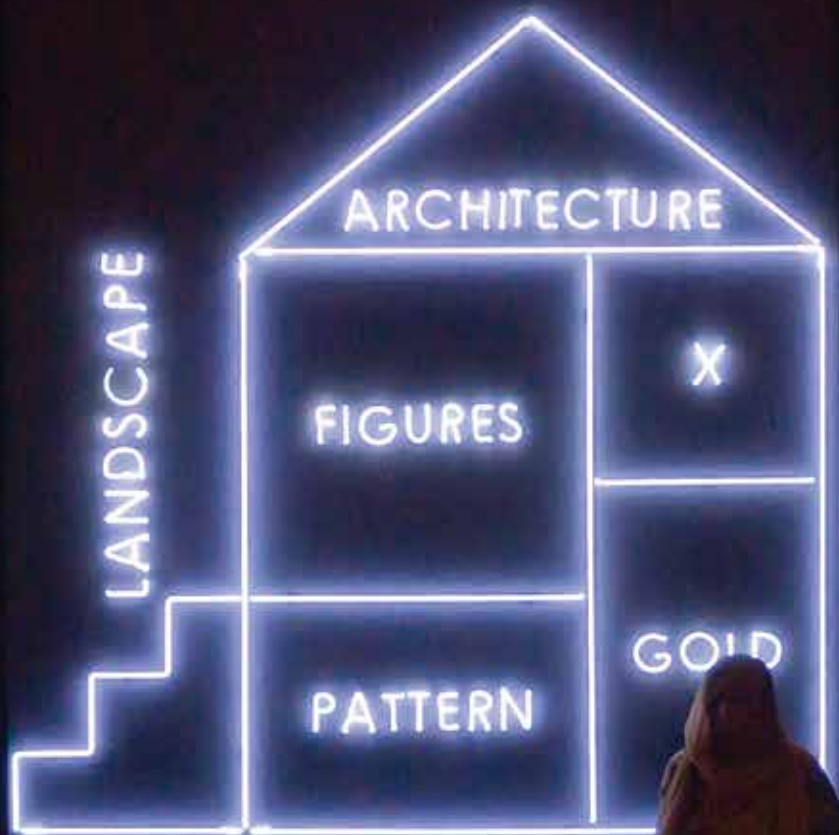




Cornell University

SOUTH ASIA PROGRAM



2018
BULLETIN



Ali Kazim (Pakistan), *Lover's Temple Ruins* (2018). Site-specific installation in Lawrence Gardens, Lahore

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Ali Kazim (detail)



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From the Director

Iftikhar Dadi

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the South Asia Program (SAP) mounted a full program of talks and lectures, hosted international scholars and artists, and supported faculty and student research. We also undertook extensive outreach efforts to K-12, community college and teacher education communities in central New York state. Furthermore, SAP has continued to provide FLAS fellowships to students to learn South Asian languages that are critical for a deep understanding of the region.

This Bulletin offers a snapshot of the breadth and dynamism of our engagements. The acclaimed novelist Shyam Selvadurai delivered the annual Tagore Lecture in Modern Indian Literature (see p. 17), and Cornell Library mounted an ambitious exhibition of the primary archives of Bombay poets from its holdings (see p. 10). The Sri Lanka conference supported graduate research across North America (see p. 13), and the Urban South Asia conference included participation by numerous international experts (see p. 14).

A testimony to the range and depth of Cornell's South Asia Program was offered by the team of external peer reviewers, who after their visit in 2017, noted that they "had an excellent opportunity to see why Cornell is among the world's leading universities for research and programs on South Asia." And the importance of South Asia to Cornell was underscored by the fact that Cornell President Martha Pollack chose to make her first international trip of her tenure to India in January 2018 (see p. 10).

Language teaching, student fellowships, and other programs have been

generously supported by the United States Department of Education under the Title VI program. The Cornell and Syracuse consortium constitutes one of only eight National Resource Centers for the study of South Asia. I am very pleased to note that our application for the next four-year cycle, which begins in Fall 2018, was recently approved. This marks another milestone in our record of continuous success since 1985 as recipients of the Title VI award, and is a result of the precise and detailed application that outgoing SAP director Anne Blackburn and program manager Daniel Bass put together in collaboration with our consortium partners at the South Asia Center at Syracuse University, Director Carol Babiracki and Associate Director Emera Bridger Wilson.

There is no doubt, however, that the Program's future consolidation and growth depends on fostering new resources and opportunities, beyond the provisions of the Title VI program and in addition to the support by the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies and Cornell University, more broadly. Given the national political headwinds in recent years, U.S. government support for international programs cannot be assumed to be available eternally. SAP has recently convened an external Advisory Council whose members are accomplished leaders and public figures, and from whose advice the Program hopes to draw upon in developing new initiatives (see p. 11). The retirement of many distinguished faculty members with South Asian expertise in various programs and colleges across Cornell also poses an ongoing challenge, as their departure creates gaps that are not guaranteed to be automatically filled.

I express deep appreciation to Professor Anne Blackburn for her strong leadership, vision, and commitment to SAP during her tenure as director during the past five years. The Program has developed many new initiatives under her able guidance, including the Tamil Studies Initiative, the South Asia Fellowship program that brings scholars, artists, and writers from South Asia to Cornell (see p. 16), and faculty research grants that have enabled the research and travel of many faculty members. Anne has also worked to protect and strengthen language offerings, advocate for the importance of retaining and developing faculty expertise on South Asia at Cornell, and diversify SAP's engagement across Cornell's various colleges and programs.

On a personal note, I have returned to teaching and to my new responsibilities as the incoming director of the South Asia Program after a Spring 2018 sabbatical, during which I was involved with the inaugural Lahore Biennale, a large-scale event planned every two years. During its two-week run in March, the Biennale exhibited contemporary art by over fifty artists. I organized a program of daily talks by international scholars and experts, many with Cornell affiliations. And with my artistic collaborator, Elizabeth Dadi, we created a site-specific neon installation that responded to historical references and sensory environment of the cavernous Mughal-era Summer Palace under the Lahore Fort.

The focus of Cornell's South Asia Program is across South Asia. In keeping with this spirit, pages 6-7 and the covers of this Bulletin reproduce works by some of the South Asian artists who participated in the Lahore Biennale.

Are You Even Indian?

By Mariangela Mihai



“Is this even India?” my friend Anirudh asked, with a frustrated smirk on his face, after the fifth store owner informed us he did not have either black pepper or garam masala powder. We were at the end of a long day. Upon his entry in Mizoram, Anirudh had been profiled at the airport.

Although an American citizen, because his parents are “Mainland Indians,” he received only a seven-day Inner Line Permit (ILP), instead of the two-weeks he requested. We then spent two hours in the Foreigner’s Office, where I tried to explain to Mizo officials that Anirudh’s legal “foreigner” category was no different than mine, also an American citizen. It took a long time for the Mizo officials to extend his permit, for they could not quite comprehend how someone like him would not require an ILP. They were not able to see him as an American citizen first; all they saw was a mainland Indian.

There’s a context to this. A northeast Indian state situated on the border with Burma and Bangladesh, Mizoram has historically and politically positioned itself at the edges of empires and states. While a nameless land before the British “discovered” it, postcolonial Mizoram fought for self-determination. In 1986, after twenty years of armed resistance against the Indian state which culminated with India bombing Mizoram’s capital city, Aizawl, Mizos acquired partial autonomy and indigenous land rights. While the peace accord put an end to the armed conflict, Mizos, who became Christian in the 19th century, continue to resist against Indian assimilation and engage in a creative constellation of political

and social projects meant to protect Mizo nationhood and identity. The struggle over historicity, land rights, resources, and cultural, political, and economic and social self-determination punctuates Mizoram’s social milieu at every turn.

