



Cornell University

SOUTH ASIA PROGRAM



2019 BULLETIN



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**SOUTH ASIA
 PROGRAM**

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Cover: India, Gujarat, made for the eastern Indonesian market (Toraja) Maa' ceremonial cloth with design of trees (detail), possibly 17th century Cotton (plain weave), hand-painted mordant-dyed and resist-dyed Collection of Banoo and Jeevak Parpia. Photo credit: David O. Brown, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art

Inside Front Cover: Father Door and Children Doors, photo by Nipun Prabhakar



From the Director

Iftikhar Dadi

The South Asia Program had a busy year in 2018-2019. We offered a rich ensemble of lectures and panel discussions (p. 20), sponsored conferences (p. 11-13, 15), and hosted a diverse group of scholars and artists (p. 36). We continued our support for faculty teaching and research, and the promotion of language study (p. 35). And we maintained our sponsorship of cultural and educational programming by the many South Asia focused student groups on campus.

Our outreach efforts to K-12 (p. 26), as well as community college, and teacher education communities have recently been enhanced by the addition of Kathi Colen Peck at the Einaudi Center (p. 22, 29). The South Asian Studies Fellowship, now in its third year, continues to attract emerging artists, writers, and scholars from across South Asia, who spend 8 to 12 weeks in Ithaca to engage more deeply with their work in the university environment (p. 14, 22).

Cornell's engagement with South Asia continues to deepen across colleges and departments. CALS has a new agreement to collaborate on climate-smart agriculture in Tamil Nadu (p. 29), and the Cornell India Law Center was recently established (p. 31). This is in addition to the expanded work by the Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition (TCI) (p. 6-7, 34), and the Nilgiris Field Learning Center (NFLC) (p. 10). However, our longstanding

focus on Nepal and Himalayan Studies remains in a transitional state, due to recent faculty retirements.

Notable speakers included the critically acclaimed actor and director Nandita Das, who presented *Manto*, her most recently directed film. In a long and engaging discussion after the screening with a large audience of students, faculty and members of the Ithaca community, Das explained the motivations that led her to conceive and direct this labor of love (p. 17). The short story writer Saadat Hasan Manto (1912-1955) was a prolific author, who wrote about socially marginal characters from all religious groups with humor and sympathy, and also worked in Bombay cinema during the 1940s. It is, however, his unsparing accounts laced with black humor of the Partition of India and its aftermath, which forced him to leave Bombay for Lahore, that constitute some of the most profound artistic responses to the trauma of the Partition on everyday lives. For Das, Manto's unsparing truth-telling makes him a persona who is needed more than ever, in our era increasingly saturated with insular media narratives.

The Harvard historian Sunil Amrith is among the foremost scholars in the emerging field of environmental history (p. 16). His talk on the Indian Ocean in a longer historical register, "Monsoon Asia," not only revealed new relationships between people and climate in the past, but served as a reminder that the challenge of climate change that we are

facing today remains one whose scale is far larger than the framework in which nation-states currently operate. Similarly, the magnificent *Traded Treasure: Indian Textile for Global Markets* exhibition at the Herbert F Johnson Museum of Art showcased how South Asia has been deeply embedded in global circuits of trade across centuries (p. 18-19, front and back cover). The technological and aesthetic sophistication of these fabrics in addressing the nuances of each market they engaged with is indeed remarkable. Acclaimed novelist Neel Mukherjee's brilliant presentation in September 2018 marked a milestone, being the 10th speaker in our annual Tagore Lecture Series (p. 16). We look forward to the presentation by the equally accomplished Anuradha Roy on September 20, 2019 (p. 21).

The South Asia Program is ably served by Manager Daniel Bass, who also moonlights on WRFI every other Tuesday evening to present South Asian music to Ithaca listeners (p. 25), and our new Administrative Assistant Gloria Lemus-Chavez (p. 29). I thank the SAP Steering Committee and the external Advisory Council for their guidance. Finally, we look forward to working closely with Rachel Beatty Riedl, the new Director of the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, to continue to develop the South Asia Program in the coming years.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD:

A Visit to the Varanasi Archives

by Kelsey Utne



Entrance to the Varanasi archives

I did not expect a response when I emailed Firdous Azmat Siddique, but I had to try. Previous experience living and researching in India had taught me that “cold call” emails rarely garnered a response. But Siddique’s surveys of Muslim women migrants from Uttar Pradesh highlighted access to burial grounds as the chief concern among the now Delhi-based community. Working on my dissertation on the commemoration of the dead in twentieth century India, I needed to at least try to meet with the Jamia Millia Islamia University professor while I was in India. Within a day of my initial email, Siddique invited me for chai the following week at her office in JMIU’s Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women’s Studies. After over an hour of recommendations, advice, and copious chai, she offered to introduce me to the archivist at Uttar Pradesh’s Regional Archive in Varanasi. They had completed their doctorates together at the University of Allahabad and remained close friends.

But I have a confession to make: until chai with Siddique, I was not keen on the over twelve-hour bus ride from Delhi to Varanasi in search of this archive. I was not even certain of *where* it was in the city. The UP archives website has not been updated since 2013, and its contact information was accordingly out of date. The given address for the Varanasi Archive—like many addresses in India—held no meaning for Google Maps. Many researchers visit the main archives in Lucknow, but the three regional archives in Allahabad, Agra, and Varanasi are far less well tread territory. As a result, their archival collections present both opportunity and challenge for researchers. A WhatsApp introduction with the archivist? That was worth its virtual weight in gold.

“Spend the extra money to book a flight. It’s worth it.” Yael Rice told me over dosas. A professor of art history at Amherst College, Rice and I had been Twitter friends for a while. Now we were finally able to meet in person since we were both in

India on research fellowships from the American Institute of Indian Studies. Rice was unfailingly generous with her enthusiasm for a dissertation project that I felt kept shifting beneath my feet. We swapped stories about past trips to India and wrestled with our current research conundrums. Having traveled in India significantly more than I had, Rice’s advice was sound. I should have listened.

Frugal with my time and funding, I booked an overnight bus from Delhi to Varanasi. It had been six years since my last overnight bus in India, but I distinctly remembered the bunk being comfortable when I had traveled in Maharashtra from Mumbai to Aurangabad. A German friend of mine had not complained when she travelled by bus to Varanasi only one week before. For less than \$20 I could fall asleep in Delhi and wake up in Varanasi the next morning. It was the best of all worlds: I did not lose a valuable workday traveling and conserved my precious fellowship stipend. That was the theory at least. Despite better than average online reviews, the bunks of the overnight bus were not what I remembered. I also did not know at the time that there is a substantial gap between highway quality in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. Extraordinarily sleep-deprived and hungry, I reached Varanasi in one piece.

After checking into a backpacker hostel near Chet Singh Fort, I devoured three bananas and sent a WhatsApp message to Harendra Singh, the archivist for the UP Regional Archive in Varanasi. Since I had not been able to locate the official address on a map, Singh provided directions: “Come to Sigra. Opposite to Bata shoes.” Sigra is a bustling commercial area and I was uncertain if that was enough information to negotiate an auto-rickshaw in this new (to me) city. A few second later, my phone beeped again. Singh had sent his precise location using the WhatsApp live location sharing feature, which could launch Google Maps with a pinpoint showing me exactly where he



Working at Harendra Singh's desk



Entrance to the Varanasi Archives

(and his phone) was at the time. I asked him what rate I should negotiate with an auto-rickshaw driver and set off.

When I went to India for the first time in 2012, my basic flip phone sent text messages and made phone calls (though not very well). Without applications like Google Maps and WhatsApp, I would have had to call Singh and have him talk with the hostel staff when I could not locate the landmarks he described on my tourist maps. The hostel staff would then give an approximate description of what I should convey to an auto-rickshaw driver when negotiating my fare. Along the way, the driver and I would periodically check with other motorists and street sellers to confirm whether we were going the right way. Hopefully they would recognize the landmarks we referenced. Finally, once close by, I would go on foot, asking directions from whoever looked like they knew the area, using the spoken Hindi skills I developed over years of study at Cornell and the University of Washington. It is a familiar process and one I have done many times; it is also utterly exhausting. Instead, when the driver wanted to confirm my intended destination we looked together at my phone. He zoomed in and out on my phone's screen and verified that we had the same place in mind.

We successfully located the Bata Shoe store Singh had referenced. Afterwards, shielding my eyes from the afternoon sun, I stared across the street at a wall of business signs and office windows. Nothing resembled the other Indian archives that I had visited, all of which are much larger institutions. But then my phone rang; Singh wanted to check my progress. Two minutes later I saw a man waving at me from across the street and a few doors down. I navigated Varanasi traffic, climbed over the median Jersey barrier, and finally shook hands with Singh, who led me to his office. We walked up a flight of stairs to the archives—housed in an outpost of the Uttar Pradesh Department of Culture, itself hidden amongst a sea of shoe shops and electronics stores. Singh's own office doubled as

the archive's reading room. He warned me that their power had been out for two hours and likely would not be back until evening. Thankfully, my laptop had a full charge, all the record finding guides were analogue, and March sunshine poured through the window.

I had come to Varanasi looking for late colonial-era records on cremation spaces. The city's iconic riverside ghats include sites where funeral pyres burn day and night. Many Hindus believe that dying in Varanasi frees the soul from the cycle of rebirth. While planning the trip, I asked Ravi Nandan Singh for advice over coffee. A sociology professor at the University of Delhi, he had completed ethnographic research on the caretakers of Varanasi's cremation ghats. He explained that the promise of a "good death" in Varanasi contributed to exceptionally high mortality rates in the city's hospitals and a veritable cottage industry of mortuary vans rushing the recently dead to the cremation ghats. Looking through the archival records, I wanted to know how this looked in the 1920s and 1930s.

I found more files discussing burial grounds than cremations in the Varanasi archives. One thick file detailed complaints that the administrators of Banaras Hindu University made in 1926. They alleged that a neighboring Muslim community had illegally buried multiple dead bodies within the campus grounds. Their appeal for state intervention would become part of a pattern I saw in my research: the British government in India did not monitor burial and cremation practices of its non-European subjects (with the notable exception of outlawing widow immolation in 1829). Disposal and commemoration of the Indian dead was largely absent in the colonial records, until there was a land dispute. This particular file said absolutely nothing about cremations. It was not remotely what I came to Varanasi looking for. Yet it was exactly what I needed.



NOTES FROM THE FIELD:

Governing Water in Tiruppur

by Nidhi Subramanyam

Newly laid water supply pipelines in Tiruppur

My arrival in Tiruppur in March 2019 was marked by searing heat, dug up roads, clouds of dust, and laborers busy installing brand new water supply pipes, alongside feverish preparations for the national elections and political promises bellowing out of loudspeakers. Tiruppur is a small, provincial city in the Kongunadu region of Tamil Nadu in southern India. It is teeming with thousands of workers from different parts of India who produce cotton t-shirts and underwear for global retailers like Walmart, H&M, Gap, and Tommy Hilfiger, among others. However, Tiruppur is not the city that most Indians would select, if they were randomly asked to name a South Asian city. One of my Mumbaikar friends mistook Tiruppur for Tripura, which is a state in northeast India!

Smaller cities and towns like Tiruppur, which have less than a million residents each, are home to nearly two-thirds of India's 400-million-plus urbanites. Despite forging global connections through textile exports, Tiruppurites, much like their counterparts in other small cities, are largely disconnected from essential municipal infrastructure such as water pipes, drains, and sewers at the local level. Until the national government declared it as a "Smart City" in 2017, Tiruppur remained peripheral to key national- and state-level investments in urban infrastructure, on account of its small size and secondary status. For the last two decades, Tiruppur and its billion-dollar economy have thrived in the face of weak state capacity, in large part due to the involvement and patronage of its elites, local businessmen from the textile industry, in urban development.



Women workers finishing garments for export at a checking center in Tiruppur

My City and Regional Planning dissertation research in Tiruppur examines the ways in which local elites participate in the governance of fast-growing small cities and how their engagement, in turn, shapes urban planning processes. I also study the ensuing outcomes of these elite-influenced planning processes for the city's many inhabitants. I am principally focusing on elites' role in the governance and development of water and wastewater infrastructure in Tiruppur. Water is a crucial input for textile production, whereas polluted wastewater is the industry's unwanted by-product. Tiruppur's declining groundwater levels and its location in an arid stretch of the contested Cauvery river basin intensifies its vulnerability to water scarcity.

To tackle these water shortages, Tiruppur's elites have actively lobbied for and funded the institution of a water supply scheme, in partnership with the state government and private lending agencies. More recently, some of these elites have embarked on a proposal to restore and rejuvenate the contaminated Noyyal river that bisects the city. In my interviews, several elites repeatedly stressed the importance of independent initiative vis-à-vis waiting for state-led development. They were upbeat as they walked me through colorful brochures articulating their visions for Tiruppur's development. Understanding if and how local elites enable city governments to pursue equitable development is important if we are to leverage their capacities for managing rapid urbanization in smaller, peripheral places like Tiruppur.

Since my arrival in Tiruppur, I have met many businessmen



Queueing up for water

to learn about their role in urban governance and development. Most of them are willing to share their insights with a US-based researcher. Upon discovering that I am a Tamilian, they are equally curious to know my caste and “*sonda ur*” (native place). When my responses reveal that I am an outsider to their region and business community, some interviewees are amazed that I am conducting fieldwork far away from home, whereas others take it upon themselves to give me a quick lesson on the history of their community, region, and the industry. My interviews have enlarged my Kongu Tamil vocabulary substantially. Additionally, my visits to these businessmen’s factory-offices have helped me understand the micro-geographies of the textile industry and workers’ living conditions across Tiruppur.

The salience of Tiruppur’s business elites in urban governance finally clicked for me when I saw many of my interviewees interact with city administrators and each other at a public meeting in early July. The city government had organized this meeting to raise awareness on rainwater harvesting and water conservation. At this meeting, the city commissioner personally welcomed and felicitated each one of these business leaders as they took their place on the dais. The city government routinely invites these elites to participate in governance and development, as the latter have the resources to fund developmental work and/or have the ears of politicians at the state or national levels.

One of the keynote speakers for this event was a local businessman who had started a greening and water conservation NGO, which was generously funded by his fellow businessmen on the dais. He patiently walked the audience through a PowerPoint presentation on the importance of water conservation in the city and applauded the efforts taken by one of the businessmen seated on the dais for river restoration. He referred to this person using a familial term of endearment,

“*Annan*” (elder brother) instead of the formal address, “Sir.” Indeed, many of Tiruppur’s elites are related to each other through marriage, caste, or kinship ties. These ties facilitate their collaboration in infrastructural projects that seek to develop Tiruppur’s textile industry. In the elites’ views, the fortunes of Tiruppur city are closely tied to that of the textile industry.

But how does elite participation in governance affect the everyday planning and operations of water and wastewater infrastructure? To understand the factors shaping the day-to-day planning of water provision, I have also been spending time with Tiruppur’s water engineers, tap inspectors, and watermen at nondescript offices or pump rooms, tucked under large overhead tanks that supply water to the city. Interviews with these water planners reveal that their practical approaches to everyday water provision are absent from the thick infrastructure project reports that I have consulted in city hall or from the government orders that I have found in the state archives.

My research further suggests that Tiruppurites access water from myriad sources, like community-managed borewells and public taps, to cope with the scarce and infrequent municipal supply. The extent to which one relies on non-municipal sources of water varies depends on factors such as one’s housing type, migration status, class, gender, and spatial location in the city. At this half-way point in my fieldwork, I am trying to make sense of these differences in water access by tracing their relationship to broader processes for water governance instituted by the city administration and local elites.

As Tamil Nadu reels under an acute water crisis this year, it may seem like an unfortunately opportune moment to study the governance of water infrastructure. However, I feel immensely relieved and grateful when a steady stream of water flows out each time that I turn on the tap.



