

## Spring Lecture Series 2011

Thursday, January 20: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

### **Spring Welcome Party!**

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Thursday, January 27: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

#### **John Peters**

Director, UW Soil Testing Laboratories and Extension Soil Scientist

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*Public/Private Partnerships in India: An Agricultural Model to Enhance Rural Prosperity*

The project has the following objectives: (1) to raise yields in high value vegetables and milk production; (2) to strengthen farmers' links to output markets and input suppliers; and (3) to increase human resource capacity by training farm-level advisers, laboratory technicians, and management.

The partners are, alphabetically:

- Agricultural Consultancy Management Foundation (an NGO operating demonstration farms and outreach activities);
- Mahindra and Mahindra (leading tractor and implement producer; over 1000 outlets in India);
- Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (mobilizing women's self help groups);
- Tasty Bite (India's largest exporter of prepared foods);

The project was designed to build the technical expertise needed to run over one hundred soil testing laboratories located at Mahindra and Mahindra tractor dealerships as well as with ACMF. This is supplemented by developing the capacity to advise farmers on best practices for crop production. The project is also designed to build the technical capacity of dairy and crop advisers working with women's self help groups in Uttar Pradesh. This would include the Rajiv Gandhi Charitable trust staff as well as the Community Resource Persons working directly with the women milk producers. Tasty Bite operates its own farm and also buys from district farmers to supply its processing plant in Maharashtra. Tasty Bite's goal was to use their land as a demonstration farm and base for outreach to the district farmers. This project gives assistance to Tasty Bite in upgrading the

farm and establishing demonstration plots to help bring improved production practices to area farmers.

John Peters is the Director of the UW Soil and Plant Analysis Laboratory and UW Soil and Forage Analysis Laboratory and conducts research and extension programming in the areas of diagnostic services, soil fertility and liming, manure analysis, and land application of waste materials. For twenty-one months during 2009-2010, John served as Chief of Party of a USAID funded agricultural development project in India.

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Thursday, February 3: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Randall Law**

Honorary Fellow, Anthropology, UW-Madison

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*Preliminary geologic assessments of rock-cut temples and cut-stone monuments in South India*

After a decade spent in Pakistan and northwest India doing intensive research into the rock and mineral trade networks through which Bronze Age Harappans acquired raw materials for small portable items like beads, Randall Law has embarked on a new study of stone at Historic Period rock-cut caves and cut-stone temples in South India. This research is part of a larger NEH-funded project directed by art historian Vidya Dehejia and sculptor Peter Rockwell that is examining the unfinished aspects of these monuments. As a supplement to this project, Law's task was characterize the rock types into which and/or from which the monuments were created, to assess material quality from place to place and, where needed, to identify stone sources. Thirty locations (archaeological sites and stone quarries) within the southern Indian states of Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu were visited and sampled in January of 2010. The analysis of these materials is only partially complete. In this presentation, Law will provide an overview of the geology of the study area and main types of stone examined in it, briefly discuss the evaluation and sampling of rocks from monuments and quarries, and give a site-wise summary of the observations and analytical results generated to date.

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Thursday, February 10: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Henri Schildt**

Honorary Fellow, Center for South Asia, UW-Madison

*The Māṭakkōvil Shrine Type in Kerala*

This paper presents two Kerala māṭa-k-kōvil-type shrines: the Māṭattilappan shrine of the Peruvanam Śiva Mahādēvan temple (District Trichur) and the Śiva temple of Paṛampantali (near Guruvayoor, District Trichur), both dating to the late 11th or early 12th century. The essentials of the two structures of a square plan are a high monolithic ground floor provided with a monumental stair before the western first-floor entrance. The first-floor square sanctum houses a Śiva Liṅga. The second and third floors are blind square and octagonal chambers without entrances, forming in both cases a sequence from the square plan to the octagonal. In the Kerala temple architecture, the māṭa-k-kōvil shrine appears to be a shrine type for a Śiva Liṅga. Its origin is in Tamilnadu where it can also house images of Viṣṇu. The Malayalam term māṭa-k-kōvil consists of two parts: the māṭam, a storied house and the kōvil a temple. In the paper the three examples of Kerala māṭa-k-kōvils from central Kerala are compared to six Tamil māṭa-k-kōvils in Tirunelveli District.