Khuangchera, a Mizo only hero (August 2016)

In August 2016 Indian officials claimed a Mizo hero, Pasaltha Khuangchera, as an Indian freedom fighter against the British. After an emergency meeting, the largest Mizo student organizations decried the move and demanded the Indian government rectify its grave mistake: **“KHUANGCHERA DID NOT DIE FOR INDIA BUT FOR THE MIZO PEOPLE. PASALTHA KHUANGCHERA AND ALL OTHER WARRIORS THAT FOUGHT THE BRITISH WERE NOT INDIANS AND THEY DID NOT FIGHT FOR INDIA’S FREEDOM. THEY WERE THE DEFENDERS OF THE ZO COUNTRY FROM THE INVADING AND OCCUPYING FORCE AND THEREFORE SHOULD NOT BE COUNTED AMONG THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS FOR INDIAN INDEPENDENCE. DURING THAT TIME, KHUANGCHERA, OR ANY MIZO, DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT INDIA, LET ALONE FIGHT FOR ITS FREEDOM.”**

(Press Release, August 17, 2017)

Within hours, around two thousand students blocked the airport road where the Indian Minister of State for Railways was to pass on his way to the village where he was to offer tribute to Khuangchera.



Mizo resistance against the Indian airbrushing of history is not uncomplicated, though. In the weeks following, countless official statements from Mizo state and non-state actors revealed Mizo historical memory is not as short as the Indian state had anticipated. In response to activists' virulent resistance, the Indian government retracted its claim to Khuangchera. It did, however, manage to dig from the annals of history another Mizo hero, Darthawma, who, by all means, did fight for Indian Independence. Although most Mizos wanted the distinction between the two freedom fighters to be properly understood, they seemed undoubtedly proud of both men's heroisms. Being a Mizo of (any) valour, whether in a fight for Mizo freedom or Indian freedom (no matter that the two stood in contradiction to each other) surpassed everything.

Accept our Difference or Expect Resistance (June 2017)

It rained heavily that day, though not heavily enough to stop Mizos from coming out for the annual beef fest. With the central Indian government's recent push to ban beef consumption in the Northeast (mostly populated by indigenous tribal nations quite fond of their cow delicacies), this year's resistance via joyful consumption seemed to have additional teeth. While in prior years, the feast was a subtle celebration of Mizo autonomy, this year the register changed, as spirits were animated by the possibility of a true beef ban, and activists sought to make a notable statement against it.

Thousands of Mizos joined the "Beef Ban Bashing Banquet," organized by Mizo activists, waiting patiently in what seem to be an interminable line, while the summer monsoon poured down, pictured above. As a *sap* ("white foreigner"), who always stands out in Mizo crowds, I was pushed up to the front of the line and presented a Styrofoam bowl chock-full of beef stew. I would lie if I didn't say it tasted like resistance, especially since the protest was, not coincidentally, organized on the same day as the Home Minister's visit to Mizoram. The rain kept falling, and I, who always forgot an umbrella, ignored my soaked clothes as I slowly enjoyed the beef and the banners put up by Mizo activists: "Accept our difference or expect resistance," "Beef ban: religious arrogance, historical genocide, cultural fascism," "A voice came to Peter, 'Get up, kill, and eat them.'"



Big Deal: Are You Indian (July 2018)

In their anti-racist hip-hop song, "Are You Indian," Big Deal and Gubbi present a fictional scene in which mainland Indians go through a long list of stereotypes and prejudices against Northeast Indians. The video begins with four Mainland and three Northeast Indians, pictured right, sitting across a dinner table, in an empty room. Gubbi breaks the silence with a common provocation most Mizos hear in Mainland India: **"WHO ARE YOU? WHAT YOU EVEN DOING IN HERE? PARDON MY IGNORANCE, BUT LATELY TOO MANY IMMIGRANTS IN INDIA/ DID YOU SNEAK IN THROUGH THE BORDER, YOU LOOK CHINESE/ I AIN'T RACIST, I JUST JUDGED YOU BASED ON HOW YOUR STUPID FACE IS."**

Gubbi throws on the table the usual racist stereotypes of Mizos and other Northeast Indians: intellectually inferior and immoral, dog-eating, loose women and emasculated men, who are too loud, but play the victim card, and who are often non-patriotic, even terrorists.

Once Gubbi's racist tirade ends, Big Deal responds in the name of all Northeast Indians: **"I AM ME, TRYNA FIT IN AS AN INDIAN CITIZEN/ I CAN'T PARDON YOUR IGNORANCE FOR THINKING I'M AN IMMIGRANT/ I LIVE BY THE BORDER, THE LEFT SIDE, OF COURSE/ YOU JUDGE ME BY MY FACE SO IT CLEARLY MAKES YOU A RACIST/ ARUNACHAL, ASSAM, MANIPUR, MIZORAM/ MEGHALAYA, TRIPURA, SIKKIM AND NAGALAND/ THIS IS THE NORTHEAST, SEVEN SISTERS OF THIS LAND/ WE BELONG RIGHT HERE, NOT IN CHINA OR JAPAN, NO!"**

Not surprisingly, with its bold take on the invisibility of indigenous Northeast people, the song went viral in Mizo circles, spurring heated conversations about the extent and nuances of the racism that Mizo face in Mainland India.

A Non-Conclusion (July 2018)

A good friend and interlocutor from Mizoram called me in the middle of the night, crying profusely. She had moved to Delhi a year ago to work in a five-star hotel. Through uncontrollable tears, she recounted her disappointing morning. A hotel guest, a mainland Indian woman, who apparently lived in the U.S., screamed at her: "Are you even Indian?!" "I'm Telugu, I want only Telugu to serve me."

Is Mizoram India, then? Are Mizo people Indians? As you might expect by now, the answer is: "Yes and no. It is terribly complicated."



Island Country, **GLOBAL ISSUES**

By Lin Lin

In the first two weeks of the New Year in 2018, SAP Manager Daniel Bass showed me around Sri Lanka, the idyllic island country of the Indian Ocean, which dazzled me with its beauty and charm. The heaps of snow and freezing temperature in central New York were timely replaced by the vast expanse of lush green palm leaves, coconut trees, and perpetual sunshine.

We first visited a number of institutions in Colombo, including the American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies (AISLS), Open University of Sri Lanka, and the Education for Social Cohesion Unit in the Ministry of Education. These visits showcased the great efforts that researchers, scholars, and university professors are making to improve education as part of the social reconciliation measures facilitated by governments and NGOs since the twenty-six-year war ended in 2009. None of the people who met with us are content with the governmental achievements in this aspect. With passion and devotion to this country's reconstruction, all of them anticipate more sizable changes in promoting social equality and pedagogical reforms in classrooms to help students develop critical historical thinking skills and make informed decisions as justice-minded citizens.

Father Alexis Premkumar was an example of one individual who approached similar issues with resolve and compassion. A Jesuit priest, formerly with Jesuit Refugee Services and now Director of a Jesuit NGO in Hatton, Father Alexis is Daniel Bass's friend and contact in Hatton, a town in the up-country tea estate area in the Central Province. He responds to locals' needs by teaching English and computer skills to young students at the Centre for Social Concern. His cheerful disposition became very contagious even as he shared stories of his years of experience working with refugees in Sri Lanka, India and Afghanistan. His continued commitment to social justice for up-country Tamils will undoubtedly inspire more people to care about his cause.

With the invaluable assistance of Father Alexis and his staff member, Yogitha John, we visited by car, in one day, three schools in the tea estates, zigzagging along the bumpy hilly roads. Teachers and children trek on such roads every day. These "difficult-area" schools, as the government defines them, do not have sufficient funding to provide a decent playground for the children, pictured above left, or equip most classrooms with necessary furniture and books in the library, let alone computers for students. The principals and teachers, such



as those in the photo above right, nevertheless, are strong believers in free education and its power to change lives. With the little they have, they provide students just as much attention and care as the principals and teachers in the more prestigious and well-funded Girls' High School that we had earlier visited in Kandy, pictured above, thanks to the efforts of Bandara Herath, Cornell's Senior Lecturer of Sinhala. It is reassuring to learn that teachers are all trained in three-year Colleges of Education across the island, and are contracted to teach in "difficult areas" for at least five years. It was encouraging to learn that a lecturer at the Peradeniya National College of Education had the opportunity to attend an exchange program in Australia, after which she started to make small but significant pedagogical changes to challenge students to become independent learners.

I also truly enjoyed meeting with Darshan Ambalavanar and his wife, Marilyn Weaver, in Batticaloa, the coastal city in the east that was severely devastated by the ethnic conflict and the 2004 tsunami. For years, they have been providing remarkable services at orphanages, the Church of the American Ceylon Mission, and Suriya Women's Development Centre. Their mentorship and guidance have led many youths to a better future. They criticized history classes in Sri Lanka for not encouraging students to reflect upon what happened in the past. No discussions are held at all on modern political issues, let alone what led to the war from 1983 to 2009.