For Prabhu Pingali, India's malnutrition puzzle is personal

by Jonathan Miller

After more than 40 years studying agriculture and food systems across the developing world, Prabhu Pingali, the founder of the Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition (TCI) is now focusing full time on his native India, trying to answer a riddle that has stumped a generation of scholars and policymakers.

"India has made huge progress on hunger reduction, especially calorie consumption and energy requirements," Pingali explains. "But in terms of nutritional outcomes, we've lagged behind." Why?

Pingali grew up in a farming village in Andhra Pradesh. His father was a country doctor who built a free clinic for the area's poor families. He was 12 years old when the first modern, high-yielding varieties of rice arrived, the vanguard of what would become the Green Revolution. Suddenly farmers had more money, more children went to school, and his neighbors' standard of living improved dramatically. "It was a transformative change in a very short period of time," he says. "So agriculture and food were sort of chiseled into my brain from that point on."

He went on to work in Washington, the Philippines, Mexico, Rome and Seattle before moving to Cornell in 2013 to lead TCI. "This is like coming home for me," he says.

Pingali and his TCI colleagues have identified four intertwined pathways to improve nutrition. First is increased income. When household incomes rise, families have more cash to invest in food production or to spend on healthy food. Second is dietary diversity. Low-income Indians tend to eat the same foods every day, mainly staple grains. In rural areas, where people rely largely on food they produce themselves, diversifying means growing different crops, raising livestock, or cultivating kitchen gardens.



Third is what Pingali calls "positive nutrition behavior." In traditional Indian households, men eat before children, boys before girls, older before younger children, and women last. Children and pregnant or lactating women often get less than they need. Fourth is improved sanitation. Despite decades of toilet construction campaigns, 40% of Indians still defecate outdoors. Few wash their hands afterwards. While most villages now have communal pumps or piped water, that water is often contaminated. Diarrhea is stubbornly common, especially among children. Even if they eat enough food, they cannot absorb the nutrients.

Meanwhile, the country's agricultural policies, rooted in a fear of famine, continue to promote the "big three" staple grains: rice, wheat and maize. Yet the solution to malnutrition, Pingali asserts, is not more grain, or even necessarily more food. It is better food, better diets, better markets, better education, and better sanitation. To achieve all those, the country needs better policies. And to guide the policies, it needs better data.

Pingali sits with a few dozen villagers in a clearing in Karihaniya, not far from the Nepal border. The villagers are describing their experiences with orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, which are high in vitamin A, but are new to the area. Pingali asks questions but mainly he listens. "We love the taste, especially the children," a woman reports. "There's no market for it," a man counters, "so we're only growing a little for ourselves."

The sweet potato initiative is half development project, half science experiment. What does it take to get farmers to grow new crops that provide essential nutrients? What does it take to get consumers to eat them? A local NGO, Grameen Development Services (GDS), works with the communities while Kathryn Merckel, a Cornell nutrition Ph.D. student, documents the process, collects data and analyzes results.



LEFT PAGE: Top Left, A grandfather and his grandchild inspect newly planted sweet potato vines. Top Right, A woman prepares sweet potatoes for a recipe competition. Bottom Right, Prabhu Pingali (with baseball cap) observes a community discussion.



RIGHT PAGE: Top Left, Payal Seth sits in front of a newly constructed toilet. Top Right, Children wash their hands before sampling dishes at a sweet potato recipe competition. Bottom Right, A farmer harvests sweet potatoes.

The partnership with GDS is part of a much larger endeavor, called Technical Assistance and Research for Indian Nutrition and Agriculture (TARINA). Organized by TCI in 2015, TARINA is a consortium of nonprofits, foundations, and universities with funding from the Gates Foundation. TARINA has projects in more than 160 villages in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Odisha. Each project team includes a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow who spends significant time on-site. “Development organizations often use anecdotal evidence to demonstrate impact,” Pingali says. “We’re trying to do things in a very different way.” The TARINA portfolio is designed to test the theory of nutrition pathways and to tease out the relationships among them. The findings will eventually coalesce into policy recommendations.

Pingali accompanies Payal Seth, a Cornell applied economics Ph.D. student, to Kaharpurwa, a village of 44 households that she has been studying for nearly a year. Her research examines why people who have access to toilets tend not to use them, and whether a behavior change campaign might make a difference. A year earlier, all but one household received a brick outhouse with a built-in washbasin, running water, tile floor and ceramic pit toilet. Residents were required to pitch in with labor or cash valued at 25% of the toilet’s cost. They also had to go through an initial training.

In one GDS training exercise, villagers accompany a trainer to an area where people defecate. The trainer dips a human hair into a pile of fresh feces, then into a glass of water, and offers the water to the villagers, who vehemently refuse to drink it. Meanwhile, flies flit back and forth between the feces and a nearby plate of rice. On its six feet, the trainer points out, each fly carries more excrement than the strand of hair. The demonstration makes an impression.

As Pingali and Seth walk through the village, women pop out of their houses to show off their toilets. The outhouses are brightly painted, with clean interiors. Their children have not been sick since the toilets went in, the women marvel. Indeed, Seth says, all the toilets in Kaharpurwa are still in use a year after the behavior change campaign. In other villages, where toilets were installed, but without the behavior change exercise, usage is significantly lower. This suggests that behavior change communication is a critical factor in ensuring adoption.

There’s no shortage of people working on solutions to challenges in rural India. Pingali wants to show which interventions are effective, where, in what combinations, and at what scale. For that, he needs reliable data. India collects enormous amounts of information, Pingali says, but not always in the most useful ways. “Open, transparent data is really absolutely crucial for us to make research decisions, policy decisions, investment decisions,” he says.

In the meantime, Pingali has his opinions. He says India should abandon its “staple grain fundamentalism” and adopt “nutrition-sensitive” agriculture policies that explicitly aim to improve the quality and diversity of diets. And he says the country should invest more in reducing poverty and increasing women’s literacy. Those two things, he says, will drive all the other improvements.

It’s not an entirely scientific assessment, but one that is built on four decades of observation and study. Soon, he hopes, he’ll have the data to prove it.

A version of this article appeared in the *Cornell Chronicle* (July 31, 2019)



FIELD TRIP

International Agriculture and Rural Development 2019

by Daniel Bass

Five days. That's how much time I had to prepare before leaving on the College of Agriculture and Life Science annual International Agriculture and Rural Development (IARD) trip to India in January 2019. Due to a medical emergency, one slot opened up for a faculty member to participate in this year's program. Terry Tucker, Associate Director of International Programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, sent me an email on Friday afternoon December 28, 2018, generously extending an invitation for me to join him, 30 other Cornell faculty and students and 15 students and staff from India for 17 days in Kerala and Telangana, departing on January 2, 2019. Amazingly, I received my Indian visa overnight, and was able to join everyone in the Newark airport a few days later.

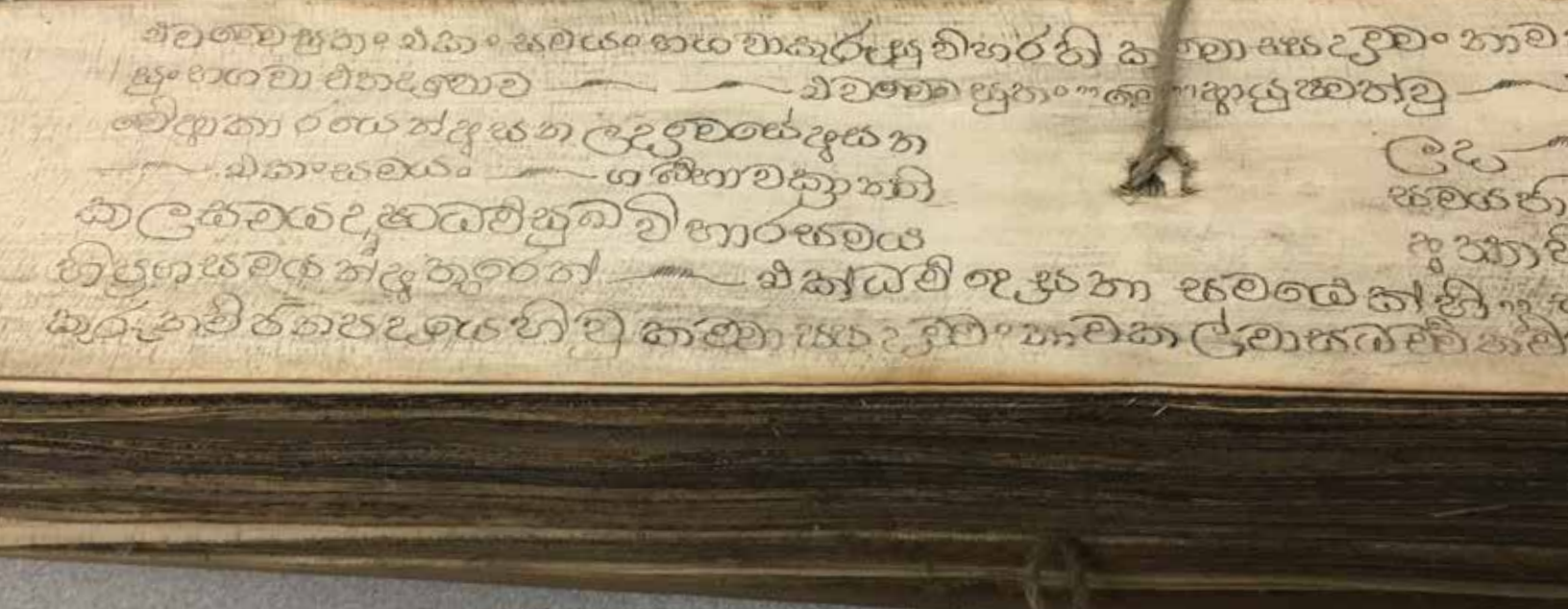
Thankfully the students had an entire semester to get ready for the trip, and the faculty and staff at Cornell and its partners have been doing this for years. 2019 was the 51st year of the IARD program, one of the longest-standing international programs at Cornell. It is a collaborative effort between Cornell, the Sathguru Foundation, and several Indian universities. In the fall semester, Cornell students enroll in IARD 4020/6020 Agriculture in Developing Nations I, and they continue with part II in the spring semester. Additionally, in October 2018, the 15 students and faculty from three Indian universities, Kerala Agricultural University, Assam Agricultural University, and the University of Agricultural Sciences in Dharwad, Karnataka, came to Ithaca for two weeks. This is a truly collaborative program, allowing interaction among a diverse group of students, undergraduate and graduate, American and Indian, over the course of the year.

Participants in the program were divided into three groups: Agricultural Systems (AS), Rural Infrastructure (RI), and Value Addition (VA). AS focused on food production, RI on the social and economic aspects of agriculture, and VA examined the processing and marketing of agricultural products. Each group consisted of Cornell and Indian faculty and students, allowing for interaction and collaboration during field visits, meals, bus rides in between, and throughout the entire trip. As a cultural anthropologist who has done research among tea plantation workers in Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu, I was part of the RI team. On some days, all three teams went to the same site, and on other days, each went to a different site.

Landing in Kochi, Kerala in early January provided a remarkable contrast from wintry Ithaca. From the first day's tour of a pineapple plantation to later visits to a cassava farm, tea plantation, fishing village, agricultural university, research institute, spice processing plant, cardamom plantation, Ayurvedic products factory, forest tribal settlement, orphanage, and more, we were exposed to a broad range of agricultural activities in South India. As our local contacts and hosts repeatedly stated, Kerala is exceptional in India, with its extensive land reform policies and relatively high standard of living, and gender equality. In fact, just a day before our departure, around 4 million women in Kerala formed an over 600 kilometer human chain in support of gender equality to allow women between the ages of 10 and 50 to enter the Hindu temple at Sabarimala, as the Indian Supreme Court had recently ruled. As an anthropologist, I helped students to understand these local efforts to ensure gender equality in religious and cultural matters, complementing students' concern for gender equity in social and economic activities.

The key to any successful engaged study abroad experience is having a reliable local partner, and Cornell has a remarkable partner in the Sathguru Foundation. Sathguru staff managed all the details and logistics of the visit, allowing students and faculty to focus on the content of the program, without worrying about the details. Sathguru arranged for local scholars, officials, and agriculturalists to be our local guides at every site, even providing their contact information and brief introductions beforehand. This was also helpful to students as they worked on their collaborative research projects, which required the participation of both Cornell and Indian students, supervised by both Cornell and Indian faculty.

After ten remarkable days in Kerala, we flew to Hyderabad, which was quite a change for the American students. A trip to the bazaar around the Charminar in old Hyderabad provided many students their first direct experience of the crowds and chaos characteristic of India, which were invigorating to some, and overwhelming to others. While in Hyderabad, we attended Agrivision 2019 Conference on Envisioning Agro Solutions for Smart and Sustainable Agriculture. Students were impressed with the keynote address by M. Venkaiah Naidu, the Vice-President of India, indicating the importance of agriculture in Indian politics, as well as Cornell's long-standing involvement in Indian agriculture.



The Jim Gair Collection

by Chamini Kulathunga

In summer 2019, I was able to be at Cornell to assist in cataloging the donation of Prof. James Gair’s extensive South Asian library collection to Cornell University’s Kroch Asia Library. Gair was a Professor of Linguistics at Cornell, and a former Director of the South Asia Program, under whom SAP established its consortium with Syracuse University as a National Resource Center. Because of Gair’s legacy, Cornell is a leader in Sri Lankan Studies, and the only university in the US to offer a full curriculum in Sinhala language. I was supported through a Summer Fellowship from the University of Iowa, where I am a graduate student in UI’s Translation Workshop. As a MFA student in Literary translation at UI, I work with Sinhala and English literary texts, translating them between the two languages.

While cataloging the items, I came across numerous materials on Sinhala language, literature, and culture, most of which were rare gems, especially for someone studying these particular areas in the United States with limited access to scholarship from Sri Lanka. I also came across books that map the history of Sinhala language; journals on Sinhala



language, literature, and politics from as far back as the early 1900s; as well as very early translations of English literature into Sinhala. Most items I came across were books, of which I had previously not known their existence. I could not express enough how important these books were to me as a translator and scholar of Translation Studies.

I also had the opportunity to associate closely with and catalogue rare and ancient *ola* leaf manuscripts from Sri Lanka (pictured above). *Ola* leaf manuscripts were the first form of books produced in Sri Lanka and South India. Leaves from the talipot palm tree are first cut, dried, and smoked, after

which the letters are inscribed onto the leaves. A process of natural coloring follows, where coloring sources such as charcoal are applied on the surface of the writing, so that the ink will sink into the inscriptions. This was my first time getting to work closely with *Ola* leaf manuscripts, and it was exciting to handle these artifacts, including many collections of Buddhist *sutras* (religious discourses).

Moreover, one of the many challenges for a practitioner and scholar of Translation Studies based in the United States is the lack of opportunities to immerse oneself in one’s local literature and culture. I was impressed with the Kroch Asia Library’s collection of Sinhala literature, not only because of its quantitative value, but also its qualitative strength. I was fascinated with the passion and hard work of the South Asia Curator Bronwen Bledsoe (pictured with the author). and the South Asia Program in acquiring not only classical and rare materials, but also popular and recent literature produced in Sri Lanka, compiling a near-perfect collection of Sinhala literature in an institution outside of Sri Lanka.



Community Presentations AT THE NFLC

by Neema Kudva with Ritwick, Keystone Foundation

Saturday April 20, 2019, was a big day at the Nilgiris Field Learning Center (NFLC). Our “batch” of thirteen students, five Cornell undergraduates and eight from local Irula, Kurumba, and Toda communities, were going to present their research projects carried out across the Nilgiris biosphere. The gathered crowd at the Keystone Foundation campus in Kotagiri, Tamil Nadu included children, teenagers, and elders; families, friends, and curious neighbors; Keystone staff and well-wishers; local journalists and almost every member of the villages and small town neighborhoods where the students had been working in mixed groups over the previous two months.