Dr. Henri Schildt is currently a Honorary Fellow in The Center For South Asia in University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is also an Associate Professor in the Department of World Cultures, University of Helsinki (Finland). He is running a project titled "Peruvanam Śiva Mahādēva Temple" financed by Academy of Finland.

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Thursday, February 17: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Narendra Subramanian**

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, McGill University  
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*Nation and Family: Personal Law, Cultural Pluralism, and Gendered Citizenship in India*

The recognition of difference in religious personal law is in tension with aims to reduce inequalities, promote individual liberties, limit and change the public roles of religion, and treat various religious groups similarly. Discourses salient among ruling elites (specifically, nationalist discourses, understandings of religious and other cultural traditions, and visions of the

forms of modernity appropriate for a society) and features of state-society relations (the social bases that governing elites have and aim to build) influence how states address these tensions. The inclination of the majority of India's political elites to build broad social coalitions, and to modernize society in ways that accommodated the important roles of religion, ethnicity and the joint-family, led them to introduce gradual reforms in the various personal laws based on the relevant group's traditions and initiatives.

Neither minority recognition nor the promotion of constitutional values shaped personal law policy. Policy-makers focused their visions of the modern Indian family on Hindu law alone as they equated the Hindu, the Indian, and the secular-modern. The equation of the Muslim, minority difference, and resistance to modernity led them not to change the minority laws until the 1970s, and to thereafter introduce more limited changes in these laws than group opinion and tradition enabled. The imagination of the nation, its constituent groups and cultures, and its deepest inequalities through asymmetric engagement with the various religious groups shaped other aspects of Indian multiculturalism as well, and weakened efforts to build inter-religious understanding and reduce durable inequalities.

Narendra Subramanian studies the politics of nationalism, religion, ethnicity, gender and race, primarily in India. His work explores the role of identity politics in political mobilization, electoral competition, public culture, and public policy; the functioning of democracies amidst social inequalities with long histories; and different ways in which policy-makers and citizens attempt to resolve the tensions between official secularism and the significant presence of religion in public life. He is Associate Professor of Political Science at McGill University. His book, *Ethnicity and Populist Mobilization: Political Parties, Citizens and Democracy in South India* (Oxford University Press, 1999), explored how mobilization behind language and caste banners strengthened democracy in parts of India. He is completing a book manuscript titled *Nation and Family: Personal Law, Cultural Pluralism, and Gendered Citizenship in India*, which examines the personal laws specific to religious group, as sites in which official nationalism, multiculturalism, secularism, and citizenship were formed. A new project of his compares the effects of enfranchisement on the socio-economic status of India's lower castes and African-Americans, focusing on two regions of particularly high ascriptive inequalities - the Kaveri delta in southern India and the Mississippi delta in the southern United States. Subramanian received his B.A. from Princeton University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

This lecture is co-sponsored by the Global Legal Studies Center and the South Asia Legal Studies Working Group and is part of the lecture series on

"Role of Law in Developing and Transition Countries" with support from the Division of International Studies, The International Institute and Global Studies.

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Thursday, February 24: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Balasubramaniam Murali**

Advisor for Afghanistan & Iran in UNDP's Regional Bureau for Asia & the Pacific

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*Development Challenges in Afghanistan*

In 2010, Afghanistan continues to grapple with an enduring low-grade insurgency which, after a generation of conflict, presents an extremely complex and challenging environment in which to support the establishment of the foundations of a functioning state and the provision of human security for its citizens. Despite massive efforts by the international community to assist the Afghan government significant progress continues to be confounded by deteriorating security exacerbated by increasing poverty and the narcotics trade, a high degree of geographical and programmatic aid fragmentation, and the precarious legitimacy of the Government in the eyes of many Afghans. Though Afghanistan has seen significant improvement in the health and education sectors, progress against MDG targets for gender quality and income generation is minimal, while Government capacity, corruption and security constraints continue to prevent the provision of even basic services to large swaths of the population. Thus it has turned out to be one of the biggest development challenges of our time.

