politics. I could not have conjured a more critical constructive reader for my dissertation, but ultimately... I think the most important thing Bob Hardgrave taught me was to appreciate the extraordinary scope and the multifarious nature of the world of politics, and hence of the object of our study as Political Scientists. In my teaching and in my advising I frequently attempt to emulate Bob Hardgrave as the model of what the teacher-scholar can be.”

—Leonardo A. Villalon, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Kansas
Promotions in 2001

Susan Burns (History) received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Burns is the author of Before the Nation: Kokugaku and the Imagining of Community in Early Modern Japan (Duke University Press, forthcoming) and is currently working on a new book, The Body in Question: The Politics and Culture of Medicine in Nineteenth-Century Japan. She is also a recent recipient of a Nichibunken (International Center for Japanese Studies) fellowship to support twelve months of research in Japan.

Cynthia Talbot (History/Asian Studies) received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Known for her courses in ancient and medieval Indian history, Talbot came to UT-Austin in 1995. Her book Precolonial India in Practice: Society, Region, and Identity in Medieval Andhra, was published by Oxford University Press (New York and Delhi) in the summer of 2001. It is a detailed reconstruction of the society of Andhra in the medieval period using temple inscriptions. Her current research focuses on the historiographic traditions of north India relating to Prithviraj Cauhan, a twelfth-century king. ❯❯

Susan Napier (Asian Studies), after receiving promotion to full professor, was appointed Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Chair of Japanese Studies, a position supported by the Mitsubishi Foundation. A graduate of Harvard University, Napier is an internationally-recognized specialist of Japanese literature and animation. She is the author of three books: Escape from the Wasteland: Romanticism and Realism in the Fiction of Misibima Yukio and Oe Kenzaburo (Council on East Asian Studies, Harvard University, 1991); The Fantastic in Modern Japanese Literature: The Subversion of Modernity (Routledge, 1996); and Anime from Akira to Princess Mononoke: Experiencing Contemporary Japanese Animation (Palgrave, 2001).

A full-time teacher at UT since 1984, Napier attracts students from a diverse array of university departments and programs. In recognition of her teaching excellence, Napier has received the President’s Associates Teaching Excellence Award. We are proud of her accomplishments and gratefully thank the Mitsubishi Foundation for their continued support of Japanese studies. ❯❯

Hardgrave has also had an abiding interest in art and took numerous art courses while at the University of Chicago. This interest led to two books on Balthazar Solvyns, a late eighteenth-century and early nineteenth-century Flemish painter who lived in Calcutta and produced three hundred etchings of India’s peoples. ❯❯

Hardgrave, continued from page 2

for Asian Studies, 1996-1997), and taught courses on American Government, Public Law, and Comparative Politics. The latter courses were especially geared towards aspiring South Asian scholars.

He was awarded the UT President’s Associates Teaching Excellence Award in 1984 and the “Eyes of Texas” Teaching Excellence Award in 1995. He continues to serve as a senior policy adviser and consultant for the U.S. State Department, Global Assessments Inc., and Political Risk Services, Inc.

Among his publications The Dravidian Movement (1965) remains a standard source for scholars researching South Indian nationalism; The Nadars of Tamilnad (1969) likewise continues to be regarded as a major theoretical and ethnographic contribution; Comparative Politics: The Quest for Theory (1973, with James Bill) remains in print and nearly thirty years later is still considered a great resource to graduate students; and India: Government and Politics in a Developing Nation (now in its 6th edition and co-authored with Stanley Kochanek since the 4th edition) continues to be among the most popular texts for undergraduates studying India.

Susan Burns

Cynthia Talbot

Susan Napier

Mitsubishi Endowed Chair Awarded

Susan Burns

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During the last eleven months, I lived in Pune, Maharashtra, under the auspices of the American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Fellowship. Affiliated with the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, I have been carrying out research on my dissertation, "In Search of a Sage: Yajnavalkya and Ancient Indian Literary Memory." This project is a textual and historical study of one of the most important literary figures in ancient Indian history.

These months were not my first in India: I have already lived almost three years in India (mainly in Banaras) as (variously) an undergraduate on a study-abroad program, director of that same program, and a student on a summer Hindi program. After this training in the so-called "Hindi belt," I chose to move further south to Pune, a place world-renowned for its Sanskrit scholarship.

While in India, I have read and discussed the primary Sanskrit sources with scholars and collected copies of manuscripts at various archives. I had the pleasure of presenting my work at two academic conferences as well as the privilege of being a guest at two Vedic sacrifices. My leisure time was spent visiting religious rites, watching Hindi films or television, and occasionally relaxing with a Kingfisher!

Sanskrit students have all heard horror stories about the difficulty of working in Indian archives. Outside of a few bureaucratic difficulties (true of any institution in India), I have been met with nothing but kindness and support while discussing my work with various scholars at these archives and accessing their holdings. The archives in Pune, Mysore, Chennai, and Banaras not only allowed me to copy or photograph the necessary manuscripts, but the affiliated scholars also showed great interest in my work.