With heartfelt gratitude for the grant support from the South Asia Program, I appreciate the opportunity to travel to Sri Lanka for the first time. What's more, I was incredibly fortunate to have taken this journey with Daniel Bass (fourth from right in photo above right, with the author, second from right), whose extensive knowledge about the country, humility, and patience were a huge help along the way. Beyond visits with individuals and organizations, the everyday sites filled me with a tremendous sense of wonder: to watch a sunset on a rocky

Indian Ocean beach; to be so close to the large expanse of tea estates; to fold origami projects using recycled elephant poo paper; to spot kingfishers, Indian rollers, eagles, peacocks, and monkeys in the trees; to observe worship with drumming, lotus flowers, and rice at the Temple of the Tooth; and to take a boat tour on the lagoon in Batticaloa.

This trip, which was funded by Cornell's National Resource Center (NRC) grant from the U. S. Department of Education as an Overseas Learning Partner Faculty Development Opportunity, will not be my last trip to Sri Lanka. I hope that, for my next visit, Sri Lanka's enchanting Buddhist and Hindu temples, ancient and modern, will provide more access to persons with disabilities, and that schools, rich or poor, will equally have more space for students, both Sinhala and Tamil, whether Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, or Muslim, to learn to get along well with one another. I hope that children who lost parents in the war or the tsunami grow up self-reliant and educated, without fear, and that children at the tea estate schools walk on improved roads to schools that have more resources, as each child deserves an equitable education.

Perhaps Sri Lanka needs more than equitable education. Pushpakathan, a young artist and member of the faculty of art at Eastern University in Batticaloa who will be at Cornell this fall as a South Asian Studies fellow (see p. 29), lost his father in the war when he was only four. Undaunted, he uses his powerful art work to advocate for people who lost their beloved ones in the war. His work and efforts of many others call for serious and effective institutional reform with the support of the international community. When India and China wrestle with economic investments by building luxury hotels, fancy casinos, and high-end airports in Sri Lanka, I wish that they would instead start with humanitarian projects which aim to reach the grassroots, people who are in dire need for survival and sustainable development.

The First Lahore Biennale

By Kaitlin Emmanuel



Firoz Mahmud (Bangladesh), *Soaked Dreams of Future Families* series (2008-on).
Photographic transparency in lightbox

The inaugural Lahore Biennale (LBO1) hosted exhibitions at seven different venues across the city during March 18-31, 2018. The exhibition program followed a decentralized curatorial strategy in which multiple curators and an advisory committee held exhibitions at designated sites and venues. Chosen locations included conventional gallery settings such as the Lahore Museum and Alhamra Arts Council Complex, but also included heritage sites, such as the Lahore Fort, Shahi Hammam, and Mubarak Haveli in the Old City, and Bagh-e-Jinnah (formerly known as Lawrence Gardens).

Under the umbrella of the Lahore Biennale Foundation (LBF), the inaugural biennial program forms part of a long-term goal of fostering engagement with contemporary art in a noncommercial context, which is of critical import in a city like Lahore. Though the city has a well-established and thriving contemporary art scene, the city lacks a dedicated public space for contemporary art. The Foundation seeks to bridge the division between private and public by offering the infrastructure and resources to better engage a local public with artistic exchange and debate.

The Biennale's Academic Forum, organized by SAP Director Iftikhar Dadi, picked up on the need for scholarly exchange in its series of talks by visiting academics, artists, and writers. LBF was able to secure visas for visiting speakers, especially those often subject to unyielding border restrictions within South

Asia. The novelty of speaking in Lahore was not lost on many of these participants, whose talks often referenced the critical need for migration and exchange across borders. For example, film historian Ashish Rajadhyaksha mapped a cross-border relationship between Bombay and Lahore through what he calls the "Lahore effect." Though the two cities were isolated by the 1947 Partition, he made an argument for lingering traces of Lahore that permeate Bombay cinema, and for how cinema acts as a bridge between the two cities and communities. UCLA-based art historian Saloni Mathur reframed her research on modernist painter Amrita Sher-Gil by reexamining Sher-Gil's relationship to the city of Lahore, where she spent the last months of her life. The connection to Lahore shifted discussions of Sher-Gil's work beyond the nationalist Indian narrative in which she is enshrined in post-independence India, and more towards an understanding of her life and work through migratory themes.

The Forum also incorporated dialogue from outside South Asia. Cornell architectural historian Esra Akçan led the audience through a virtual tour of urban renewal projects in Istanbul since the 2000s to point to the effects of a neoliberal economy and regime on the city's architecture, which resonated with similar transformations taking place in Lahore over the last decade. Curator Gridthiya Gaweewong, Director of the Jim Thompson Art Center in Bangkok, discussed the particularities of the cultural landscape in Thailand, and how post-colonial criticism factors into her work. Thailand is an outlier within



Naeem Mohaiemen (Bangladesh/USA), *Two Meetings and a Funeral* (2017). Multi-channel digital video installation at Alhamra Art Centre

the region as a country that was never colonized by a Western power, yet Gawewong remains critical of this narrative. She pointed to the country's colonization through other forces, such as local elites, religious leaders, and Thai rulers.

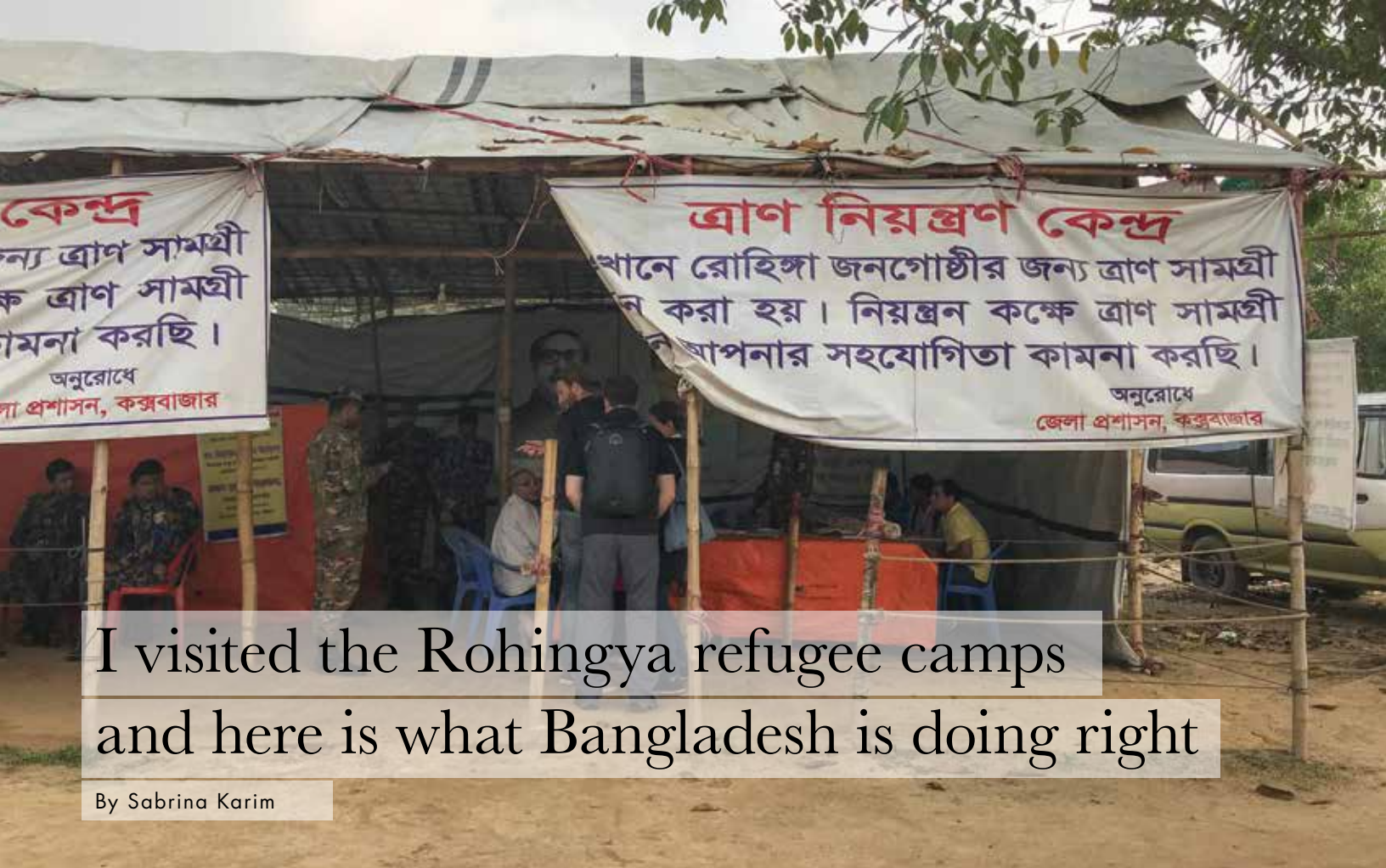
Outside the Forum's lecture series, invited speakers met with artists at studio visits and workshops, visited local universities, and led professional development seminars for young students and professionals working in the cultural sector. I attended the curatorial seminar with London-based Goldsmiths faculty member and Cornell PhD candidate Elvira Dyangani Ose, who led a discussion of post-colonial criticism and how such texts can help one rethink processes of knowledge production and curatorial practices. She challenged the workshop participants to rethink the structural dynamics of the institutions that dominate the South Asian art world. Her presentation was particularly relevant to the context of the Lahore Biennale, given that many of the participating artists and curators incorporated post-colonial criticism into their work.