Balasubramaniam Murali is currently Programme Advisor / Desk Officer for Afghanistan & Iran in UNDP's Regional Bureau for Asia & the Pacific based in UNDP HQ in New York. Afghanistan is UNDP's largest programme globally with a 2010 programme size of US \$ 750 million. Concurrently he is also an elected Staff Representative in the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Global Staff Council. He is also a visiting/guest faculty at the Fordham Law School / Leitner Centre lecturing on MDGs & development. He is a faculty of Junior Chamber International after graduation at the Training of Trainers (JCI TROT) Programme held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in May 1984. He has a Ph.D in Economics from the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada. He has a Masters Degree in Economics from the University of Madras, India.

Dr. Murali's visit to UW-Madison is being hosted by the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia, Center for South Asia, Global Health Initiative, Global Studies, Go Global!, International Learning Community, International Student Services-Millennium Development Goals Awareness Project, Model United Nations, and WUD-Global Connections. For more information, email [mdgap@studentlife.wisc.edu](mailto:mdgap@studentlife.wisc.edu) or see <http://www.iss.wisc.edu/mdgap>.

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Thursday, March 3: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Rakesh Basant**

Visiting Professor, Business, UW-Madison  
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*Who Participates in Higher Education in India? Rethinking the Role of Affirmative Action*

The introduction of reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in higher education in India has rekindled the old debate around affirmative action. Some empirical results on how an individual's participation in India's higher education (HE) is dependent on her religious affiliations, socio-economic status and demographic characteristics. The key argument is that an appropriate measure of 'deficits' in participation should inform the nature and scope of affirmative action. On isolating the effect of socio-religious affiliation from other factors that may influence participation in HE, what emerges is a suggestion that the deficits faced by some marginalised groups are not substantial. If reservation policy for these groups is to be justified only on the basis of low participation, it may require a review.

Rakesh Basant is currently a visiting Professor at the School of Business at UW, Madison. His regular position is that of a Professor of Economics and Chairperson, Center for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India. Current teaching and research interests focus on firm strategy, innovation, public policy & regulation. Recent work has focused on competition policy, inter-organizational linkages for technology development (especially academia-industry relationships), strategic and policy aspects of intellectual property rights, linkages between public policy and technological change, industrial clusters, economics of strategy and the small scale sector in India. Sectoral focus of the research in the aforementioned areas has been on Pharmaceutical, IT, Electronics and Auto-component industries. Was a

member of the Indian Prime Minister's High-Level Committee (also known as Sachar Committee) to write a report on the Social, Economic and Educational Conditions of Muslims in India. In continuation of this work, part of his current research focuses on issues relating to affirmative action especially in higher education. Has also been a recipient of the of the Ford Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Economics and has spent two years at the Economic Growth Center, Yale University, USA as a Visiting Research Fellow. He has also worked as a consultant to several international organizations.

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Thursday, March 10: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Farida C. Khan**

Professor of Economics and Co-Director, Center for International Studies,  
UW-Parkside

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*Predicaments of Plains Adibashis or Indigenous Groups in Bangladesh*

Building on visits made to different parts of Bangladesh, this talk will describe the ongoing problems faced by various adibashi groups in Bangladesh. Large numbers of adibashis in the Eastern part of the country are located in the less densely populated hills as opposed to others who are part of the plains, many living at the edge of forests in their own villages or intermingled with other communities. This talk will focus on these communities who are not in the hills – or can be called plains adibashis. These peoples are very often indistinguishable in appearance from mainstream Bangladeshis and both the state and society has largely tended to deny that they belong to unique communities. It has therefore been necessary to place the recognition of their identity on to a political platform. The plains adibashis have joined the clearly distinguishable hills adibashis to further this political program.

The distinctions of identity are disappearing among plains adibashis, often through rapid or slow violence, making it difficult to identify them as separate groups. How are the state and society complicit in such a disappearance of identity and what is the future of such a transition? Under the assumption that preservation is desirable, what types of forces are in place allowing preservation, what kind of preservation has been encouraged, and what possibilities exist within the current frameworks?

