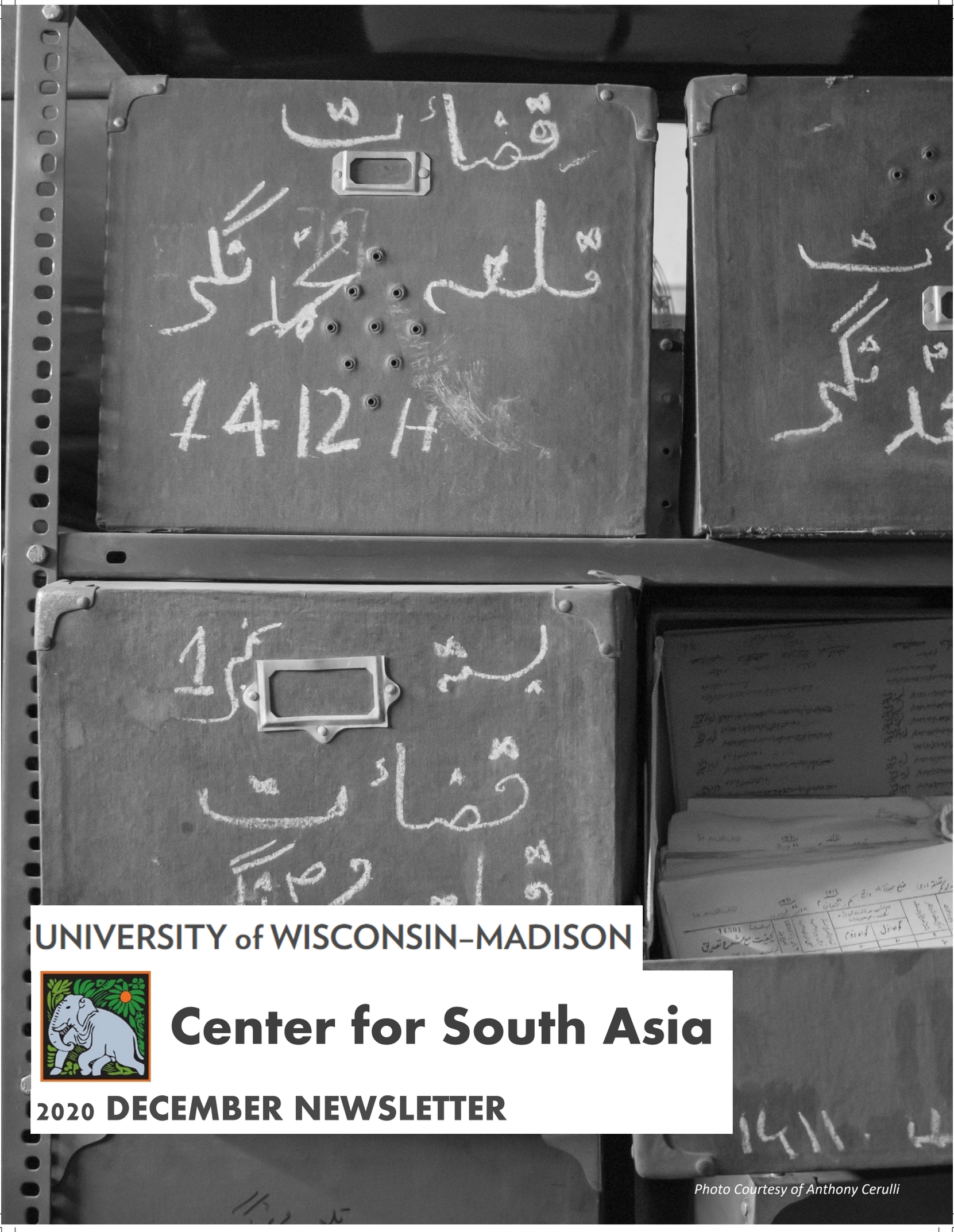