One of the most outdated but rather prevalent notions in the West is that Sanskrit research is better carried out in a library in the United States or Europe and not in India. One would have hoped that the Orientalist debate of the last two decades, globalization, changing migration patterns, and growing diasporic communities would have made such suppositions obsolete, but this is not universally the case.

What I have learned in India could never be duplicated in the West nor "culled" from a text. Not only have I been able to study with world-renowned Sanskrit scholars (Dr. G.U. Thite and Dr. Shreekant Bahulkar, in particular) many hours a week, but through interactions with various institutes, universities, scholars, and even neighbors I have been exposed to worlds and ideologies not found in the library or the classroom. The political and theological implications of Sanskrit study, the different idioms of academic scholarship, and the practical aspects of actually performing a Vedic ritual are cultural realities that can only be lived, not read.

In November, I return to India—this time under a Fulbright-Hays dissertation grant and in a different location. I will base myself in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, and work principally at the Adyar Library. Not only will I learn about a different locality with different traditions, languages, and politics, but I will attempt once again to expand my knowledge of Indian history, the Sanskrit language, and their relationship with living traditions.
Learning about Nations, Learning about People
Briah Ruh, M.A. Candidate, Asian Studies

Brian Ruh joined the M.A. program in Asian Cultures and Languages in the fall of 2000. He plans to complete his Master’s degree in the spring of 2002.

This summer I participated in the 53rd annual meeting of the Japan-America Student Conference (JASC), a month-long event in which students from the U.S. and Japan gather to discuss everything from global interactions to personal relationships. Thirty-two American and thirty-one Japanese university students met in Kyoto for the conference, "Exploring Japan-U.S. Relations in a Globalizing Society." This event, hosted by Ritsumeikan University, was an opportunity to discuss Japan-U.S. relations not only in an abstract sense, but also concretely by experiencing such relations as we ate, lived, and made friends together.

JASC was divided into table discussions and special topics and each group met ten times throughout the conference. During these meetings, we discussed how issues relating to our respective topics impact not only U.S.-Japan interactions, but how our two countries affect the rest of the world. Each delegate wrote and presented a paper relating to his or her table topic. Since my particular academic focus is popular culture, I was a member of the mass media table and presented "Mass Media, Gender Roles, and Popular Culture in Japan and the United States."

We took a bus from Kyoto to Hiroshima, where we discussed ideas of peace, warfare, nationalism, and retribution. We also were able to participate in the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Intercity Solidarity as well as attend the Peace Memorial Ceremony on August 6, the 56th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb.

In August we went to Okinawa, where we were joined by forty additional students. We spent our time discussing Okinawa’s unique role in U.S.-Japan relations, focusing especially on the presence of the American military bases on the island, and presenting our findings and suggestions at the forum.

The 53rd Japan-America Student Conference concluded in Tokyo, where we presented the results of the conference at the Tokyo Forum. As JASC is run and organized solely by students, we also began the preparation for next year’s forum.

Attending this conference was vital to my academic career. In my writings, I often make hypotheses and extrapolations about behavior and meaning within Japanese society. The conference enabled me to interact with Japanese students and discuss their perceptions of themselves, their own society, and the world... By getting to know Japanese students on an individual basis, I became more aware of my own culture and myself.

For more information about current and future Japan-America Student Conferences, see their website at: www.jasc.org.
Sponsored by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies, Fahmida Riaz, a leading Urdu poet from Pakistan, gave a dynamic talk on the contribution of Muslim women to the history, culture, and politics of the subcontinent in April of this year. In addition to her lecture, she read her poetry in S. Akbar Hyder’s class Female Voices in Urdu Literature. Students had an opportunity to ask Ms. Riaz about her writing style, her views on women’s rights in Islam, and her exile days in India. Ms. Riaz discussed the translations of her poetry done by Asian Studies students. She was delighted by the quality of the translations and hopes to publish them soon. She also spoke for Gail Minault’s class Women in Islamic Societies, where she also participated in a lively debate on the status of women in Islamic societies in South Asia and beyond.

Ms. Riaz stayed in Austin for four days and during this time met with undergraduate and graduate students from the departments of Asian Studies, History, Anthropology, Middle Eastern Studies, and Literature. She thoroughly enjoyed Austin and referred to UT’s graduate students as the “brightest talents” she had ever encountered. Ms. Riaz also had the opportunity to mingle with advocates of women’s rights, including several members of the community organization Saheli.

**South Asia Seminars:**

Margaret Abraham (Hofstra University) “In a Foreign Country and Behind Closed Doors: Domestic Violence in the South Asian Community.”

Seema Alavi (Jamia Millia University, Delhi) “A European View of the Mughal Orient: A.H. Polier in 18th-Century India.”

Ali Asani (Harvard University) “The Dilemmas of Defining Muslim Identity in Contemporary South Asia.”

Jonah Blank (US Senate Foreign Relations Committee) “Mullahs on the Mainframe: Islam and Modernity in a South Asian Context.”