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Thursday, March 24: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**S. Akbar Zaidi**

Visiting Professor, International Public Affairs & Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies, Columbia University

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*A More Democratic Pakistan?*

Unlike many other developing countries which have moved away from military rule and the military's dominance in the past, with the strengthening of democratic processes and institutions, Pakistan still struggles with a weak democratic set-up following nine years of its most recent military rule. Do Pakistan's political actors and civil society have the ability to strengthen democracy in Pakistan, or will the chronic dynamics of a security-state, continue to determine Pakistan's political future? Has the United States played a role in strengthening democracy in Pakistan, or with the war on terror, and along with Pakistan's military, has democracy been compromised? Do Pakistan's political and civilian actors at all have the ability to establish democracy?

S. Akbar Zaidi is the author of a number of books, including, *The New Development Paradigm: Papers on Institutions, NGOs, Gender and Local Government* (1999), *Pakistan's Economic and Social Development: The Domestic, Regional and Global Context* (2004), and *Issues in Pakistan's Economy* (2005). His most recent book, *Military, Civil Society and Democratization in Pakistan* (2011), examines the political economy of the Musharraf regime. He lives and works in Karachi, Pakistan, but is currently a visiting professor at Columbia University, New York, where he has a joint position at SIPA (the School of International and Public Affairs), and at MESAAS (the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies).

Co-Sponsored by the [American Institute of Pakistan Studies](#) & the [Pakistani Students Association](#)

*Who Benefits From U.S. Aid to Pakistan?*, S. Akbar Zaidi. [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Policy Outlook](#), 2011. [Download the PDF](#).

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Thursday, March 31: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Mitra Sharafi**

Assistant Professor of Law & History, University of Wisconsin - Madison

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*Parsi Legal Culture in British India*

This talk explores the unusual and strategic use of law by one ethno-religious minority in colonial South Asia. I use the example of the Parsis, who were Persian migrants to India and followers of Zoroastrianism, to show how one ethno-religious community gained, rather than lost, cultural autonomy through its heavy use of colonial law. As lobbyists, legislators, lawyers, judges, jurists and litigants, Parsis worked from within and through the colonial state, rather than from outside or against it, to de-Anglicize the law that applied to them. By the end of British rule in 1947, Parsi law consisted of distinctive legal institutions and substantive law, all of which came about through Parsi-led initiatives and professional opportunities exploited by Parsis, as well as a steady traffic of intra-group litigation. Through the adoption of the colonizer's legal ways, Parsis came to control that law that governed them.

Mitra Sharafi studies the history of law in colonial India. She holds two UK law degrees and a doctorate in history. At the UW Law School, she teaches Contracts I to first-year law students. She is also part of UW's Legal Studies program, an interdisciplinary undergraduate major that combines law with the humanities and social sciences. Sharafi teaches two Legal Studies courses: "Legal Pluralism" and "Law and Colonialism." Sharafi is affiliated with the History Department, and is involved with the UW Center for South Asia.

*Co-sponsored by the Global Legal Studies Center and South Asia Legal Studies Working Group*

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Monday, April 4: 4 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Deba Prashad Chatterjee**

Associate Professor in Sociology, Maulana Azad College at the University of Calcutta, and Fulbright Visiting Lecturer at the Oklahoma State University

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## *Globalization, Human Rights, and Agrarian Movements in Contemporary India*

Globalization for India has two opposite implications. While it has opened up new possibilities of economic and social development despite infrastructure bottlenecks, the problem of distributive justice seems to be intensifying. Besides the rise of a sizeable middle class and the concomitant robust economic growth promises, the feeling of relative deprivation is mounting among the underprivileged sections of the population often resulting in sustained protest movements of the agrarian population in different parts of the country. Post-colonial state's response to such movements is also creating newer instances of human rights violation and injustice at times.