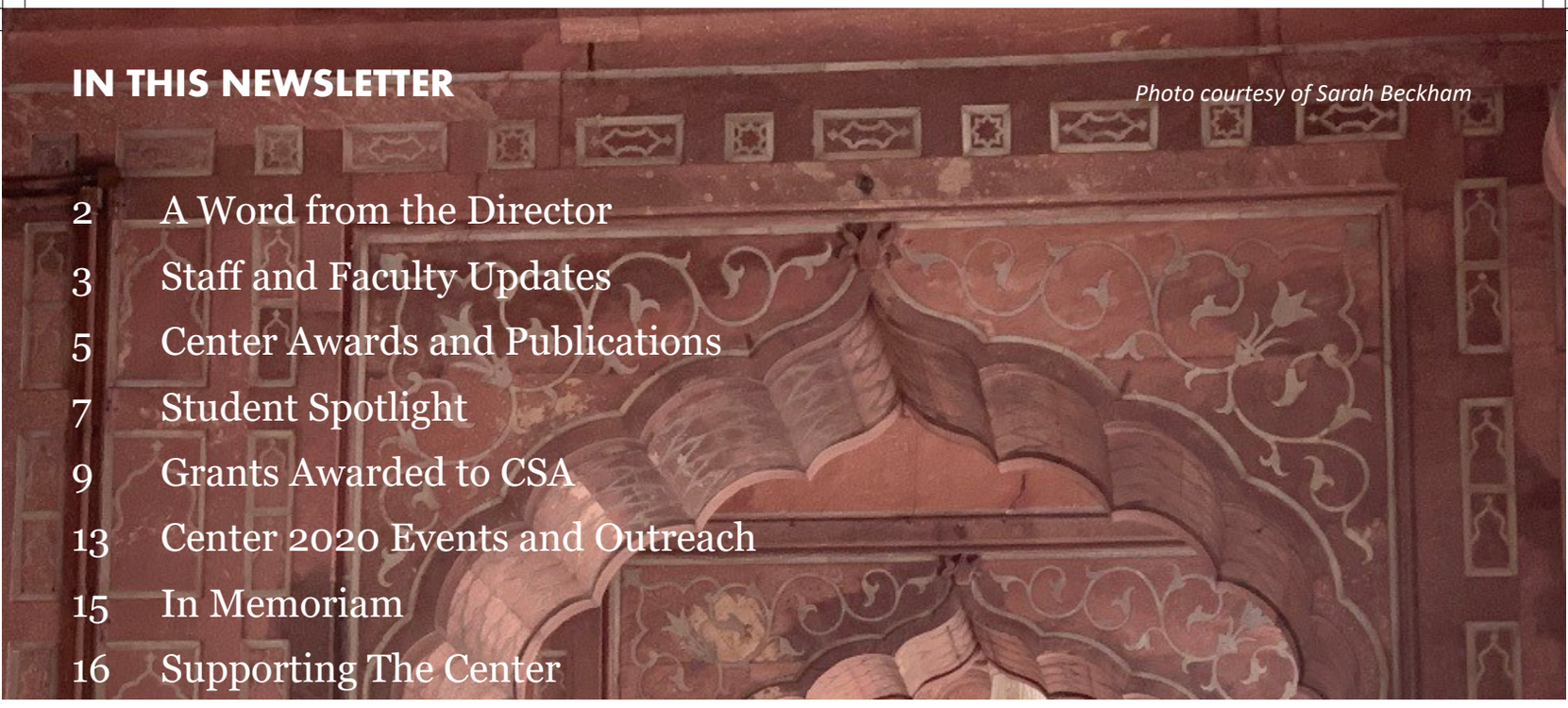


UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN–MADISON

Center for South Asia

2020 DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Photo Courtesy of Anthony Cerulli



IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Photo courtesy of Sarah Beckham

2 A Word from the Director
3 Staff and Faculty Updates
5 Center Awards and Publications
7 Student Spotlight
9 Grants Awarded to CSA
13 Center 2020 Events and Outreach
15 In Memoriam
16 Supporting The Center

From The Director

Dear friends and colleagues,

As 2020 draws to an end, all of us in the Center for South Asia (CSA) are reflecting on the semester's remarkable achievements and eagerly looking forward to what lies ahead in 2021. Everyone in the CSA community entered the fall semester having to adjust to the personal and professional constraints of the coronavirus pandemic. There have been challenges, to be sure. But there have been many highpoints, too. I have appreciated the supportive leadership of UW–Madison's International Division, and I am heartened by the innovation, hard work, and perseverance of everyone in the CSA community. With this newsletter, all of us in the Center are happy to share with you some recent highlights on campus, as a way to encourage everyone connected to CSA to take pride in our community's accomplishments in these unusual and often wearisome times and to look forward to brighter days. We also want to thank you for your ongoing support of the Center and participation in our various programming activities. There are many more to come in spring 2021! While we missed welcoming everyone to Madison this fall for the Annual Conference on South Asia, know that planning for the 49th Conference next fall is well underway. We are excited to host you again and to sharing the exciting improvements to the Conference that we've implemented. As you read this newsletter, we hope you will enjoy learning about the tremendous work of UW–Madison students pursuing degrees on South Asia-related topics. As the Student Spotlights attest, Badgers are gifted language learners, nationally funded researchers, and interdisciplinary pathbreaking dissertators. We are also excited to recognize UW–Madison faculty who work on South Asia for continuing to publish important research and win prestigious awards. What's more, we take great pride in the numerous accolades and grants secured by the dedicated and diligent staff of CSA, SASLI, and WISLI, ensuring that UW–Madison remains a leader in teaching and research on South Asian languages and cultures.

Please take care of yourselves and your loved ones at the end of 2020 and have a peaceful and healthful New Year.

Best wishes,



Anthony Cerulli
Director, Center for South Asia
University of Wisconsin–Madison



Photo courtesy of Glorious Himalaya Trekking Pvt Ltd.

Center Staff

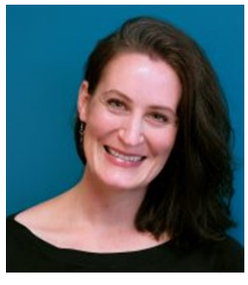


Faculty Director—Professor Anthony Cerulli

In April, Anthony Cerulli, an Associate Professor of South Asian Studies became the Center's new Faculty Director. Anthony has has served on several committees, and chaired the Annual Conference on South Asia in 2019.

Anthony was also recently named the David B. Larson Fellow in the Kluge Center at the Library of Congress to study the confluence of health and spirituality. Every year the Kluge Center brings in a select group of scholars, public intellectuals, and politicians from around the world to work on research projects in the humanities and social sciences. During the fellowship year, Anthony will work with the collections of the Asian Division at the Library of Congress for his new project, *Technologies for the Body-Mind-Spirit: Ayurveda and Spiritual Wellbeing in America.* Anthony has postponed the start of the fellowship until the fall of 2021 to be the Director of the Center for South Asia in the 2020-21 academic year.

Associate Director—Dr. Sarah Beckham



In February, Dr. Sarah Beckham took the position of Associate Director at the Center. Sarah, having been the Interim Associate Director, a Hindi Lecturer and the Hindi-Urdu Pedagogy Specialist for the SAFLI, SASLI, and Project GO programs at UW-Madison, brings a wealth of experience into her role.



Assistant Director—Andrea Fowler

Andrea Fowler, who as been the Center Office Manager since 2017, steps into her new role as Assistant Director this Spring. As Assistant Director, she will oversee the Annual Conference on South Asia and coordinate outreach programming.

New CSA Faculty



Jamal Jones

Jamal joined the ALC Department this year! He received his BA (Religious Studies, 2008) and PhD (South Asian Languages and Civilizations, 2018) from the University of Chicago. His focuses on classical Sanskrit and Telugu literature illuminate the broader history of religion and culture in premodern south India.

He is currently at work on two main projects. The first is a book tentatively titled Powers Beyond Words: Ritual, Astrology, and the Politics of Poetry in South India. The second project is The Nine Masters, an English translation of the Navanāthacaritramu, a fifteenth-century Telugu long poem that offers an account of the origins of the Naths, a tradition of yogi ascetics and wonder-workers.