In reflecting on the overall exhibition and academic program, what I found most striking about the inaugural Lahore Biennale was the way in which artists, curators, and scholars reframed the romantic narratives associated with sites around the city. Coming to Lahore as a first-time visitor, I heard many invoke the proverb "One who has not seen Lahore cannot be said to have been born (*Jine Lahore nahin vekhiya o jamia ee nahin*)."

The proverb romanticizes the city, but it also offers a

point of critical inquiry. To which Lahore does it refer? The city seen during the weeks of the Biennial attests to layers of history from centuries past and its contemporary present. It includes the cultural legacy of the Mughal era, the markers of colonial rule, and remnants of a violent partition that filter into the contemporary context. These histories exist beneath the veil of romanticism, and engaging with that history is critical to developing a more nuanced understanding of the present.

I found the more poignant works and programs of the Biennial to be those that made precisely this point. At the Lahore Museum, artists' criticism of colonial narratives addressed the lingering presence of colonial knowledge in the museum's display, where much of the original system of classification from the city's colonial era remains intact. Historical sites lauded by the city and state for their architectural legacy and tourist revenue, most notably the sites in the Old City, welcomed the addition of narratives that address criticisms of the state, histories of revolution, and calls for societal change. At the Academic Forum, academics acknowledged the limitations of knowledge production within the city's limited cultural infrastructure, while also proposing a way forward. Nuance, archival research, and critical analysis amongst artists and curators humbly challenged the predominance of romanticized and revisionist narratives that permeate the city, and attempted to reshape the city of Lahore for local residents, seasoned Biennial travelers, and first-time art participants alike.



I visited the Rohingya refugee camps and here is what Bangladesh is doing right

By Sabrina Karim

Nearly 1 million Rohingya refugees have entered Bangladesh from Myanmar since September 2017. The Bangladeshi government's plan to start repatriating them in January 2018 was postponed due to concerns about their safety. That the Bangladesh government agreed to the delay speaks to its benevolent attitude toward the Rohingya refugees. In a recent trip to Bangladesh I witnessed this benevolence firsthand. I saw roads adorned with pro-refugee banners. Even those with opposing political views have come together to support the Rohingyas.

The Bangladesh case stands in stark contrast to what happened in Europe in 2015, which faced an influx of a similar number of refugees, where many European countries saw rising anti-refugee sentiment among its political parties and a lack of a cohesive refugee management plan in the European Union. In Bangladesh, I witnessed how the refugee camps were being run in an efficient, effective and compassionate manner.

In August 2017 the Bangladeshi government allowed into the country a large influx of Rohingya refugees, who were escaping massacre by the Burmese military. The Burmese government claims that it was rooting out Rohingya terrorists who had attacked military posts. The United Nations, however, called these attacks "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing."

Since then, a massive number of Rohingyas crossed the border to come into Bangladesh, known to be one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Currently, over

half a million Rohingyas are living in refugee camp sites. The estimated costs of hosting them is \$1 billion dollars a year.

During the first few days of January 2018, I visited the camps and witnessed firsthand the scale of operations necessary to manage the camps. Since the beginning of the crisis, the Bangladeshi government set up a separate civilian authority to manage the refugee crisis. All domestic and international aid agencies must gain approval from this governing body to work in the country.

In addition, since September 2017, the government has deployed thousands of soldiers from the Bangladeshi military to manage the camps. The soldiers manage camp headquarters, where supplies are stored and guard the roads leading to the camps. To understand how big this camp is, and how widespread, think of a city as large as Austin, Texas.

I found the camps to be to be efficiently run and well-organized. They have been divided into administrative zones led by Rohingya leaders chosen by the Bangladeshi military. The all-male leaders are responsible for around 200 families each. They ensure that everyone under their watch gets provisions from the distribution sites and serve as the main contact for any kind of issue, be it finding information, or resolving disputes.

The government has also set up a large surveillance system, which includes a network of internal and external intelligence officers. They control who can or cannot enter into the camps. For example, I had to register the donations I took with me before being allowed to enter the road to the camps. No cash donations are allowed. Government officials told me that



they are taking these precautions to prevent drug and human trafficking and also to minimize the possibility of Rohingya recruitment by militant groups.

But there are other issues that the government cannot completely control. Among them is the spread of communicable diseases. In November 2017, an outbreak of diphtheria, a deadly bacterial throat infection, quickly claimed at least 31 lives. Additionally, I observed that there are concerns about environmental damage and loss of biodiversity as the government cleared forest reserve land to build the camps. Bangladesh's rapid response to the refugee crisis was possible due to the country's long-term experience with disaster management. After gaining independence in 1971, Bangladesh faced one of the worst famines in history because of flooding and chronic hunger, in which an estimated 300,000 to 1.5 million people died.

This disaster was not, however, a one-off event. Each year, the country is plagued with rains and cyclones, which claim many lives and displace people. As a result, the government has had to come up with a long-term crisis management plan. A vast network of local people who act as rapid first responders has helped decrease casualties, although a large number of deaths do occur every year. The same system was put to use during the refugee crisis.

Furthermore, Bangladesh has been a part of the United Nations' peacekeeping operations since 1988. This experience has allowed its military to understand how to manage a crisis where vulnerable populations are affected. Among other things, I observed how the military created "safe spaces" for women, children and the elderly in the camps.

In addition to peacekeeping experience, as the soldiers explained, it is a mix of military discipline and the Bangladeshi culture of hospitality that has enabled their success. It helps, of course, that the Rohingya are devoutly Muslim and share a religious identity with Bangladeshis, though not language or ethnicity. These similarities might make empathy and compassion more possible, but soldiers and aid workers point to something else that motivates them to care for the Rohingya: Bangladesh's own history. They point to the parallels between the Rohingya crisis and the violence during 1971 liberation war, when East Pakistan won independence from Pakistan and became Bangladesh.

One aid worker, in particular, mentioned that she heard reports of Burmese military camps in which Rohingya women

were forced to visit soldiers at night. She recalled how sexual violence was rampant during the liberation war as well. She told me that she felt a particular affinity for helping the Rohingya for this reason.

The question is, will this treatment last? Rohingya refugees I spoke to do not want to go back to Myanmar. Several women described to me the violence they had been through. One woman showed me how she had been shot in the neck and another pointed to the extensive burns on her face. In the camps, they have food, shelter, schools, sanitation, and most importantly, peace. They are receiving goods and amenities that they have not seen before. This was also confirmed by aid workers, who told me that the refugees have come from such deprivation that, at times, they have to be told not to eat the soap that is given to them. Many have never seen daily toiletry items such as soap, toothpaste and moisturizers.

But the government of Bangladesh is also apprehensive about integrating the refugees too well into Bangladeshi society. I observed, for example, that the Rohingya children are prohibited from learning the local Bangla language in camp schools and are only taught Burmese and English. Any integration into Bangladeshi society would give fodder to the Burmese government's claim that the Rohingya are Bangladeshi immigrants to Myanmar. There is also the fear of radicalization. Extremist groups have tried to recruit Rohingya into their organizations in the past.

