NAUTANKI INDAL HARAN
(THE ABDUCTION OF INDAL)

Swang-Nautanki is one of the most popular operatic performance traditions of northern India. Before the advent of Bollywood (Indian film industry), Nautanki was the biggest entertainment medium in the villages and towns of northern India. Often, 25,000 to 30,000 people would gather to watch Nautanki performances. Nautanki's rich musical compositions and humorous, entertaining storylines hold a strong influence over rural people's imagination, and even after the spread of mass media, a crowd of 10,000 to 15,000 can be seen at the top Nautanki performances.

Performance by Devendra Sharma's Swang and Nautanki Mandali
Directed by Dr. Devendra Sharma
Under the guidance of Guru Pandit Ramdayal Sharma
Friday April 26, 2013
7:00 pm
Texas Union Theater
(UNB 2.228)- UT Austin
2247 Guadalupe St, Austin, TX 78713
Free and open to the public

The South Asia Institute, University of Texas at Austin presents:
North Indian Musical Folk Theater

Emergent Voices: Pakistan in the 21st Century
September 21-22, 2012
AVAYA Auditorium ACES 2.302

Participants:
• Asad Ahmed, Harvard University
• Iftikhar Dadi, Cornell University
• Will Glover, University of Michigan
• Matthew Hull, University of Michigan
• Humeira Iqtidar, Kings College London
• Naveeda Khan, Johns Hopkins University
• Rochona Majumdar, University of Chicago
• Farina Mir, University of Michigan
• Aamir Mufti, UCLA
• Tahir Naqvi, Trinity University
• Paula Newberg, Georgetown University
• Sameera Raja, Gallerist and Curator
• Nada Raza, Curator, Iniva
• Cabeiri Robinson, University of Washington
• Sadia Shirazi, Architect and Curator
• Karin Zitzewitz, Michigan State University

This workshop brings together recent scholarship on Pakistan from a range of disciplines. The discussion will open up new avenues of dialogue and debate based on themes from urban history, cultural politics, to art and aesthetics and social movements. While rethinking the dominant paradigm in Pakistan studies, the workshop will introduce new perspectives that showcase the dynamic and changing nature of Pakistani society.

FALL 2013 NEWSLETTER
South Asia Institute • voice: 512.471.3550 • fax: 512.471.3336 • www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/southasia/
Dear Colleagues, Students and Friends,

Another eventful year for the South Asia Institute and we keep on remaining busy with seminars, talks, outreach events and grant applications. Our 2012-2013 year started with two major conferences, one on Pakistan and the other on Buddhism in South Asia. The Fall 2012 seminar series was dedicated to Professor Patrick Olivelle’s contribution to South Asian studies, Religion and Society in Traditional India. This was followed in the Spring semester with a series, Discourses on Masculinity and Violence in South Asia. Both these series were well attended and brought senior and junior scholars from a range of disciplines to UT, Austin. The year ended with an amazing Nautunki performance of the play, Indal Haran, for the community at large. Unfortunately two of our senior colleagues and stalwarts in the field of South Asian studies, Patrick Olivelle and Katherine Hansen, decided to call it a day in May of 2013. Luckily both will remain in Austin during their retirement and we will be blessed with their continued presence in our community.

South Asian studies at UT has added four new senior faculty members in Government (Newberg), History (Chatterjee and Guha) and Asian Studies (Davis) to its roster. We have the good fortune to have another South Asian Studies Librarian, Mary Rader, who has an added portfolio of global studies coordinator. The new hires, students receiving fellowships, colleagues publishing articles and books, receiving grants and international recognition has made the South Asia program one of the best in the country. It can all be attributed to the combined hard work and dedication that the faculty and students bring to the study of South Asia at UT Austin.

This past year we have again been successful in receiving another one million dollar Federal Grant. Housed at the South Asia Institute, the grant allows for a three year exchange program between UT’s Butler School of Music and the National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) in Karachi, Pakistan. The program will bring students from NAPA to UT to learn aspects of the Western Classical tradition with a focus on music theory, voice training and conducting. This is in addition to the ongoing exchange program with the Fatima Jinnah Women’s University in Rawalpindi. In addition to these two large grants we have received ample funds from various supporters in the community to conduct K-12 workshops on India and South Asia.

Looking ahead SAI will be applying for the Title VI grant this year. We all need to work together to make this a successful grant and I am looking forward to your support. Lastly, let me thank our staff colleagues for their dedication, hard work and enthusiasm for all that they do for South Asia Institute. Thank you.

Regards,
Kamran Asdar Ali
Faculty

Prof. David J. Eaton, of the LBJ School of Public Affairs continued the partnership between UT-Austin and the United Nations’ Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) by sponsoring two graduate courses through the UT-Austin University Extension and the UNITAR Afghanistan Fellowship Program for Afghan-national executives in government, universities, and civil society. The two courses were held in April-November 2011 and April-November 2012, respectively. In addition, Prof. Eaton was the co-recipient of the American Society for Public Administration’s 2012 James W. McGrew Research Award for the policy analysis and policy impact of his edited monograph, Title Insurance Regulation in Texas: Challenges and Opportunities.

Prof. Lalitha Gopalan, of the Department of Radio, Television, Film, received three prestigious grants for the next two years: the Tagore Fellowship from The Ministry of Culture, Government of India; the Senior Long Term Research Fellowship from AIIS; and the Fulbright-Nehru Senior Fellowship.

Prof. Rupert Snell presented a paper “New Directions in the Teaching of Hindi in the United States” at the European Hindi Conference at Valladolid, Spain. On June 20, 2012 the President of India, Pratibha Patil, presented him with the George Grierson Award for service to Hindi by non-Indians at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

Prof. Ward Keeler, of the Department of Anthropology, spent August 2011 through July 2012 living and doing fieldwork in two Buddhist monasteries in Mandalay, Myanmar (Burma). He has received a three-month fellowship from the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore and a six-month fellowship from the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden, the Netherlands. Both fellowships will support his writing of the results of his fieldwork. Prof. Keeler has also written an essay for an edited collection about using fiction, memoirs, and film to teach anthropology.

Dr. Afsar Mohammad’s new book, entitled “The Festival of Pirs: Popular Islam and Shared Devotion in South Asia”, was published by the Oxford University Press in 2013. Dr. Mohammad is a lecturer in the Department of Asian Studies. His book deals with localized forms of Islam and offers a theoretical perspective on the making of new Muslim groups that define themselves as “true” Muslims.

Dr. Patrick Olivelle’s new volume, King, Governance, and Law in Ancient India, was published by the Oxford University Press in 2013. Dr. Olivelle is an Emeritus Professor of the Department of Asian Studies.

Dr. Sankaran Radhakrishan was the chief guest for an annual day event organized by Houston’s biggest South Indian language school, the Greater Houston Tamil School.

Prof. Martha Ann Selby, the Chair of the Department of Asian Studies, received a Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Fellowship for the 2013-14 academic year. She is spend eight months in Chennai, where she will translate the fictional contemporary Tamil writer D. Dilip Kumar. Selby will also assess the current literary scene in Chennai and write a brief history of post-1947 Tamil literature.