Bijoy H. Boruah (Fulbright Scholar, Philosophy, UT-Austin) “Atman in Sunyata and the Sunyata of Atman.”

Miki Desai (Fulbright Scholar, School of Architecture, UT-Austin) “Indian Regional Identity as Seen Through Architecture: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Kerala.”

Daniel Ehnbom (University of Virginia) “Collecting and Categorizing Indian Paintings: Western Tastes and Sectarian Identifications.”

Sumit Guha (Brown University) “Religious Authority, Political Power, and Community Boundaries in 18th-Century South Asia.”

John Stratton Hawley (Columbia University) “Last Seen with Akbar: Empire, Sect, and the Career Bhakti Poet.”

Kavita Khory (Mt. Holyoke College) “Nationalism in Pakistan: Domestic and International Dimensions.”

Amelia Maciszewski (Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology, UT-Austin) “Our Stories, Our Songs: North Indian Women’s Musical Autobiographies” (Video presentation).

K.N. Panikkar (Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi) “Outsider as Enemy: The Politics of Rewriting History in India.”

Carla Petievich (Montclair State University) “Blurring Boundaries of Community in Indo-Muslim Poetry: Ironies of Gender.”

Tariq Rahman (Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan) “Identity Formation in South Asia: Religion and Language as Cohesive and Divisive Symbols.”

Fahmida Riaz (Author, Pakistan) “Breaking the Silence: South Asia from a Woman’s Perspective.”

Martha Selby (UT-Austin) “Constant Craving: Listening to the Voice of the Garbha in the Caraka- and Susruta-Samhitas.”

Satadru Sen (Purdue University) “A Strange, Wondrous Place: Convicts, Dislocation, and Identity in the Andaman Islands Penal Colony.”

Vandana Shiva (Environmentalist, India) “The Global Economy and the Future of Food.”

Krishna Baldev Vaid (State University of New York, Potsdam) “Reflections in a Broken Mirror: Readings and Remarks.”

Reports of selected South Asia Seminar sessions are available online at:

asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/cas/pages/SAsem.html
Japan Seminars:


Susan Burns (UT-Austin) “From ‘Leper Villages’ to Leprosariums: Public Health, Nationalism, and the Culture of Exclusion in Japan.”

Millie Creighton (University of British Columbia) “Pre-Industrial Dreaming in Post-Industrial Japan: Department Stores as Mediators of Localism and Internationalization; Nostalgia and Modernity.”


Anne Walthall (University of California, Irvine) “Ooku: Japanese Palace Women and Court Life in Comparative Perspective.”

China Seminars:

Peggy Chiao (National Institute of the Arts in the Republic of China) “Contemporary Chinese Cinema in China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.”

Charles Laughlin (Yale University) “Leisure in the World of Struggle: 1930s Chinese Essays.”

Shula Zuo (Associate Editor-in-Chief, Film Art Magazine, Beijing) “Independent Film Production in Contemporary China.”

VIP Visits

The Center is pleased to have hosted the visits of a number of distinguished individuals this past year.

Kunio Toyama, vice governor of the district containing Austin’s sister-city, Oita, visited Austin as part of the University’s Distinguished Lecture Series. Toyama spoke on business and cultural relations between Austin and Oita, a city located on Japan’s southernmost island.

Muhammad Akram Zaki, former ambassador to the US and China, and current Member of the Senate of Pakistan, visited this past summer. Over a special luncheon with Center faculty, Zaki discussed current affairs and international relations in South Asia with a particular emphasis on the role of Pakistan.

In June, seven Asia Pacific Jefferson Fellows (distinguished journalists from major news media throughout Asia—Korea, Vietnam, China, Japan, and Australia) visited Austin and the University of Texas under the auspices of the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii. They had a chance to see something of Texas and participate in discussions about international relations and the status of Asian Studies in America while visiting the Center.

From L to R: students Laura Brueck, Lainie Crease, Tejal Shah and “Women and Gender” student conference co-organizer Martha Selby enjoy pizza and a lively debate.
Symposiums and Conferences

In February 2001, Center professor Martha Ann Selby organized a two-day symposium entitled “The Body in Indian Medicine,” based on her course of the same name. This well-attended interdisciplinary event included papers and discussions by classicists, anthropologists, and specialists in aging and geriatrics. Papers were delivered by Joseph Alter (University of Pittsburgh), Lawrence Cohen (University of California, Berkeley), Sarah Lamb (Brandeis University), Dominik Wujastyk (Wellcome Institute, London), McKim Marriott (University of Chicago), and Martha Ann Selby. Students had the rare opportunity to interact with these scholars, whose published works constituted the readings on the syllabus.

A special panel discussion entitled “Crisis in U.S.-China Relations” was held in April 2001. The panel, chaired by Sumit Ganguly, included a number of specialists in Asian politics and security: Ross Terrill (Government), Xuecheng Liu (visiting professor in Asian Studies from the China Institute of International Studies, Beijing), Gordon Bennett (Government), and Phillip Dumont (M.A. Candidate, Asian Studies, and Major in the US Army).