This year the MC, Jeyanthi, was a NFLC alum from the first batch, in 2015, who now works at Radio Kotagiri, and another three alumni showed up, including Kieran Micka-Maloy, from the third batch, in 2017, who was spending a year in Rajasthan as Clinton Global Fellow, all curious to see what the latest batch was up to. The community presentation is as much about showcasing student work as it is about spreading awareness of the NFLC, disseminating results, raising new issues for the community, and building support for the program. It also creates a space for community members, especially women, to ask questions and to voice their opinions.

For the Cornell students, the NFLC is a “Study Abroad” experience, with a crucial twist: the program is bilingual, in Tamil and English, and the students work with young people from the very communities among whom they are conducting research on a variety of issues linked to sustainability. They learn across deep differences, set by discipline, culture, language, and lived experience. For the local Nilgiris students, this is a rare opportunity to get away from everyday work and labor to study, to think about the challenges their communities face, and to consider what they may be able to do about it. It is not like any school or college with which they are familiar, and presents an opportunity for them to imagine themselves and their life journey differently.

The presentations in Tamil are a careful mix of images, maps, and the spoken word. This year there were five projects: one group worked with Irula farmers dependent on agriculture-based livelihoods in the Hasanur region to understand the challenges they faced, while another student group engaged with Kurumba healers to learn about traditional healing practices. A third group sought to understand threshold moments in the lives of Irula women, while the fourth focused on conservation, documenting and studying wild edible plants associated with the Todas. Finally, the fifth group sought to better understand the water-and waste-scapes of three neighboring communities—Kotas, Badagas and Tamils—on the outskirts of Kotagiri. As the gathered crowd heard the students, laughed at their observations, and occasionally marveled at what the students thought was important, people interrupted with questions and pondered aloud on issues that often go unnoticed during everyday conversations.

In the five years that NFLC students have made community presentations, we have borne witness to the pride with which everyone gathered looks on as *their* children, *our* students present the work that they have done with their Cornell partners. Our Keystone colleagues note how much more receptive some groups have become to the interventions that follow NFLC research projects. For them, the future of the NFLC is tied to what the program can continue to offer the communities and young people they work within Kotagiri and in Ithaca.

But on that warm April day, under a clear blue sky, what we did was celebrate: our student pairs as they walked us through their work and posed, certificates in hand, for endless photographs; our NFLC students, alumni, and Keystone staff who stood next to each other and served lunch to the gathering; and the generosity of the communities who allowed us into their homes. Another cycle in our small and vibrant NFLC program had come to a close.



“TEA HIGH AND LOW: ELIXIR, EXPLOITATION, ECOLOGY” conference

This conference featured individual papers on tea in India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand, China, Taiwan, and Japan; a Japanese tea ceremony at the Johnson Museum of Art; a walking meditation session at the Cornell Botanic Gardens; and two roundtable discussions about the economic and environmental futures of tea production.

SAP Manager Daniel Bass and Prof. Jane-Marie Law (Asian Studies) organized this two-day conference, held October 26-27, 2018, which examined the cultural, historical, economic, and environmental aspects of tea across Asia.

The South Asia Program, Southeast Asia Program, East Asia Program, Comparative Muslim Societies Program, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, and the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future were principal sponsors of the conference. Additional support came from the Johnson Museum, Cornell Botanic Gardens, Tata-Cornell Institute, IP-CALS, the Religious Studies Program, and the Departments of Anthropology, Asian Studies, and History.

In a student essay contest, undergraduate Siddarth Sankaran (Computer Science and Economics) and PhD candidate Annie Sheng (Anthropology) were each awarded \$250 as co-winners. Students were asked to respond to the following: How did the discussions at this conference change the way you understand the world of tea? What, if anything, has prompted you to reflect more deeply on the cultural, religious, economic, or ecological aspects of tea as a globally consumed commodity? Honorable mentions went to undergraduates Doreen Gui (Civil Engineering), Bolin Huang (Mechanical Engineering), and Stephanie Sek (Hotel Administration). Edited versions of the winning essays are reprinted on the following pages.

The Caffeinated and Intellectual Highs of the “Tea High and Low” Conference

by Annie Sheng



Having spent years in Japan researching and teaching (and drinking bottomless cups of green tea in beautiful ceramics)—conversing with tea growers in Maokong, Taiwan; spending time with a host family in their Indonesian house/restaurant (and being constantly served *es teh* in the process; and sipping *masala chai* in India and in the desi diaspora spaces in the US—I imagined that I perhaps knew slightly more than the average Joe (note, not “cup of joe”) when it came to tea. But, only after attending *Tea High and Low: Elixir, Exploitation, and Ecology* did I realize my knowledge gleaned from so many years of active drinking and associating with tea connoisseurs only scratched the steamy, translucent surface of this hot beverage. At the conference, I was blown away by the endlessly fascinating subject of tea, the plethora of knowledge and intrigue surrounding its adoption, as well as insight in the realm of the beverage’s history, production, consumption, and meaning to society.

The museum and botanical garden transformed into founts of caffeinated knowledge, pouring forth ecological, social, and economic analyses of 1) the leaf as a horticultural topic to 2) drying, processing and distribution of leaves to 3) the beverage in its comforting, liquid form. Entailed were significant investigations on exploitation (in terms of policies and management of higher powers), the development of tea as a national symbol and its ecological impact, as well as roundtables on economy and environment, surrounding this modest drink.

It was evident through the presentations that tea can be considered a product both global and national in conception. Its trade and promotion was and continues to be global. I found it interesting that Yokohama (a city I lived in) was an area in which Chinese-style green tea was refined by mostly women through Chinese know-how. Chinese merchants were the purveyors of knowledge of tea processing and the tea trade at ports. This mention of women, accompanied by striking

imagery, touches on the compelling topic of gender and tea; women were producers working in tea-processing in Japan and Sri Lanka. In the case of India and elsewhere, women were presented as the consumers that would be prime promoters of tea in a familial environment. Women made food-purchasing decisions in households, and the inception of tea into women’s consciousness and spaces meant wider societal proliferation.

Tea as global commodity meant prices being susceptible to global economic events, such as the Great Depression, which catalyzed greater promotion of local consumption in both Indonesia and India as both a modern and a national beverage.

There were also striking contrasts when it came to promoting tea, from the nineteenth century competition between Chinese and colonial Indian tea, to the introduction of Indian tea to America, which entailed denigrating imagery of the Chinese as “coolie” and “dirty,” with sweat dripping into the leaves during production as a means of turning people away from tea. Japanese tea companies also employed similar clean-dirty imagery, invoking “pure tea” as a means of carving out a space of cleanliness and purity as a way to emphasize high quality.

The presenters consistently highlighted the tension between modernity and tradition. For example, ethnic minorities in Yunnan now act as tea production entrepreneurs working with the state. In India, tea was once seen as modern, but now considered traditional, in the face of newer cultural imports such as coffee and soda.

One of the greatest delights, besides being immersed in the discussions of the presentations, was experiencing the practice of tea itself—whether this meant tasting teas or stepping into the tea ceremony space or conversing during tea breaks as people often do... over tea.

Tea:

More Than Just a Drink

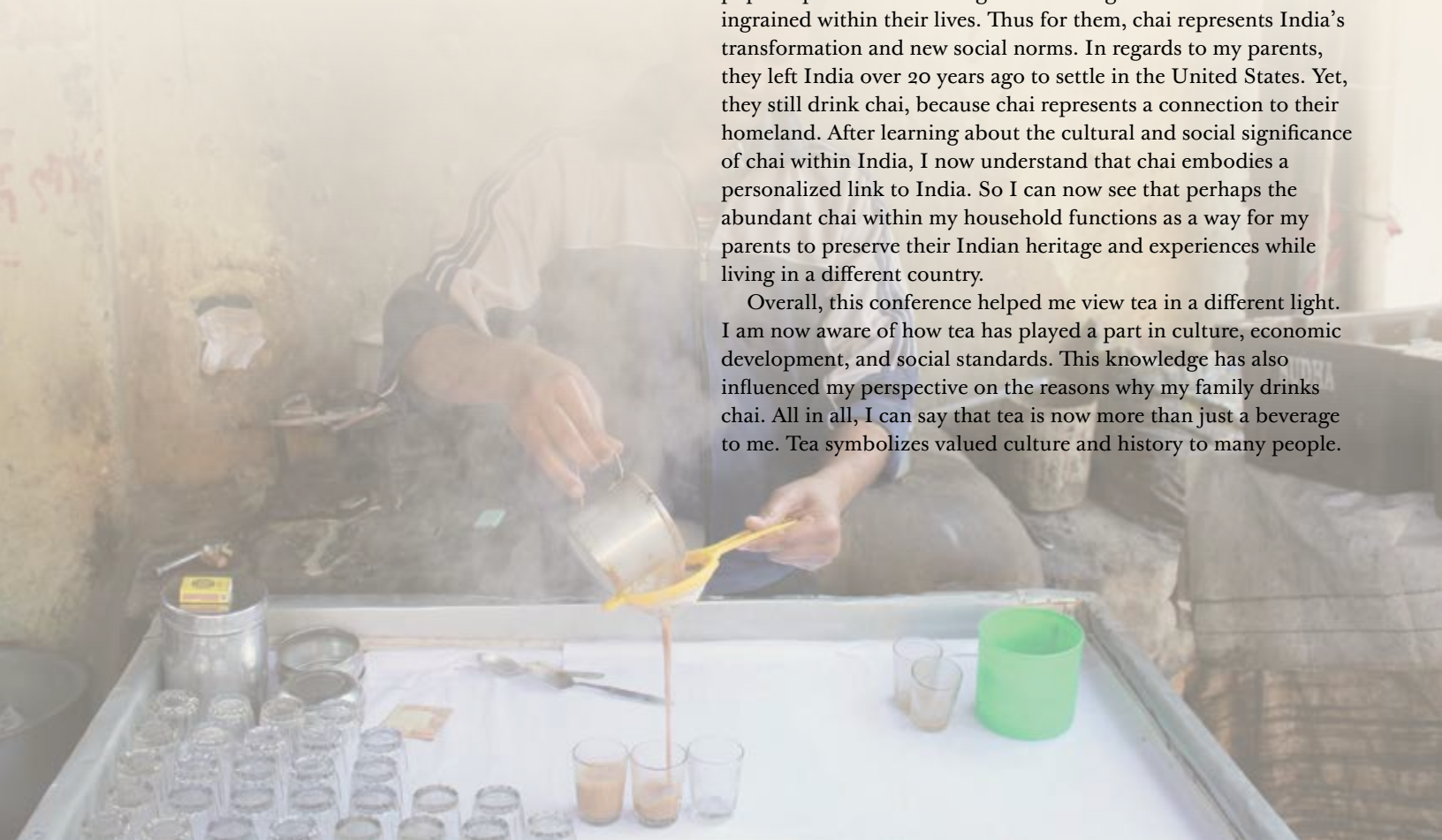
by Siddarth Sankaran

Personally, I have never been much of a tea drinker, but my parents are quite the champions of this beverage. Starting back at home in Houston, I would always begin my day with coffee, while my mother and father would begin their morning making and consuming a fresh pan of chai. Previously, I had never really thought about the significance or reason behind my parents' persistence for chai. I just assumed they enjoyed it because it tasted good and the caffeine gave them enough energy to get them through their respective jobs. Some of my extended family, who live in India, also share this passion towards chai. And similarly, I never exactly questioned why my grandparents or aunts drank this tea. Tea has always been a prevalent part of my life.

Now even though I have been surrounded by chai and chai drinkers for most my life, for the first time I have begun to think about chai on a deeper, more critical level. After listening to Philip Lutgendorf's "Chai Why?: The Making of the Indian 'National Drink'" presentation during the conference, I found myself seriously considering the significance of chai in India and within my family. I learnt that the popularization of chai in India was directly correlated with the development of manufacturing, marketing, and urbanization in India within the 20th century. In addition, the growing presence of chai was tied to social changes within India, such as the breakdown of the caste system and new, modern lifestyles. Learning about chai's integral role in India's most recent and important transformations helped explain to me why chai is so popular within India. I also felt awe about the fact that a simple beverage was part of the process of India's economic and social development.

I now am thinking more critically about the reasons why my parents and extended family drink chai. For my extended family, who have lived in India their whole lives, the nationwide popular practices of making and drinking chai have become ingrained within their lives. Thus for them, chai represents India's transformation and new social norms. In regards to my parents, they left India over 20 years ago to settle in the United States. Yet, they still drink chai, because chai represents a connection to their homeland. After learning about the cultural and social significance of chai within India, I now understand that chai embodies a personalized link to India. So I can now see that perhaps the abundant chai within my household functions as a way for my parents to preserve their Indian heritage and experiences while living in a different country.

Overall, this conference helped me view tea in a different light. I am now aware of how tea has played a part in culture, economic development, and social standards. This knowledge has also influenced my perspective on the reasons why my family drinks chai. All in all, I can say that tea is now more than just a beverage to me. Tea symbolizes valued culture and history to many people.



2018

South Asian Studies Fellows

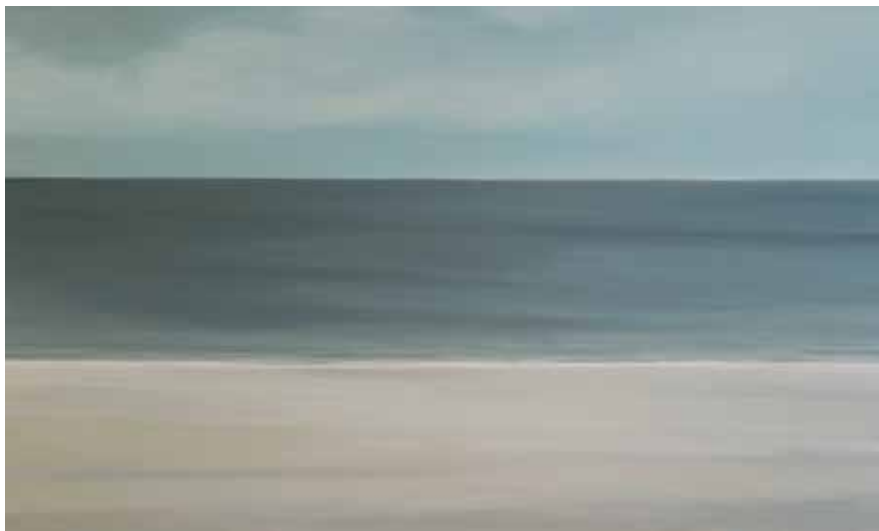
The second cohort of four South Asian Studies fellows were in residence at Cornell for two to three months in 2018. These short-term fellowships provided them with opportunities to collaborate with Cornell faculty and students, and to involve themselves in South Asia Program activities, while undertaking research, artistic productions, and/or collaborations related to South Asian Studies. While on campus, each fellow gave a public presentation of their work.

Nida Kirmani, Associate Professor, Sociology, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan spent ten weeks at Cornell during Fall 2018 to work on her project on, “Gendering Urban Conflict: Exploring the Everyday Dynamics of Violence in Lyari, Karachi.” She worked on several articles, conference presentations, and book reviews, and said that she “got a lot of inspiration from faculty and grad students.” Kirmani added, “My experience was extremely stimulating and enjoyable. I feel really fortunate to have been given the opportunity to spend time in such a beautiful place and to have gotten the chance to interact with some brilliant minds in my field.”