Darshana Mini



Darshana joined the Communication Arts Department as an Assistant Professor in the fall. She received her Ph.D. from the Cinema and Media Studies Department, University of Southern California in 2020. Her dissertation "Transnational Journeys of Malayalam Soft-Porn: Obscenity, Censorship and Mediations of Desire" examines the genre of soft-porn in India and how it impacts public discourse on sexuality, obscenity, sex-work and sex-education. Her research interests broadly include Global Media Cultures, Transnational Cinemas and Migration, South Asian Cinema, and Feminist Media. Her work has been published in *Feminist Media Histories*, *Bioscope: South Asian Screen Studies*, *South Asian Popular Culture*, *Journal for Ritual Studies*, *Porn Studies* and *International Journal for Digital Television*. Most recently, she has co-edited a special issue for *Porn Studies* titled "South Asian Pornographies: Vernacular Formations of the Permissible and the Obscene" which was published in 2020.



Zara Chowdhury

Zara also joined the ALC Department as a lecturer in Hindi. She is a multilingual writer and instructor with an MA (Writing for Performance) from the University of Leeds and an MFA (Creative Writing and Environment) from Iowa State University. She has previously worked as a copywriter and assistant director, run a digital film production studio, and was one of six storytellers in a writers' room for the Indian movie studio Eros International.

Her more recent work has focused on sci-fi and speculative literature, Holocaust writing and imagery, and theatre direction. She won the Pearl Hogrefe Award in Creative Nonfiction (2019), the MVICW Fellowship for Parent-Writers (2018), and in 2019, she worked with Turner Classic Movies in original production to write and produce documentaries for on-air broadcast. The languages she enjoys working with are Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, Punjabi, Tamil, and French.

Priya Mukherjee



Priya Mukherjee joined CALS as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. She holds degrees in economics from Cornell University and the London School of Economics. Her research interests lie in Development Economics, with a focus on Political Economy, Education, and Health. She was previously Assistant Professor of Economics at The College of William and Mary and Visiting Scholar at Boston University.



Photo courtesy of J. Mark Kenoyer

Faculty Publications and Awards



Gudrun Bühnemann (ALC) published "Hanumān Worship under the Kings of the Late Malla Period in Nepal" in *Tantric Communities in Context*, edited by N. Mirnig, M. Rastelli, and V. Eltschinger. Vienna: Austrian Academy of Sciences (2019 , pp. 425-468) and "A Model of the Universe in Kathmandu's Old Royal Palace" in *History of Science in South Asia*, Volume 8 (2020, pp. 1-12).

Preeti Chopra (Art History) was on sabbatical during AY 2019-20. She has spent her sabbatical in the Netherlands where she is an Affiliate Fellow at the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS) in Leiden from September 2019 to August 2020. During her fellowship, Chopra worked on various projects including her ongoing book manuscript, *Communities of Care: The City and its Fragments in Colonial Bombay*. Prior to her sabbatical, Chopra gave talks at Northwestern University, the Australia India Institute at Melbourne University, the Netherlands Institute of Advanced Studies Fellows Association Day, and the Conference of the European Architectural History Network.

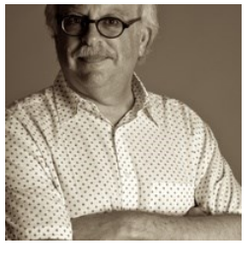




Aparna Dharwadker (Theater) offered tributes to poet Girish Karnad for Oxford University Press and The Wire. Her book, *A Poetics of Modernity: Indian Theatre Theory, 1850 to the Present* (2019) received Honorable Mention for ATHE 2020 Outstanding Book Award. In addition, her work on the project "Database of Printed Drama in India, 1840-Present," in collaboration with the UW Digital Collections Center, will go online in April 2021.



Laura Hammond (Administrative Director of SASLI) was one of eight academic staff members honored with an Excellence Award by Chancellor Blank. Her award is in recognition of service as administrative director of SASLI as well as her outstanding work with the South Asian Flagship Languages Initiative and the Indonesian Flagship Languages Initiative. Laura was also named the Director of the new Language Programs Office (LPO), which will provide a centralized home for many of the programs administered by the International Division, including the Wisconsin Summer Intensive Language Institutes (WISLI), Project GO (Global Officers), and several Regional Language Flagship Initiatives (FLI).



