

**First Annual Conference of the Indian Association for South Asian Studies
(IASAS)****Rethinking South Asia: Alternative Paradigms, Practices and Discourses****Virtual Conference, 7-9 November 2020****New Delhi, India****Day 1 Saturday: 07-11-2020****9.40-9.50 : Welcome Note** by Dr Ashutosh Kumar, Director, CASSS, and President, IASAS, New Delhi**9.50-10.00 : Introduction** by Dr Bobby Luthra Sinha, General Secretary, CASSS, New Delhi**10.00- 11.35 Panel: Warfare and British Indian Army**

Chair: Professor Kaushik Roy

1. Adil Rana Chhina, CMHCS-USI, An Imperial Vision: The 'Indian' Memorial at Neuve Chapelle
2. Siddharth Dasgupta, 'One hell of beating': The Fall of Burma, 1942
3. Manas Dutta, Caste contour, performances and the British Indian army: Understanding Mahar and Chamar regiments in the Global Warfare, 1914-1945
4. Priyanjana Gupta: British Indian Army in Africa

11:30- 12:35 Panel: Supplying War in South Asia, 1700-1947

Chair: Sqn Ldr Rana Chhina

1. Malini Chakraborty, Jadavpur University, Coolies at the Frontier: Politics of road building in the Lushai Country, 1880-1920
2. Arka Chowdhury, Jadavpur University, An Insatiable Appetite: Supplying the British-Indian Army in Afghanistan and the North-West Frontier, 1839-1919
3. Sohini Mitra, Jadavpur University, Supplying the British-Indian Army in North-East India during Nineteenth Century

12:40- 01: 45 Panel : Media Anthropology as an Alternative Epistemology in South Asian DiscourseChair: **Preeti Raghunath**, SIMC, Pune

1. Sonali Srivastav, NIFT Bhubaneswar and Dr. Shikha Rai, IGNOU, New Delhi
Video-on-Demand Services in India: Transformation of Content, Audience and Industry, by
2. Monisa Qadri, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Jammu & Kashmir
Glass Ceiling in Media: Do women see themselves being blocked?
3. Priyanka Das, IIT-Bombay, Re-thinking the 'Industry' Bollywood: A Study of a Strike in the Bombay Film Industry

1.45-2.45 PM Panel : Education and Language in India

Chair:

1. Nishtha Srivastava, Shivaji College, University of Delhi, The issue of Language in the Constituent Assembly: Role of Central Provinces
2. Anuradha Bose, NIEPA. Higher Education in a Diverse Democracy: Legacies of Inequality and Discourses of Change.
3. Sanchit Toor, Ashoka University, Becoming *Bhasha* and Decolonising the *Self*: Reimagining and Reconceptualising India Through the Vernaculars

03.05-03.55 Keynote Address:

Professor Faisal Devji, University of Oxford
Escaping the Global Event: India, Islam and the First World War

Chair: Professor Francis Robinson, University of London

04.00- 06. 15 Symposium I: Empire and Mass Mobility in South Asia

Chair: Dr Ashutosh Kumar

1. **Professor Crispin Bates, University of Edinburgh**
Queering the South Asian Labour diaspora 1840-1920
2. **Professor Ananya Kabir, King's College London and Ari Gautier (Oslo)**
Subaltern mobilities as an archipelago of fragments: connecting histories on 'le thinnai kreyol'
3. **Professor Neilesh Bose, University of Victoria**
Das, Dayal, Khankhoke, and Roy: Empire, Globalisation, and Historical Biography, 1890 – 1950

6.30- 9.30 Symposium 2: South Asia and the People Without History

Chair: Professor Shahid Amin

1. **Professor Gyan Prakash, Princeton University**
Bhuinyas and their idea of freedom
2. **Professor Sujit Sivasunadaram, University of Cambridge**
From Mumbai to the Gulf in the Age of Revolutions
3. **Professor Radhika Mongia, York University**
Citizenship Deprivation: Legality, Bureaucracy, and the Everyday
4. **Professor Rahman Nasir Uddin, University of Chittagong**
State in Everyday Life: A Case of Stateless Rohingya
5. **Professor Manuela Ciotti, University of Vienna**
Future traces: Dalits, material cultures, and the making of history now

Day 2 Sunday: 08-11-2020

9.00 – 10.30 AM Panel : Histories from Below in South Asia

Chair: Professor

1. Babasaheb Kambale, Satish Pradhan Dnyanasadhana College, Thane. Caste, Sports and Bombay City: Understanding Dalit Responses (1920-1960)
2. Aratrika Bhadra, Identity as a Zimmedar: Narratives of Rohingyas in an Urban Setting in India
3. Annima B., Tracing lesser known histories: Methodological reflections
4. Pathmanesan Sanmugeswaran, University of Kentucky, USA, Reconstructed Spaces and Intersectional Hierarchies in Post-war Villages in Sri Lanka