In May, the Center sponsored the Third Annual Student Conference on Women's Studies. This series of events is intended to give students a forum for meeting and discussing issues of gender outside the classroom. Students drawn from Margherita Zanasi’s “Women and Gender in China” and Martha Selby’s “The Body in Indian Medicine and Myth” participated in the event. Three students from each class presented short papers comparing the experience of women in China and India and placing them in a comparative perspective. The papers were followed by a lively discussion on the similarities and differences in the experience of women in China and India.

A major two-day conference on Taiwan studies was held at the Center in August, 2001. “Taiwan Studies at the Millennium: State of the Field” was organized by Yvonne Chang (Asian Studies), Avron Boretz (Asian Studies), Tse-min Lin (Government), and Meng-fen Su (East Asia Librarian). With over a dozen scholars presenting on interdisciplinary topics, the goal was to form a community of scholars which could become a professional organization devoted to Taiwan studies. The Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Brian Roberts, gave the opening remarks. Gary Seaman (University of Southern California), Robert Weller (Boston University), William Parish (University of Chicago), Murray Rubinstein (CUNY Baruch College), Joseph Allen (University of Minnesota), Leo Ching (Duke University), Yomi Braester (University of Washington), Jason Kuo (University of Maryland), Michelle Yeh (University of California, Davis), T.J. Cheng (College of William and Mary), John Hsieh (University of South Carolina), and Steve Phillips (Townson University) presented papers. John Traphagan (Asian Studies), Margherita Zanasi (Asian Studies), and Philip Paolino (Government) served as chairpersons. The presenters at the conference were matched with commentators outside their own fields, which produced lively and constructive discussions.

In September 2001, the Center co-hosted an international three-day conference, “Urdu Scholarship in Transnational Perspective,” together with Columbia University’s Southern Asian Institute. The venue was the Kellogg Center at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia. The event publicly recognized Professor C. M. Naim, recently retired from the University of Chicago, and his contributions to Urdu and South Asian studies as a teacher, scholar, and translator. Naim delivered the keynote address on “Ghalib’s Delhi: A Shamelessly Revisionist Look at Two Popular Metaphors.” Twelve established scholars and three Ph.D. candidates from fields such as literature, religion, history, and postcolonial studies presented papers organized into four panels: “Pillars of Urdu Poetry: Revisiting the Greats,” “Intertextuality in Narrative and Popular Performance,” “Women Studied: Female Literacy and Authorship,” and “Media and Migration: Urdu in the Metropolis.” Two roundtables were also organized dealing with “Urdu in America: The Last Forty Years” and “The Future of Urdu Studies.” The more than 200 participants who attended the confer-

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At Outreach, our web page has been redesigned to make browsing and searching for teaching materials easier; see: link.lanic.utexas.edu/asnic/outreach

The Center’s Outreach office coordinated two faculty workshops at out-of-state campuses. Three senior faculty from the Center (Patrick Olivelle, Sumit Ganguly, Kathryn Hansen) traveled to the University of North Carolina at Asheville in the fall. During a weekend workshop, the Center professors contributed lectures on Indian religion, politics, and literature and held intensive discussions with forty faculty in the Humanities Program. Several weeks later, Center faculty specializing in art history and Indo-Muslim literatures (Janice Leoshko, Michael Charlesworth, S. Akbar Hyder) went to Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado for a similar workshop. Both these workshops grew out of Outreach workshops for college faculty held in the previous year on the UT campus.

The Center supported non-UT area studies educators by instituting a program of post-secondary faculty research awards. This year an award was made to Anne Hardgrove (History, University of Texas at San Antonio) to travel to Austin to utilize library materials, Center expertise, and other resources to develop South Asia curricula. The Center also supported the completion of the Virtual Village Project, an interactive website on rural life in India, coordinated by Peter Gottschalk of Southwestern University, an adjunct faculty member. For more information see: www.colleges.org/-village

In June 2001, the Center for Asian Studies, the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies and the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies offered a week-long institute entitled “World Cultures Through the Arts.” The institute was attended by middle and high school teachers of history, geography, literature, politics, and the arts to learn how to teach world cultures through the use of visual arts, performing arts, architecture, film, literature, music and more. Teachers enjoyed a week of lectures, discussion, hands-on workshops, special performances, and a field trip to the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. The Center for Asian Studies provided speakers on South Asian art and Indian comic books as means for teaching about Indian culture and also organized a special performance of Bob Livingston's Cowboys & Indians (a blend of American and Indian folk music) at Zilker Park.

Throughout the year, the Center arranged for Asian Studies graduate students to give presentations at local grade, middle, and high schools. Outreach also participated in the development of the Humanities/Government Magnet for International Studies at Fulmore Middle School and participated at the Texas Council for Social Studies meeting in Dallas-Fort Worth.

New Resources at Outreach

The Center announces new Asian media resources available at Outreach Asia. In the past year, we have added more than one hundred titles, including Indian digital video disks (DVDs), ranging from classics such as Awara (1951) and Barsaat (1949) to modern hits such as Pardes (1997) and Phir bhi dil hai Hindustani (2000).