Prof. Cynthia Talbot, of the Department of History, received a UT Humanities Research Award for 2013-15 for a new project, entitled ‘Noble

SAI Mourns the Loss of Public Affairs Professor Shama Gamkhar

Shama Gamkhar, an associate professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, died along with her husband in a plane crash in Georgia on August 4, 2013. The South Asia Institute extends its deepest sympathies to her family and friends.

Fifty-four year old Gamkhar joined the LBJ School in 1996 and taught public finance and finance and financial management. She had recently served as graduate adviser for the Master of Public Affairs degree program.

Gamkhar was an expert in environmental economic policy, focusing on climate change and pollution abatement. Her research interests included fiscal federalism, transportation finance, and municipal bond markets. She served as the co-editor of the Annual Review of American Federalism published by Publius: The Journal of Federalism. She also published regularly in peer-reviewed journals.

Gamkhar earned an M.Phil. in economics from the Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University, before receiving her Ph.D. in economics from the University of Maryland at College Park. Faculty and students knew her as a warm and generous colleague and mentor.  

Saif Shahin
Lineages in the Making: Writing Warrior Histories in Mughal India, 1590-1690.'

Prof. Kamala Visweswaran, of the Department of Anthropology, is teaching Fulbright in Sri Lanka next year. Her edited book, Everyday Occupations (University of Pennsylvania Press), was published in April 2013. She has also been selected to serve on the Editorial Board of Feminist Studies.

Dr. Herman Van Olphen, Professor Emeritus of the Department of Asian Studies, gave the keynote address at the annual celebration of Hindi Divas (“Hindi Day”) organized by the Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius on January 10, 2013. While in Mauritius, he also spoke at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, DAV College, and the Hindi Speaking Union. In December 2012, he spent two weeks at the Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University in Vardha, Maharashtra, India. During his stay, he presented a paper at a conference on Hindi curriculum and worked with Hindi teachers from various countries to prepare a curriculum for foreign students studying Hindi at the Hindi University.

Students

Elliott McCarter, has successfully defended his dissertation and is currently teaching Hindi at Emory University.

Saif Shahin, a doctoral student at the School of Journalism, won three awards for his research papers: a top student paper award from the International Communication Association, as well as a top student paper award and a top paper in an open competition award from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Noman Baig has been awarded a prestigious dissertation writing fellowship at Max Planck Institute in Gottingen, Germany, for 2013-2014. As a research fellow, Noman plans to write his Ph.D. dissertation. His Ph.D. research investigates how post-9/11 financial surveillance has influenced upon mercantile practices in contemporary Pakistan. The ethnographic research was conducted in Pakistan largest wholesale bazaar, Bolton Market, in Karachi, (2011-2013), and concentrated largely on the customary networks of informal money transfer system.

Eric Nordstrom received full CLS (Critical Language Scholarship) funding for his study in India this summer. The scholarship included airfare, tuition, room/board, and a stipend to cover typical expenses during the program.

Matthew D. Milligan, a PhD Candidate in Asian Languages and Cultures, has been chosen by Antioch University to be an Adjunct Instructor for the 2013 Buddhist Studies in India study abroad program in Bodh Gaya, a small pilgrimage village in the province of Bihar in northeastern India. The program provides a semester of rigorous academic study for American undergraduate students from all over the country while living in a Burmese Theravada Buddhist monastery. Bodhgaya is known as the traditional location for the historical Buddha’s enlightenment underneath a bodhi tree. Matthew will be teaching one course, “History of South Asian Buddhism” and will serve in several support roles such as advising students in developing an independent study research project and in weekly meditation reflection meetings.

Emily Ernst was awarded two fellowships for 2013-14 namely – The American Institute for Indian Studies Language Fellowship and the Boren Fellowship. She received the Boren Fellowship to study Urdu in Lucknow, India.

Stella Wojdyla received the German Academic Exchange Service Scholarship for 2013-14.

Dean Accardi was awarded the Asian Studies Continuing Fellowship. His research focuses on the relationship between religion and the state in early modern Kashmir, especially how asceticism and bodily discipline contribute to ideas of sanctity, authority, and power.

Dan Rudmann and Vibha Shettiya received the Graduate School Continuing Fellowship award.

Emilia Bachrach and Suzanne Schulz were awarded the ACLS-Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship for 2013-14. ACLS-Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowships support a year of research and writing to help advanced graduate students in the humanities and related social sciences in the last year of Ph.D. dissertation writing. The total award of up to $33,000 includes a $25,000 stipend plus additional funds for university fees and research support. In addition, Dissertation Completion Fellows are able to apply to participate in a seminar on preparing for the academic job market.
Colin Pace was awarded a three-year National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Fellowship.

Peter Knapczyk is now teaching Hindi at University of Colorado, Boulder. He is a PhD student in Asian Cultures and Languages and his research examines the literary, religious, and political impact of the Urdu marsiyah (elegy) in early modern India.

Jonathan Seefeldt, a graduate student in Asian Studies, is teaching English at Woodstock School in India. Woodstock School is the oldest international boarding school in Asia that offers a world-class college preparatory education to students from around the world.

Alumni

Mubbashir Rizvi
(Anthropology PhD 2013) joined the Anthropology Department at Georgetown University. His dissertation “‘Masters Not Friends’, Land Labor and Politics of Place in Pakistan” is a historical and ethnographic study of a landless peasant movement in Punjab, Pakistan. At Georgetown, Mubbashir is teaching courses on environmental anthropology, state and citizenship in the postcolonial context, and a field methods course.

Asiya Aslam started her postdoctoral fellowship at Yale University. Asiya Alam received her PhD in 2013 from the Department of Asian Studies. Her research focuses on the debates and discussions concerning family and marriage among Muslim communities in colonial north India from the late-nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries.

Laura Brueck is now teaching as Associate Professor of Hindi in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

Gardner Harris is the Director of South Asian Religion and Art at the Shraman South Asian Museum and Learning Center Foundation. The Shraman foundation is a non-profit located in Dallas, TX with the mission of collecting, preserving, displaying, interpreting and facilitating the study and discussion of South Asian culture and history, with a primary focus in India.

Brian Boitmann founded a non-profit called ‘Acts of Sharing’ which helps connect people to all the things they may be able to temporarily borrow from other members of the community.

SAI Welcomes New Faculty

Indrani Chatterjee
Professor, Department of History

Indrani Chatterjee has written and taught for two decades on issues of slavery, sexuality, and family in modern South Asian history, weaving together subaltern, feminist, and postcolonial perspectives. “Both at the undergraduate and graduate level, my teaching is an attempt to raise questions about the past of the subcontinent that my own teachers did not or could not answer,” she told SAI.