There are other issues as well: In the long haul, Bangladesh cannot sustain the current population. Almost 1 in 4 Bangladeshis live in poverty. While it is true that Bangladesh's economy has improved over the past several years – a reason, government officials explained to me, that the country could provide aid in the early stages of the refugee crisis – this is not sustainable in the long run.

The economic strain is already noticeable in Cox's Bazar, where many of the refugee camps are located. The local population is starting to complain about rising costs and job shortages. With the potential for national elections this year or the next, public opinion matters. The plan to repatriate the refugees has been put on hold because of continued violence in Myanmar and an anti-Rohingya sentiment. With repatriation delayed, Bangladesh will need more international help. This is not a crisis it can manage alone.

Originally appeared in *The Conversation* (January 25, 2018)

CRITICAL TIES:

INDIA FIRST DESTINATION ON PRESIDENT POLLACK'S ALUMNI TOUR

By Ayesha Banerjee

In January 2018, Martha Pollack made her first international trip as president of Cornell University, travelling to India. On the eve of her travel, she spoke with the *Hindustan Times* newspaper about her engagements in India and Cornell's research and teaching partnerships with Indian institutes.



IN CONJUNCTION WITH AN EXHIBITION AT THE CORNELL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IN FALL 2017, THE OFFICES OF PRESIDENT MARTHA POLLACK WERE DECORATED WITH IMAGES FROM THE BOMBAY POETS ARCHIVE, HELD AT CORNELL.

DO LET US KNOW ABOUT YOUR ENGAGEMENTS AND THE OUTCOMES YOU ARE HOPING FOR:

During my first year as Cornell's president, I am meeting with university alumni in key locations around the globe. India, where Cornell's longstanding and deep engagement has generated a rich array of research and teaching partnerships, and alumni connections, is the first international destination on my alumni tour.

Virtually all of Cornell's colleges, major centers and programs across the university, interact with India in some form, including 19 active partnerships with institutions in India. This year there are over 580 students from India studying at Cornell. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know many alumni, parents of current students and friends of Cornell while in India.

PLEASE LET US KNOW ABOUT THE RESEARCH PROJECTS CORNELL IS ENGAGED IN WITH INDIAN INSTITUTES AND THE IMPACT EXPECTED AT THE GROUND LEVEL IN INDIA.

One research program that I'm particularly enthusiastic about is the Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition (TCI) led by Prabhu Pingali, a professor in Cornell's Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management. This is a long-term research initiative focused on solving problems of poverty, malnutrition, and rural development in India. TCI brings together the technical capacity of Cornell graduate students across a range of fields with the on-the-ground knowledge of academic and non-governmental partner institutions in India.

Among TCI's current projects is an effort to address micronutrient malnutrition, especially iron deficiency anemia, a pilot clean drinking water technology system in the Jharkhand villages of Gufu and Ronhe and a project to improve soil health as a way to produce more food with fewer resources.

Another ongoing partnership worth mentioning is the Nilgiris Field Learning Centre. The Centre connects Cornell's students and faculty with community members in Nilgiris and its mission is to address health, land use and livelihood issues identified as important by the community. Cornell faculty develop the education modules, direct field work, and teach on site. Classes bring together Cornell and local students and take place in a dedicated campus in Kotagiri set up by the Keystone Foundation, which is Cornell's partner in this effort.

In the area of nutritional science, Professor Saurabh Mehta, one of Cornell's international faculty fellows, is working in Mumbai and Hyderabad to improve nutrition and health screening in areas where resources are limited. As a former physician in India, Mehta takes a practical approach that focuses on upgrading the quality of service in a way that is cost-effective. One of his group's recent efforts aims at equipping health care centers with smartphone-based devices which can measure vitamin D levels from a single drop of blood.

ANY PROJECT SPECIFICALLY DEAR TO YOUR HEART AND WHY?

One of my priorities is for Cornell to continue to provide what I have called "education with verve." What I have in mind is the passion for exploration and

discovery that we imbue in our students. There is no single formula for this sort of education. It can include inspiring lectures and active and engaged learning experiences. It can make use of technology to "flip" the classroom, so that students spend time outside of class watching video lectures or podcasts, with time in class devoted to problem-solving and in-depth discussion with the professor. Learning analytics can help guide the learning of individual students and the way professors teach and it can help shape curricular change. Technology can also help students in dispersed locations participate remotely in higher education.

Education with verve, Cornell style, is happening in India right now. Cornell's International Agriculture and Rural Development 6020 class - Cornell's oldest international engaged learning class - is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year (see p. 31). More than 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students and hundreds of faculty members, from Cornell and partner institutions, have been influenced by the course since it began in 1968.

For the past 16 years the course has been taught simultaneously in Ithaca and collaboratively online and includes students and professors from several state agricultural universities in India. The course first took Cornell students to India during Cornell's intersession in 2001, and right now, 39 students from the Ithaca campus and 12 students from India, along with their professors, are in India learning about agricultural systems, rural infrastructure, fiber science and other topics while participating in cultural and heritage events.

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FORMATION OF ADVISORY COUNCIL



On October 17-18, 2018, the South Asia Program hosted the inaugural meeting of the South Asia Program Advisory Council. Seeking to make our governance structure more global and to ensure that we fulfill our mission in a rapidly changing international context, SAP formed the Advisory Council, comprised of key faculty and friends of the South Asia Program (including loyal alumni) with strong connections to and in South Asia. The Council will help us maintain the scope and sophistication of the gamut of SAP activities, and deepen connections between SAP and other global nodes. Council members are: Kaushik Basu, Anuj Bhagwati (BS '91, MS '94), Anne Blackburn, Iftikhar Dadi, Neville Edirisinghe (PhD '82), Rounaq Jahan, Rohan Murty (BS '05), Porus Olpadwala, Biru Paksha Paul, Bina Pradhan (MPS '92 PhD '95), Iqbal Quadir, Ali Raza Siddiqui, Samir Somaiya, and Brinda Somaya.

Embodied Belongings

Symposium Highlights Cutting Edge Queer Research

By Emera Bridger Wilson

To further complicate and explore the ways in which ideas of gender and sexuality are embodied in South Asian communities, the “Embodied Belongings” symposium, organized by the Cornell-Syracuse South Asia Consortium, bookended with artistic performances that embodied the academic analysis.

On October 5-6, 2017, the South Asia Center at Syracuse University welcomed scholars of gender and sexuality studies in South Asia to discuss how the field has shifted over time.

Artist Vivek Shraya opened the symposium with a discussion of her experiences with being and belonging in Alberta, Canada and how her relationships with her family shaped her experience of being transgender. She read from a variety of her written work including excerpts from *Even this Page is White* and *The Boy and the Bindi*.

In her keynote address, Gayatri Reddy (Anthropology, University of Illinois-Chicago), traced the social, economic and political currents that influenced her ground-breaking work, *With Respect to Sex: Negotiating Hijra Identity in South India* and what has changed in the years since she began her research. In the 1980s and 1990s, AIDS-related public health interventions led to the creation of the behavioral category, men who have sex with men (MSM), and the more indigenous term, *kothi*. However, both terms subsumed the category of “hijra” in a way that was fraught with tension. In the 2000s another linguistic shift occurred in which the term “transgender” became increasingly common. “Much like the MSM and *kothi* labels in the previous decade, what seems to have occurred in the 2000s was a consolidation and institutionalization of the category “transgender”...creating both an overly bounded understanding of this category as well as a deepening schism between transgendered, often or only focusing on trans women, and MSM communities,” Reddy pointed out.

Following Reddy’s remarks, there were three panels focusing on different aspects of the queer South Asian experience. The first, “On the Cutting Edge,” featured four graduate students or recent graduates whose research explored new territory in the field of Queer Studies, both in terms of topic and method. The second panel, “Social Contours of Queer Belonging,” examined the intersections of politics and law and queer belonging at the State level. Finally, “Queering Art and Literature,” explored issues of belonging and representation in the South Asian arts.



From each of these panels emerged wide-ranging but exciting discussion on the future of queer studies, both in South Asia and the diaspora. Svati Shah (Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, University of Massachusetts-Amherst), captured this well in her remarks, stating, “One of the things that I feel, well, very moved by actually is that many of us have been involved with what we have been calling South Asian Gender and Sexuality Studies for a long time. But after today, I have really seen that there could also something called South Asian Queer and Trans Studies.” She called on the audience to continue these conversations so that this new field could be institutionalized in some way.