Visit our redesigned web page and searchable holdings database at:

asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/outreach/index.htm

“Many ideas and suggestions from presenters will fit directly into my curriculum. Other activities have sparked some new ideas of my own.”

“Almost everything presented will help improve my teaching of world cultures.”

— “World Culture Through the Arts” Workshop Participant
Kamran Asdar Ali (Anthropology) joins us from the University of Rochester as Assistant Professor of Anthropology. Ali’s research interests lie in the areas of health, gender, post-colonial studies, and labor history. His dissertation research was conducted in Egypt and focused on the country’s family planning program. His monograph on the subject is being published by the University of Texas Press in its Middle East series in spring of 2002.

Since 1998 Ali has been engaged in a long-term study of Pakistan’s labor history. For this he has received funding from the Institute of Asian Studies at Leiden in the Netherlands. Concurrently Ali is also finishing a two-year term as co-coordinator of the Project on Tourism in the Southern Mediterranean, funded by the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. He was also a Member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton in 1998–99.

Dr. Ali is currently teaching a graduate seminar on nationalism and gender which incorporates readings on South Asia and the Middle East. In the spring, he is offering a course, “Culture, Power, and History.” In this class, as well as in his research, he seeks to investigate further the link between South Asia and the Middle East, through focusing on issues of labor migration and Islamist political movements.

Joel Brereton (Asian Studies/Sanskrit) comes to the University of Texas from the University of Missouri, where he was an Associate Professor of Religious Studies. Brereton’s specializations are Sanskrit, Vedic literature and ritual, and Indian religion. His broader interests are the relationship between ritual and text in history, literary approaches to the study of religious texts, and ancient Indian poetic composition. Brereton is a leading scholar on Vedic religion and literature. Not only has he worked in Vedic and Sanskrit literature, he is also conversant with Avestan, Greek, and Latin. Bringing this background to bear on his current work, Brereton and Stephanie Jamison of Harvard University are producing the first complete scholarly translation of the Rigveda into English in over a century.

While Brereton’s research areas focus on ancient Indian history and religion, his academic background is diverse. Not only are his two advanced degrees in Religious Studies, but Brereton initially began his academic career as a student of New Testament studies, later branching into Hellenistic Studies and pre-Islamic Iran.

Maggie Chiang (Asian Studies/Chinese) joins the Center as an Instructor in Chinese language and literature.

Chiang is completing her dissertation, “Hsi-yu-Chi (Journey to the West) and the Renewal of Words,” in the Department of East Asian Studies at Princeton University. Drawing from Chinese and Western criticism on and theories of the novel, the dissertation attempts to develop a critical model to account for the diverse linguistic registers that are assimilated and transformed by this late sixteenth-century novel. Chiang’s teaching and research interests are in pre-modern Chinese literature and drama. This semester she is offering a course on classical Chinese and a course on Chinese thought and culture.

Roger Hart joins the University of Texas as an Assistant Professor in the Department of History. Last year he was a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago’s Fishbein Center for the History of Science; the year before he was an NEH Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. Before that he held post-doctoral fellowships at Harvard University, University of California at Berkeley, and Stanford University. Hart has lived six years in China—four as a teacher with Stanford’s Volunteers in Asia, one as a student at Peking University, and one conducting archival research under an ACLS fellowship. He has two books in process: “Western Learning” in Seventeenth-Century China: A Microhistorical Approach to World History, and an edited volume Cultural Studies of Chinese Science, Technology, and Medicine. This second book is connected to an international conference Hart is organizing at the University of Chicago, The Disunity of Chinese Science. Before going to China, Hart earned his B.S. from MIT and M.S. from Stanford in mathematics.

Hart’s main research areas are traditional China, history of science, and critical theory. Each year he will offer survey courses on East Asia and traditional China, as well as an upper-level course on late imperial China. He also will offer graduate seminars on critical theory. This year Hart will teach “Disunity of Language, Science, and Culture”; next year he will teach “Imagined Unities: Nations, Civilizations, Modernities.” For more information, see Hart’s web page at: uts.cc.utexas.edu/~hisweb/hart.

Veena Naregal (Radio/Television/Film) joins the Center and the Department of Radio/Television/Film as a Senior Lecturer at UT. She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Politics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Prior to her arrival, Naregal was at the Indian Institute of Economic Growth, University of...
New Asia Faculty join UT

Delhi where, under the auspices of the Ratan Tata Post-doctoral Fellowship, she was working on a project about the intersections of media, corruption, and politics in Mumbai. Naregal's research interests include language and politics in western India, the early history of the modern Marathi theatre, and contemporary media and cultural politics in India. She has published articles on television, theatre, and language politics in a variety of noted journals and edited volumes. Her first monograph, Language Politics and the Public Sphere: Western India under Colonialism, is now available from Permanent Black, New Delhi (2001). This work focuses on the implications of the bilingual relationship between English and Marathi for the construction of a modern intelligentsia in western India. Her forthcoming work deals with regional political formation in Maharashtra.