That philosophy is reflected in the two courses that Chatterjee, who has moved to UT-Austin after 12 years at Rutgers University, taught in Fall 2013. Slavery & South Asian History looked at how destitute people, orphans, debtors, and criminals have been incorporated into social and political institutions in the subcontinent. A seminar on Postcolonialism familiarized students with strands of political philosophy by locating them in particular moments in anti-colonial struggles.

Chatterjee earned her doctorate in 1996 from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. She has published extensively. Her latest book, Forgotten Friends: Monks, Marriages, and Memories of Northeast India (Oxford University Press, 2013) studies the peculiar conditions under which modern Indians produced amnesiac histories of northeastern India (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura). In her next monograph, she will track the gendered nature of capitalism in the eastern part of the Indian subcontinent in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Chatterjee said she is excited about being associated with the South Asia Institute. “I would like to work with others involved in South Asian studies at UT to find common inspiration and enthusiasms,” she said, “and to build upon core strengths of this Institute.”

Don Davis
Associate Professor, Department of Asian Studies

Don Davis, a leading scholar of the history of Hindu law, returns to teach at his alma mater 13 years after earning his doctorate. Much of his research relates to Dharmaśāstra, a textual corpus in Sanskrit that deals
with social life in ancient and medieval India, including religion and law. He is especially interested in Malayalam language and Kerala, which serves as the historical and regional context for his work.

Davis’s teaching is intimately tied with his research. He comes to UT after nine years at University of Wisconsin-Madison. “At UT, I hope to offer advanced seminars on Hindu Law and Comparative Religious Law, lecture courses on Hinduism and Jainism, and reading courses in a variety of Sanskrit genres,” he told SAI. In Fall 2013, he taught History of Hindu Religious Traditions, followed in Spring by an Introduction of Pūrva-Mīmāṃsā (Ritual Hermeneutics) and Ethics and Scholarship in the Study of Asia.

He is working on a monograph titled The Practice of Hindu Law, which categorizes the practical legal institutions of classical Hindu law and traces its historical development in practice down to the present. He is also editing and contributing to several volumes, including the Oxford History of Hinduism with Prof. Patrick Olivelle, who recently retired from UT.

“I am keen to participate in and contribute to the longstanding Seminar Series and regular conferences hosted by SAI,” Davis said. “In addition, I hope to use SAI resources and prestige to promote and secure the study of South Asian languages at UT and nationally.”

**Sumit Guha**

**Frances Higginbotham Nalle Centennial Professorship in History**

Sumit Guha studies the social and economic history of medieval and modern South Asia, focusing on western and central India. Lately, he has been interested in the historical evolution of identities and the political, cultural, and linguistic processes that shape them. “My general approach is interdisciplinary,” he told SAI. “I believe that history should draw on both humanities and natural and social sciences to deepen our understanding of the past.”

This Fall, he is teaching two graduate courses: one surveys the long history of the Indian subcontinent, the other focuses on problems faced in historical research via the scrutiny of the sources and historical writings on the 1857 Indian uprising. “I would like to develop both graduate and undergraduate courses in environmental history and the history of language, among other topics,” he said.

Guha has published extensively on South Asia’s economic and social history. His book, Beyond Caste: Identity and Power in South Asia, Past and Present, will be published by E.J. Brill this year. He recently edited a special issue of the Medieval History Journal (vol. 14, no. 2) on the theme of literary cultures of frontier zones from 16th century Mexico through the Mediterranean to eastern Burma.

After earning his doctorate from the University of Cambridge in 1981, Guha began his teaching career at St. Stephen’s College, Delhi. He comes to UT Austin after nine years at Rutgers University. “The presence of the (South Asia) Institute is one of the most important reasons for my decision to move to UTexas-Austin,” he said. “I look forward to learning more and working with others.”

**Paula Newberg**

**Clinical Professor and Fellow of the Wilson Chair**

Paula Newberg’s work looks at the intersections between human rights, democratic governance, and foreign policy in crisis and transition states, with particular focus on South and Central Asia. A scholar and practitioner with wide-ranging experience in multilateral and nongovernmental organizations, Newberg served as Special Advisor to the United Nations in Asia, Europe and Africa. Prior to coming to UT-Austin, she was the director of the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University.

Newberg has written extensively on constitutional development and jurisprudence in Pakistan, the politics of assistance in and to conflict and post-conflict states, and rights in conditions of insurgency. Her current interests include governance in the evolving Gulf/Arabian Sea/Indian Ocean region; treason and sedition in modern South Asia; and new rights regimes in South and Southwest Asia. She writes for Yale Global Online and is an advisor to a number of nonprofit organizations working in the fields of rights and democracy.

As Fellow of the newly established Wilson Chair at UT-Austin, she will be creating curricular, training, archiving and policy programs with institutions in South Asia, with an initial focus on Pakistan. At Columbia, Johns Hopkins, and Georgetown universities, she taught graduate courses on comparative foreign policy, rights and international affairs, international politics of conflict, and
the international politics of South Asia. At UT Austin, she teaches courses on rights and the state in modern South Asia, and the politics of complex emergencies in South Asia and beyond.

**Mary R. Rader**  
**South Asian Studies Librarian & Global Studies Coordinator**

Mary Rader blends years of experience working as a South Asian Studies bibliographer with first-hand knowledge of South Asia. Since graduating with a Master’s degree in library and information sciences from UT-Austin 15 years ago, she has worked at the Chicago Public Library, the University of Michigan, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In addition, she has a graduate degree in International Studies (South Asia) and has spent years studying Tamil in Tamil Nadu, India.

She now returns to her alma mater as a South Asian Studies Librarian and Global Studies Coordinator. “My focus,” she told SAI, “has been to help library users access the information they need for their work -- be that by selecting materials for the library collections, creating online tools so they can discover publications, teaching them how to use research and reference tools, and so on.”

In recent years, Rader has focused on enhancing intra- and inter-institutional collaboration. “While large research libraries such as that at UT have millions of materials in their collections, they obviously don’t have everything,” she said. Collaboration allows libraries “to diversify and expand the offerings made available to and preserved for researchers.”

Rader is excited to be working with the UT South Asian Studies community. She said that as a Global Studies Coordinator, “I’m eager to establish connections across the area studies centers on campus and within the libraries in hopes of raising profiles and creating collaborations to the benefit of international/area/global studies generally.”

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**Recent Publications by Faculty**

| Sumit Guha, Professor, Department of History | Kamala Visweswaran, Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Department of Asian Studies | Afsar Mohammad, Lecturer, Department of Asian Studies | Heather Hindman, Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Department of Asian Studies |

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**SAI presents Ayesha Jalal’s new book on Manto**

If storytelling is an instinctive human activity, then fiction can offer a deeply humanistic approach to understanding politics and society, both present and past. That is the approach taken by Ayesha Jalal, a Macarthur Fellow and the Mary Richardson Professor of History at Tufts University, in The Pity of Partition: Manto’s Life, Times, and Work Across the India-Pakistan Divide (Princeton 2013). Jalal draws upon the stories, essays, and letters of Sa’adat Hasan Manto (1912-1955), a giant of twentieth-century Urdu literature, to explore the human dimension of the communal violence that engulfed the subcontinent before, during, and after the 1947 Partition.