SAP’s 2017 Tagore Lecturer in Modern Indian Literature, the Sri Lankan-Canadian author, Shyam Selvadurai, (see p. 17), closed the symposium with a reading from his debut novel, *Funny Boy*. Through his fiction, as well as his own personal story, Selvadurai explores what it means to develop a sense of self-acceptance and feeling of belonging.

This symposium was sponsored by the Cornell-Syracuse Consortium for South Asia with support from the Department of Education Title VI Grant, College of Arts and Sciences Ray Smith Symposium, Humanities Center, Department of Anthropology, Department of Religion, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Department of English, Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs, Department of Writing Studies, Rhetoric, and Composition, LGBT Program, and the Ford Maxwell Professor of South Asian Studies.

Sri Lanka:

Critical Reflections on Legacies of Authority and Difference

On October 13-14, 2017, Cornell hosted the eighth annual Sri Lanka Graduate Conference for the first time. “Sri Lanka: Critical Reflections on Legacies of Authority and Difference” brought together graduate students from across North America and Europe to the Cornell campus, home to a rich history in Sri Lankan Studies. 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 four faculty mentors: Vasuki Nesiah (Law, New York University), M. Shobhana Xavier (Religious Studies, Ithaca College), Anne Blackburn (Asian Studies & South Asia Program, Cornell) and Daniel Bass (Anthropology and South Asia Program, Cornell). One student expressed relief that, unlike at his home institution, he didn’t have to provide background about Sri Lanka, such as who Anagarika Dharmapala was, allowing participants to delve into the details of his project.

The public portion of the conference kicked off Friday evening, with the American debut performance of “My Other History” by Ruhanie Perera and Jake Oorloff, the founders of Floating Space Theatre Company, Colombo, who were already on campus as South Asian Studies Fellows (see p. 16). The play, written by Oorloff, explores the idea of reconciliation as a moment of remembrance, a process of letting go, an act of listening as much as that of confrontation. After a powerful performance, the audience engaged in a substantial Q&A session with the performers. Perera and Oorloff had actually altered the play for this performance, providing English translations for some Sinhala and Tamil words, and also reincorporating material that had been previously censored in Sri Lanka.

The Cornell graduate student organizing committee, Geethika Dharmasinghe (Asian Studies), Kaitlin Emmanuel



(History of Art) and Aimee Douglas (Anthropology), innovatively organized the public conference panels on Saturday October 14 around methodological, rather than disciplinary, concerns, which led to some unexpected pairings. In the first panel, “Ethnography and Difference,” Daisy Perry (South Asian Studies, University of London) and Tharindi Udalgama (Anthropology, Durham University) presented their original, ethnographic research on political life in Sri Lanka, whether women’s participation in electoral politics or the everyday politics of managing seen and unseen authorities in rural villages. The second panel, “Arguments and Authority,” featuring Ranitri Weerasuriya (Architecture, Columbia University) and Tyler Lehrer (History, University of Wisconsin–Madison), focused on conflicts over environmental issues, urban redevelopment, gender roles and the place of the *sangha* in Sri Lankan society.

The third panel, “Positionality and Subjectivity,” with Devaka Gunawardena (Anthropology, University of California-Los Angeles) and Shelby Ward (Alliance for Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought, Virginia Tech), analyzed activism, tourism, development and mapping in contemporary post-war Sri Lanka. Cornell faculty Andrew Wilford (Anthropology), Anne Blackburn (Asian Studies) and Hayden Kantor (Anthropology) served as discussants for the panels, providing insight and context from throughout South and Southeast Asia. The good weather, colorful fall foliage and roiling waterfalls that weekend facilitated a good mood for conversations and intellectual exchanges throughout the weekend. SAP will be hosting the conference again, on November 9-10, 2018, with a theme of “Borders: Real and Imagined.”

URBAN SOUTH ASIA WRIT SMALL CONFERENCE

By Noah Schumer and Nidhi Subramanyam

South Asian urbanity is multi-faceted. However, it has mostly been understood through the lifestyles and challenges of residents in its globally linked megacities. Less attention has been paid to the social, political, economic, and cultural conditions in smaller cities, with population thresholds below one million, which house a majority of urban South Asians. What are the various global and regional networks that these small cities and towns are embedded in? What are their growth trajectories and what role can policies play? What form is modernity taking in these smaller places that straddle the global as well as the rural-urban divide differently from the metros? Why do small cities matter?

These were the questions animating the *Urban South Asia Writ Small* conference, held at Cornell April 20-21, 2018.

Organized by the Cornell–Syracuse South Asia Consortium, the conference drew expertise from the fields of anthropology, planning, economics, history, art, and religious studies to investigate urbanization processes in South Asia’s small cities. Academics from several universities across the United States, as well as India, Pakistan, France, and the United Kingdom, presented their work on small cities.

The keynote presentation by Ann Grodzins Gold (Religion & Anthropology, Syracuse University), “Jahazpur Passages: Thinking Through a Rajasthan Market Town,” described the various disciplinary and methodological lenses or passages through which small towns may be entered, thus, setting the stage for the inter-disciplinary conversations that followed over the next two days. The conference was structured around three panels, which examined the histories of small town urbanism in





South Asia, regional linkages and planning practices that shape their development, and socio-cultural transformations effected by globalization.

An exhibition, featuring books, photographs, and maps from the Cornell Library collection, complemented the paper presentations. Naila Mahmoud's photographs of Karachi, *Aam Aadmi* (Ordinary people), curated by Iftikhar Dadi (History of Art, Cornell), pictured above left, brought to life the everyday lived experiences of millions of urbanites in South Asia. A documentary film, *Supermen of Malegaon*, directed by Faiza Ahmed Khan, followed by a video-taped Q&A with the director, provided a window into homegrown art production in a small Indian manufacturing town.

As various conference participants observed, small cities and towns are idiosyncratic entities that may be inward-looking, just as they are parts of larger networks or flows of people, culture, goods, and waste. In many cases, small cities are places of diminished economic opportunity, points of departure for people seeking better paying jobs in the large metropolises that comprise the nodes of the global capitalist system. Such was a point that Anjum Altaf (Consortium for Development Policy Research, Lahore), made in describing the challenge of "brain drain" in small and medium-sized Pakistani cities.

Despite these economic struggles, small cities elsewhere in South Asia are increasingly becoming places of refuge for the wealthy, some of whom are choosing to escape the crises of pollution, congestion, and poor infrastructure plaguing megacities. Amita Bhide (Habitat Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai), pointed out that while the policy goal for many planners in the U.S. is to retrofit urban sprawl through infill development and mixed-use densification, Indian planners grapple with the challenges of overpopulation and cramped space. Farhana Ahmad (City & Regional Planning, Cornell) noted that climate change and water crises are other challenges that small cities, particularly those in Bangladesh, face. As the trajectory of growth varies considerably across small cities, Eric Denis (CNRS, Paris), stressed the importance of granular studies to uncover these subaltern forms of urbanization. Whether and how small cities will assume greater significance in future as laboratories

of innovation for new forms of planning and sustainable urbanization with a higher quality of life is a pressing question as South Asia continues to urbanize in small cities.

Other participants demonstrated that cultural shifts in small cities were as complex as their governance challenges. Small cities are spaces that preserve provincial culture but are simultaneously emblematic of their respective national cultures. In discussing his ethnographic findings from Dambulla, a small city in central Sri Lanka, Luke Heslop (Anthropology, London School of Economics), noted that the city serves as a kind of national crossroads that contains within its boundaries cultural elements from the entire island. Dan Gold (Asian Studies, Cornell), presented a documentary titled, *Hippopotamus Street*, that examined the particularities of religious identities and changing social relations in a neighborhood in the small city of Gwalior. Will Glover (History, University of Michigan) highlighted that small towns and cities are also crucial in understanding processes of rural and agrarian change.

Although contemporary ethnographies have substantial value, how do we contextualize the development of small cities when their histories are absent from colonial archives? Using the case of Mirzapur, India, Michael Dodson (History, Indiana University), discussed the role of archives in documenting place and the implications of being written out of the archive on shaping small town development. Although small cities may have disappeared from the archives or may struggle with poverty and governance challenges, the rich conversations that took place in the intimate setting of the A.D. White House underscored the importance of small towns in contemporary South Asia.

