

## Fall Lecture Series 2010

Thursday, September 2: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

### **Fall Welcome Party!**

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Thursday, September 9: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

#### **Nita Kumar**

Professor of South Asian History, Claremont McKenna College

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#### *Education and Modernity in India*

In this lecture I look at the contemporary scene of schooling in India, and briefly at its history, to discuss what kind of modernity we might desire and the role that schools would play towards achieving this modernity.

I posit two perspectives on 'modernity': one as performance, and the other as a reality incompletely achieved.

Then I am interested in two little-discussed subjects: the "technology" of modernity, comprised by a certain use of space and time, rituals and activities; and the politics of modernity: what childhood and adulthood is understood to be; and what science, history and tradition. I discuss how schools have a mandate to create a modern citizen, and how they work towards it, and how the family works vis-a-vis the schools.

Prof. Kumar is the Brown Family Chair of South Asian History at Claremont McKenna College as well Honorary Director of the Centre for Postcolonial Education and [NIRMAN](#).

[Provincialism in Modern India: The Multiple Narratives of Education and their Pain](#)

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Tuesday, September 14: 5:30-7 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

#### **Mohammed Waseem**

Professor of Political Science, Lahore University of Management Sciences

*Pakistan: Democracy in the Age of Terrorism*

Professor Mohammad Waseem is currently a visiting fellow in the Brookings Institution, Washington DC for the summer 2010. He is Professor of Political Science in Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) Lahore. He has written on ethnic, Islamic, constitutional, military, electoral and sectarian politics of Pakistan. He has published several books: *Politics and the State in Pakistan* (1989), *The 1993 Elections in Pakistan* (1994), *Strengthening Democracy in Pakistan* [jointly with S. J. Burki] (2002) and *Democratization in Pakistan* (2006). He also edited the book *Electoral Reform in Pakistan* (2002).

Professor Waseem was Pakistan Chair at St Antony's College Oxford from 1995 to 1999. He has been a visiting professor in Delhi University, Sciences Po Paris, International Programme for Advanced Studies MSH, Paris, Fulbright Fellow in New Century Scholars Programme at The Brookings Institution, Washington DC, fellow of the Ford Foundation at Oxford, DAAD fellow at the University of Heidelberg, Fulbright Fellow at Columbia University New York, fellow of the Indian Historical Research Council New Delhi, fellow of the British Council in London, and fellow of the American Political Science Association in Washington DC.

Professor Waseem has been on the editorial boards of international academic journals *Ethnicities* (Bristol), *Contemporary South Asia* (Bradford) and *International Studies* (New Delhi).

This lecture is co-sponsored by the [Center for World Affairs and the Global Economy](#).

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Thursday, September 16: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Sarah Hodges**

Associate Professor, History Department, University of Warwick

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*Biotrash in Chennai: On the Neoliberal Governmentality of Risk and Value*

This talk is fresh off the boat. Having just finished a year's worth of fieldwork in Chennai, tracing the economic afterlives of biotrash, or, items routinely discarded in medical encounters, this talk takes a first stab, ahem, at

theorizing (or at least outlining) two sets of relationships that animate, and are animated by, Chennai's biotrash. That is, I seek to understand 1) how medical waste is transformed into resource, and, at the same time, 2) how this resource is constituted by the transformation of risk into value. This paper contends that whilst the economic afterlives of medical garbage tell many stories, one of the most compelling is that of the at times alarming conditions generated by the growth of Chennai's health care sector over the past three decades of India's concomitant economic liberalisation.

Sarah Hodges is an Associate Professor in the Department of History, and core member of the Centre for the History of Medicine, at the University of Warwick, UK. She is the author of *Contraception, Colonialism and Commerce: Birth Control in South India, 1920-1940* (2008) and editor of *Reproductive Health in India: History, Politics, Controversy* (2006). Her current research traces the economic afterlives of Chennai's contemporary biotrash, or, items regularly discarded in routine medical encounters.

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Monday, September 20: 5-7 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Surendra L. Rao**

Member, Board of Governors, Institute for Social and Economic Change,  
India

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*India's Energy Scenario and Climate Change*

[Event Flyer](#)

This event is co-sponsored by the [UW India Initiative](#) and the [Center for World Affairs and the Global Economy](#).