The book was launched on April 11 at a reading organized by the Hindi-Urdu Flagship Program and the South Asia Institute. Jalal read extensively from the book, demonstrating how Manto’s piquant prose, as much as his tumultuous life and relationships, shed light on one of the most turbulent times in subcontinental history. Later, she engaged in a discussion on the tension between fact and fiction with the audience at the Meyerson Conference Room, comprising The University of Texas at Austin students, faculty, and staff as well as members of the Urdu-speaking community from Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston.  

(continued on p. 18)
Spring 2013 Seminar Series Raises Questions on Masculinity and Violence

Men and maleness have been relegated to the margins of South Asian gender studies until recently, as have studies on conceptions of violence and their link with manliness. Can we speak of a hegemonizing masculinity in any era of South Asian history, or have there always been a range of competing masculinities? When is violence justified or even necessary, and who is sanctioned to apply it? And, most especially, to what extent does manliness require a male body to engage in physical aggression against others?

An interdisciplinary slate of speakers addressed these and related questions during a seminar series in Fall 2013, organized by Prof. Cynthia Talbot of the Department of History. The series explored a variety of South Asian discourses on masculinity and violence spanning the past thousand years, with speakers drawing on a broad range of visual and literary material from different regions of the subcontinent.

Beginning the series was Daud Ali from the University of Pennsylvania, who examined the courtly discourse on masculinity found in the Sanskrit literature of early medieval India. Munis Faruqui of the University of California, Berkeley discussed how the Persian notion of manliness, or javanmardi, may have shaped the actions of the Mughal emperor. A third historian who participated in the series was Janaki Bakhle of Columbia University, speaking on the valorization of violence in the Marathi writings of V. D. Savarkar, the Hindu nationalist thinker. Syed Akbar Hyder of UT-Austin provided a more literary perspective in his paper on how gender and violence shaped the work of the twentieth-century Urdu writer Qurratul’ain Haider.

Looking at Hindi pulp fiction of the day, Laura Brueck of the University of Colorado-Boulder spoke on gendered and racialized violence in detective novels (and on their book covers). Another session of the series featured Kamala Visweswaran, of UT-Austin, in dialogue with the independent filmmaker Anand Patwardhan on the intersection of masculinity and violence in Patwardhan’s documentaries, including the well-known Raam ke Naam. Their conversation was followed by a screening of Patwardhan’s latest film, Jai Bhim Comrade, which highlights the musical and theatrical performances of Dalit activists in Maharashtra calling for social justice against recurrent oppression.

Prof. Cynthia Talbot

Rethinking Gandhi from a Gramscian perspective

On April 24, the South Asia Institute hosted a book launch for The Mahatma Misunderstood: The Politics and Forms of Literary Nationalism in India. Faculty from across the university attended to celebrate and learn more about this new book by English Professor Snehal Shingavi. The book examines several texts written in the era of Mohandas Gandhi that directly and indirectly address and shape the mythology of Gandhi as ‘Mahatma.’

The event began with Dr. Shingavi introducing his path to this topic. He offered humorous anecdotes about his struggles through the dissertation process that many of the graduate students in the audience found insightful and motivating. The author then discussed how he chose the various texts that frame his rethinking of the place of Gandhi and Gandhianism in modern Indian literature and politics.

He noted the challenges he faced in writing critically about a figure whose image has come to subsume historical realities, and the difficulty of dealing with the complexities of Indian nationalist politics for a contemporary audience. Shingavi explained how the work of Marxist scholar Antonio
Gramsci helped give shape to his argument about how Gandhi’s contemporaries were able to misread or occlude his explicit political statements to place him at the center of their own, often internationalist and socialist, agenda.

Two respondents, Barbara Harlow from the English Department and Kamala Visweswaran from the Anthropology Department, provided comments and reflections upon their reading of The Mahatma Misunderstood. Dr. Harlow reflected on how Shingavi’s reading of texts by Raja Rao and Ahmed Ali gave her new insight into these authors, as well as the remaking of the Gandhian image. Harlow praised the book’s careful attention to political nuance and textual beauty.

Dr. Visweswaran’s response focused on the problematic construction not only of a canon of South Asian literature but also the narrowness of nationalist politics – past and present. She commented on the lack of attention given to women and vernacular writers in studies of Indian nationalist literature, and yet saw much in Shingavi’s against-the-grain techniques of reading in reintroducing these understudied authors and their contributions to politics in the colonial and post-colonial eras.

The event ended with a lively discussion of the place of the Gandhi myth in both South Asia and the West as well as alternative readings of the authors that Dr. Shingavi’s book explores. Prof. Heather Hindman

Emergent Voices: Pakistan in the 21st Century

This workshop brought together recent scholarship on Pakistan from a range of disciplines. The discussion opened up new avenues of dialogue and debate based on themes from urban history, cultural politics, to art and aesthetics and social movements. The workshop introduced new perspectives that showcase the dynamic and changing nature of Pakistani society. The discussions took into account how Pakistan today stands at a critical juncture in its short history of existence. It also acknowledged the larger picture consisting of increasing Islamist radicalism, domestic insurgency, social and economic crisis, the nascent instability of the democratic experiment, the perpetual threat of military that in its nature of Pakistani society. The discussions took into account how Pakistan today stands at a critical juncture in its short history of existence. It also acknowledged the larger picture consisting of increasing Islamist radicalism, domestic insurgency, social and economic crisis, the nascent instability of the democratic experiment, the perpetual threat of military that in its nature of Pakistani society.

Further, work on 20th century Muslim history in South Asia has generally engaged with the question of Islam and with tropes such as female exclusion, Muslim revivalist movements and questions pertaining to the creation of Pakistan. In this schema very little attention in academic scholarship on Pakistan is paid to other perspectives and other histories that could update us about how people, with all the uncertainties in their lives, struggle to retain a modicum of dignity and create opportunities to live decent and meaningful existences.

The workshop took on this scholarly challenge and the papers represented the multiple layers of Pakistan’s history in order to bring it out of the Muslim nationalism, gender discrimination, security studies/Islamic threat paradigms — important as they may be — within which Pakistan studies is constantly placed.

Professor Aamir Mufti (UCLA) gave the keynote address on Faiz “Revolution’s Late Style: Dialectics of Multitude in Faiz Ahmed Faiz.” The paper developed the idea of how Faiz turned to the question of the nature of the historical present, a “moment” characterized by the “lateness” of its emergence. Mufti argued that Faiz’s poems rearticulated the hope for human emancipation and found a new language for its articulation, precisely in the aftermath of the collapse or containment of revolutionary politics worldwide.
Like the other Language Flagship programs in universities across the US, the Hindi Urdu Flagship program (HUF) at UT Austin has a mandate to bring students to professional levels of fluency while also pursuing a major in a discipline of their choice. This is done through a specially augmented sequence of language and culture courses. The penultimate year is spent at the Hindi and Urdu centers of the American Institute of Indian Studies in Jaipur and Lucknow respectively; the AIIS teachers, under the direction of Dr. A.N. Singh (Hindi) and Dr. Ahtesham Khan (Urdu), help bring the languages alive in ways that cannot be achieved on a campus in central Texas. The India program is energetically overseen by Professor Akbar Hyder, whose visits to the Indian centers focus on curriculum development and the setting-up of professional internships to match the individual students’ interests.