10.30- 12.00 AM Panel : Ideas, Institutions and Practices in Colonial Bengal

Chair:

1. Suvobrata Sarkar: Electrifying Calcutta in the Early Twentieth Century: Colonialism, Technology Choices and the Bengali Bhadrakok
2. Aryama Ghosh, Jadavpur University: Credit, Coercion, and Conflict: The Decline of the Sannyashi Logistical Network in Eastern Bengal, 1760-1800
3. Sudarshana Bhaumik, JNU: The subaltern denizens of rural Bengal: Locating Bengal's seasonal tradition with the cult worship
4. Shubhankar Dutta: 'Performing Community': Organisation of Deity and Socio-Cultural Stratification in the Hook Swinging Festival (*Gajan*) of West Bengal.

12.00- 1.30 PM Panel: Partition, Memory and History in South Asia

Chair: Dr Pallavi Chakravarty, Ambedkar University Delhi

1. Marvi Slathia, Stories of Partition Refugees residing in Jammu and Kashmir:
2. Sneha Samaddar, Narratology in Cinematic representation of Post- Partition Trauma: Identity, Trauma and Women.
3. Ekta Bakshi, Refuting Refugee-hood: Re-thinking the politics of Partition and its aftermath in West Bengal
4. Sumit Howladar, Bāngāl as the Eternal Homeless: Assimilating Cultural identity within a postcolonial constitutional arrangement.

1.30- 2.30 PM Panel : Empire, Labour and Migration

Chair: Sujatha Boodhoo, Durban

1. Aratrika Ganguly, University of Calcutta. Understanding migration, identity and modern slavery in making of coolies in colonial India: 'Coolie' literature as a paradigm of reading colonial history
2. Sarojini Lewis, JNU, Alternative Interpretations of Indian Indentured Labour Migration
3. Nayan Jyoti Kalita, Assam. Hill 'coolies' in the Borderland: Punitive Regime and Labour Extraction in Colonial Northeast India.

2.35- 4.00 PM Panel: Political Institutions and Movement in South Asia

Chair: Dr Dhiraj K Nite, Ambedkar University Delhi

1. Rajan Kumar Singh, Panchayati Raj Institutions in India : Local Self-government or an implementing agency
2. Rupak Kumar, A Democratic Moment: The Opposition in Ideas and Action
3. Therese Boje Mortensen, Partnering with civil society or privatising human rights duties?
4. Olha Morgunyak, Political Parties emerging from Post-Soviet and Postcolonial Movements: Anything in Common?

4.00- 5.00 PM Panel: Marginals in Postcolonial South Asia

Chair: Dr Nandini Bhattacharya Panda, CASSS

1. Indrakshi Tandon, Postcoloniality and Bhil Identity: perpetuating tribal stereotypes in central India
2. Chhandita Das and Priyanka Tripathi, Storytelling and Ethnic Preservation: A Postcolonial Intervention into the Indigenous Geography of North-East India in Mamang Dai's Fictional Writings
3. Ritobrata Roy, Berhampore College, Alternative Media & a Critique of the Violent Development Mode: A Study of Select Bengali Little Magazines in the Context of Singur and Nandigram Incidents (2006-2009)

5.10- 5.50 PM Second Keynote: Khal Torabully, Indologist and Cultural Theorist
Theorizing in the Global South through the oceanic centrality of Coolitude

Chair: Dr Ashutosh Kumar

6.00- 8.00 PM (IST) Symposium 3: Caste in South Asia

Chair: Professor

1. **Professor Dilip Menon, University of Witwatersrand**
Hierarchy and Inequality: The violence of caste in India
2. **Professor Shaista Patel, University of California San Diego**
Caste in Pakistan and its Diaspora
3. **Pradip Pariyar, Samanta Foundation, Nepal**
Caste in Nepal

Day 3 Monday: 09-11-2020

9.00- 10.00 AM Panel: Society, Culture and Economy under Mughal India

Chair:

1. Sameer Ahmad Sofi, Aligarh Muslim University. Mughal gardens in Kashmir: A study of their cultural and economic importance
2. Ananya Saikia, University of Delhi. Idea of Beauty and Body in Mughal Sources
3. Sehar Khwaja, University of Delhi, Embodying Motherhood: An Understanding of collective versus Individual construction of Mughal Motherhood.