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Thursday, September 23: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Ayaz Naseem**

Associate Professor of Education, Concordia University

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*Education and Gendered Citizenship in Pakistan: A Postcolonial Investigation*

In this presentation I challenge the uncritical use of the long held dictum of the development discourse that education empowers women. Situated in the post-colonial and post-structuralist feminist position I argue that in its current state the educational discourse in Pakistan actually disempowers women. Furthermore, through a systematic examination of the educational discourse in Pakistan I argue that the educational discourse (through curricula, textbooks and pedagogical practices) constitutes gendered identities and positions them in a way that exacerbates and intensifies inequalities between men and women on one hand and between the dominant and minority groups on the other. Gendered constitution and positioning of subjects also regulates the relationship between the subjects and the state in a way that women and minorities are excluded from the development and citizenship realms. Finally, I attempt to uncover the mechanisms through which the educational discourse in Pakistan constitutes a militant nationalism and militaristic nationalistic subjects.

Dr. Naseem holds a Ph.D. in comparative and international education from McGill University. His research interests include feminist theory and philosophy, post-structuralism, diversity in classroom, peace education, democratic and citizenship education. Dr. Naseem has also taught at the Quaid i Azam University, Islamabad, Pakistan in the departments of International Relations and Defense & Strategic Studies.

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Thursday, September 30: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Venkat Mani**

Associate Professor, German, University of Wisconsin - Madison

*Anuvaad (Translation), Anukaran (Mimesis), Samvaad (Dialogue):  
Translating Bertolt Brecht's Die Dreigroschenoper (1928) as Teen Kaudi ki  
Nautanki (2010)*

This paper presents preliminary notes on Teen Kaudi ki Nautanki, my current project of translating Bertolt Brecht's Die Dreigroschenoper (1928) from German into Hindi. Conceived as a preface to the translation, the paper addresses the relevance of a new translation of this play into Hindi, while outlining specific challenges that accompany such a translation.

The paper begins with a brief historical overview of adaptations/translations of Brecht's plays into Hindi/Hindustani and their productions for Hindi-speaking/comprehending audiences in India, highlighting the intertextuality

and interculturality of Brecht's Hindi adaptations. By focusing on just Hindi adaptations—which in most cases draw on the English translations of the plays—the paper privileges specific evaluations of non-Anglophone linguistic contexts for locating Brecht in/and Asia. To this end, the paper identifies historical and political markers in post-Independence India as they bear upon translations/adaptations. The new Hindi translation of *Die Dreigroschenoper* reads issues central to the play—class, corruption, crime, and capital—in the context of early-21st century India of free-market economy, multinational finance, and the ever-growing rift between the lowest, middle, and upper classes. The translation therefore utilizes a Hindi that is inevitably influenced by globalization and migration, without reducing the interpretation of these influences to Bollywood Hinglish, which is often cast as an easy alternative to the dry, bureaucratic, artificially Sanskritized Hindi. Situating the act of translation (*anuvaaad*) in the possibility of an intercultural mimesis (*anukaran*) of/and dialogue (*samvaad*), the paper spotlights the linguistic hybridity and multiplicity to imagine the afterlife of the play in Hindi in the 21st century. The paper will be delivered in English.

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Thursday, October 7: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Jehangir Patel**

Jehangir Patel is a Mumbai-based journalist and editor of *Parsiana*, the leading Parsi magazine in India and worldwide, as well as a lecturer in Journalism, Xavier Institute of Communications, Mumbai.

[Audio Download](#)

*Micro and Macro Perspectives on Indian Journalism: A Case Study of a Minority Community*

This lecture deals with the present journalistic trends in India for both the national publications as well as the smaller publications. Journalistic coverage given to a small global community of around 85,000 and the interaction with readers will also be discussed. One focus will be on our biweekly magazine, *Parsiana*, which covers the international Zoroastrian community. Parsis are largely based in Bombay with the largest overseas population being concentrated in North America. The future possibilities of digital news media impacting print in India will also be touched upon.

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Thursday, October 14: 12-1 PM  
336 Ingraham Hall

## **Imtiaz Gul**

Journalist and Independent Scholar

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### *The socio-economic cost of conflict to the people of Pakistan*

Besides losing thousands of civilian and army lives, Pakistan has also suffered socio-economically in a volatile security environment. Investments have dropped, governance worsened, business badly affected, precipitated also by a grueling energy crises. Lack or absence of planning by the federal government. Most recently the unprecedented flooding has created new problems and increased the impact of these other issues. This talk will present an overview of the current situation in Pakistan.