The academic year 2012-13 has seen an increase in the number of students beginning their language study ab initio, contrasting with earlier years in which most recruits joined with an existing background in Hindi or Urdu — typically from a ‘Heritage’ context. This broadening of the student constituency is a very welcome development, and follows the strenuous efforts of Assistant Director Selina Keilani and Administrative Associate Kristine Anderson to bring HUF to the attention of freshmen as or before they join the university.

One of the ways in which HUF addresses the broader community of South Asianists in UT is by inviting visitors from the worlds of Urdu and Hindi to give public talks here on campus. This year, for example, historian Ayesha Jalal (Tufts University) visited HUF to launch her new book The Pity of Partition: Manto’s Life, Times, and Work across the India-Pakistan Divide. Further reflecting its commitment to the study of language use in wide-ranging real-world contexts, HUF also hosted a seminar entitled Languages of Law and Justice in Hindi and Urdu, an event organized in conjunction with the South Asia Institute. These events attract substantial audiences.

In the last two years HUF has been overhauling its curriculum to maximize efficient symbiosis with its parent department, Asian Studies. This abstract development has now been matched by a very appropriate spatial one, in that the HUF headquarters have moved from Rainey Hall into the W.C. Hogg building, sharing a corridor with Asian Studies itself. Thanks to this initiative by Asian Studies chair Professor Martha Selby, HUF staff and instructors are now housed in close proximity to one another and to the rest of the department.

Every silver lining has its cloud, and HUF is very sorry to lose its Media Coordinator Jonathan Seefeldt, who has moved to a teaching post in India. Jonathan has been at the heart of our operations from the outset, his expertise in both Hindi and electronic media having made him a key member of the HUF team. Although he has contributed in countless ways to the development and management of the program, his main legacy is our outstanding website, hindiurduflagship.org, whose collection of innovative teaching materials, recordings, filmed lectures, and many other features is a treasure trove for aficionados of Hindi and Urdu worldwide.

Prof. Rupert Snell
During the final weekend in April, UT South Asia Institute and Dept. of Asian Studies bid farewell to Prof. Kathryn Hansen, who retired as of June 2013. Hansen began her career at UT Austin in 2000, migrating from the East Coast to take up the Directorship of the Center for Asian Studies (which later became the South Asia Institute). After serving for four years in that capacity, she became a regular member of the Asian Studies faculty, where she has taught a variety of graduate and undergraduate courses over the years in Performance Traditions of South Asia, Gender and Sexuality, Hindi literature, and Visual Culture.

To mark the occasion, a number of former students and colleagues from around the country convened in Austin to honor Kathy by presenting an array of symposium papers that were either inspired by or informed by Kathy's work. Still other friends and colleagues, former class fellows and collaborators from the course of her long career, came to Austin to give her a rousing sendoff into retirement. The quality of the papers, and the ensuing discussions between presenters and audience members, was very high and made the weekend as intellectually stimulating as it was celebratory. A special highlight was the 2013 issue of UT’s peer-reviewed graduate student publication, SAGAR: a Journal of South Asian Studies. Dedicated to Kathy, it contains many fine translations as well as a thoughtful, sensitive interview with Kathy by Suzanne L. Shulz about her career and concerns as a translator.

Following the day-long symposium on Saturday, April 28th was a party hosted at their home by Kathy and Carla Petievich and sponsored by the South Asia Institute. Attended by students, staff, colleagues and non-UT friends, it was a warm and enjoyable affair.

But the most exciting part of the weekend was the Nautanki performance of Indal Haran by a tremendously accomplished troupe of ten amateur actors from California, directed by Dr. Devendra Sharma of Fresno State University. Dr. Sharma, in addition to being a scholar of North Indian Theatre, is himself an heir to Nautanki tradition (his father and grandfather were both famous performers). This was the U.S. debut performance of one of the most famous and popular plays in the Nautanki oeuvre. Nautanki’s distinctive style of song, dance and dramatic recitation excited and delighted the entire audience, many of whom knew no Hindi but still reveled in its rich manner of expression. Guests from Pakistan’s Fatimah Jinnah Women University, with whom UT has a new faculty exchange program, also had the rare opportunity of witnessing a drama genre about which they had only heard in the past, as it has disappeared entirely from Pakistan since Partition.

Hansen’s interest in Nautanki emerged organically from her doctoral work in Hindi literature, where she studied the novels and short fiction of Bihar’s Phanishvarnath Renu, who had been a leading light in the mid-20th century Anchalikta (borderland, regional) literary movement. In one of Renu’s best-loved stories, Teesri Qasam (The Third Vow), a bumpkin bullock-cart driver transports a nautanki actress to a regional fair. From this developed Kathy’s curiosity, and then fascination, with Nautanki.

Similarly, her Nautanki work led Hansen to exploring other theatre traditions, especially Parsi Theatre, which was India’s first commercial theatre
Comments from Janice Leoshko, Associate Professor, Dept. of Art & Art History:

South Asia studies at UT was already well established by the time that Patrick Olivelle served as its Director (1994-2000), a period during which he also served as chair of the Dept. of Asian Studies (1994-2007). While the quality and quantity of Patrick's publications and numerous awards, grants and prestigious visiting professorships are well known, less recognized are the myriad ways in which South Asian studies developed under his direction. For instance, he helped to create the South Asia Research Series, co-published by the South Asia Institute with Oxford University Press. Thirteen volumes have so far appeared, ranging in subject from Richard Solomon's Indian Epigraphy (1998) to The Classical Mughal Literature of Mughal India by Allison Busch (2011).

Perhaps because I served as Associate Director from 1996-2000, I find his support for outreach activities especially remarkable. Not only did he secure additional funding for a fulltime outreach position at a time when many universities still filled these positions with graduate student assistantships, he actively participated in its programs. One good example is a series of workshops for faculty from smaller institutions who wished to enrich their courses. These workshops included presentations by UT faculty to demonstrate and discuss ways to integrate South Asia material into college curriculum. Often these workshops overlapped with scholarly symposia in order to increase exposure to emerging or controversial questions in the study of South Asia.