P. Pushpakanthan, Lecturer, Department of Visual & Technological Arts, Eastern University, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, was at Cornell for ten weeks in Fall 2018 for his project on, “Disappearance.” He showed his artwork, left, in an exhibition at the History of Art Gallery, entitled “The Disappearance of Disappearances,” as part of the 2019 Sri Lanka Graduate Student conference, “Borders: Real and Imagined.” “Being at Cornell gave me the opportunity to connect with a larger community of artists, innovators and academics. This exposure allowed me to think more deeply about my own work and experiment with new approaches,” he said. “Most importantly, being at Cornell allowed me to engage in a rich dialogue with experts in various fields, as well as access library resources, museums and events across the campus.”

Sumana Roy, Author and Poet, Siliguri, India, was at Cornell for six weeks in Fall 2018, working on her project on, “Five Plant Thinkers of Twentieth Century Bengal.” She studied the work of five Bengali poets, writers, artists, and filmmakers—Rabindranath Tagore, Bibhuti Bhushan Bandopadhyay, Jibanananda Das, Shakti Chattopadhyay, and Satyajit Ray—who were neither botanists nor environmentalists, but who wrote what she calls “plant philosophy.” She examined their work against the background of the new consciousness about plant life generated by the pioneering work of the scientist Jagadish Chandra Bose, a new style of drawing and painting plants created by artists like Nandalal Bose and Benode Bihari Mukherjee, and the effects of a Vaishnavite school of thought that affected the colloquial practice of Hinduism in early twentieth century Bengal.

Shabri Wable, a fashion entrepreneur from Kutch, India was on campus for three months in Spring 2018 for her project on, “Indigenous Clothing and Sustainable Fashion.” She said, “My time at Cornell helped me improve my understanding of the global fashion industry. Being so far away from my work also helped in reflecting on what I do and its relevance in a wider world.” Wable added that “It really surprised me how forthcoming and open Cornell is with its resources. I could simply walk into various talks on campus, be part of events and had access to a fantastic collection at the library.”



Flag I (Unawatuna Beach,
Sri Lanka), 2010 ©
Muhanned Cader /
Courtesy Talwar Gallery

BORDERS: REAL AND IMAGINED

On November 9-10, 2018, Cornell hosted the ninth annual Sri Lanka Graduate Conference, “Borders: Real and Imagined.” The aim of the conference was to encourage cohort-building across disciplines and institutions, and to provide an academically rigorous atmosphere for graduate students working on Sri Lanka to present their work and receive feedback. The event was sponsored by the American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies, the U. S. Department of Education through our National Resource Center grant, and the Society for the Humanities at Cornell, which hosted events at the A. D. White House.

The conference began with a closed Pre-Dissertation Proposal Workshop, in which several students presented their planned research, followed by questions and discussions with the other students and three faculty mentors: Vasuki Nesiah (Law, New York University), Anne Blackburn (Asian Studies, Cornell) and Daniel Bass (Anthropology and South Asia Program, Cornell).

The public portion of the conference kicked off Friday evening at the Ruth Woolsey Findley History of Art Gallery, with an artist’s talk by P. Pushpakanthan, from the Department of Visual & Technological Arts, Eastern University, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka, who was already on campus as a South Asian Studies Fellow. He discussed his artistic career and choices, and explanations behind his exhibition of paintings and drawings, *The Disappearance of Disappearances*. The gallery was full, and Pushpakanthan was generous in answering audience questions and explaining his art, which has been heavily influenced by the prolonged civil conflict that permeated his youth. His work seeks to create a space for marginalized voices, for remembering and healing a silenced past, and for initiating honest discussions about what reconciliation means. As a result of this exhibition, the Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell purchased a triptych by Pushpakanthan, expanding their collection of contemporary South Asian art.

The Cornell graduate student organizing committee—Geethika Dharmasinghe (Asian Studies), Kaitlin Emmanuel (History of Art), and Bruno Shirley (Asian Studies)—not only developed the conference title and theme, but also organized the schedule for the Saturday presentations. In the first panel, “State Borders,” Dinidu Karunanayake (English Literature, Miami University) and Tara Quinn (Trust, Peace & Social Relations, Coventry University) presented their research on citizenship, memory, displacement, and justice in relation to Sri Lankan government institutions. The second panel, “Colonial Borders,” featuring Ritesh Kumar Jaiswal (History, University of Delhi) and Mark Balmforth (Religion, Columbia University) focused on colonial-era movements of people, texts, ideas, and identities.

The third panel, “Bodily Borders,” with Dominic Esler (Anthropology, University College London), Carmen Britton (Human Development & Family Studies, University of Connecticut), and Divya Kumar-Dumas (Architectural History, University of Pennsylvania) analyzed how caste, disability, and landscape shape identification and movement, and vice versa. Vasuki Nesiah, Anne Blackburn, and Philip Friedrich (Religion, Hamilton College), who had participated in prior iterations of this conference as a student, served as discussants, providing suggestions for further research and proposing new avenues of analysis.

The ever-shifting political landscape in Sri Lanka during the fall of 2018 cast a significant shadow over the weekend’s proceedings, with many students nervous about the prospects for future research. However, being among fellow scholars and students of Sri Lanka provided numerous opportunities to put contemporary events in historical context and to discuss ways to adapt one’s research plans in response to political vicissitudes. SAP will be hosting the conference again in 2020, with details to be announced that year.

ARTS EVENTS & CONCERTS

As in previous years, Cornell student and faculty groups were active in 2018-2019, bringing distinguished performing artists from South Asia to the Cornell campus.

DANCE AND SOCIAL CHANGE

In March 2019, dancer, choreographer, and activist Malika Sarabhai spoke on "Dance and Social Change," discussing how her Darpana Dance Company blended social activism and dance performances over the decades. She performed "The Colours of Her Heart" with her dance company the following day at the Emerson Museum of Art in Syracuse.

CLASSICAL AND MODERN CONCERTS

In October 2018, Tejendra Majumdar performed a sarod concert, accompanied by Gourisankar Karmakar on table, organized by the Cornell chapter of the Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Among Youth (SPICMACAY). In December, the Pakistan Students Association welcomed Pakistani singer Ali Sethi to Cornell.

In March 2019, SPICMACAY hosted "Wind and Strings," a blend of Hindustani and Carnatic classical music with Sandip Chatterjee on santoor, Raman Kalyan on flute, Akshay Anantapadmanabhan on mridangam, and Subrata Bhattacharya on tabla.



In May, SPICMACAY closed out the semester with a concert by Carnatic classical vocalist Sikkil Gurucharan, accompanied by Kumari Sruti Sarathy on violin and Gopal Ravindhran on Mridangam.

TAGORE LECTURE

On September 28, 2018, Indian-British author Neel Mukherjee delivered the 2018 Rabindranath Tagore Modern Indian Literature Lecture on "The Mirror and the Windowpane: Two Paths for the Novel." In this lecture, Mukherjee discussed how the world of writers is divided into two kinds: those who write about themselves, and those who write about others. In addition to reading from his latest novel, *A State of Freedom*, he also addressed literary and philosophical questions of truth, authenticity, authority and genre.

Neel Mukherjee is an India-born writer who lives in London. His first novel, *Past Continuous*, received the Vodafone-Crossword Award, India's premier literary

award for writing in English, for best novel of 2008, and was published in the US as *A Life Apart*. Mukherjee's second novel, *The Lives of Others*, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2014, and won the Encore Award for best second novel. His third novel, *A State of Freedom*, was published in January 2018.

ZILA KHAN'S RUMI YATRA

In April, SAP hosted the Indian singer Zila Khan, who performed her "Rumi Yatra" on campus. Accompanied by a group of accomplished jazz musicians, Zila Khan sang a series of Sufi songs, interspersed with readings of Rumi's poetry and stories of her musical heritage, culminating in a beautiful qawwali-inspired rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine." This concert was co-sponsored by the Consulate General of India in New York and the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum.

SUNIL AMRITH MONSOON ASIA



On November 15, 2018, Sunil Amrith, the Mehra Family Professor of South Asian Studies and chair of the Department of South Asian Studies at Harvard University spoke on "Monsoon Asia: The Past and Future Imagination of a Region" as part of the Einaudi Center Distinguished Speaker series. Amrith explored the material and intellectual history of the idea of "Monsoon Asia," once widespread in the fields of geography and

anthropology, which has newfound resonance in climate science, where new research is investigating the impact of human activity on monsoon patterns, and in the humanities as a way to conceive of transregional connections. Amrith was named a fellow by the MacArthur Foundation in 2017 and received the 2016 Infosys Prize in Humanities. His talk built on analysis in his 2018 book, *Unruly waters: how rains, rivers, coasts and seas have shaped Asia's history*.



Nandita Das screens **Manto**

by Priya Pradhan

Bollywood director Nandita Das brought her breakout 2018 film *Manto*, the story of maverick writer Saadat Hasan Manto during the Partition of India, to Cornell on March 14, 2019. The free screening, followed by a Q&A with the director, was sponsored by the South Asia Program, the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, and the Department of Performing and Media Arts.

SAP Director Iftikar Dadi said *Manto*'s life mirrored the tumultuous era he lived through. "*Manto*'s short stories of everyday characters enmeshed in compromising social and sexual circumstances are visceral and laced with black humor," he said. Set in the era of Indian independence and Partition, *Manto* depicts the political and personal struggles of this popular writer of Urdu-language short stories, radio plays and essays as he left Bombay for Lahore in the new Muslim-majority nation of Pakistan. It's a story of two emerging nations and one man trying to make sense of it all.

Manto frequently touched on topics considered taboo in his dark and satirical work. He was tried for obscenity six times in his career but never convicted. Defying norms just as *Manto* did, the critically acclaimed film underscores the grave repercussions in *Manto*'s later life. "His revealing accounts of the Partition of India during 1947 delineated the intimate violence unleashed by this colossal event," Dadi said. The film weaves together a dark period in *Manto*'s life, showing his increasing isolation, alcoholism, and financial struggles in Lahore, using five of his hard-hitting short stories. After the screening, Das offered detailed, heartfelt answers to audience questions for nearly an hour, about censorship in South Asia, the economics of the film industry, and India-Pakistan relations.

Das is a Bollywood actor turned director whose work, spanning 40 feature films in 10 languages, has brought her international acclaim. Born and raised in Delhi, she holds a master's degree in social work and is a progressive voice in the cultural politics of South Asia. Das has become a powerful activist for free speech in film. Her films, including her award-winning *Fire* (1996), about the budding sexual relationship between two women stuck in loveless marriages, push boundaries in Bollywood. *Manto* has been banned in Pakistan. Das was the first Indian to be inducted into the International Women's Forum Hall of Fame. A two-time judge at the Cannes Film Festival, Das had her own movie premiere there in 2018, when *Manto* was nominated for the Un Certain Regard Award.

Originally appeared in the *Cornell Chronicle* (March 7, 2019)





TRADED TREASURE:

Indian Textiles for Global Markets

by Ellen Avril

The Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University presented *Traded Treasure: Indian Textiles for Global Markets*, from January to June 2019. Spanning five hundred years of the history of India's thriving commerce to Southeast Asia, Europe, and Japan, *Traded Treasure* reveals why Indian textiles were in demand the world over.

The textiles presented in the exhibition, drawn from the collection of Banoo and Jeevak Parpia, tell a fascinating story of global commerce and the ingenious ways that Indian artisans designed and produced goods of astonishing beauty and technical sophistication, while also revealing how cross-cultural interchange contributed to global aesthetic developments. Close to 100 textiles and textile fragments were exhibited together under seven thematic groupings.

Curated by Ellen Avril, the exhibition was supported by a generous gift endowed in memory of Elizabeth Miller Francis, Cornell Class of 1947. A fully illustrated catalogue with essays by leading experts Ruth Barnes, Kaja McGowan, and Sylvia Houghteling elucidates the history of the Indian textile trade.

Left: India, Coromandel Coast, made for the European market; Fragment of a chintz bed hanging, mid-18th century; Cotton (plain weave), block-printed mordant-dyed and hand-painted resist-dyed, 73.7 x 53.3 cm; Collection of Banoo and Jeevak Parpia



Early trade textiles from Gujarat

Among the earliest surviving examples of Indian textiles are cottons made in Gujarat for export. Their designs range from botanical motifs and mythical birds to figural depictions of women entertainers and hunting scenes. Such important early fabrics did not survive in India, but were preserved in places where they were traded. Notable are the cloths that were prized for centuries within Toraja family treasuries in Sulawesi. There such textiles are known as *maa'*, sacred cloths believed to possess tremendous spiritual powers, and their use was strictly reserved for major ceremonial events related to life transitions of birth, marriage, and death. The patterns on these early cotton plainweave cloths were block-printed and/or hand-drawn with mordant before dyeing with red and brown. Further use of wax as a resist could protect an area of color from the next dye bath of indigo blue.



Patola made for the Indonesian market

Today, *patola* refers to a type of sari made in Patan, Gujarat. These saris are characterized by a rich red color and bold patterns composed of small squares, created by first tying and dyeing the warp and weft threads, then weaving the pre-dyed threads to reveal the complete design. Used in India as wedding saris and ceremonial cloths, *patola* hold a very important place in the history of Indian textile exports to Southeast Asia. In Java, for example, the sultan and members of his court wore waist-sashes and trousers made from *patola* sporting a variety of geometric patterns based on stylized flowers and leaves. Gujarati merchants were involved in the trade of these textiles to Southeast Asia until the early seventeenth century, when the Dutch monopolized the spice trade and gained control over the trade of Indian textiles.



India, Coromandel Coast, made for the Indonesian market
Maa' ceremonial cloth with battle scene from the Ramayana, 18th century
Cotton, hand-painted and mordant-dyed, with hand-applied dye, 98 x 449 cm
Collection of Banoo and Jeevak Parpia

Trade textiles from the Coromandel Coast



Finely woven cotton cloths with exquisite hand-drawn designs in a palette dominated by red and blue were produced along the Coromandel Coast of southeast India. These cloths, which were sometimes given a burnished surface, came to be known in the West as chintz. Because their designs were drawn using a *kalam* bamboo pen, the term *kalamkari* (literally “pen work”) came into common usage to describe them. Artisans used the *kalam* to apply mordants and resists that would reveal the designs upon immersing the cloth in successive dye baths of *chay* red and indigo blue, with only the occasional painting on of dyes, such as yellow, for particular details.

Chintz and related textiles made for the European market



It was not until the mid-seventeenth century that chintz began to be exported in large quantities to Europe. European taste for chintz favored undulating floral patterns in brilliant reds, blues, and greens on a light or white background. Such fabrics were used for a variety of purposes, from hangings to household furnishings to dress cloths. Europeans also creatively manipulated chintz cloth through piecing, appliqué, and quilting to produce unique garments or furnishings that reflected a distinctively European aesthetic.

Indian trade textiles in Sri Lanka



At times, weavers and dyers from South India settled in Sri Lanka and made cloths for local consumption. In the seventeenth century, the Dutch East India Company (VOC) attempted to set up a *kalamkari* (chintz) manufacturing center at Jaffna, where local supplies of *chay* root were available to produce high quality red dye. From the late seventeenth to middle of the eighteenth century, the Dutch imported un-dyed cotton cloth from India to have it dyed in Sri Lanka with *chay* red. While most of the chintz cloths from this period were made along the Coromandel Coast, it seems possible that some were actually dyed by South Indians working in Sri Lanka.

Textiles made for the Thai court



Cloths made during the eighteenth century for the royal Thai market feature remarkably fine patterns and attest to the great versatility of Coromandel Coast artisans who employed *kalamkari* drawing and dyeing techniques to execute region-specific designs for each market. The Thai royal court sent its own agents to the Coromandel Coast to commission specific designs and export the cloths to Thailand on chartered ships. Royal court protocol and sumptuary laws limited the wearing and possession of the finest imported Indian textiles to high-ranking nobility. Textiles also played an important role in royal gift-giving and the bestowing of restricted cloths by the king could elevate the status of recipients within the court hierarchy.