Imtiaz Gul, is currently the Executive Director of the Islamabad-based independent Centre for Research and Security Studies that he founded in December 2007, with the support of Germany's Heinrich Boell Stiftung. The Centre is a research and advocacy outfit, focused primarily on security and governance. His first book "The Unholy Nexus; Pak-Afghan relations under the Taliban," was published in July 2002, and he also edited a book on "Islam and Liberalism", soon after the U.S-led coalition unleashed the controversial War Against Terrorism. Penguin-Viking India published Gul's second book "The Al-Qaeda Connection – Taliban and Terror in Tribal Areas" on August 20, 2009, which profiles the evolution and nature of militancy in the Pak-Afghan border regions and how it fell under the influence of Al-Qaeda. Penguin US/UK is publishing the revised edition of this book with the new title "Most Dangerous Place – Pakistan's Lawless Frontier" in June.

Besides reporting for the Urdu, English and Hindi language services of Deutsche Welle, Germany's foreign languages' broadcaster since 1989, Imtiaz Gul has also been broadcasting with the CNN TV between 1998 - 2000, and with the Hong Kong-based Star World TV, Japanese National Broadcasting Corporation NHK, the National Public Radio in the United States, and also regularly files for FOREIGN POLICY, USA, THE FRIDAY TIMES (weekly)Lahore, PULSE (weekly), Islamabad, and Daily DAWN (KARACHI) on issues such as militancy, border regions, Afghanistan, and Indo-Pak relations. He regularly appears as an analyst / expert on the the Doha-based Al-Jazeera English/Arabic satellite tv channel for his expertise on the areas such as Afghanistan/Tribal Areas/ and the Kashmir militancy, which has been extensively covering since 1988. His Afghanistan travels brought him in contact with a number of Pakistani and Afghan officials and people at large. This helped him trace and analyze Pakistan's involvement with different Afghan factions, and eventually the Taliban and Kashmiri separatists in the Indian-controlled Kashmir.

This lecture is co-sponsored by the [Department of Anthropology](#) and the [American Institute of Pakistan Studies](#).

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Monday, October 18: 5-6 PM  
Student Activity Center, Caucus Room

### **Imtiaz Gul**

This lecture is made possible by the Center for South Asia and the [American Institute of Pakistan Studies](#).

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Thursday, October 21: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

### **Anne Blackburn**

Asian Studies Department, Cornell University  
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*Engaging the Adventurers: A New Perspective on Dharmapala and Olcott in Colonial Lanka*

19th-century Lankan Buddhism is often described in terms of a 'Buddhist revival' linked to the laicization of Buddhist leadership and, especially, the activities of two strong figures: Anagarika Dharmapala (associated first with the Theosophical and then the Maha Bodhi Society) and Henry Olcott (the Theosophical Society). Drawing on diaries, and epistolary and newspaper records in Pali, Sinhala and English from Lanka, as well as records from the Theosophical Society and the Maha Bodhi Society, this paper reconsiders the relationship between these lay activists and leading Lankan monks at a time of dynamic Buddhist responses to changing social and economic realities, as well as the reception given to Olcott and Dharmapala in the regional Buddhist world of their time.

Prof. Blackburn also delivered a lecture on Friday, Oct. 22 as part of the [Center for Southeast Asian Studies Friday Forum](#) entitled *Buddhist Diplomacy in Colonial Southern Asia*  
[Audio Download](#)

Anne M. Blackburn is Associate Professor of South Asia Studies and Buddhist Studies in the Department of Asian Studies at Cornell University. She taught

at the University of South Carolina before joining Cornell's faculty. She holds a BA from Swarthmore College, and MA and PhD degrees from the University of Chicago Divinity School. Blackburn studies Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia, with a special interest in Buddhist monastic culture and Buddhist participation in networks linking Sri Lanka and mainland Southeast Asia before and during colonial presence in the region. Her publications include *Buddhist Learning and Textual Practice in Eighteenth-Century Lankan Monastic Culture* (Princeton, 2001), *Approaching the Dhamma: Buddhist Texts and Practices in South and Southeast Asia*, co-edited with Jeffrey Samuels (BPS Pariyatti Editions, 2003), and *Locations of Buddhism: Colonialism and Modernity in Sri Lanka* (Chicago, 2010). She is working on a new project, *Monks, Texts, and Relics: The Sihala Sangha in Southern Asia*.

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Thursday, October 28: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

### **Giancarlo Casale**

Associate Professor, History, University of Minnesota

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*The Ottoman Empire, the Indian Ocean, and the Dialectic of Universal Sovereignty*

The sixteenth century marks a critical moment in world history, a time during which intellectuals first began to reconceptualize political space in global terms, and states began to promote new ideologies of rulership that formed the basis for the world's first truly global empires. But was this a development, from the perspective of intellectual history, that was specifically limited to Europe? Or is it one that can be understood as involving other states, and other intellectual milieux, in a dialectic process? This paper, by switching its vantage point from the Atlantic world—the traditional focus of most narratives of early European expansion—to the Indian Ocean, explores the ways in which the Ottoman Empire's encounter with both the Portuguese Estado da India and the Muslim polities of maritime Asia constituted a central element in the emergence of history's first "global age," providing a catalyst for the consolidation of various ideologies of universal sovereignty in both the West and the Islamic world.