This fall Naregal is teaching a new course, “Media and Culture in South Asia,” which focuses on media trends in independent India. In the spring, she will be offering three courses: the “History of Indian Cinema,” “Cinema, Television and Politics in South Asia,” and “Modern Literatures and Publics in South Asia.”

Sharmila Rudrappa (Asian-American Studies/Sociology), having completed her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, joins both the Center for Asian-American Studies and the Department of Sociology as an Assistant Professor. Her specializations are race and ethnicity in the United States, gender, and social theory. While at Madison, Rudrappa taught in Women’s Studies and the Department of Sociology. She is currently teaching “Special Topics on Race: Nation and Citizen” and “South Asian-Americans: Work, Family, Community, Nation.” In the spring, she plans to teach social theory. Her long-term teaching interests are in the areas of citizenship and Asian-American families.

Rudrappa is currently preparing a book-length manuscript titled Ethnic Routes to Becoming American: Indian Immigrants, Social Work, and the Practices of Citizenship in the Late Twentieth-Century United States. Rudrappa’s next project will investigate temporary workers in the US, comparing Indian computer programmers and engineers on H-1B visas with Mexican unskilled laborers.

New Courses: 2000-2001

Eighteen new Asian studies courses were added this past year. These ranged from “Female Voices in Urdu Literature” (S. Akbar Hyder), “Politics and the Novel in South Asia” (Sumit Ganguly), to “The Body in Indian Medicine and Myth” (Martha Ann Selby).

The Dean of Liberal Arts donated generously to a special graduate course on “Security Issues in the New Millennium” featuring four distinguished visiting professors. While these courses will be offered again in the coming years, a number of new classes are also in the process of being introduced.

For a list of courses available or to search our courses database, visit our website:

asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/cas/pages/courses.html

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GRADUATE NEWS

In October 2001 six UT graduate students and faculty member Rajesh Bhatt (Linguistics) attended the South Asian Languages Analysis Roundtable (SALA) in Konstanz, Germany. Shannon Finch, Er-Xin Lee, Sadaf Munshi, Brian J. Reese, Christina Willis, and Henrietta Yang received travel grants from the Meyerson Fund and supported by a Course Development Grant from the Center.

For info on SALA, see: ling.uni.konstanz.de/pages/conferences/sala01

China:

Hyun-bo Joo (Ph.D., Asian Cultures and Languages) received a China Endowment Fellowship.

Seongyecop Kim (M.A., Asian Studies) and Ying Xiao (Ph.D., Asian Cultures and Languages) received University Preemptive fellowships for 2001-2002.

Ying Xiao and Yi Xu (Ph.D., Asian Cultures and Languages) both received Liberal Arts Recruiting Fellowships for 2001-2002.

Japan:

Kukhee Choo (Ph.D., Asian Cultures and Languages) received a Liberal Arts Recruiting Fellowship.

Brian Ruh (M.A., Asian Studies) received a Mitsubishi Fellowship for summer 2001 to attend a conference in Japan (see related article, page 5).

South Asia:

Michael Bednar (Ph.D., History) and Lisa Owen (Ph.D., Art and Art History) received Fulbright-Hays dissertation grants for 2000-2001.

Peter Kvetko (Ph.D., Ethnomusicology) and Steven Lindquist (Ph.D., Asian Cultures and Languages) received American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Fellowships for 2000-2001.

Sarah Green (Ph.D., Asian Cultures and Languages), Sandy Hewamanne (Ph.D., Anthropology), and Guha Shankar (Ph.D., Anthropology) all received UT Continuing Fellowships for 2001-2002.

Steven Lindquist received a Fulbright-Hays dissertation fellowship for 2001-2002, and has deferred a UT Continuing Fellowship until 2002-2003. Karline McLain (Ph.D., Asian Cultures and Languages) also received a Fulbright-Hays dissertation grant for 2001-2002. She was admitted to candidacy in August 2001.

Ayesha Ray (M.A., Government) received an Aggarwal Endowed Scholarship in Indian Studies.

2001-2002 Foreign Language Area Studies grants went to David Brick (M.A., Asian Studies), Laura Brueck (M.A., Asian Studies), Lisa Edwin (M.A., Asian Studies), Jeffrey Grimes (M.A., Ethnomusicology), Julie Hughes (M.A., History), Ritu Khanduri (Ph.D., Anthropology), Kristen Rudisill (Ph.D., Asian Cultures and Languages), and Matt Stromquist (M.A., Ethnomusicology).

Meyerson Fellowships were awarded to Gardner Harris (Ph.D, Asian Cultures and Languages), Scott Harvey (Ph.D., Asian Cultures and Languages), Ayesha Ray, Jarrod Whitaker (Ph.D., Asian Cultures and Languages), Helaena White (M.A., Asian Studies), and Nisha Shanghavi (M.A., Asian Studies).

Mark McClish (Ph.D., Asian Cultures and Languages) received a Liberal Arts Recruiting Fellowship.