Trade textiles from Bengal



When Portuguese traders arrived in Bengal in the early sixteenth century, the production centers of Dacca and Satgaon were already supplying excellent cloths for the sultanate court of Bengal, as well as areas throughout northern India and beyond. Unlike the official *Estado da India* in Goa, private Portuguese merchants largely conducted the commerce in Bengal. At first, they would leave orders with local suppliers in Satgaon and then collect the completed textiles the following year. By the late sixteenth century, they had established settlement and trade operations in the port town of Hugli and were directly supervising production and design, bringing models from illustrated books and prints to embroiderers to copy motifs and subject matter that would appeal to European tastes.

EVENTS & SEMINARS 2018–2019

September 6: “Tilism,” art exhibition, Iftikhar Dadi & Elizabeth Dadi

September 10: “When Policymaking is Ruled by Politics: A Central Banker Shares his Experiences in Bangladesh,” Biru Paul (Economics, SUNY-Cortland)

September 13: “Twenty Years of Nuclear South Asia,” Zia Mian (Science & Global Security, Princeton University)

September 14: “Farmer Suicides and Food Sovereignty: Insights from Political Ecologies of Health and Education,” David Meek (International Studies, University of Oregon)

September 17: “Girls Just Wanna Have Fun: Gender, Mobility and Resistance in Lyari, Karachi,” Nida Kirmani (Sociology, Lahore University of Management Sciences)

September 18: *Yeh Freedom Life*, film screening with Director Priya Sen

September 20: “Dalit Futures and Sexual Modernity in South India,” Lucinda Ramberg (Anthropology, Cornell University)

September 24: “Inner City Kitchens in Karachi: A Microcosm of the Crowded City,” Naila Mahmood (Documentary photographer, Karachi)

September 28: “Experiences in International Development,” Vinai Thummalapally (Former U.S. Ambassador to Belize)

September 28: “The Mirror and the Windowpane: Two Paths for the Novel,” Tagore Lecture in Modern Indian Literature, Neel Mukherjee

October 1: “Business and Politics in India: The Tamil Nadu Puzzle,” John Harris (International Studies, Simon Fraser University)

October 3: “Shakti Chattopadhyay: Postman in the Autumnal Forest,” Sumana Roy (Novelist)

October 17: *Matangi/Maya/Mia* film screening and panel discussion with Arun Nedra Rodrigo, Mark Campbell, and Luxshanaa Sebarajah

October 19: Sarod concert, Tejendra Narayan Majumdar

October 22: “Works & Continuities - The City of Mumbai,” Brinda Somaya (A. D. White Professor-at-Large, Cornell University)

October 23: “Kinship, Authority, and the Practice of Secularism,” Katherine Lemons (Anthropology, McGill University)

October 24: “The Promise and Limitations of Non-Violent Civil Disobedience: Evidence from India’s Independence,” Saumitra Jha (Political Economy, Stanford University)

October 26-27: “Tea High & Low: Elixir, Exploitation and Ecology” conference

October 30: “How Cornell (and others) Influenced our Direction in Higher Education at Somaiya Vidyavihar,” Samir Somaiya (Chairman, K.J. Somaiya Trust)

November 5: “Brand-Name Capitalism, Advertising and the Making of Middle-Class Conjugality in Western India 1918-1950,” Doug Haynes (History, Dartmouth College)

November 9: “The Disappearance of Dissapearances,” art exhibition, P. Pushpakanthan

November 10: “Borders: Real and Imagined” conference

November 12: “Postcolonial State and Colonial Capital: Steamships, Waterways, and the Making of East Pakistan’s Economy,” Tariq Omar Ali (History, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana)

November 13: “Resilient Farm Technologies in Achieving Sustainable Development: Performance and Adoption of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in Odisha, India,” Debdutt Behura (Agricultural Economics, Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology)

November 15: “Monsoon Asia: The Past and Future Imagination of a Region,” Sunil Amrith (South Asian Studies, Harvard University)

November 19: “Violence and the Jurisdiction of ‘Disturbed Areas’: Notes from Colonial India,” Bhavani Raman (History, University of Toronto-Scarborough)

November 26: “Branding Gods: Mediating Divinity in the Bazaars of Banaras,” Andy Rotman (Religion, Smith College)

December 1: Concert, Ali Sethi

February 4: “M. K. Gandhi’s Apologies,” J. Daniel Elam (Comparative Literature, University of Hong Kong)

February 18: “Nationalism, Development and Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka,” Rajesh Venugopal (International Development, London School of Economics and Political Science)

February 28: “Aliens, Code-shifters, and Rude-mapping,” Jaret Vadera (Art, Cornell University)

March 2: Performance, Alok Menon

March 4: “On the Prowl: Tigers and Tea Planters in British India,” Romita Ray (Art History, Syracuse University)

March 6: *Cast in India*, film screening with Director Natasha Raheja (Anthropology, Cornell University)

March 6: “Peace for South Asia,” Durba Ghosh (History, Cornell University) and Raza Rumi (Journalism, Ithaca College)

March 11: “Speculative Futures: Cinema, Cotton, and Contingency in Colonial Bombay,” Debashree Mukherjee (South Asian Studies, Columbia University)

March 14: *Manto*, film screening with Director Nandita Das

March 22: “Wind and Strings” Sandip Chatterjee, Raman Kalyan, Akshay Anantapadmanabhan, and Subrata Bhattacharya

March 23, 2009, Pao Bhangra XVII concert, Cornell Bhangra

March 23: “The Wrong Place,” play reading, Aiden Ardine and Trevor Stankiewicz

March 25: “Caste, Temple, Church and Remittance Practices of the Tamil Diaspora: Resisting and Reproducing Hierarchies in Post-War Jaffna,” Thanges Paramsothy (Asian Studies, Cornell University)

March 26: “Agency and the Construction of Practice,” Sarosh Anklesaria (Architecture, Cornell University)

March 27: “King Asvagosa and the Forgers of Sarnath,” Richard Salomon (Asian Languages & Literatures, University of Washington)

April 8: “Pakistanis in the American Court: Legalities and Consequences of Extraterritorial Applications of US Criminal Law,” H. Emad Ansari (Law, Lahore University of Management Science)

April 9: *Pungudutiuvu: A Disappearing Island*, film screening with Director Thanges Paramsothy

April 11: “Dance for Social Change,” Mallika Sarabhai

April 15: “Worlds of Love: Sung Poetry in Wakhi Central and South Asia,” Richard Wolf (Music and South Asian Studies, Harvard University)

April 16: “Remembering Mullivaikkal: Sri Lanka 10 Years On,” panel discussion with Fathima Cader, Peter Manuelpillai and Thanges Paramsothy

April 19: “Traded Treasure: Indian Textiles for Global Markets,” symposium

April 22: “A Modern Architecture of the Past: Reading Minnette de Silva,” Anooradha Siddiqi (Architecture, Barnard College)

April 29: “Ethical Reckoning: Theorizing Gender, Vulnerability and Agency in Bangladesh Liberation War (*Muktijuddho*) Film,” Elora Halim Chowdhury (Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, University of Massachusetts-Boston)

April 30: “Rumi Yatra,” concert, Zila Khan

May 10: Vocal concert, Sikkil Gurucharan



2019 TAGORE LECTURE



ANURADHA
ROY

“The Clay Typewriter”

Rabindranath Tagore Modern Indian Literature
Lecture Series

Friday, September 20, 2019 at 4:30 pm

Guerlac Room, A.D. White House

Reception to follow

In this lecture, Anuradha Roy will discuss how mud and words are connected in her work; how earth, water, air, and fire fusing to create pots is a metaphor for the way in which real and imagined archives can come together in a writer’s imagination and result in fictional worlds. She expands on this metaphor by talking about how one particular fictional world came about for her through the discovery of the German artist Walter Spies and his connections with Rabindranath Tagore. She explores how these and other historical figures entered her book and helped her to make sense of the political and moral place of the writer in today’s world.

Anuradha Roy is the author of *An Atlas of Impossible Longing* and *The Folded Earth*, as well as *Sleeping on Jupiter*, which won the DSC Prize for Fiction 2016 and was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2015. Her latest novel, *All the Lives We Never Lived*, was published worldwide in 2018 and has won the Tata Book of the Year Award. It has been nominated for the Walter Scott Prize, the DSC Prize, the JCB Prize, and the Hindu Literary Award. Roy won the Economist Crossword Prize for *The Folded Earth*, which was longlisted for the Man Asia Prize. Her first novel, *An Atlas of Impossible Longing*, was picked as one of the Best Books of the Year by *Washington Post*, *Huffington Post*, and *Seattle Times*. Her books have been translated into over 15 languages, including French, Italian, Russian, German, Turkish, Arabic, Hebrew, and Portuguese. She works as a designer at Permanent Black, an independent press she runs with Rukun Advani. She lives in Ranikhet, India.

This lecture series is made possible by a gift from Cornell Professor Emeritus Narahari Umanath Prabhu and the late Mrs. Sumi Prabhu to honor Rabindranath Tagore, a celebrated writer and musician, and one of the great luminaries of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



South Asian Studies Fellowships

2019–20

We are proud to welcome to campus the third group of South Asian Studies fellows. Each of the following three scholars and artists will be in residence at Cornell for two to four months during the 2019-2020 academic year. They will be working with Cornell students and faculty on their research, utilizing Cornell's numerous academic resources, and presenting their work to the Cornell community.

ACHYUT CHETAN Fall 2019
Assistant Professor of English,
Santal Parganas College, Dumka, India
*Founding Mothers of the Indian Republic in
an International Frame*

NIPUN PRABHAKAR Fall 2019
Independent Photographer and Architect,
New Delhi, India
Portrait of Nepal through its Doors

KANCHUKA DHARMASIRI Spring 2020
Senior Lecturer, Department of English,
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
*Many Phases of Ravana: Transcreations and Rewritings
of Ravana in a Post-Colonial Sri Lankan Context*



Karim-Aly Kassam delivers the opening keynote address

ISSI 2019: Cultural Sustainability

by Sally Lee

“We give thanks to the sun, our older brother, and to the moon, our grandmother,” Michael Abrams recited in the Onondaga language and then translated into English, at this year’s International Studies Summer Institute (ISSI). “We put our minds together as one.” In that moment, the entire room was still, as if the audience was also brought closer to nature in mind and spirit through the lens of another culture.

Like the Onondaga Nation, many around the world are working to preserve traditional rituals, languages, and art in the face of enduring issues, such as structural poverty, food insecurity, and climate change. Within an increasingly globalized world, cultural sustainability, with its inherent ties to social justice, is more important than ever.

On July 1 and 2, 2019, the annual International Studies Summer Institute (ISSI) workshop, hosted by the South Asia Center at Syracuse University, SAP, and the Southeast Asia Program at Cornell, brought together K-12 teachers from fourteen different New York school districts to learn content, tools, and strategies for internationalizing their curricula. Engaging teachers of subjects ranging from Spanish to art to social studies, the workshop explored the theme of cultural sustainability across many disciplines and world regions. Presenters discussed how diverse cultures both preserve and adapt their traditions in the face of environmental, economic, social, and political change.

Carol Babiracki, Director of the South Asia Center at Syracuse, whose research explores the ways in which hereditary musicians in India navigate changing social and economic landscapes, reiterated the most well-known definition of sustainability, from the UN World Commission on Environment and Development, “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” Babiracki argued that any definition must include attention to the cultural practices and institutions of communities around the world.

Karim-Aly Kassam, International Professor of Environmental

and Indigenous Studies at Cornell, added, in his keynote, that “cultural sustainability is based on trust and building relationships.” Kassam argued that since cultures coexist with their habitat, people need to have conversations with one another and with the environment to make cultural sustainability work.

Spanish teacher Nora Schapira from Lehman Alternative Community School in Ithaca said that, while she teaches Spanish, she also teaches about immigration and the relationship between humans and climate change. Previously a farmer, she found a personal connection to Kassam’s presentation on biocultural diversity with the central idea that one cannot preserve culture without also being mindful of taking care of one’s habitat. Schapira also said ISSI provides her a space for growing her professional network. After attending a previous ISSI workshop, she reached out to Carol Hockett, Coordinator of School and Family Programs at Cornell’s Johnson Museum of Art, to arrange a field trip for her students to visit the museum. Schapira plans to bring her students to the Johnson Museum again in September to discuss immigration issues.

“ISSI is very different from typical teachers’ trainings,” said Meghan Wright, an English as a New Language (ENL) teacher from the Utica City School District. “Many of my students are refugees that come from Southeast Asia, so the content covered today is very helpful and invigorating and stimulates me with the bigger picture.” Wright further explained that the content she learned in the workshop helped her better understand the culture of her refugee students and that she will always keep cultural sustainability in her mind while teaching.

New Post-Secondary Internationalization Fellowships



S AP's post-secondary outreach efforts have expanded this year, with the hiring of Kathi Colen Peck as our Post-Secondary Outreach Coordinator (see p. 29). Our collaborations have deepened with our consortium partner, the South Asia Center at Syracuse University, as well as with Cornell's Southeast Asia Program and Latin American Studies Program. We have collectively partnered with three community colleges: Monroe Community College (MCC), Onondaga Community College (OCC), Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC₃); and three schools of education: SUNY Cortland School of Education, SUNY Buffalo State School of Education, and Syracuse University School of Education.

In spring 2019, we invited community college faculty from MCC, OCC, and TC₃ to apply for the year-long Community College Internationalization Fellows (CCIF) program. The CCIF program supports faculty in identifying ways in which they can integrate international, intercultural, or global dimensions into the community college curriculum to help prepare students to become globally competent citizens. This year, we awarded fellowships to six community college faculty from across our three partner institutions and world areas. The fellows participated in an orientation in May (pictured above), which, in addition to meeting several Cornell faculty, included a tour of Olin Library to explore relevant resources. The SAP fellow is Robert Muhlntickel, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Monroe Community College, Rochester, whose project is on "Internationalizing Text Resources in Philosophy."

Colen Peck has put nearly all of the fellows in direct touch with at least one Cornell faculty or staff member who has expertise in the content area of the fellows' projects. For example, Muhlntickel is exploring ways to internationalize the texts for one of his philosophy courses, which has been historically grounded

only in western philosophical texts. After consulting with South Asia Curator Bronwen Bledsoe and SAP Program Manager Daniel Bass, Muhlntickel spent a day and half in the Cornell Library stacks in July, exploring all kinds of philosophy-related treasures and resources from South Asia and elsewhere. He also checked out and reviewed two culture kits for consideration for use in his course. From Colen Peck's perspective, "Bob's experience in coming to campus was deeply energizing. It's one thing to tell folks that there're vast library resources for them to explore and an entirely different thing to show them what they have access to and have them physically poke around the library."