Following the lecture will be a PERFORMANCE entitled "Singing the Rural: India Meets America in a Cross-Cultural Agrarian Song Swap" at 7:30 P.M., 325 Pyle Center. Environmental sociologist and Bengali folk singer Deba Prasad Chatterjee will swap rural songs with Madison folk musicians. A number of Madison musicians have been invited to trade tunes with him. These events are free and open to the public and are co-sponsored by the Department of Agroecology and the Development Studies Program.

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

### **Ellen Raven**

Lecturer, International Institute Asian Studies, Leiden

### *The emergence of the early Gupta style in gold coins and non-miniaturized arts*

By the end of the 4th century CE, subtle changes hail the emergence of a new stylistic vocabulary for the North Indian arts of the Gupta period. It expresses itself through rock-cut reliefs at sites of worship, through terracotta panels lining brick temples for the Hindu gods, and via an opulent imagery applied in gold coins. These coins were struck from the time of King Samudragupta, around 350, until the very end of Gupta rule by the early 6th century. Their manufacture runs parallel with that of early and mature sculptural arts in media other than gold. Although important studies exist for the sculptural styles of the early Gupta age, the numismatic manifestation of this new vocabulary remains virtually unstudied. Certain continuities and innovations in visual designs of the early Gupta period (both in sculpture and

in gold) illustrate coherence in workmanship transcending the limits of individual media.

Ellen Raven (PhD with honors, Leiden University 1991) lectures in arts and material culture of South Asia at Leiden University, The Netherlands. She specializes in iconographies and styles of early Indian arts and architecture. Her research focuses on numismatics of the Gupta period in North India (4th-6th cent. AD), in particular the gold coins of the period. She is the general editor in the international bibliographic project *ABIA South and Southeast Asian Art and Archaeology Index* and secretary of the European Association of South Asian Archaeology and Art.

Co-Sponsored by University of Wisconsin Lectures Committee.

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Tuesday, April 12: 6-7 PM  
Pyle Center Auditorium

**Thomas Hammes**

Colonel, United States Marine Corps (Ret.)

*Developing a Strategy for South Asia: A Contrarian View*

Ten years into the Afghanistan conflict, the United States still lacks a coherent strategy for Afghanistan. Yet because of the nature of the region and the conflict, we really need a regional strategy for South Asia. This talk will briefly discuss U.S. efforts to develop a strategy to date, examine the problems associated with that strategy and suggest an alternative approach based on a regional strategy.

Col. T.X. Hammes retired from the Marine Corps in 2005 after 30 years of service. He received his Ph.D. in modern history from Oxford University and is currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University. He has lectured widely at U.S. and International Staff and War Colleges and has been a featured speaker on future conflict and homeland security at conferences around the world. Hammes has published two books and over 80 articles and opinion pieces. His most recent book, *"Forgotten Warriors: The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade, the Corps Ethos, and the Korean War"*, was released September 2010. The book concludes that culture as much as technology is at the heart of military effectiveness. In his earlier book, *"The Sling and the Stone: On War in the 21st Century"* (2004), he examines the evolution of warfare in

the 21st century and questions whether the U.S. military is evolving effectively.

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Thursday, April 14: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Neeti Nair**

Assistant Professor of History, University of Virginia

*The Problem of Return for Partition's Punjabi Hindu Refugees*

Recent scholarship on the Partition of India has engaged with one of the largest migrations of the twentieth century mostly by focusing on particular forms of violence inflicted between religiously informed communities, and against women. These narratives of trauma tell one kind of story. In my forthcoming book 'Changing Homelands and the Partition of India', I explore several different life histories of Punjabi Hindus who moved from west Punjab to Delhi in 1947. Although every life history is scarred by Partition violence, life since 1947 has shaped these refugees' memories in very different ways. In my talk I will examine two different sets of interviews. One tells the presumably typical story of loss, nostalgia, and the desire to return 'home' while the other speaks more openly of settling down and not wishing to return to what has now become Pakistan. I argue that these different experiences are a testimony to the work of time over the last six decades. These life histories also complicate the way we tend to conceive of the Partition generation and the longer term consequences of Partition.

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

**Lauren Mueenuddin**

Specialist in International Maternal and Newborn Health

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*Maternal and Child Health in Pakistan*

Lauren Mueenuddin, a public health specialist, and South Asian FLAS Scholar, will discuss the current state of maternal, child and newborn health in Pakistan as well as some of successful government and non-governmental interventions to address their needs.