Patrick's interest in broad audiences has continued, most spectacularly demonstrated by the recent international conference that we co-organized with Professor and a direct precursor of Hindi films. She has written articles on many aspects of South Asian theatre and performance over the years, including an annotated translation from Hindi of Somnath Gupta’s 1981 Parsi Thiyetar: Udhav aur Vikas (Parsi Theatre: its Origins and Development) and Amanat’s 1853 Indar Sabha (The Court of Indra), credited as the first Urdu-language drama, written and performed in Lucknow at the court of Wajid Ali Shah. Culminating some 20 years of research, Hansen's combined translation, theatre scholarship, theories of representation and cultural history in her most recent book, Stages of Life: Indian Theatre Autobiographies (Permanent Black 2011). At the center of this work are translations of the autobiographies of four major theatre figures, two female impersonator actors and two influential playwrights. Through these translations from Hindi and Gujarati Hansen immerses her readers in the world of Parsi theatre, also reflecting on notions of the self and self-representation in South Asian cultures.

Kathryn Hansen earned her doctoral degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1978 and began teaching later that year at the University of British Columbia, leaving in 1994 as a full Professor to return to the U.S.A. In the six years between leaving Vancouver and settling at UT Austin, Hansen worked for two years at the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C. as a Program Officer in the Translations and Subventions departments; followed by Visiting appointments at the University of Chicago and Rutgers University.

In retirement Kathy expects to stay active as a researcher and author, and has already launched into several projects, one of which will be a website-archive of materials collected over the years on Indian theatre in order to provide a resource for other scholars.  

Prof. Carla Petievich
Himashu Prabha Ray (Jawaharlal Nehru University) entitled, “Ashoka and the Making of Modern India.” Five institutions in the US and India contributed funds to the conference. Held in New Delhi in 2009, it was attended by many Indian scholars and students as well as participants from nine other countries. Large audiences also attended the associated public lectures by Romila Thapur, Richard Solomon and Gurcharan Das. The volume that resulted from this conference has just gone into its third printing by Oxford University Press. For me it is the double focus of this conference and book—that examines the ongoing reassessment of evidence related to this third century BCE monarch as well as the significance in historical memory of Ashoka for later times that demonstrates the remarkable character of Patrick Olivelle’s interests and abilities.

Comments from Sheldon Ekland-Olson, Rapoport Centennial Chair in Liberal Arts:

If you are lucky, you come across colleagues and friends who simply stand out. They inspire, they generate admiration, they provide engaging, thought-provoking conversations, and they are a joy to be around. Patrick’s is one of those fortunate friendships for me. We worked together on many fronts. We built programs, organized conferences, convened for dinner, and secured endowments. I can’t remember any occasion, whether personal or professional, when the oft-used and deeply important cliché, he leaves the world a better place than what he found, did not apply to Patrick.

The Department of Asian Studies at The University of Texas would not exist were it not for the steady, frequently wise, and often whimsical hand of Professor Olivelle. There were bumps in the road, there were opportunities to be grasped, there were budgets to be balanced. What I recall while writing this tribute is what pleasure it was to work with Patrick, whether on a trip to Korea to secure a million dollar endowment, or in his office warding off dastardly raids to entice colleagues away to some other university, or in the parking lot bemoaning this or that state of the university. I remember also his generous advice and encouragement while I was working on a 4-year book-writing project. The task was daunting and the light at the end of the tunnel was nowhere in sight. At every turn, Patrick was a rock-solid, cajoling, generous source of encouragement. He took time even when ideas being bantered about were far afield from what he would otherwise be working on.

Patrick Olivelle is a colleague who has greatly enriched our lives. I am fortunate to count him as a friend and proud to have served on the same faculty with him.

Comments from former student Steven Lindquist, Associate Professor, Dept. of Religion, Southern Methodist University

I recently had the privilege of arranging and editing a Festschrift in honor of Patrick Olivelle entitled Religion and Identity in South Asia and Beyond which was published by Anthem Press in 2011. I am happy to be able to announce the Fall release of a paperback version of this honorary volume which, given the publishing market today for such books, speaks to Patrick’s wide-ranging and continuing influence. Fittingly, the paperback edition will also be released in India, something that Patrick has actively sought for all of his major works.

Though any hierarchy is always tinged with the self-interest of the author, I do not think it at all untrue to say that Patrick is one of a very few Sanskrit scholars in North America who has made a profound impact on the study of Sanskrit language and literature and on the field of Religious Studies. Part of this is, of course, due to the care and precision with which he has carried out his many works (whether monographs, critical editions, (continued on p. 18)
The South Asia Institute hosted four Pakistani scholars over the Spring 2013 semester as part of its partnership with the Rawalpindi-based Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU). Shazia Hashmat, Raheela Mushtaq, Najam-us-Sahar, and Shahla Tabassum collaborated with mentors at The University of Texas at Austin, writing and presenting research papers and co-developing courses that they would now teach at FJWU.

During their stay, the FJWU faculty members worked on a wide range of research projects with the help of their respective mentors. Hashmat’s projects included ‘Image of Pakistan among American People’ and ‘Role of Pakistani media in enhancing democratic values in emerging markets.’ Tabassum’s research looked at transgender communities, while Najam-us-Sahar focused on women and Sufi music. All four Pakistani scholars also presented their work at the March 18-22 International Journal of Arts and Sciences conference at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Mushtaq’s paper, for instance, looked at the depiction of female in Pakistani art by prominent contemporary male painters.

In addition, these scholars developed courses in their respective areas to co-teach with UT-Austin faculty at FJWU. Hashmat developed a course on ‘Film & Television Stardom and Celebrity’ to explore Pakistan’s film, television, and music industry stardom and celebrity culture. Tabassum’s course, ‘Performing Gender,’ will shed light on the life of people who identify themselves as transgender, transsexuals, and transpersonalities. Najam-us-Sahar developed two courses, one on the anthropology of health and illness and the other on managing data in qualitative research.

Later, SAI Director Dr. Kamran Asdar Ali, Assistant Director Dr. Rachel Meyer, and Asian Studies department’s Dr. Heather Hindman visited the FJWU campus. During the May 27-June 4 visit, Dr. Ali co-taught ‘Managing Data in Qualitative Research’ with Najam-us-Sahar, while Dr. Hindman co-taught ‘Performing Gender’ with Tabassum. Both Dr. Ali and Dr. Hindman collaborated on a workshop for M.Phil. and Ph.D. students at FJWU on developing research groups. Dr. Meyer worked FJWU’s education department faculty, conducting classroom observations and visiting schools.

“Visiting FJWU gave me a different perspective on the challenges faced by the women we hosted here at UT, as well as what a unique and special institution FJWU is,” Dr. Heather Hindman said. “That many of the professors were simultaneously pursuing their own graduate education and struggling to make the transition between student and teacher was something I had not fully understood before visiting.”

Dr. Hindman said that she found the enthusiasm of FJWU students and their eagerness to learn quite amazing. “I think after visiting FJWU we all have a better idea of how both intuitions can benefit from the partnership and spaces where there is the most effective room for collaboration,” she said.

Saif Shahin
On January 16, 2013, I along with my three colleagues arrived at The University of Texas at Austin under the UT-FJWU partnership with expectations of learning and gaining valuable experience in research. Upon my arrival, the very first thing I noticed was the warmth and hospitality of the South Asia Institute (SAI) staff. They welcomed us with open arms and helped us adjust to a new environment and begin our work. The accommodation provided to us was more than adequate, and the university’s transportation system was reliable and comfortable.