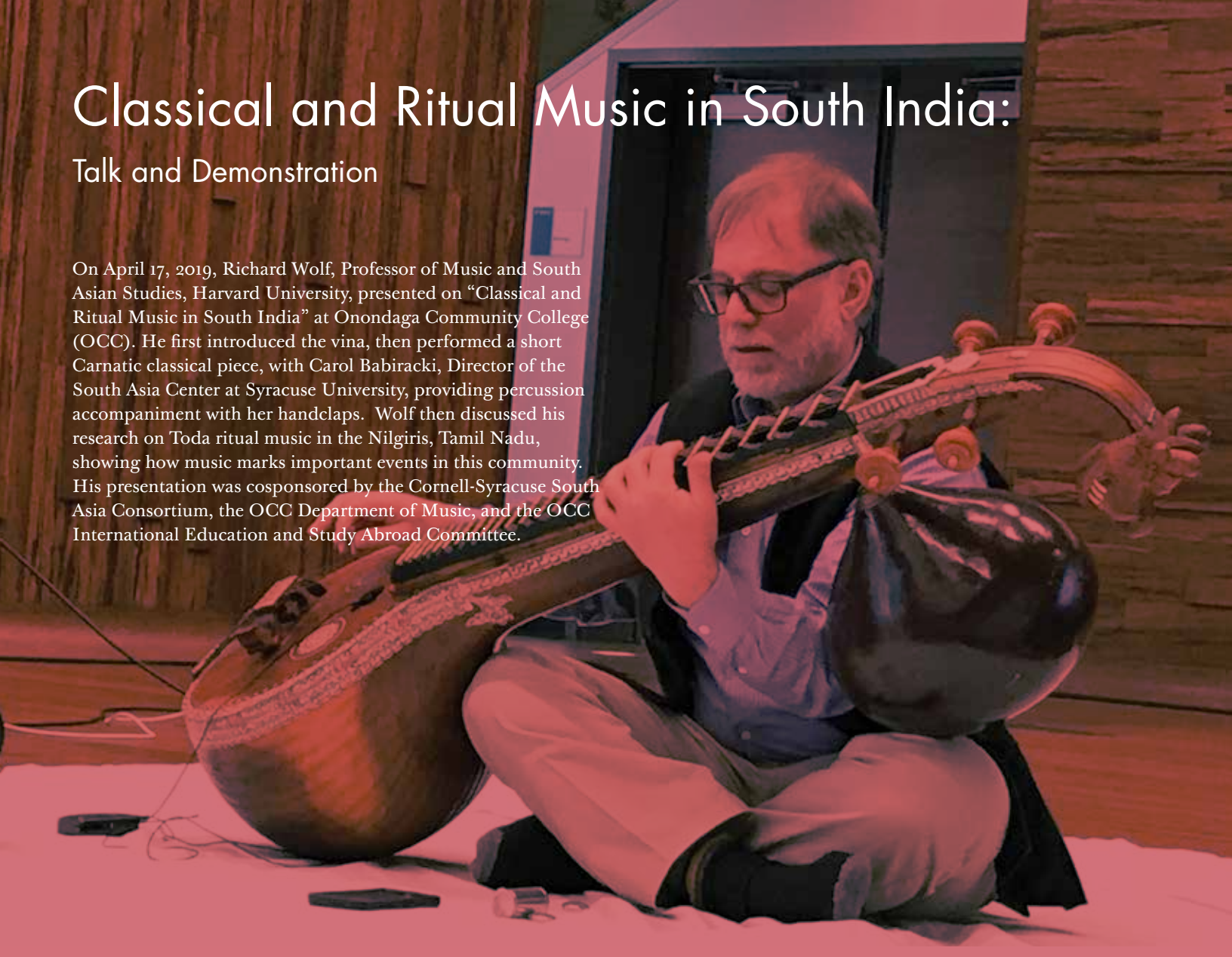
Similar to the CCIF program, we invited faculty from SUNY Buffalo State, SUNY Cortland, and Syracuse University to apply for a year-long Global Education Faculty Fellows (GEFF) program. The GEFF program supports faculty in identifying ways in which they can integrate international, intercultural, or global dimensions into their teacher training curricula to help better prepare pre-service teachers to become globally competent educators. We awarded fellowships to three faculty members with interest in developing projects focused on South and Southeast Asia. Their orientation in June was conducted via video-conference. SAP has funded one of the fellows, Jeremy Jiménez, Assistant Professor in the Foundations and Social Advocacy Department at SUNY Cortland. His project is on Environmental Justice in South and Southeast Asia to be incorporated into the required course for all education students, "Race, Class, Gender Issues in Education."

What is most exciting about these programs, Colen Peck says, is that it provides an opportunity "to ignite the interests of these faculty members to further enrich their teaching experience, so that their students may be equally sparked by the richness of the languages and cultures of South and Southeast Asia, and Latin America in the courses they take, for many years to come."

Classical and Ritual Music in South India:

Talk and Demonstration

On April 17, 2019, Richard Wolf, Professor of Music and South Asian Studies, Harvard University, presented on “Classical and Ritual Music in South India” at Onondaga Community College (OCC). He first introduced the vina, then performed a short Carnatic classical piece, with Carol Babiracki, Director of the South Asia Center at Syracuse University, providing percussion accompaniment with her handclaps. Wolf then discussed his research on Toda ritual music in the Nilgiris, Tamil Nadu, showing how music marks important events in this community. His presentation was cosponsored by the Cornell-Syracuse South Asia Consortium, the OCC Department of Music, and the OCC International Education and Study Abroad Committee.



SAP Manager Daniel Bass hosts this biweekly radio show Tuesday nights 7:00 - 9:00 pm on WRFI, 88.1 FM in Ithaca, 90.9 in Watkins Glen and streaming at www.wrfi.org. The show focuses on South Asian music from traditional to modern, folk to fusion, religious to rock, and much more, whether from the subcontinent, its diasporas or its many influences. The show offers listeners a musical journey across Asia, from the Arabian peninsula to the Indonesian islands, with long rest stops in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

WRFI is a community-owned and volunteer-operated radio station, providing access to the airwaves and an opportunity to learn the craft of radio while serving the general well-being of its community. Before coming to Ithaca, Bass hosted similar shows on WPKN in Bridgeport, Connecticut and WCBN in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Follow Monsoon Radio on Facebook @monsoonradiowrfi for updates on future shows, playlists for past shows, and links to the show's archives.



Afterschool Language and Culture Program

by Brenna Fitzgerald

Exposure to foreign languages and cultures at a young age is not only important in an increasingly globalized world, but also transformative. Through the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies' Afterschool Language and Culture Program (ALCP), K-12 students from the local area learn a foreign language and culture from language teacher volunteers who are often international students and scholars. Managed by the South Asia Program and the Southeast Asia Program (SEAP), with funding from the U. S. Department of Education, ALCP has been running in Ithaca elementary schools for over eight years and has already reached thousands of children.

This year, SAP and SEAP partnered with the Cornell Public Service Center to bring ALCP to new rural underserved school districts, namely Watkins Glen and Odessa-Montour. The program also continued running in Ithaca, at Beverly J. Martin Elementary School (BJM), identified as a high-needs, underserved school. In Spring 2019, volunteers taught Spanish, French, Hindi, and Tagalog to a total of 190 students across the three school districts.

Cornell Master's Student in Public Administration Khaytee Tewari taught Hindi to third graders at Watkins Glen Central School over the course of eight weeks this spring. She noted that, as an international student, this was her first time being in a school in the US, and she greatly enjoyed the interaction with the students, who were "interactive, curious, and genuinely interested in listening to what I had to say. They were especially impressed by how their names looked in the Hindi script and this broke the ice between us very quickly." Tewari added, "I was happy that I had an opportunity to share my country and culture with students who weren't otherwise exposed to it."

Speaking of Language

In March 2019, SAP staff were interviewed on two different episodes of season 3 of *Speaking of Language*, the weekly podcast from Cornell's Language Resource Center. Through informal conversations with educators, students, and other people of interest, this podcast features interesting and helpful information about the intersection of language learning and pedagogy, while also spreading the word about the work that the LRC does and about other global units across campus.

SAP K-12 Outreach Coordinator Brenna Fitzgerald, graduate student Arbias Lloluni, and SEAP Associate Director Thamora Fishel talked about the Einaudi Center's Afterschool Language and Culture Program in episode 6, "K-12 Outreach and Language and Culture Learning." The program provides opportunities for Cornell undergraduate and graduate students to share their knowledge of a language and culture with curious students from local schools.

SAP Manager Daniel Bass was the guest on episode 8, "Music Across Cultures," in which he discussed his biweekly radio show, *Monsoon Radio*, and the intersections of language, music, culture, and commerce.



SHAMBHU AND BANU OJA

Senior Lecturer Shambhu Oja retired this year, after 34 years of teaching Nepali at Cornell. Banu Oja, his wife, came first to Cornell in 1983, and Shambhu joined her in 1985. They taught Nepali jointly until 1993, when she became the In-Country Director of the Cornell-Nepal Study Program in Kirtipur, which closed after the 2015 earthquakes. Both at Cornell and in Nepal, Shambhu and Banu's impact on Nepal Studies at Cornell has been immeasurable.

Together Shambhu and Banu implemented distinctive programs. The Cornell-Nepal Study Program remains a unique international residential experiment in multicultural collaborative study and research. The Cornell Nepali language curriculum laid new ground, utilizing as many natural language materials as possible to train students for research and work in Nepal.

Banu and Shambhu co-authored several textbooks: *Nepali, A Beginner's Primer: Conversation and Grammar*; *Nepali-English, English-Nepali Glossary* (with Mark Turin & Elisabeth Uphoff), and *Intermediate and Advanced Nepali: Readings and Grammatical Structures* (all available for purchase through the South Asia Program). This year also marks the final Intensive Summer Nepali Language Program at Cornell, pictured here, which Shambhu and Banu Oja had been taught since 1987. The six-week summer program brought students from all over the country to learn Nepali at all levels.

Banu and Shambhu Oja's energy, patience and drive pushed students to exceed expectations as language learners, not only in the classroom, but in their many careers, from academia to diplomatic service, to international development and beyond. I am sure all their students now join us in congratulating Shambhu-Sir and Banu-Madam for all they have accomplished and all they have given us.

by Kathryn March



SREEMATI MUKHERJEE

Sreemati Mukherjee, Senior Lecturer of Bengali, retired in 2019 after 21 years of working at Cornell. She actually started at as an administrative assistant in 1998, and worked in the School of Engineering for several years before teaching Bengali. Mukherjee was a member of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and of the South Asian Languages Teachers Association (SALTA). She has a double certificate from American Council for Teaching of Foreign Languages as an oral proficiency tester in Bengali for both ACTFL and the Interagency Language Roundtable (ILR).

Looking back on her years of teaching, she said, "Cornell gave me the freedom to try out new methods in any way I wanted to test my teaching skills. The final prize was that my students should become confident in oral and written communication." Over the years, she saw that, for many students, "learning a new language, for example Bengali, enhanced their listening skills and make them more disposed to understand others in foreign countries, even if they don't know the languages."

In retirement, her main plan is to "not teach. Though teaching at Cornell has been great fun, I wish to move out of the disciplined and choreographed life I have been living. I plan to spend time with my children and grandchildren and be a very important factor in their hectic lives. I also want to volunteer my time in the Maryland and DC areas to those who drew the short straw."



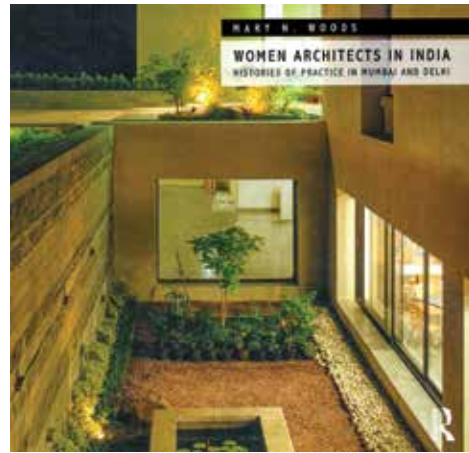
MARY WOODS

Mary N. Woods, Professor of Architecture, retired in 2019, after 35 years of teaching architecture and architectural history at Cornell. When she arrived at Cornell in 1984, the architecture studios had few women students, and while many international students were present, none were from South Asia. In 1991, Woods became the first woman to achieve tenure in the architecture department, a program established in 1871.

Her colleagues in the planning department, Porus Olpadwala and Michael Tomlan, invited her to India for the first time in 1998. This opportunity opened up a whole new world for Woods, leading her to meet many enthusiastic colleagues in Mumbai and Delhi, notably Brinda Somaya, pictured center above, who inspired her work on women architects in India. Now, Somaya is a member of SAP's advisory council and an A. D. White Professor-at-Large at Cornell, and Woods has been an active member of the SAP faculty for many years.

Both in her teaching and scholarship, Mary Woods has a particular interest in how film and photography shape and mediate our experience and understanding of space and the built environment, as well as processes of design and the making of cities, landscapes, and buildings across historical periods and around the world. Her books include *From Craft to Profession The Practice of Architecture in Nineteenth-Century America* (1999), *Beyond the Architect's Eye: Photographs and the American Built Environment* (2009), and *Women Architects in India: Histories of Practice in Mumbai and Delhi* (2017). In 2018, Woods was awarded the Silver Medal for distinction in scholarship from Tau Sigma Delta, the national academic honor society for architecture and the allied arts.

In her retirement, Woods has three projects that she hopes to finish. The first is a documentary film with Delhi-based director Vani Subramanian pictured on the right above, on migration and single-screen cinemas in India, for which SAP has provided support. Second, she is working on an exhibition, in India and the US, and a publication on Mumbai's architecture of the night (its illuminated spaces and buildings) with Mumbai photographer Chirodeep Chaudhuri. The third project is a book on the imagery of urban ruin and renewal in Mumbai and New York City.



SAP awarded National Resource Center grant

by Jonathan Miller

In August 2018, the South Asia Program, in consortium with Syracuse University's South Asia Center, was awarded more than \$2.9 million in Title VI grants under the federal National Resource Centers and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships programs. "The National Resource Center designation is a hard-earned honor," said Wendy Wolford, Cornell's Vice Provost for International Affairs. "It is really a testament to the world-class faculty, students, and staff of these extraordinary programs."

The four-year grants, administered by the U.S. Department of Education, support language instruction, fellowships, outreach to K-12 teachers and faculty at community colleges and teacher-training institutions, international partnerships, study abroad, and other activities. SAP's Foreign Language and Area Studies grants will provide tuition and stipends for six Cornell graduate students each year, and enable four graduate and undergraduate students to pursue intensive language study during the summer.

"These awards enable Cornell students to study critically important languages that are necessary for any in-depth engagement with South Asia," said SAP Director Iftikhar Dadi. "Our program is distinctive in covering the breadth of South Asia, which includes Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and their diasporas."

The Cornell-Syracuse South Asia Consortium has been a National Resource Center since 1985. SAP collaborates with the Southeast Asia Program, also a National Resource Center grant awardee, on outreach activities for educators in New York, at K-12 schools, community colleges, and schools of education.

Originally appeared in the *Cornell Chronicle* (September 5, 2018)

Introducing New Staff

Kathi Colen Peck



Kathi Colen Peck is the new Post-Secondary Outreach Coordinator for the South Asia Program, the Southeast Asia Program, and the Latin American Studies Program. In this position she will be coordinating outreach activities with area community colleges and schools of education. Before coming to Einaudi,

she worked for three years with the Local and Regional Food Systems program, based in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She has extensive experience with food systems and sustainability, and a degree in anthropology, for which she studied in Costa Rica. She lives in Trumansburg, and had earlier volunteered as the Einaudi afterschool language coordinator for Trumansburg schools.

Gloria Lemus-Chavez



In March 2019, Gloria Lemus-Chavez joined the South Asia Program as the new Administrative Assistant. In addition to this part-time appointment, she is also working as a Financial Assistant for the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, though she is based in the SAP offices full-time. She joined Cornell

more than five years ago, working with the University Major Gifts Program in Alumni Affairs and Development as an administrative professional. She added that “joining the Einaudi Center is an exciting next step in my career, not only because I have always been fascinated by all aspects of human culture, but also because I will be able to apply the event planning and event management skills I have developed during my time serving in other volunteering roles.” She lives in Lansing with her partner, Brandon, their five children, four cats, two goats, one pig, and a hamster.



Cornell, Tamil Nadu to collaborate on climate-smart agriculture

by Maina Dhital

An agreement signed in January between Cornell and Tamil Nadu brought a delegation of engineers from India to Cornell for three days of learning about the latest in water resource management.

“Water is the critical link between the climate, humans and the environment, and no resource is as critical to human survival,” said Ronnie Coffman, director of International Programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (IP-CALS), welcoming members of the Tamil Nadu-Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project (TN-IAMP). “We want to expand future project opportunities,” Coffman said, “and we want the visiting team to understand the latest research and advances in irrigation and water science.”