Lauren Mueenuddin has been working in the field of international maternal and child health for over 20 years, most recently at the World Bank in the Health, Nutrition and Population Unit in Washington DC. Prior to this, she spent fifteen years in Pakistan working in maternal and reproductive health (RH) with USAID (as Senior Technical Advisor and Deputy Chief of Party for the \$50 million Pakistan Initiative for Mothers and Newborns), with the United Nations (UNICEF, UNFPA) and various international NGOs including Save the Children, the Population Council, Population Services International (PSI), and Doctors of the World. Her area of expertise is in the development of field-based interventions for maternal and newborn mortality reduction. She holds a masters degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University (2002) and a masters degree in International Affairs and South Asian Studies from Columbia University (1990).

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

**Kishan Rana**

Distinguished International Visitor

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*Understanding India's Rise as a Great Power*

India is seen today as a leading element in the 'rise of Asia'. Together with China, the country enjoys a high rate of economic growth; it has a 'young' population of 1.2 billion (as per the 2011 census results announced in April). As the same time, the country faces daunting social and human development challenges. What role is India likely to play in international affairs? Is its rise likely to be a benevolent phenomenon, for its neighbors, for Asia and for the rest of the world? We explore these challenges, and look at the positive and negative factors that may shape the outcome.

Co-Sponsored by University of Wisconsin Lectures Committee.

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Thursday, May 5: 12-1 PM  
206 Ingraham Hall

**Katherine Ewing**

Professor of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Baishakhi Taylor**

Associate Director, North Carolina Consortium for South Asian Studies;

Program Director, Duke Engage Kolkata, India; Assistant Adjunct Professor of South Asian Studies

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*Mourning, Ambivalence, and Acceptance: Friends, Family and Sex Reassignment Surgery in Kolkata*

While the Indian nation state struggles with the question of citizenship and rights for its 'queer subjects', the word 'queer' and the idea of a "sexual identity" are becoming more salient in public culture, though discussions of sexuality continue to be off limits in many social circles. Within this changing social and legal environment, how do families respond to the process of coming out? In this paper we look at stories from two different but related groups: individuals in India who have come out to their friends and family, and individuals who have had friends and family come out to them. The narratives, based on interviews conducted during the summer of 2010, illustrate negotiations of sexuality and a range of "queer" identities among urban middle class families in Kolkata. In our analysis, we find strategies of acceptance within families that often contrast with publicly salient social taboos.

Katherine Pratt Ewing is Professor of Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Before moving to UW in the fall of 2010, she was Professor of Cultural Anthropology and Religion at Duke University, where she also served as Executive Director of the North Carolina Consortium for South Asian Studies. Her research focuses on debates among Muslims about the proper practice of Islam and the complex relationships among Islam, secularism, and modernity. She has done ethnographic fieldwork in Pakistan and Turkey and among Muslims in Germany, The Netherlands, and the United States. Her books include *Arguing Sainthood: Modernity, Psychoanalysis and Islam* (Duke, 1997), *Stolen Honor: Stigmatizing Muslim Men in Berlin* (Stanford, 2008), and the edited volumes *Shariat and Ambiguity in South Asian Islam* (University of California, 1988) and *Being and Belonging: Muslim Communities in the US since 9/11* (Russell Sage, 2008).

Baishakhi Banerjee Taylor is the Assistant Director of the Duke Center for Civic Engagement. She is also the Associate Director of the North Carolina Consortium for South Asian Studies and an assistant adjunct Professor of South Asian Studies at Duke University. Currently she is also a core faculty for the Focus Cluster on " Knowledge in the Service of Society" where her course explores the methods and ethics of doing civic engagement. A sociologist by training, Baishakhi's research interests focus on mixed methodology in social sciences. Her previous research projects include

analyzing political campaigns and HIV/AIDS prevention research. Baishakhi's recent scholarship includes developing interculturally competent curricula for US classrooms, funded by US dept of Education Fulbright Hays Grant.