James Jaffe (Institute for Legal Studies) published "The Indian Panchayat, Access to Knowledge and Criminal Prosecutions in Colonial Bombay, 1827–6," *Law and History Review*, Vol. 38: No. 1 (February 2020), pp. 47-74 and "The Languages of Petitioning in Early Colonial India," *Social Science History*, Vol. 43 (Fall 2019), pp. 581–597.

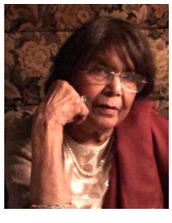




Mitra Sharafi (Law) published "Pandemic or poison? How epidemics shaped South Asia's legal history" in *Himāl Southasian* (April 20, 2020). Her research on forensic bloodstain testing and the Imperial Serologist in colonial India was featured in a Flash Forward podcast episode, Crime: CSI++, with Rose Eveleth (September 3, 2019). In 2020-21, Sharafi is a fellow at the National Center for the Humanities, where she will be working on her book project, "Fear of the False: Forensic Science in Colonial India."



Mark Sidel (Law) continues to work with colleagues in India and at the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) on nonprofit law reform issues in India. One result of this work is *Nonprofit Legal Reform in India* (ICNL 2019).



Usha Nilsson Professor Emerita of Hindi and Indian Literature has just published her 7th new novel *Alpa Vira* ("a comma") with publisher Rajkamal Prakashan in Delhi, and one of her earlier Hindi novels *Pachpan Khambe, Lal Deevaren* has been translated and is being published by The Speaking Tiger.



Christine Garlough, Professor of Gender and Women's Studies, and former Faculty Director of the Center for South Asia, was one of thirteen faculty members honored with the Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award.



Luke Whitmore, Associate Professor of Philosophy at UW-Stevens Point, has been awarded a research grant by the American Academy of Religion for his work *Ecology, Post-Secularism, and Cosmopolitics in the Central Indian Himalaya.*

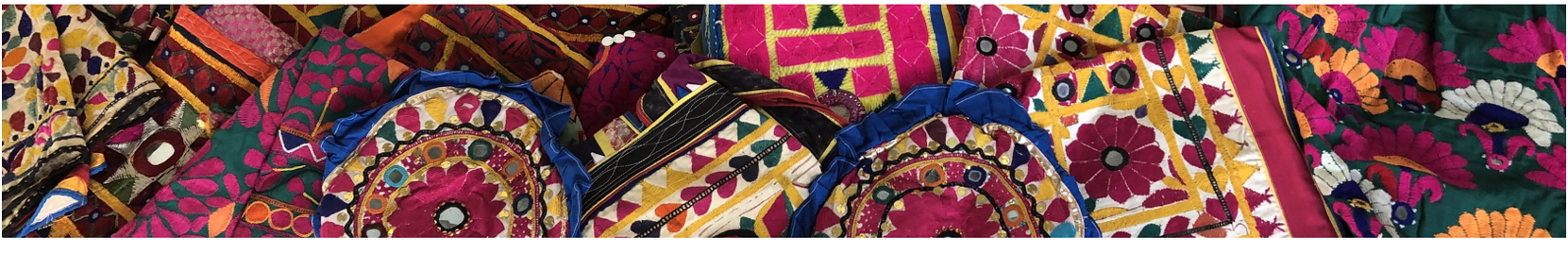




Photo courtesy of J. Mark Kenoyer

Student Awards

Tommy Thompson Leadership Scholarship Award

Michael Sauer, an Economics and Political Science Major who is earning certificates in South Asian Studies, East Asian Studies, Public Policy, and Political Economy received at $2,300 leadership scholarship.

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Arvin Mathur, a PhD student in Archeology at UW-Madison received a 5-year NSF Fellowship and plans to investigate ways to improve existing methods in biomolecular archaeology, to reconstruct culinary practices and the use of organic natural products in various technologies or early medical practices in ancient South Asia, with a focus on the Indus Tradition.

Fulbright- Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Grant

Jeremy Manheim, a PhD student in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures received a 2021-22 Fulbright-Hays DDRA. Jeremy will spend seven-months at the Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies in Sarnath (UP) studying the Sanskrit and Tibetan editions of several texts by the 8th-century Indian Buddhist philosopher, Kamalaśīla. Jeremy's research explores the intersections between Buddhist philosophy and the contemporary philosophy of perception and the philosophy of science. His dissertation will consider how the views of Indian Buddhist philosophers, like Kamalaśīla, can be used to question many of the premises of scientific naturalism.