The Tamil Nadu team, consisting of three principal secretaries and six water specialists, was in Ithaca in April 2019, meeting with faculty and senior administrators at Cornell, and participating in field tours related to water management and irrigation. “Tamil Nadu is one of the water-starved states of India,” said Vibhu Nayar, principal secretary and TN-IAMP project director. “This exposure visit will enhance the state’s ability to mitigate the frequent droughts and floods through policy interventions, advanced or improved technologies in conjunction with the application of water and water productivity.” Funded by the World Bank, TN-IAMP is a multidisciplinary project with the prime objective of “more income per drop of water.”

The visit builds on a memorandum of understanding finalized between CALS and Tamil Nadu in January to develop a robust partnership with Cornell, which includes internships, student and faculty exchanges, and projects in horticulture, agribusiness and animal husbandry. “The team is learning new technologies such as remote sensing, modeling, imaging and other tools applicable to irrigation management,” said K.V. Raman, associate director of IP-CALS “Project staff are also learning about the integration and analysis of engineering and economic-policy issues in the context of water, land, air and human resources management.”

Originally appeared in *Cornell Chronicle* (April 23, 2019)

Connecting Modern Art Histories

SAP Director Iftikhar Dadi is the recipient and Principal Investigator of a \$238,000 grant from the Getty Foundation's *Connecting Art Histories* initiative. This grant supports a series of research seminars titled *Modern Art Histories in and across Africa, South and Southeast Asia*. The grant was awarded through the Institute of Comparative Modernities (ICM) at Cornell, where Dadi serves as a member of the faculty board. He also serves as an advisor to Asia Art Archive.

ICM has partnered with the Dhaka Art Summit (Bangladesh) and Asia Art Archive (Hong Kong) to bring together a team of leading international faculty and emerging scholars to investigate closely related institutional and intellectual developments in the artistic and cultural histories of modern South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Africa. The grant supports 21 emerging scholars—many based in this region—for two in-person intensive sessions, each over 10 days: Hong Kong during August 2019 at the Asia Art Archive, and at Dhaka during Dhaka Art Summit in February 2020.

Viewing the development of modern art and architecture of this region only as national art histories obscures understanding them in a comparative framework of decolonization and modernity. By contrast, this program emphasizes a connected and contextualized approach to better understand both common developments as well as divergent trajectories. The program includes faculty seminars and presentations by participants. The curriculum covers both core concepts and emerging postcolonial, decolonial, transnational, transcultural, and global perspectives. Field trips include visits to museums, archives, and modernist architecture. Additional guest lectures supplement the Hong Kong and Dhaka sessions.

Led by Iftikhar Dadi, the program faculty includes Elizabeth Giorgis (Ph.D. Cornell University 2010) (Addis Ababa University), Salah Hassan (Cornell University), Simon Soon (University of Malaya), Sanjukta Sunderason (University of Leiden), Ming Tiampo (Carleton University). Organizers include Diana Campbell Betancourt (Dhaka Art Summit); Amara Antilla (Solomon R Guggenheim Museum); and the Asia Art Archive team led by John Tain (Head of Research) and researchers Sneha Ragavan, Chuong-Dai Vo, and Michelle Wong.

The first 10-day field session was held in Hong Kong during August 12-21, 2019. The faculty led daily seminars and the participants presented on their ongoing research. Workshops by the Asia Art Archive staff focused on methods of archival documentation. Field visits informed the participants with the diverse ecology of art institutions in Hong Kong, such as the massive M+ project slated to open next year that will rival the largest modern art museums globally, as well as smaller spaces that foster more experimental research and practice.

Three Cornell doctoral students were among the participants: Anissa Rahadiningtyas (History of Art) was a regular participant, while Ecem Sarıçayır (History of Architecture) and Kaitlin Emmanuel (History of Art) were involved in all the sessions and also provided organizational support.



Faculty, participants, and organizers in Hong Kong, Aug 12-21, 2019.





Cornell Law School International Human Rights Clinic Students in India.



Cornell India Law Center Established

In 2019 Cornell established the Cornell India Law Center, which is dedicated to promoting the study of Indian law and policy in the U.S. legal academy. Prof. Sital Kalantry, an expert in international human rights law, serves as the Center's first Faculty Director.

As the largest democracy in the world, India has a rich constitutional tradition and jurisprudence that lends itself to comparative legal studies. India and the United States have both pluralistic, democratic, and common law systems. Yet, historically only disciplines in the humanities and social sciences have engaged in the study of India.

Law programs in India have undergone significant change in the last decade, and law professors are increasingly focusing on producing scholarship. The Cornell India Law Center works with law schools in India to promote legal education and mentor emerging law scholars. Its programs promote the study of Indian law in the United States legal academy, foster collaborations among Indian and American law scholars, and encourage student engagement in Indian legal studies.

Based in the Cornell Law School, the Center hosts distinguished speakers and conferences of legal scholars and lawyers from India and the United States. It provides housing and a small stipend for legal scholars from India to visit the Cornell Law School to conduct research and interact with faculty. To build legal capacity, Cornell Law faculty regularly teach at Bennett University, a newly established university outside of New Delhi. The Cornell Law School has developed an innovative fast-track dual degree program with Jindal Global Law University where students are able to complete both an Indian law degree and an American law degree in two years less time than it would otherwise take.

The Cornell India Law Center seeks to promote engagement with India among future lawyers. Students enrolled in the International Human Rights Clinic travel to India to conduct research on human rights projects. An example of a project undertaken by the Clinic was a memo written in collaboration with the National Law University in Delhi on surrogacy. Cornell Law School has also a dedicated and fully-funded internship for Cornell Law Students to work at a public interest center during their summer.

Irrigation project with Nepalese women

by Linda McCandless

"Food security is complex. Unless you're on the ground with the people battling it, you will never understand what it is like or the facets involved. So be a humble and curious sponge, learn a lot and have a blast."

That was Isabella Culotta's advice upon returning from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Kathmandu, Nepal, where she worked as an intern helping women with a solar-powered irrigation project in 2017. For that work and her exceptional achievement as a Borlaug-Ruan International intern, the first-year Cornell student received the 2018 Elaine Szymoniak Award at the 2018 World Food Prize Laureate Award Ceremony in Des Moines, Iowa, in October 2018.

"I am so honored to receive the Elaine Szymoniak Award," said Culotta, who plans to major in international agriculture and rural development in International Programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. "I have immense gratitude for the World Food Prize community and all the farmers, scientists and development professionals who have taught me so much over the years."

Culotta worked with ICIMOD to pilot gender empowerment evaluation techniques for the implementation of solar-powered irrigation pumps in the Saptari District of Nepal to irrigate rice paddies, vegetable and lentil fields. The ultimate goal was to increase women's financial empowerment through the introduction of the pumps in Saptari. Culotta worked at the ICIMOD office in Kathmandu studying past evaluation methods, compiling literature and brainstorming ideas and statistical methods to assess impact. She traveled to Rajbiraj, Nepal, to pilot the survey and train interviewers to complete the evaluation with households that were already using the solar-powered pumps.

Originally appeared in the *Cornell Chronicle* (October 19, 2018)



Michał Matejczuk— Luce Scholar

by Daniel Aloï

Starting in summer 2019, Michał Matejczuk will spend a year working on international development in Asia as one of 18 Luce Scholars selected for 2019-2020 by the Henry Luce Foundation. He is the fifth Cornellian to be named a Luce scholar since 2007. The Luce Scholars Program was launched by the Henry Luce Foundation in 1974 to increase awareness of Asia among future leaders in American society.

Matejczuk is working toward a Master of Professional Studies degree in global development in the field of international agriculture and rural development. He aspires to improve household nutrition models in the agricultural industry in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Employing food preservation methods during dry seasons, these models can help combat global food insecurity and child malnutrition.

He said he hopes to go to India to work with “communities and focus on alleviating poverty through activities in social entrepreneurship, environmental conservation and public health nutrition.”

“In India, my focus is to learn about the solutions driving to eliminate the varying forms of malnutrition in women and children,” Matejczuk said. “This can be in the form of fieldwork with local organizations and entrepreneurs, or conducting research to understand the significance of how this phenomenon has evolved throughout India’s history. “A year is not sufficient,” he said, “but it provokes me to hit the ground running once I arrive.”

Before coming to Cornell, Matejczuk received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the Culinary Institute of America and was a Peace Corps volunteer from 2016 to 2018, serving as an agribusiness development specialist in eastern Uganda.

Originally appeared in the *Cornell Chronicle* (February 26, 2019)



SAP students win Fulbright-Hays

by Jonathan Miller

It was late September 2018 when Cornell’s Fulbright adviser, David Holmberg, learned that six of his advisees had won Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) fellowships from the U.S. Department of Education. This was out of just 100 fellowships awarded nationwide.

Unfortunately, Holmberg also learned that the winners had three days to submit their signed paperwork or they would lose their awards. Austin Lord, a doctoral student in anthropology, happened to be floating down the Karnali River in remote western Nepal at the time, with a cell phone but no internet connection.

“It was a scramble,” Holmberg recalled. Lord’s wife, Sneha Moktan, tried to reach her husband by phone. Meanwhile, Holmberg tried to work out an arrangement with the U. S. Department of Education, but there was a power outage in Washington and he couldn’t get through.

In the end, Lord got permission to send an electronic signature and secured his place in the DDRA program. The fellowship will support him and his family for a year as he researches the aftermath of two 2015 Nepal earthquakes for his Ph.D. thesis.

Two of this year’s Cornell fellows are studying anthropology in South Asia. Besides Austin Lord’s research on “Turbulent Futures: Aftermath and Anticipation in Post-Earthquake Nepal,” Karlie Fox-Knudtsen is conducting research in Odisha, India on “Aluminum Gods: Mining and Religiosity Along Odisha’s Bauxite Supply Chain.” “This kind of research is critical for the production of knowledge about other parts of the world,” Holmberg said. “These aren’t two-week flash visits. These are long-term, intensive projects. It’s truly meaningful international engagement.”

Originally appeared in the *Cornell Chronicle* (October 18, 2018)

Selected SAP Faculty Publications 2018–2019

Daniel Bass. “The Goddess of the Tea Plantations: Hindu Festivals and Diasporic Identity in the Up-country of Sri Lanka.” *The South Asianist* 6 (1), 23-45, 2018.

Arnab Basu and Nancy Chau. *Contract Employment as a Worker Discipline Device*. Bonn: Institute of Labor Economics, 2018.

Kaushik Basu. *The Republic of Beliefs: A New Approach to Law and Economics*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018.

Kaushik Basu, Ravi Kanbur, and Ingrid Robeyns. “Introduction to the Special Issue in Celebration of Amartya Sen’s 85th Birthday.” *Journal of Human Development and Capabilities* 20 (2), 119-123, 2019.

Kaushik Basu, David Rosenblatt, and Claudia Sepulveda, eds. *The State of Economics, the State of the World*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2019.

R. Michael Feener and **Anne M. Blackburn**, eds. *Buddhist and Islamic Orders in Southern Asia: Comparative Perspectives*. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 2019.

Anne M. Blackburn and R. Michael Feener. “Sufis and Sangha in Motion: Towards a Comparative Study of Religious Orders and Networks in Southern Asia.” in *Buddhist and Islamic Orders in Southern Asia: Comparative Perspectives*, R. Michael Feener and Anne M. Blackburn eds. Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press, 1-19, 2019.

Jacob Stock and **Jeffrey Chusid.** “Urbanizing India’s frontier: Sriganaganagar and canal-town planning on the Indus plains.” *Planning Perspectives*. DOI: 10.1080/02665433.2019.1573376, 2019.

Shelley Feldman. “Ein neuer Blick auf die Vergangenheit, Visionen der Zukunft. Das Muktiyoddha Jadughar (Liberation War Museum) in Bangladesch als Schau-Platz des Widerstands.” *Peripherie* 153 (39), 26-45, 2019.

Shelley Feldman and Jakir Hossain. “The Longue Durée and the Promise of Export-Led Development: Ready-made Garment Manufacturing in Bangladesh,” in *Labor, Global Supply Chains, and the Garment Industry in South Asia: Bangladesh after Rana Plaza*, Sanchita Bannerjee Saxena, ed. London: Routledge, 21-44, 2019.

Shelley Feldman and Linda Shaw. “The Epistemological and Ethical Challenges of Archiving and Sharing Qualitative Data.” *American Behavioral Scientist* 63 (6): 699-721, 2019.

Julia L. Finkelstein, Amy Fothergill, Laura Hackl, Jere Haas, and **Saurabh Mehta.** “Iron biofortification interventions to improve iron status and functional outcomes.” *Proceedings of the Nutrition Society*. 78 (2), 197-207, 2019.

Julia L. Finkelstein, Heather Herman, Heather Guetterman, Juan Pablo Peña-Rosas, and **Saurabh Mehta.** “Daily iron supplementation for prevention or treatment of iron deficiency anaemia in infants, children and adolescents.” *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*. 12, CD013227, 2018.

Durba Ghosh. “New Directions in Transnational History: Thinking and Living Transnationally.” in *New Directions in Social and Cultural History*, Sasha Handley, Rohan McWilliam, and Lucy Noakes, eds. London: Bloomsbury, 191-212, 2018.

Daniel Gold. “Spiritual Heroes, Miracle Tales, and Ramsnehi Foundations: Constructing Hagiographies of a Rajasthani Sant,” *International Journal of Hindu Studies*, 22 (3), 497-515 2018.

Daniel Gold. “To Go to Vrindavan—or Not: Refashioning Sant Tradition in the Eighteenth Century,” in *Early Modern India: Literatures and Images, Texts and Languages*, Maya Burger and Nadia Cattoni, eds. Heidelberg: Cross Asia, 239-251, 2019.

N. Chandrasekhara Rao, Carl Pray, and **Ronald Herring.** *Biotechnology for a Second Green Revolution in India: Socioeconomic, Political, and Public Policy Issues*. New Delhi: Academic Foundation, 2018.

Ravi Kanbur, Akbar Noman, and Joseph Stiglitz, eds. *The Quality of Growth in Africa*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2019.

Ravi Kanbur and **Henry Shue,** eds. *Climate Justice: Integrating Economics and Philosophy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

Karim-Aly Kassam, Zahra Golshani, and Marianne Krasny. “Grassroots Stewardship in Iran: The Rise and Significance of Nature Cleaners,” in *Grassroots to Global: Broader Impacts of Civic Ecology*, Marianne Krasny, ed. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 65-84, 2018.

Elaine Yu, Peter Hu, and **Saurabh Mehta.** “Plasma fatty acids in de novo lipogenesis pathway are associated with diabetogenic indicators among adults: NHANES 2003–2004.” *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*. 108 (3), 622-632, 2018.

Satya Mohanty. “Social Justice and Culture: On Identity, Intersectionality, and Epistemic Privilege,” in *Handbook on Global Social Justice*, Gary Craig, ed. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 418-427, 2018.

Sanjay Kumar, **Satya Mohanty,** Archana Kumar, and Raj Kumar, eds. *China, India and Alternative Asian Modernities*. Abingdon: Routledge, 2019.

Viranjini Munasinghe. “Anxieties of Belonging: East Indians and the Cultural Politics of the Nation in Trinidad,” in *India Beyond India: Dilemmas of Belonging*, Elfriede Hermann and Antonie Fuhse, eds. Gottingen: Gottingen University Press, 67-82, 2018.

Prabhu Pingali. “Policies for Sustainable Food Systems,” in *Sustainable Food and Agriculture: An Integrated Approach*, Clayton Campanhola and Shivaji Pandey, eds. Amsterdam: Academic Press, 509-521, 2019.

Prabhu Pingali, Anaka Aiyar, Mathew Abraham, and Andaleeb Rahman. *Transforming Food Systems for a Rising India*. Cham: Palgrave, 2019.