The conference was jointly organized by Dan Gold and Neema Kudva from Cornell University, and Carol Babiracki and Ann Gold from Syracuse University, pictured left. It was a collaborative effort between the Cornell-Syracuse South Asia Consortium and Cornell's Department of City and Regional Planning and was funded by the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies and the U.S. Department of Education through a Title VI grant.



Photography by Naiza Khan

South Asian Studies Fellows

The inaugural group of five South Asian Studies fellows were in residence at Cornell for two to three months in the 2017-2018 academic year. 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 gives a presentation, exhibition, and/or performance.

Aziz Sohail, an Independent curator and writer from Karachi, Pakistan, came to Cornell to research “Visual & Cultural Production in 1990’s Karachi.” Working closely with History of Art Professor Iftikhar Dadi, Sohail examined Dadi’s archive of Pakistani Pop Art and refined his theoretical framework for analyzing this movement, leading to to curate a survey of the artist, Roohi Ahmed.

Ruhanie Perera and Jake Oorloff, the founders of Floating Space performance arts company, Colombo, Sri Lanka, used the fellowship for “Archiving Practice: Reflecting on Floating Space Theatre Company’s Performance-Making Approaches and Politics in the Context of the Conflict and Cultural Landscape of Sri Lanka,” They interviewed each other and recorded an archive of their company’s ten-year history, allowing them to reexamine their future as well. In addition, they performed “My Other History” on campus (see page 13).

Tarangini Sriraman, Assistant Professor, School of Liberal Studies, Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India, came to campus in November 2017. Her project on “Itineraries of Evidence: Refugees and their Displaced Documents of Identity” examined the history of identification documents in India, especially before, during and after Partition. While on campus, she finalized the manuscript for her first book, *In Pursuit of Proof: A History of Identification Documents in India*, published in July 2018.

Aziz Ali Khan, National Manager, Natural Resources Management, Aga Khan Foundation, Kabul, Afghanistan, was on campus in Spring 2018, working on “Vulnerability and Disaster Risk Assessments in the Emerging Scenario of Climate Change in North-Eastern Afghanistan.” Aziz Ali Khan furthered SAP’s links with the Department of Natural Resources, and he collaborated with Professor Karim-Aly Kassam in their shared research interests in the Palmir and Himalayan mountains.



Writing Myself into the Diaspora

Shyam Selvadurai

On September 8, Sri Lankan-Canadian author Shyam Selvadurai delivered the 2017 Rabindranath Tagore Lecture in Modern Indian Literature, which 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.

The author of *Funny Boy*, *Cinnamon Gardens* and *The Hungry Ghosts* read an excerpt from the latter book, preceded by a reading from his introduction to his edited work, *Story-Wallah: A Celebration of South Asian Fiction*, from which the following is excerpted.

I am often invited to read from my novels in public, and, if there is a question period afterwards, someone inevitably stands up to ask the following: "What kind of a writer do you consider yourself to be? Are you a Canadian writer or a Sri Lankan writer?"

It is perplexing, this matter of cultural identity, and I am tempted, like some other writers of multiple identities, to reply grumpily, "I'm just a bloody writer. Period."

Yet this response would be disingenuous. I suppose I could answer, "Sri Lankan-Canadian writer," or "Canadian-Sri Lankan writer." But this also does not get to the heart of what I consider my identity to be as a writer (and we are talking of my writing identity here). For, in terms of being a writer, my creativity comes not from "Sri Lankan" or "Canadian" but precisely from the space between, that marvelous open space represented by the hyphen, in which the two parts of my identity jostle and rub up against each other like tectonic plates, pushing upwards the eruption that is my work.

It is from this space between that the novels come. From a double-visionness, a biculturalism.

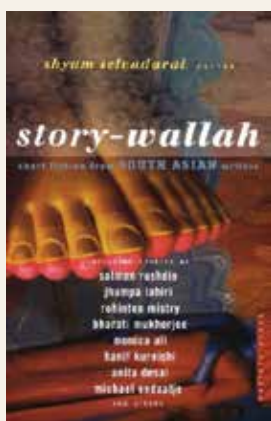
For the majority of people, a dual identity is a burden forced on them by the fact that their bodies, or their skins to be precise, do not represent the nation-state they are in, thus compelling them to constantly wear their difference on their sleeve and carry it around on their back. In my day-to-day interactions with the world outside, I share the irritation, the burden, the occasional danger of this visible otherness. But

when I close the door to my study and sit at my computer, that biculturalism becomes the site of great excitement, of great marvel, the very source of my creativity. It is from this space in-between, represented by the hyphen, that I have written what I consider Canadian novels set exclusively in Sri Lanka. For though the material may be Sri Lankan, the shaping of that material and the inclusion, for example, of themes of gay liberation or feminism are drawn from the life I have lived in Canada. Homosexuality is illegal in Sri Lanka and the very real threat of physical violence and intimidation might have stopped me from exploring this theme had I lived there (being not of a particularly brave disposition). My thoughts and attitudes,

indeed my craft as a writer, have been shaped by my life here in Canada. It is from the dash of these cultures, which occurs in the space between, that the conflicts in my plot lines arise. Without them my novels would be deathly boring to read.

Not to write from the space in-between would diminish me.

Originally appeared in Shyam Selvadurai, ed. 2005 *Story-Wallah: A Celebration of South Asian Fiction* (New York: Houghton Mifflin), p. 1-2.
Photography by Kevin Kelly



ARTS, EVENTS & CONCERTS

As in previous years, Cornell student and faculty groups were active in 2017-2018, bringing distinguished performing artists from South Asia to the Cornell campus. SAP was proud to support and co-sponsor these events.

In October, Renjith and Vijna, a husband and wife *bharat natyam* duo, pictured below, performed at Barnes Hall for SPICMACAY's fall concert, ending with a series of dances, embodying Radha and Krishna, which enthralled the audience. The Carnatic classical vocalist, T. M. Krishna, came to perform at Asha for Education's benefit concert in March. Not only did he offer a moving musical performance, but he also spoke at Becker House on his activism and life as a public intellectual in India, for which he won the Ramon Magsaysay Award in 2016.

The renowned exponent of the bamboo flute, Shashank Subramanyam, performed for SPICMACAY's spring concert in April, accompanied by Kamalakiran Vinjamuri on violin and Parupalli Phalgun on mridangam.

In June, Prahlad Singh Tipaniya sang Kabir songs to a rapt audience, thanks to the efforts of Senior Lecturer Sujata Singh. His harmonium player provided English translations of all of the Hindi lyrics, as well as Prahlad Singh Tipaniya's remarks about them, allowing everyone present to appreciate the songs' beauty and message.



Film Fashion in Sri Lanka

In Spring 2018, Athula Samarakoon, a Fulbright Professional Development Fellow, was a Visiting Scholar with the South Asia Program, with a project on "Representing Sri Lanka through Cinematic Image." Samarakoon is currently Senior Lecturer in the Department of Fine Arts, at the University of Peradeniya.

SAP hosted the US debut of two of Samarakoon's films, *Casting Untouchable Beats: The Story of the Drum Makers*, on the marginalized Sinhala drum maker community; and *Jaffna: A Glimpse at a Heritage of Trades*, about hereditary occupations in the Northern Tamil city. Samarkoon also screened both films for Sinhala and Tamil students at the South Asia Summer Language Institute (SASLI) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

While on campus, Samarkoon mounted "Fashion and Identity in Sri Lankan Cinema: An Exhibition of Archival Film Stills" at Mann Library, featuring the accompanying image. This exhibition explored perceptions and representations of socio-cultural identities across the latter half of the twentieth century through cinematic portrayals of clothing fashion.



SUBHANKAR BANERJEE,

"once a physicist," is a self-taught artist and writer, and an accidental activist. He is Lannan Foundation Endowed Chair and Professor of Art & Ecology, with additional appointments in the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies and the Sustainability Studies Program, at the University of New Mexico. In March 2018, he spoke at Cornell on "Multispecies Justice - Against Extinction & Extraction," sharing stories and photos of his work in the arctic and elsewhere.