IRIS/CSA Recipient of 2020 Undergrad Paper Award

Mahima Bhattar received the 2020 CSA/IRIS Undergrad Paper Award for her paper on "Indian Politics and its Roots in Hinduism and Caste: A Comparative Study of Hindu Nationalist and Dravidian Nationalist Parties."

Congratulations to 2020-21 FLAS recipients:

Mahima Bhattar
Aiden Dally
Asha Jain
Katie Koppen
Tenzin Samdup
Umer Sohail
Arvin Mathur
Lindsay Pettit
Michael Porter

Student Updates



Photo courtesy of J. Mark Kenover

2020 Graduations

South Asian Certificate Students Graduating in December 2019

Vansh Jain completed his undergraduate education at UW with majors in Biochemistry and International Studies with a certificate in South Asian Studies in Fall 2019. Vansh received a FLAS Fellowship for advanced Hindi study in 2017-2018 and received a Hilldale Undergraduate Research Fellowship in 2019. He plans to attend medical school following graduation.

South Asian Certificate Students Graduating in Spring and Summer 2020

Sonam Dolma (Biochemistry, CALS Honors Student)

Elizabeth Walters (IS Major)

Student Spotlight



Mahima Bhattar is an undergraduate studying Sociology and Economics with certificates in South Asian Studies and Gender and Women's studies. Mahima studied Hindi in Varanasi, where she also conducted research on family planning education for women, and applied for a Fulbright to conduct research in the field of public health in Mumbai. Mahima received a 2020-21 FLAS award to study Hindi this year. Mahima learned about CSA through its weekly lecture series and thinks CSA programs can reach students that are interested in South Asia but are studying in different departments.



Arvin Mathur is completing his PhD in Anthropology (Archeology) at UW Madison and has been awarded a National Science Foundation fellowship to continue his research to improve analysis methods used to identify the contents of Indus civilization era containers. He hopes that the reference library he builds will lead to better research on the contents of ancient pottery found across Western, Central, and South Asia and contribute to a better understanding of trade across the ancient world.



Rini Tarafder is a playwright and PhD student in interdisciplinary Theatre Studies with a research focus on urban theater in India and its impact on South Asian performance art among diaspora and beyond the physical boundaries of South Asia. As part of her dissertation, she has been investigating Parsi theater and the transnational networks that Parsi performance forms traveled through. Rini's play Alien Nation was performed at the 29th Annual Marcia Legere Student Play Festival at UW Madison, which raises questions about climate change, capitalism, and the survival of humans in a post-apocalyptic non-world



CENTER GRANTS

Speaking Proficiency Outcomes of Face-to-Face and Online U.S. Intensive Postsecondary Summer Programs in Less and Least Commonly Taught Foreign Languages Grant



The study of South Asian languages at UW-Madison will undoubtedly benefit from the $173,168 U.S. Department of Education's Title VI International Research and Studies Program grant, which will support a 3-year, UW-Madison Language Institute study on speaking outcomes of students of less commonly taught languages in both online and face-to-face instructional settings.

The Wisconsin Intensive Summer Language Institutes (WISLI) hosted by UW-Madison will serve as the ideal environment to collect data for the study, during which pre- and post-program Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPI), student journals, and additional evaluation tools will aid researchers in identifying key factors in reaching positive outcomes in the study of LCTL's across all teaching modalities. As a member institute of WISLI, the South Asian Summer Language Institute (SASLI) will participate in this study.



Photo courtesy of Sarah Beckham

Boren Flagship Language Initiative Grants

This year, UW-Madison was awarded grants for three intensive summer language programs. Through the WISLI courses, UW-Madison will host The Boren Regional Flagship Language Initiatives for Hindi and Urdu, Turkish, and Indonesian. The SAFLI (South Asian Flagship Languages Initiative), IFLI (Indonesian Flagship Language Initiative), and TURFLI (Turkish Flagship Language Initiative) programs brought approximately 40 students into UW-Madison's summer online courses for intensive language study. During a typical year, students will study at UW-Madison for eight weeks and then continue their studies overseas in India (SAFLI), Indonesia (IFLI), or Azerbaijan (TURFLI) during the fall semester. Beginner language students typically meet the ILR 1+/2 level of proficiency (Intermediate Hight to Advanced Low) by the end of their program. These three programs are special initiatives of the Boren Awards for International Study and will be hosted by UW-Madison until 2023!