Prabhu Pingali and Matthew Abraham. “Unraveling India’s malnutrition dilemma: A path toward nutrition-sensitive agriculture,” in *Agriculture for improved nutrition: Seizing the momentum*, Shenggen Fan, Sivan Yosef, and Rajul Pandya-Lorch, eds. Wallingford: International Food Policy Research Institute, 178-188, 2019.

Jessica Ratcliff. “Hand in Hand with the Survey: Surveying and the Accumulation of Knowledge Capital at India House during the Napoleonic Wars,” *Notes and Records: The Royal Society Journal of the History of Science*. 73: 149-166, 2018.

Lucinda Ramberg. “Divine!” *The Immanent Frame: Secularism, Religion and the Public Sphere*, June 3, 2019.

Eric Tagliacozzo, Helen Siu, and Peter Perdue, eds. *Asia Inside Out: Itinerant People*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2019.

Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition Scholars

Tata-Cornell Scholars include a multidisciplinary group of Cornell graduate students who are actively engaged in applied and field-based research aligning with TCI's key research priorities. Research topics relate to food and nutrition security, agriculture development, and food system transformation in India. Learn more at tci.cornell.edu.

Bindvi Arora

PhD, Food Science and Technology
Bindvi Arora, a second-year PhD student, is interested in developing novel food products and improving upon existing popular foods that can cater to nutritionally deficient populations, using alternate ingredients and processing technologies. Her current research focuses on the development of protein-rich convenience foods for toddlers.

Rohil Bhatnagar

PhD, Food Science and Technology
Rohil Bhatnagar, a fourth-year PhD candidate, focuses his research on developing novel iron-rich microalgae composites and exploring their utility as potential food fortificants to improve iron nutrition, with the aim of alleviating micronutrient malnutrition.

Jocelyn Boiteau

PhD, International Nutrition
Jocelyn Boiteau, a fourth-year PhD candidate, conducts research on estimating and understanding quantity and quality food loss of fruits and vegetables in Indian food value chains.

Anshuman Gupta,

Master of Public Administration
Anshuman Gupta is concentrating on international development studies. His primary interests lie in agriculture economics and creating sustainable value chains to enhance smallholder farmer incomes.

Natasha Jha

PhD, Applied Economics and Management
Natasha Jha, a second year PhD student, is interested in studying the linkages between agriculture and nutrition and how these are likely to be impacted by climate shocks.

Kavya Krishnan

PhD, Soil and Crop Sciences
Kavya Krishnan, a third year PhD student, has a primary research interest in studying soil health, particularly its effects on food security. In the field, she works with Dr. Rajendra Prasad of the Central Agricultural University in Bihar to advance India's understanding of soil health.

Kathryn Merckel

PhD, International Nutrition
Kathryn Merckel, a fifth-year PhD candidate, focuses on promoting biofortified and nutrient-rich crops, such as the orange-fleshed sweet potato, to address micronutrient deficiencies.

Amrutha Pampackal

PhD, Development Sociology
Amrutha Pampackal, a second-year PhD student, is interested in studying the sociology of access to food, particularly among marginalized communities in India.

Chanchal Pramanik

MS/PhD, Applied Economics and Management
Chanchal Pramanik, a second-year Masters student, has a primary research interest in exploring data science concepts for rural livelihood development and policy interventions for the use of data.

Vidya Bharathi Rajkumar

PhD, Applied Economics and Management
Vidya Rajkumar, a fifth-year PhD candidate, focuses on measuring the productivity gap in Indian agriculture and explores different channels to reduce inefficiency, especially for smallholder farmers.

Kasim Saiyyad

MS, Applied Economics and Management
Kasim Saiyyad, a first-year Masters student at the Dyson School, completed his Master of Professional Studies (MPS) in International Development at Cornell University in 2019. His interests include development policy, as well as the factors associated with poverty and their effects on food choices and nutrition.

Karuna Salve

Master of Professional Studies, International Development
Karuna Salve, a Master of Professional Studies (MPS) student in International Development, also holds a master's degree in Social Entrepreneurship from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, India.

Payal Seth

PhD, Applied Economics and Management
Payal Seth, a fifth-year PhD candidate, is examining the behavior change methodology known as Community-led Total Sanitation, working with the local partner, NGO Grameen Development Services. She is analyzing the bearing of this behavior change campaign and of the construction of toilets on the sanitation practices, diarrheal incidence, and the safety of women in rural Uttar Pradesh.

Vanisha Sharma

PhD, Applied Economics and Management
Vanisha Sharma, a second-year PhD student with a concentration in food and agriculture, explores the intersection of malnutrition and women's empowerment in rural India. Prior to starting her PhD, she completed her Masters in Public Administration from the Cornell Institute of Public Affairs (CIPA).

Anna David Thottappilly

PhD, Applied Economics and Management
Anna David Thottappilly, a third-year PhD student, looks into issues related to development and social mobility. She is interested in policy-oriented research that could aid in bridging the inequality gap.

Shiuli Vanaja

PhD, Applied Economics and Management
Shiuli Vanaja, a sixth-year PhD candidate, focuses on the economics of household water use in India. Her field surveys in remote villages of Jharkhand focused on household drinking water choices, waterborne disease, behavioral patterns around household water use, and

time use patterns of women in these villages.

Anthony Wenndt

PhD, Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology
Anthony Wenndt, a fifth year PhD candidate, focuses on community-driven participatory research approaches for identifying and addressing food safety issues that may give rise to harmful fungal toxins (mycotoxins) in Indian village food systems.

Transforming Food Systems for a Rising India



This new book examines the interactions between India's economic development, agricultural production, and nutrition through the lens of a Food Systems Approach. This book by Cornell faculty and postdocs Prabhu Pingali, Anaka Aiyar, Mathew Abraham, and Andaleeb Rahman, reflects the main ideas and body of work produced in the first five years of the Tata-Cornell Institute. Through a special arrangement with the publisher, the book is available throughout the world in or as open access, as a free download, available at tci.cornell.edu/research/publications

Recently Graduated Students

Emily Barth

Ph.D., Linguistics
Adverbial Accent Shift in Vedic Sanskrit

Robert Beazley

Ph.D., Natural Resources
Mobility Pathways: Mobile Lives in a Trans-Himalayan Power Corridor

Maulik Jagnani

Ph.D., Applied Economics and Management
Essays on Human Capital, Environment, and Development

Thibaud Marcesse

Ph.D., Government
Patronage Guaranteed? Public Policy Reform, Informal Institutions and Distributive Politics

Maryam Rabi

Ph.D., City and Regional Planning
Reforming WAQF in Pakistan: Creating a Community-based Platform for Historic Preservation

Osama Siddiqui

Ph.D., History
A Science of Society: The Rise of Urdu Economic thought in Colonial India

Scott Sorrell

Ph.D., Anthropology
The Place of Sexuality and the Sexuality of Place: A Dissident Social Geography of Bangalore, India

Naveen Sunder

Ph.D., Economics
Essays on K-12 Education in Developing Countries: Causes, Consequences and Impediments

Vidya Vemireddy

Ph.D., Applied Economics and Management
Pathways from Agriculture to Nutrition in India: The Role of Women's Time Trade-offs and Empowerment

Ashraf Bhuiyan

M.P.S., International Development
Analysis of the Idcol Solar Home System Program In Bangladesh

Renu Deshmukh

M.A., Human Development
What Are Children Telling Us? A Cross Cultural Study of Children's Suggestibility

Karlie Fox-Knudsen

M.A., Anthropology

Prankur Gupta

M.S., Applied Economics and Management
Can Social Marketing be a Tool towards Improved Nutrition? Lessons from a Field Experiment in India

Sukruti Gupta

M.S., Design and Environmental Analysis
Perceptions of Indian Consumers towards Pharmaceuticals in the Environment

Komal Hiranandani

M.S., Applied Economics & Management
Mismatched Governance: Exploring the Relationship between Rural and Urban Governance Forms and Urban Development in India

Austin Lord

M.A., Anthropology

Rama Pun

M.F.A., Creative Writing
Flowers for Gods

Pratiwi Ridwan

M.S., Nutrition
The Association between Serum Ferritin and the Gut Microbiome in Patients with Active Tuberculosis Disease in South India

Kasim Saiyyad

M.P.S., International Development

Karuna Salve

M.P.S., International Development

Monisha Afrooz

B.S., Biology and Psychology

Gita Connolly

B.A., Asian Studies

Shivani Parikh

B. S., Development Sociology

Amanda Pathmanathan

B.S. Electrical and Computer Engineering

Sidarth Raghunathan

B.S., Engineering Physics

Arjun Sarathy

B.S., Computer Science

Divya Sriram

B.A., Government

Piragash Swargaloganathan

B.S., Human Biology, Health & Society

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellows 2019–2020

Claire Elliot

Degree: M.A., Asian Studies
Language: Sinhala
Research Interests: Female Buddhist renunciant orders in Thailand and Sri Lanka

Kaitlin Emmanuel

Degree: Ph.D., History of Art and Visual Studies
Language: Tamil
Research Interests: Comparative modernities, and modern and contemporary art

Kamala Eyango

Degree: M.P.S., International Agriculture and Rural Development
Language: Tamil
Research Interests: Sustainable agricultural practices, food production increase strategies, maximization of land use, rural farmer engagement, and food business markets

Matthew Reyes

Degree: M.R.P., City and Regional Planning
Language: Urdu
Research Interests: Development in post-conflict Middle Eastern and South Asian urban planning, and ethnic favoritism in infrastructure investment

Duaa Randhawa

Degree: M.P.S., International Development
Language: Urdu
Research Interests: Community formation, development and self-representation among refugees, and filling the gap between state resources and grassroots mobilization in diasporic communities

Leala Rosen

Degree: M.P.S., International Development
Language: Nepali
Research Interests: Climate change, agricultural resiliency strategies for small-scale farmers, international nutrition, gender, and migration in India and Nepal

Mahrusah Zahin

Degree: M.P.A., Cornell Institute for Public Administration
Language: Urdu
Research Interests: Economic development focused on public-private partnerships in South Asia, particularly Bangladesh

Visiting Scholars 2018–2019



Ranjan Ghosh teaches in the department of English, University of North Bengal, India. He has published broadly on aesthetics, critical theory, and literature across cultures. While at Cornell, he worked on his book manuscript on plastic, noting that “Cornell exposed me to one of the best libraries that an academic can avail. The warmth and assistance were exemplary, as was range and quality of the resources.”



Samodh Porawagamage is a poet and a PhD candidate in Creative Writing at Texas Tech University, originally from Sri Lanka. His interests are in poetry and poetics and verse translation. In summer 2019, he worked at the Cornell University Library with South Asia Curator Brownen Bledsoe in organizing and cataloging a recently acquired donation from the estate of the late Cornell Professor Jim Gair of approximately 3,000 volumes, predominantly in Sinhala, Pali, and Tamil.



Nida Kirmani, Associate Professor, Sociology, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan, was a 2018 South Asian Studies fellow, with a fellowship project on *Gendering Urban Conflict: Exploring the Everyday Dynamics of Violence in Lyari, Karachi*. She wrote that she “enjoyed the beauty of the campus most. This provided the perfect backdrop to reflect on my work. However, a close second was the chance to interact with faculty from across disciplines whose research interests intersected with my own.”



P. Pushpakanthan, Lecturer, Department of Visual and Technological Arts, Eastern University, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka was a 2018 South Asian Studies Fellow, with a fellowship project on *Disappearance*. While at Cornell, he wrote that he “was surprised at how many people from different fields were willing to engage deeply with my work.”



Chamini Kulathunga is a translator working with Sinhalese poetry and fiction, with research interests in the visibility of the translator in and out of the text. She came to Cornell from the University of Iowa’s Translation Workshop. In summer 2019, she worked at the Cornell University Library with South Asia Curator Brownen Bledsoe in organizing and cataloging a recently acquired donation from the estate of the late Cornell Professor Jim Gair of approximately 3,000 volumes, predominantly in Sinhala, Pali, and Tamil.



Sumana Roy, author and poet, Siliguri, India was a 2018 South Asian Studies Fellow with a fellowship project on *Five Plant Thinkers of Twentieth Century Bengal*.



Thanges Paramsothy was the 2019 Tamil Studies Visiting Scholar. He obtained his PhD in anthropology and a master’s degree in refugee studies at the University of East London. He co-edited a book, *Casteless or Caste-blind*, has published a number of articles on caste, religion and Tamil refugee diaspora, and directed an ethnographic film, *Pungudutivu: A Disintegrating Island*. In spring 2019, he taught ASIAN 4437, “Formations of Tamilness in Sri Lankan and Transnational Contexts.”

Back cover:
India, Coromandel Coast, made for the Sri Lankan market
Somana tuppotiya, late 19th or early 20th century
Cotton (plain weave), hand-painted mordant-dyed and resist-dyed, 336 x 118 cm
Collection of Banoo and Jeevak Parpia

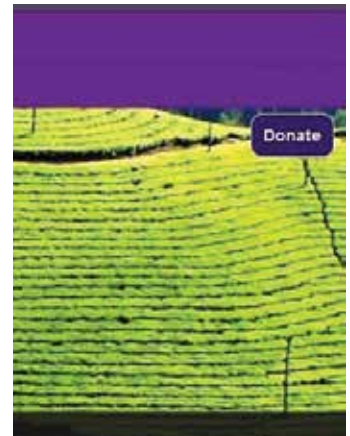
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Gifts to SAP can be made easily by clicking on the Donate button on the upper right of our homepage, sap.einaudi.cornell.edu. With just one click, you can give to SAP as a one-time or recurring gift. Should you wish to direct your gift more specifically (for instance, towards student fellowships), please contact Director Iftikhar Dadi at mid1@cornell.edu. Professor Dadi will also help to coordinate larger gifts with appropriate offices at Cornell.



About Us

THE SOUTH ASIA PROGRAM (SAP) IS AN INTERDISCIPLINARY HUB FOR CORNELL STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, AND ACADEMIC VISITORS LOCATED IN THE MARIO EINAUDI CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES. SAP COORDINATES TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND CAMPUS ACTIVITIES CONCERNING THE AREA COMPRISING THE NATIONS OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT: AFGHANISTAN, BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, INDIA, MALDIVES, NEPAL, PAKISTAN, AND SRI LANKA. THE SOUTH ASIA PROGRAM MAINTAINS DISTINCTIVE STRENGTHS AND DEDICATED EXPERTISE IN SEVERAL KEY AREAS, ESPECIALLY SOUTH ASIAN HUMANITIES; SOCIAL, SCIENTIFIC, AND APPLIED RESEARCH ON SOUTH ASIA; AND THE LANGUAGES AND CULTURES OF NEPAL AND SRI LANKA.

With the Department of Asian Studies, SAP is committed to teaching a number of modern and classical South Asian languages, including Bengali, Hindi, Nepali, Pali, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sinhala, Tamil, Tibetan, and Urdu. Additionally, Persian is taught in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. Our special resources include a library collection of more than 447,466 printed monographs and 10,055 serial titles in hard copy; 56 faculty in 25 departments and colleges teaching 105 Area Studies courses and 55 language courses at levels from

beginning to advanced; and extensive outreach materials including films, web-based curricula, and hands-on teaching aids.

SAP sponsors a weekly seminar series with presentations by local, national, and international scholars, and organizes or co-sponsors numerous conferences and workshops every year. SAP collaborates with student organizations to bring South Asian cultural and performance events to campus on a regular basis, enriching Cornell and the surrounding communities. SAP also has a significant outreach program which makes training on South Asia available to educators from K-12, community college, and schools of education.

Since 1983, Cornell has collaborated with Syracuse University as a National Resource Center for South Asia, one of only eight nationally sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. SAP facilitates summer intensive language opportunities for students from Cornell and other universities on the Cornell campus, at the South Asia Summer Language Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and at the American Association for Indian Studies language programs in India. The South Asia Program also nurtures the Office of Global Learning's offerings in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.



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**SOUTH ASIA
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