Giancarlo Casale is associate professor of history and 2009-2011 McKnight Land Grant Professor at the University of Minnesota, where he has taught since 2005. As of this fall, he is also executive editor of the *Journal of Early Modern History*. His first scholarly monograph, *The Ottoman Age of*

*Exploration*, was published earlier this year by Oxford University Press.

This lecture is co-sponsored by the [Global Studies Center](#).

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Thursday, November 4: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Ketu Katrak**

Professor, Department of Drama, University of California, Irvine

*Multiple Idioms of Contemporary Indian Dance*

Katrak's talk delineates the multiple idioms of Contemporary Indian Dance as practised in India and the diaspora. I analyze selected artists' creative choreography that combines movement with theatre tools in the exploration of gender and social concerns.

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Thursday, November 11: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**John Nemec**

Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia

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*The River of Kings and The Ocean of Stories: Brahmins, Kshatriyas and Tantrikas in the Rajatarangini and the Kathasaritsagra*

In this talk, I explore the narrative elements of two nearly contemporaneous Kashmiri literary works, one an historical account of Kashmiri political and social life, the other a compendium of fictional stories written for a court audience. In doing so, I explore the similarly difficult relationship with tantra on display in both texts. Simultaneously, both works express their respective authors' strong interest in reinforcing Brahminical norms, in particular the importance of fidelity to the brahmin-kshatriya alliance. In doing so, the works deploy similar narrative strategies, despite the differing genres and supposed purposes of the respective works. By reading these texts in tandem, then, one gains some insight into court attitudes regarding the roles of Brahmins, Kings and Tantrics in Kashmir around the turn of the twelfth century.

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Thursday, November 18: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

### **Gautama Vajracharya**

Emeritus Lecturer, University of Wisconsin - Madison

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#### *Unicorns in Ancient India and the Utilization of Their Horns for Making Vedic Ritual Implements*

According to Ṛṣyaśṛṅga's story found in the Sanskrit epics and Buddhist literature, ṛṣya was an animal with a single horn.

Atharvaveda tells us that parīśāsa is an object which is closely associated with the ṛṣya's physique and can be chopped off above its skin. Vedic people collected the objects to make lifting sticks or a pair of tongs to lift a cooking pot out of the burning sacrificial fire. They called the implement parīśāsau or śaphau. Previous scholars' view that parīśāsa is a strip of the ṛṣya's skin cannot be accepted as correct because it is not possible to make lifting sticks out of the skin. On the other hand, if we compare this Vedic information with the Mahābhārata and Buddhist statement regarding a ṛṣya having a single horn it becomes abundantly clear that parīśāsa is the single horn of the unicorn.

We made an image placing crosswise two horns of the two different unicorns depicted in the Indus seals. The image closely resembles the stylized representation of bovine hoof or footprint known to the ancient artistic tradition of India as nandīpada. Thus, if our view that parīśāsa is the horn of a unicorn is correct the Vedic implement has to look like a nandīpada that we see in ancient Indian art coins. Fortunately we do have evidence to prove that the implement did look like a nandīpada. We mentioned earlier that the implement was also known as śaphau, which is indeed a Vedic synonym for nandīpada because both these words, śaphau and nandīpada, literally means bovine hoof or footprint. It is auspicious because people in Ancient India believed that when the footprint of a bull is filled with rainwater the drought is over. More detail at the lecture.

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Thursday, December 2: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

### **Mathangi Krishnamurty**

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Wisconsin - Madison

## [Audio Download](#)

### *Waking Life/ Working Life: The Sleepless Subjects of the Indian Call Center Economy*

Regimes of late capital seem to demand increasingly more flexible life practices from its worker subjects. For example, in India, the foray of call center work among young urban populations has led to an entire economy of sleeplessness. Based on two years of ethnographic research among a set of such workers in the university town of Pune, India this paper looks at sleep as one among the various properties of the body sought to be managed within the realm of global work. Through ethnography, montage, film, legislation and event, I track the individual, societal and cultural practices that are both essential to, and arise out of this maintenance of sleeplessness.

Mathangi Krishnamurthy joins the Institute for Research in the Humanities and the Department of Anthropology as an Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow under the World Citizenship program. She moves from The University of Texas at Austin where she completed her doctoral work entitled "1-800 Worlds: Embodiment and Experience in the Indian Call Center Economy".