CENTER UPDATES

Conference on South Asia

Having postponed the 2020 Conference, the Center for South Asia eagerly looks forward to the 2021 Conference year. We are excited to see the amazing research submitted as part of the 2021 conference competition, which will re-open **mid-to-late February.**

For 2020 registrants, previously accepted submissions for symposia, single papers, roundtables and panels will be honored for the 2021 ACSA meeting, and registration for the 2020 competition will be rolled over to the 2021 meeting.

In light of the postponement, we are working on a plan to showcase panels on time-sensitive issues during the 2020-21 academic year. The Conference has been a vital gathering for scholars and students of South Asia, and the Center is excited to see you all again in 2021!



Photo Courtesy of Anthony Cerulli



Photo Courtesy of Anthony Cerulli

College Year in India and Nepal Archive Project

Preserving and Sharing over 50 Years of Studying in South Asia

The University of Wisconsin-Madison's Center for South Asia is kicking off an online archive project to document the memories and stories of alumni who participated on the College Year in India (CYII) and College Year in Nepal (CYIN) programs, which have had a lasting impact on generations of students and scholars. The archive project aims to gather photos, video, an audio interviews from participants that studied across India and Nepal at sites in Delhi, Varanasi, Hyderabad, Vizakhapatnam, and Kathmandu (as well as others), in addition to documenting the lasting impact that these UW-Madison study abroad programs have had on the host communities.

The Center has already begun cataloging and uploading hard copy materials from the UW India programs, which will be added to files shared by program alumni and made available via the Center's website. The archive project will serve not only as a collective memory for program participants documenting the rich history of the program, but also as a landing page for alumni to reach out to one another.

2020 Lecture Series, Events and Outreach


Photo courtesy of J. Mark Kenoyer

January 27, 2020

The CAA and Its Implementation: What Does It Mean for India and Its Neighbors?

Graduate Student Roundtable, led by members of the South Asia Research Collective

Co-sponsored by the Center for South Asia and the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures

January 30, 2020

Midnight's Daughters, Postgenerations, and Postmemories in South Asian American Writing

Dinidu Karunanayake (Visiting Assistant Professor, English, Centre College)

February 6, 2020

Ephemera in Stone: Shifting Language Use in South Asian Islamic Epigraphy

Walter Hakala (Associate Professor, English, University of Buffalo)

February 13, 2020

"Food will roll uphill": Meditative Retreat and the Problem of Sustenance

David DiValerio (Associate Professor, History and Religious Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee)

February 20, 2020

South Asia Beyond the Humanities Faculty Roundtable

February 27, 2020

The Crane Knows Not the Glory of the Lotus: Bhakti and Carnatic Music

Lakshmi Sreeram (Fulbright Scholar, Aesthetics and Music, University of Colorado, Boulder)

March 5, 2020

New Perspectives on the study of the Indus Script: Origins, Character, Linkages and Decline

J. Mark Kenoyer (Professor, Anthropology, UW-Madison)

April 14, 2020

SABA and South Asia National Outreach Council

Barb Rosenstock (Author)

April 28, 2020

Film Screening and Discussion of "This Changes Everything" by Naomi Klein

Nancy Heingartner (Assistant Director for Outreach, Institute for Regional and International Studies

June 29, 2020

SASLI Summer Lecture Series: "Dastangoi: The Lost Art Form of Urdu Storytelling & Qissebaazi: A Multilingual Storytelling Platform."

Danish Husain (Actor and Theatre Director)

July 2, 2020

SASLI Hindi/Urdu Phonology Workshop

Sarah Beckham (Associate Director, Center for South Asia, UW-Madison)



July 6, 2020

SASLI Devangari Script Workshop

Dr. Mithilesh Mishra (SASLI Pedagogy Coordinator and experienced Hindi instructor)

July 14, 2020

SASLI Summer Lecture Series: "Coaching and the Language of Instruction: Languages on a High-Stakes Test in India."