During my stay I attended two courses in Anthropology, which helped me polish my pedagogy and assessment skills. Both the instructors and the students showed a deep interest in Pakistani culture. This spurred me to carry out a research project on one of the most important and most loved aspects of Pakistani society – traditional music. My study focused on women’s representation in Sufi music as well as the influence of this music on emotions, particularly of those who are not familiar with the language and musical traditions of Pakistan.

The participants in the study listened to two different versions of a Sufi song, by a female and a male singer respectively. This was a first-time experience for them, but they showed interest and were eager to listen to more. They also reported a diverse range of emotions, from happiness and joy to melancholy and sorrow. The study also gave me the opportunity to represent Pakistan’s rich cultural heritage in the United States.

My colleagues and I used the UT library system extensively. The virtually endless resources available to students are incomparable in enhancing creativity, critical thinking, and diversified exposure.

“My colleagues and I used the UT library system extensively. The virtually endless resources available to students are incomparable in enhancing creativity, critical thinking, and diversified exposure.”

Najam-us-Sahar

event became an opportunity to share the research activities being carried out in Pakistani institutions. Furthermore, this knowledge exchange enhanced the learning of scholars.

Having gone to the United States, it was inconceivable for us to leave without visiting some of the country’s major landmarks. Among the places we visited were the Grand Canyon and Lincoln Memorial. The people we met were helpful and welcoming. Although there is much talk of an American prejudice against Muslims, especially against women who cover their heads, I found little of that during my four-month stay. Instead, people behaved with utmost decorum and seemed genuinely interested to know more about us. Indeed, they were far more respectful than most people I have met while traveling to other Asian and European countries.

We also went to a number of museums to get a better sense of American culture and history. The National Museum of the American Indians piqued my attention the most, as I found many similarities between Native American and Pakistani culture. It was particularly useful as it was related to my field i.e. cultural anthropology.

This exchange of knowledge continued with the visit of UT faculty members to Pakistan in May 2013. We coordinated a workshop on Qualitative Research Methods and a course on Gender Issues using their expertise. This helped in the exchange of ideas regarding social issues and research activities carried out by the students doing their research projects. The UT team also visited different schools to observe the education system in Pakistan. This will increase community engagement and collaboration with academic institutions.

Through this exchange program I got the opportunity to meet and participate in a panel discussion with the US Secretary of State, John Kerry, during his visit to Pakistan in August 2013. In this meeting, it was refreshing to note that America is funding many educational programs across Pakistan, hence giving countless opportunities to the youth, which in turn will benefit the relationship between these two countries.

Najam-us-Sahar
K-12 Outreach

SAI Collaborates with Other UT NRCs on K-16 Initiatives

Over the past year the South Asia Institute has continued to partner with other organizations at the University of Texas to conduct outreach among educators in the state and beyond. As part of the Hemispheres consortium, SAI organized a summer institute themed Untangling World History for educators across Texas. Hemispheres, the international outreach consortium at the University of Texas at Austin, offers a broad educational program to increase knowledge and understanding of South Asia, the Middle East, Russia, Europe, Latin America, and Eurasia. The summer institute aimed to help social studies teachers gain necessary background knowledge to prepare their students for the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness (STAAR) exam.

Aarti Bhalodia (South Asia Institute) gave a presentation on Nationalism and Regionalism in India and Keely Sutton (Asian Studies) gave a talk on Why the Buddha was Different: The Emergence of Buddhism in the Indian Context. Participants took home maps, photographs, and primary source documents that they could use for classroom activities with their students. Bhalodia and Sutton’s presentations introduced teachers to the latest research on South Asia and brought their attention to new topics that can be introduced in the classroom. In their evaluations the teachers had following to say: “Very interesting insight into the development of India after independence. My students will be very interested. The maps were excellent;” “This provided a lot of info on India’s make-up that I was severely lacking;” “I learned some new content and ways of teaching Buddhism which will improve my classroom.” Feedback from participants reminds us of the importance of such educator training programs as high school teachers are expected to include material from South Asia in their World History curriculum.

Another outreach program that the South Asia Institute has partnered with is 15 Minute History. This project is devoted to short, accessible discussions of important topics in World History and US History. Podcast topics are drawn from the new World History and US History Standards—The Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)—for K-12 social studies courses in Texas, and are tied to specific objective and goals set in the standards to help educators prepare their students for the State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness, or STAAR™ exams. They are meant to be a resource for both teachers and students, but can also be enjoyed by anyone with an interest in history.

Each podcast is accompanied by documents and supplemental readings related to the topic. In End of Colonialism in South Asia, Snehal Shingavi (English) examined the nature of British colonialism in South Asia and its lasting legacy sixty years after decolonization. Patrick Olivelle (Asian Studies) tackled the Gupta and Maurya Empires in The Era Between the Empires of Ancient India. Through Inside the Indian Independence Movement, Bhalodia shed light on one of the most pivotal and traumatic events of the 20th century. Sutton’s The Buddha and His Time helped the listener understand the historical Buddha and the era in which he lived. South Asia Institute is going to continue its collaboration with 15 Minute History and record more podcasts on diverse topics of interest to educators and the general public. Dr. Aarti Bhalodia

K-12 Educator Workshops Focus on Himalayan Region of South Asia

In spring 2013, SAI hosted two workshops that focused on the Himalayan region of South Asia. The first workshop, held in January, served more than 25 teachers who specialized in language arts, social studies, and arts education. The training coincided with an exclusive presentation of Tibetan Buddhist Art at the Blanton Museum of Art. The exhibit explored the rich art and religion of this fascinating region through five mandalas and three thangkas dating from the 15th to 20th centuries.

UT faculty, Oliver Freiberger, (Religious Studies and Asian Studies) and Janice Leoshko (Art History and Asian Studies) introduced the development of the
Buddhist religion and art in Tibet. The day concluded with an in-depth tour of the exhibition, “Into the Sacred City: Tibetan Buddhist Deities From the Theos Bernard Collection.” Educators also had the opportunity to view the on-site creation of a 5-foot sand mandala in the museum’s Rapoport Atrium by monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery, and attend a lecture on the significance of the sand mandala.

In post-workshop feedback, one art teacher from Kiker Elementary envisioned significantly expanding on a lesson she already uses with her students, “As an art teacher I am always looking for cross-cultural connections.” She planned to share the background information on Buddhist art and Tibet, provided by the presenters in her Mandala lesson – “without the knowledge gained in this workshop, I would just be asking my students to create a circular design.”

The second workshop held in February focused on Bhutanese-Nepali refugees. The workshop was planned at the request of Austin ISD Refugee Family Support Services. The aim was to inform Austin-area educators about the plight of these refugees, and provide them with information about this community and the history and culture of the Himalayan region. The greater Austin area is experiencing an influx of refugees who have been through decades of struggle, transit and discrimination in the Himalayan region. Many of those arriving have been living in refugee camps for more than a decade, including large numbers of youth. There are currently more than 500 Bhutanese-Nepali refugees in Austin.