10.00-11.00 AM Panel : Religion, Culture and Social Movements in South Asia

Chair: Dr Yogesh Snehi, Ambedkar University Delhi

1. Sushmita Banerjee, Miranda House, University of Delhi. A Theologian as Public Intellectual? The Making of an 'Alim, 'Abd al-Haqq Muhaddis Dehlawi in Early Modern South Asia
2. Sushila Sawant Mendes, University of Goa. The changing feminine voice in pre-post-colonial Goa: Re-visiting the role of the Church today
3. Akash Moitra, Jadapur University. In Her Majesty's Name"- Analyzing the Role of the Post-Colonial Successor States in suppressing Dissent and Popular Movements in South Asia

11.00- 12.00 AM Panel : Social Identities and Public Health policy in South Asia

Chair: Professor Awadhendra Saran, CSDS

1. Mrunmayee Satam, Caste and Public Health: Inequalities in Colonial Bombay City, 1914-1945
2. Neelashree Das Gupta, Presidency University. Cuisine in the making of cultural and material identity of the Anglo-Indians of Calcutta
3. Deepika Devi et. al. Central University of Gujarat, Compression between the Health Care System of India and China/ Arpita Sahay, Vijay Kumar, Bikash Ranjan Sethy

12.00- 2.00 PM Panel : Art, Literature, and Paintings in the History of South Asia

Chair: Prof Nishat Zaidi, Jamia Milia Islamia

1. Revisiting Indian Traditional Art through British Colonial Paradigm, Noor Ul Ain: National College of Arts, Pakistan.
2. Shruti Amar, KIIT, Women, Folklore and the Literary Text: A Case Study of the Fictions of Sudhir Ghose.
3. Jay Jivani, Be bol: Prefacing Shakespeare in Gujarati during late 19th and early 20th century,
4. Aradhana Singh, JNU, The Lover's World: Representation of Romance in Early Sanskrit Literature
5. Latif, Paintings of Rajamala manuscript in South Asia (The local schools in Rajasthan are an example)

2.00- 3.00 PM Panel: Text, Sacred Landscape and Edifices in Ancient India

Chair: Dr Prem Kumar, University of Delhi

1. Nikita, DU, Sacred Landscape of Ranchi: An Archaeological Exploration, 7th BC – 12th BC
2. Deepankar Das, DU, Invoking the Ancestors (pitrs): Gender and Patriliney in Vedic Ritual
3. Prem Kumar, DU, The making of the garden cities of early India: a study of Natya literatures
4. Shivani Agrawal, India's Strategic Culture: An Examination?

3.00- 4:00 PM Panel: Defending and Objecting the Raj

Chair: Dr Ajeet Kumar, ARSD, DU

1. Moumita Chaudhury, *Defending the Raj: The Role of Indian Ordnance Factories, 1860-1947*.
2. Pranjal Singh, जनराज की सदाएं : बलिया के बागी तेवर से अगस्त क्रान्ति की शिनाख्त सार तत्व
3. Alakh Ranjan, Gandhi, Violence and Conflict Resolution

4.00- 5.25 PM Panel : Identity Politics: Caste, Gender, and Religious Minority in South Asia

Chair: Dr Bobby Luthra Sinha, CASSS

1. Anisha Srivastava, Sri Aurobindo College(eve) University of Delhi. A study of feminine consciousness within the traditional narratives of Grihalakshmi
2. Monika Dhadda, *Role of Women in Kashmir: Handicraft Industries*
3. Tejeswar Karkora, Panaji, Goa. *Gendered Vulnerabilities and Decision Over Food Security: A Study of Rural Households in Odisha, India*
4. Ridhima Sharma, *Revisiting the Cow Protection Discourse: Gender, Caste and Labour at a Gaushala in a North Indian Town*

5.25- 7.00 PM Panel : Boundaries, Globalisation and Trans-nationality in South Asia

Chair: Professor Keshav Mishra, Banaras Hindu University

1. Prem Poddar, Roskilde University, *Water in South Asia: How do we rethink the Himalayas in the Anthropocene?*
2. Hoimonti Barua, *South Asia at the Crossroads of a New Global Reality: An Analytical Study*
3. Sagnik Bhattacharya, University of Groningen, *Transnational Imaginations: Locating the Global Third World Space in 1960s Calcutta*
4. Arpita Sahay, Central University of Gujarat. *Role of India in interregional trade with South Asian Countries*
5. Mitaja Chakrobarty, *Encounters with the global capital: discoursing democracy and labour rights in RMG industry in Bangladesh*

7.00-7:20 PM Recorded Video Presentation

1. Praggnaparamita Biswas, *Cinematic Imagi(nation) of Emergency: Cultural Re-visioning of Mahalaya (2019)*

Note of Thanks: Sarad Kumar Yadav, Sanjeev Kumar and Meenakshi Yadav