Chaise LaDousa (Professor, Anthropology, Hamilton College)

July 16, 2020

SASLI Calligraphy Workshop

Ustad Ali Rouhfar

July 17, 2020

Panelists and Presenters from WISLI and other organizations

Less Commonly Taught Languages Career Fair

July 23, 2020

OPI Workshop

Mithilesh Mishra (Pedagogy Coordinator, SASLI) and Sarah Beckham (Academic Director, SASLI, and Associate Director, Center for South Asia)

September 10, 2020

The Hindu Goddess Comes to Michigan: Breaking Boundaries, Making Home

Tracy Pintchman (Professor, Religious Studies, Loyola University of Chicago)

October 9, 2020

High Stakes on the Indo-Chinese Border: Implications for the region, the United States, and the world

Discussion Panel, Moderated by UW Professor Judd Kinzley

Co-Sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies

October 15, 2020

COVID-19, Climate Change, and Public Health in South Asia

Dr. Ann Behrmann and Dr. Vijay Limaye

October 29, 2020

Panel Discussion: Caste, Indigeneity, Region, and Settler/Colonialism in Modi's India

November 5, 2020

Bene Israel Kirtan as Sonic Translation, 1880-1955

Anna Schultz (Associate Professor, Music, University of Chicago)

November 16, 2020

IRIS Book Club Virtual Meeting - The Night Diary by Veera Hiranandani

Discussion led by Zara Chowdhary (Lecturer, Hindi, UW-Madison)

November 19, 2020

A Place to Call Home

Ramya Ramanath (Associate Professor and Chair, International Public Service, DePaul University)

December 3, 2020

The Sri Lankan Tamil Refugee Novel in Contemporary Tamil Writing

Vasugi Kailasam (Assistant Professor, Tamil Studies, University of California, Berkeley)

In Memoriam



Narendra K. Sinha, Ph.D

Dr. Narendra K. Sinha was born on 02 August 1932 in Gaya, India. He passed away on 15 May 2020 at the age of 87. Post-retirement, he was an honorary fellow at the center for South Asia at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin, USA.

He held Master's degree in Hindi, in Sanskrit, and in Pali, and a Ph.D., in Linguistics from Agra University on Linguistic Study of Stuttering which was awarded a gold medal in 1962. He started his career as a lecturer in Hindi at Magadh University, Bodhgaya. He had been a Linguist at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. He worked as a Senior Research Officer at the Central Indian Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore. He was also a Senior Research Associate in Linguistics at Santiniketan for approximately two years.

He migrated to the USA in 1980, where he started a new career as an instructor in English as a Second Language. He had been a Visiting Professor at University of Minnesota, Minneapolis and a Research faculty at the University of Wisconsin. He later qualified himself as a Speech Pathologist with an MS degree and retired as Director of Rehabilitation Services in 1999 after 15 years of service in this field.

Since retirement and for approximately 20 years he had been busy in creative writing in both Hindi and English (short stories, novels, poems and translation work) while establishing himself and associating with University of Wisconsin, Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia (now ALC), Madison, Wisconsin. Over those years, he published over 10 books and has been writing for different newspapers and magazines. Though Dr. Sinha lived in the USA since 1980, his stories belonged exclusively to the Indian context and situations.

Additionally, during those 20 years post-retirement, among few of many, he established a strong network with communities in India in establishing speech/language workshops for children with disabilities in Shimla Himachal Pradesh, initiated a diploma course at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, served as an invited speaker by the Rehabilitation Council of India to address their seminar in Bangalore and arranged an All India Conference on Clinical Linguistics and Speech Pathology at Agra University, with support from Hindi/Linguistics Institute and the Vice Chancellor.

Dr. Narendra Sinha was a very affectionate husband and a father. He was a considerate, compassionate, humble and loving person. His love and deep passion for his mother country, India was the cornerstone of his life.

Dr. Narendra Sinha is survived by his loving wife Mrs. Kalyanee Sinha of 62 years of togetherness, his five children and nine grandchildren.

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