The workshop began with a panel discussion on “Refugee Resettlement and Supporting AISD Refugee Students” that included Mamadou Balde (Caritas Refugee Resettlement Program), Erica Schmidt (Refugee Services of Texas), Peggy Robinson (AISD Refugee Family Support Services), who shared information on their services and other resources to help educators better serve students from the refugee community.

The workshop was also designed for all K-12 educators interested in producing young global citizens in central Texas, who have cultural knowledge and awareness of the Himalayan region of South Asia and diaspora/refugee populations in their own communities. Participants emphasized the value of the workshop for creating cultural understanding in a diverse classroom. In the words of an AISD Language arts and Social Studies educator, “The maps and information on Bhutanese-Nepali culture and religions provides me with more insights into my refugee students’ lives. I intend to share this information with parents, teachers and administrators. I also intend to share information with students. My objective is to create a culturally diverse classroom where all people feel comfortable.”

This training event included more than 40 participants, who were ESL educators, and other teachers, who have Bhutanese-Nepali refugee students in their classrooms, as well as social studies teachers. Talks by Heather Hindman, (Asian Studies at University of Texas) and Andrew Nelson (Anthropology at the University of North Texas) covered Language, Religion, Ethnic and Cultural Diversity in Nepal and Bhutan” and History of Bhutanese-Nepali Migration and Political Conflicts in Nepal and Bhutan in the last Century”. The day ended with a presentation “Bhutanese Refugees Rebuild in Texas” by Mary Kang, an Austin-based Photojournalist who has documented the lives of the refugee community in central Texas and a Q&A session that included members of the Bhutanese-Nepali community in Austin.  

©Photos on this page courtesy of Mary Kang
SAI to host conference on the boundaries of Buddhism

South Asia Institute will organize a conference entitled Buddhism’s Boundaries next year (Feb. 28–Mar. 2, 2014) that will discuss historical instances of how boundaries between Buddhism and other religions in South Asia are determined. Ronald Davidson (Fairfield University), Robert DeCaroli (George Mason University), Christoph Emmrich (University of Toronto, Canada), Oliver Freiberger (UT Austin), John Holt (Bowdoin College), Janice Leoshko (UT Austin), Claire Maes (Ghent University, Belgium), Anne Monius (Harvard University), and Patrick Olivelle (UT Austin) are expected to participate in the conference.

General topics for the discussion will be the form and location of such postulated boundaries; the ways in which they are constructed and interpreted by the actors; the motives and intentions behind the boundary-work (religious, social, political, economic, etc.); and the analysis of the thus-constructed religious identity and its relation to other identities (linguistic, spatial/regional/national, gender, class, etc.). Other important subjects expected to be discussed include the possibility that multiple, even conflicting boundaries are drawn by different actors in one and the same historical situation, and that boundaries are unstable and shifting over time.

The goal of the conference will be to refine methods for the analysis of religious boundary-work and identity construction. This may give reason to reconsider the actual subject matter of Buddhist Studies and, more generally, help scholars of religion scrutinize how they distinguish “religions” historically.

Butler School, South Asia Institute to partner with Pakistani arts academy

Faculty members at the Butler School of Music will mentor visiting musicians and scholars from Pakistan’s National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) under a new three-year partnership. The University of Texas at Austin’s South Asia Institute (SAI) will facilitate the exchange of scholars as well as a series of lectures, training sessions, and performances planned under the program, which gets under way in Fall 2013.

NAPA was established in Karachi in 2005 to teach performing arts and music to students to preserve the country’s rich cultural heritage. The partnership will focus on building the creative capacity of NAPA teachers and students by providing skills in music composition, music theory, orchestration and training in areas such as piano, voice, string instruments and the practice of conducting.

A total of 12 scholars from NAPA will visit the BSOM during the duration of the partnership to work with the school’s faculty members and students. The first group of four NAPA scholars is expected to arrive in Spring 2014. Butler school faculty members working under the program will also travel to Pakistan in three groups.

In its last year, the program will focus on developing a joint ensemble comprising students and faculty from the Butler school and NAPA. The ensemble is expected to perform in both the United States and Pakistan. The partnership was made possible by a grant of nearly $1 million from the US Department of State/United States Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan.
Manto's life and work, Jalal said, present a starkly different perspective on Partition from what historical studies, including other humanistic approaches, are used to. “A lot of the memory studies literature that tries to focus on the human dimension of Partition is actually affirming conflict along the lines of religion,” she explained. “Manto shows this was not necessarily about religion, but had a very nuanced individual dimension.”

This nuance lies in understanding how collective human action is guided by the interplay of social circumstance and individual choice. “Nobody is inherently murderous, circumstances make you do it,” Jalal said. “He (Manto) is looking at the external dimensions that do resonate in a human being at a particular time and lead that person to commit murder. Even at that moment, the individual is not completely devoid of his or her humanity.”

Jalal is fascinated by the moral subtext in Manto’s allegedly “obscene” literature. “He is trying to show you what you are repulsed by is also a part of you,” she said. “You can’t reject and pass judgment on a prostitute who lives in squalor. There has to be some part of you that tries to understand why this exists. He is telling people that they are responsible for some of that squalor.”

Introducing her at the book launch, UT Austin’s Prof. Syed Akbar Hyder said, “Jalal’s books have helped us to remedy the blindness and blind spots of history. She has engaged modern South Asia at its most interesting turning points.” The Pity of Partition is yet another instance of her intimately humanistic historiography. Saif Shahin

Call for Papers: SAGAR

SAGAR: A SOUTH ASIA RESEARCH JOURNAL was established in 1993 and is published annually by The South Asia Institute at the University of Texas at Austin. Sagar publishes innovative academic writings in the humanities and social sciences of South Asia, as well as critical translations of texts from South Asian languages to English. Full-length articles and translations for our annual print issue are blindly evaluated by an editorial board of advanced scholars in the field. Online essays are blindly evaluated by an editorial collective of UT graduate students in consultation with our faculty board. The editorial collective coordinates all submissions. SAGAR publishes full-length articles and translations every Spring and online essays throughout the year.

Guidelines for Submission:

Manuscripts should follow the 16th edition of The Chicago Manual of Style. Entire essays, including block quotations and notes, should be double-spaced. Remove any identifying information so that submission is suitable for anonymous review.

1. Full-length research articles should be between 8,000 and 10,000 words and should include a one-paragraph article abstract.

2. Original translations should be between 3,000 and 6,000 words and preceded by a 300-600 word introduction that contextualizes the text or excerpt.

3. Online essays should be 1500 words or less, and where applicable should include images and/or links to relevant images and recordings to which you are responding.

Please submit electronic copies of papers saved as Microsoft Word files.

For more information please see our website: http://sagarjournal.org/ or email sagarjournal@gmail.com.
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