Rachel Meyer (Ph.D., Anthropology) successfully defended her dissertation “Intimate Landscapes: Imagining Femininity, Family, and Home in North India.”

Continued on page 13


**ALUMNI NEWS**

Neil DeVotta, who received his Ph.D. from the Department of Government in August 2001, is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at James Madison College, Michigan State University. His most recent article is on illiberal democracy and ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka which will appear in the January 2002 issue of the Journal of Democracy.

Manu Bhagavan, who received his Ph.D. from the Department of History in May 1999, is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of History and Political Science at Manchester College in Indiana. His article "The Rebel Academy: Modernity and The Movement for a University in Princely Baroda, 1908-1949" will appear in a forthcoming issue of the Journal of Asian Studies.

**GRANTS**

Avron Boretz (Asian Studies) received a post-doctoral research grant for 2001-2002 from the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange as well as a Dean’s Fellowship.

Shama Gamkhar (LBJ School of Public Affairs) received a Course Development Grant from the Center to develop a new course “Environmental Economic Policy: Comparative Perspectives on U.S. and South Asia.”

Kathryn Hansen (Asian Studies) held an American Institute of Indian Studies Short-Term Senior Fellowship. She also received a ten-month residential Fellowship at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study for 2001-2002, which she declined.

Stephen Phillips (Philosophy) received an American Institute of Indian Studies Short-Term Senior Fellowship to complete a translation of a chapter of Gangesa’s Jewel of Reflection on the Truth (about Epistemology).

Martha Ann Selby (Asian Studies) received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from the American Council of Learned Societies for work on a new book titled Sanskrit Gynecologies: The Semiotics of Gender and Femininity in Sanskrit Medical Texts.

**UNDERGRADUATE NEWS**


Phoenix Feng-huang Ying, who received her Ph.D. last year, is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Taiwanese language at the National Cheng Kung University (Tainan, Taiwan).

**PUBLICATIONS**

Sung-sheng Yvonne Chang (Asian Studies) published Wenxue changyu de bianqian: dangdai taiwan xiaoshuo lun (Changes in the Literary Field: Contemporary Fiction of Taiwan) (Unitas Publishing House, 2001), a collection of essays in Chinese. She also guest-edited a special issue on Taiwan literature for the Hong-Kong-based Journal of Modern Literature in Chinese.


Robert Hardgrave, Jr. (Government) published Boats of Bengal: Eighteenth Century Portraits by Baltazar Solvyns (New Delhi: Manohar, 2001). For more information on Hardgrave and his publications, see: asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/cas/rhl.html


Stephen Phillips (Philosophy) is publishing Gangesa on the “Inferential Undercutter” (Upadhi): Text, Translation, and Explanation (New Delhi: Indian Council for Philosophical Research, forthcoming).


Stephen Slawek (Music) gave a sitar recital of Indian classical music, accompanied by tabla virtuoso Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri in March. In April, Slawek played bonang barung, bonang panerus and gender barung in the second recital given by the School of Music’s Javanese Gamelan Ensemble.

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Student news, continued from page 12

Richa Gulati (ANS/Plan II Honors) was selected from students at over 300 colleges to receive one of 70 Harry S. Truman Scholarships. The Truman Scholarship provides funds for graduate or professional study for students who wish to pursue careers in public service.

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Performing Arts

South and Southeast Asian Musical Events
Matthew Stromquist (M.A. Candidate, Music)

A rich and diverse array of musical performances graced UT-Austin concert halls this previous year. The Center for Asian Studies, the School of Music, and others combined to bring in talent from around the world and locally from Austin. As a graduate student in ethnomusicology, these activities afforded me the opportunity to attend many concerts and also participate as a musician.

Under the Ravi Shankar Music Circle of the School of Music, Center professor Stephen Slawek and tabla maestro Swapan Chaudhuri played to a packed Bates Recital Hall in late March. Slawek, a teacher of sitar for twenty-five plus years and a senior disciple of Pandit Ravi Shankar, offers regular courses on Indian music, as well as teaching sitar and tabla. Many of his current and former students were in the audience to revel in the excellent concert.

A few weeks later, the School of Music and the Performing Arts Center welcomed tabla master Zakir Hussain for a lecture-demonstration. Inside the lecture hall, which was filled to capacity, Zakir Hussain explained the basics of the historical development of the tabla interspersed with rhythmic (and melodic!) musical examples.

Another event to mention, and one that I was personally involved in, was the Gamelan ensemble concert in April. The ensemble, part of the UT School of Music performance ensembles, played its second public concert since its inception three years ago. Under the direction of Pak Rasito Purwopangrawit (visiting instructor and performer from Indonesia), faculty, staff, and students performed an eight-item concert of Javanese Gamelan music.

These concerts and those arranged along with the Indian Classical Music Circle of Austin are not only a welcome break from the classroom, but also are a part of the wider holistic and participatory nature of music education. This next year will no doubt be full of many more concerts showcasing the international and local talent that UT has to offer.

Indian Classical Music Circle

The Center and the Indian Classical Music Circle of Austin (ICMCA) have worked together for the last ten years to bring top-notch performers from India to local audiences.

Last year a number of excellent performances took place in Austin. First in the series, Umakant and Ramakant Gundecha, known as the Gundecha Brothers, gave a vocal performance of the Hindustani dhrupad, accompanied by Akhilesh Gundecha on pakhawaj. In November, Vempati Chinna Satyam’s dance troupe presented a lavish Kuchipudi dance-drama entitled Ksheerasagara Madanam.

In the same month, a concert celebrating the Hindu holiday of Deepavali was presented. N. Ravikiran played his unique instrument, the chitravina, in a concert of Karnatak classical music in February. He was accompanied by Vittal Ramamurthy (violin) and Poovalur Srinivasan (mridangam).

In March, classical vocalist M.S. Sheela, known as the “Melody Queen of Karnataka,” gave a performance accompanied by Radhika Mani (violin), Anoor Dattatreya Sharma (mridangam), and Sathish Pathakota (kanjira). The final concert was by Tejendra Majumdar on the Hindustani sarod in April. For past and future events of the ICMCA, see www.icmca.org.

Bricks and Lyrics

Abhijat Joshi’s new play, Bricks and Lyrics, was performed for three nights in March, 2001. The play was directed by Mark Hunter and was featured as part of the New Works Festival, a bold venture of the Department of Theatre and Dance to celebrate original works created by UT students.

Based in contemporary India, the story is about an old woman battling against a sinister land developer over her home, which was built by her husband, a poet martyred during the Independence struggle. Political and social tensions of modern-day India are interwoven throughout the play. Joshi even changed the ending after the devastating earthquake in Gujarat, to draw attention to the disaster and make the play even more timely.

Joshi has received numerous awards for his writings and is also the screenwriter of two recent Hindi film hits, Kareeb and Mission Kashmir. He is in his second year of the MFA Program at the Michener Center.
The Center for Asian Studies has launched its new website. Formerly contained within the Asian Studies Network Information Center (ASNIC) site, CAS hopes that its new website will provide a convenient way to access the information and resources available from the Center for Asian Studies.

Please take some time to visit it and see what is available!

asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/cas/index.htm

If you would like information for Graduate degree programs, including financial aid, please visit our website, asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/cas/pages/degrees.html

Outreach Asia activities and resource lending library: asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/outreach/index.htm
or email us at outreach@uts.cc.utexas.edu

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or email us at outreach@uts.cc.utexas.edu

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________

email: ____________________________

Faculty news, continued from page 11

Tomoko Watanabe Traphagan (Asian Studies/Japanese) joins UT as a Lecturer in Japanese. Traphagan completed her Ph.D. in Foreign Language Education at the University of Pittsburgh. She teaches second and third-year level Japanese.

Visiting Faculty 2001-2002

Every year the Center for Asian Studies and the Department of Asian Studies welcome distinguished scholars to our team as Visiting Faculty. During the 2001-2002 academic year, our visiting faculty are:

Susan Dolling, Lecturer (Fall 2001 only, Chinese Studies), Hee-jong Joo, Visiting Associate Professor, (Korean Studies), and Chiho Sawada, Lecturer (East Asian History/Korean Studies).

Student news, continued from page 13

Alison Mitchell (ANS) received the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Scholarship.

Jonathan Hubble (CHI) and Alison Mitchell both received the Asian Studies Scholarship for Study Abroad.

Ryan Grady (ANS) and Tim Sutton (CHI) received the Republic of China Ministry of Education Fellowships for Study in Taiwan.

Nancy Hsia (CHI) was named Outstanding Chinese Language Student. Emily Chung (ANS), Alison Little (ANS), and Shanti Nulu (ANS) were named Outstanding Graduating Seniors in Asian Studies.

Simone Heron (JPN), Linda Takamine (JPN), and Joshua Waggener (JPN) were named Outstanding Graduating Seniors in Asian Cultures and Languages.

Conferences, continued from page 8

ence came from India, Pakistan, Germany, Belgium, and the United States. Kathryn Hansen (Asian Studies, UT-Austin) was chair of the organizing committee and discussant for the panel on intertextuality. Gail Minault (History, UT-Austin) delivered a paper on “From Akhbar to News: The Development of the Urdu Press in Early 19th-Century Delhi.” S. Akbar Hyder (Asian Studies, UT-Austin) presented “To You Your Cremation, To Me My Burial: The Ideals of Intercommunal Harmony in Premchand’s Karbala” and spoke on the future of Urdu studies. In addition to UT-Austin and Columbia, the conference was sponsored by the Center for South Asian Studies at the University of California-Berkeley, the Berkeley Urdu Language Program in Pakistan, the Committee on Southern Asian Studies at the University of Chicago, the South Asia Program at Cornell University, and the American Institute of Pakistan Studies. Selected papers will be published in a Festschrift dedicated to Naim. For full details of the conference program, see asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/cas/pages/urducconf.pdf.
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