Snow Geese I, Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, 2002.
Photograph by Subhankar Banerjee



The Tangled Roots of the Rohingya Crisis

By Geethika Dharmasinghe

In Fall 2017, SAP co-sponsored two events that shed light on the current Rohingya crisis in Myanmar and Bangladesh (see p.8). Gayatri Spivak, University Professor and Professor of English and comparative literature at Columbia University, pictured above, spoke on "The Rohingya Issue in a Global Context," to a standing-room only audience. While Spivak is a well-known literary and postcolonial theorist and feminist critic, she spoke about her years of political action among the Rohingya, providing social, historical and political background for this crisis.

The following week, a roundtable called "The Roots of the Rohingya Crisis: The Eradication of a Myanmar Ethnic Group" featured Michael W. Charney, Myanmar scholar and professor at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and Burmese human rights researcher Eaint Thiri Thu. Charney traced the history of Rohingya and ethnic relations in the area back centuries before the British colonial presence altered local understandings of nationality and belonging.

The series was organized by the Collective of Concerned Students on Global Issues and supported by the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, the Southeast Asia Program, the South Asia Program, the Comparative Muslim Societies Program, and faculty whose work focuses on Myanmar.

Originally appeared in *Cornell Chronicle* (October 17, 2017)



Indian Ocean politics in the 21st century

by Amol Rajesh

On October 31, 2017, Robert Blake, former U.S. ambassador to Sri Lanka and Indonesia, pictured above, and Tissa Jayatilaka, director of the U.S.-Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission, analyzed contemporary geopolitical dynamics of the Indian Ocean region. This roundtable, sponsored by the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies and moderated by SAP Director Anne Blackburn, illuminated the nexus of the U.S., Indian, Sri Lankan, and Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean.

While India sees the Indian Ocean as its strategic backyard, China has expanded the size of its fleets and developed foreign ports in recent years, Blake said. Rising tensions have led the U.S. to cement its partnership with India, Blake added, but the U.S. has only recently begun to play a more active role in the region. "For many years we neglected the Indian Ocean. We turned our backs on the Indian Ocean and focused more on the land based interests that we had in Africa, Middle East and Asia," he said. The ongoing partnerships between Japan, India and the U.S. are indispensable to prevent future tensions in the Indian Ocean region, he concluded.

Therefore, Sri Lanka's goals and foreign policy objectives in the region should be to keep vital sea lanes open to all in a mutually beneficial and sustainable manner, Jayatilaka argued. "Through a pragmatic foreign policy, based on avoidance of alliances with any one power bloc and maintaining friendship with all, Sri Lanka should be able to play a constructive role in the Indian Ocean," he added.

Originally appeared in *Cornell Daily Sun* (October 31, 2017)

August 30: "Fostering Youth Voices Supporting Human Rights and Global Citizenship," Gertrude Noden (Founder, Words into Deeds)

September 8: "Writing Myself into the Diaspora," Rabindranath Tagore Lecture in Modern Literature, Shyam Selvadurai (Novelist and Editor)

September 11: "The Paradox of Vinod Kumar Shukla," Arvind Mehrotra (Poet and Translator)

September 13: "Ethnographic Encounters: Using Anthropological Methods for Intercultural Learning" Hayden Kantor (Anthropology, Cornell University)

September 13: "Teaching Hindi Through Service Learning" Sujata Singh (Asian Studies, Cornell University)

September 15: "The Archive and the City of Bombay" Symposium

September 18: "Interpreting Low and Falling Female Labor Force Participation in India: A Puzzle within a Puzzle," Alaka Basu (Development Sociology, Cornell University)

September 19: "The Tiger and the Tube-well: Malevolent Environments in Rural India," A. R. Vasavi (Social Anthropologist, Bengaluru)

September 25: "Evolving Strategic Contours in the Indian Ocean: A Sri Lankan Perspective," Gamini Keerawella, (Deputy Head, Embassy of Sri Lanka to the USA)

September 27: "Teaching with Objects: Global Education at the Johnson Museum," Carol Hockett (Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University)

September 27: "Education Trumps Politics: Teaching at a Muslim Theological University Overseas During the 2016 Election," Alexandra Hartley (Fulbright English Teaching Assistant, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina)

October 3: *Khoon Diy Baarav* (*Blood Leaves It's Trail*), film screening and Q&A with director, Iffat Fatima

October 4: "Marketing a Different Idea of the Child to Indian Citizens," South Asia Development Forum, Nita Kumar (History, Claremont McKenna College)

October 11: "The Struggle for an Education: Teaching Malala and Pennies for Peace," Wendy Wright (Teacher, Lansing Elementary School)

October 13: "My Other History," performance, Ruhanie Perera & Jake Oorloff (Floating Space Theatre Company)

October 14: "Sri Lanka: Critical Reflections on Legacies of Authority and Difference" Conference

October 15: "Natyanjali: A Bharatanatyam Dance Duet," dance performance, Renjith and Vijna

October 16: "Forest Land, Forced Dispossession, and Fantasy Constitutions," Anand Vaidya, (Department of Sociology, University of Bergen)

October 16: "Fundamental Rights under the Indian Constitution," Jasti Chelameswar (Justice, Supreme Court of India)

October 18: "Not the End of the Book: Reviving Indian Classical Literature," Rohan Narayana Murty (Founder, Murty Classical Library)

October 23: "Two Frameworks of Religio-philosophical Pluralism," Rajeev Bhargava (Director, Institute of Indian Thought, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies)

October 24: *Nostalgia for the Future*, film screening and Q&A with filmmakers Avijit Mukul Kishore and Rohan Shivkuma

October 25: "Student Mobility, Cultural Exchange, and Neoliberal Education," Susan Thomas (Cultural Foundations of Education, Syracuse University)

October 30: "A Case of Exploding Markets: Latin American & South Asian Literary 'Booms' in a Comparative Perspective," Roanne Kantor (Comparative Literature, Harvard University)

October 30: "The Rohingya Issue in a Global Context," Gayatri Spivak (English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University)

October 31: "Indian Ocean Politics in the 21st Century," Roundtable Discussion, Robert Blake (Former US Ambassador to Sri Lanka) and Tissa Jayatilake (Director, Sri Lanka Fulbright Commission)

November 1: "Home in the City, Bombay 1977-Mumbai 2017," Sooni Taraporevala (Screenwriter and Photographer)

November 3-4: "Haunted: Temporalities of History and (Moving) Image in 'Asia,'" Conference

November 6: "Jihad as Grand Strategy: Islamist Militancy, National Security, and the Pakistani State," S. Paul Kapur (National Security Affairs, U. S. Naval Postgraduate School)

November 6: "Practice as Politic: A Sharing of Research Insights from the Performance Archive of Floating Space Theatre Company," Ruhanie Perera & Jake Oorloff (Founders, Floating Space Theatre Company)

November 7: "The Roots of the Rohingya Crisis: The Eradication of a Myanmar Ethnic Group," Roundtable Discussion, Michael W. Charney (Asian and Military History, University of London) and Eaint Thiri Thu (Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota)

November 8: "Promoting Teacher Candidates' Global Perspectives," Lin Lin (Social Studies Education, SUNY-Cortland)

November 8: "Fostering Connection through Resources on Intercultural Education," Annalisa Raymer (Director, Community Service and Learning Partnership, Cornell University)

November 13: "Overcoming Ghosts of the Asian Green Revolution: Towards a Sustainable and Nutrition Secure Future," Prabhu Pingali (Applied Economics and Management, Cornell University)

November 15: "Rebels without a Cause?: Experiments and Innovation in Artistic Practice, Karachi 1989-1999," Aziz Sohail (Independent Curator & Writer, Karachi)

November 20: "Pedophilia in the Archive: The Gayer Anderson Twins and their Indian Painting Collection," Natalia Di Pietrantonio (History of Art & Visual Studies, Cornell University)

November 27: "Itineraries of Evidence: Refugees and their Displaced Documents of Identity," Tarangini Sriraman (Liberal Studies, Azim Premji University)

January 29: "Challenges for India's Economy: My Experience and Beyond," Kausik Basu (Economics, Cornell University)

February 26: "The Memory Card Phenomena in India: Vernacular Music and Download Cultures beyond Internet," "Rahul Mukherjee (Cinema and Media Studies, University of Pennsylvania)

March 2: "The Private and Public in an Artist," T. M. Krishna (Vocalist, Author and Activist)

March 3: Asha benefit concert, T.M. Krishna (Vocalist, Author and Activist)

March 5: "Gandhāran Buddhist Texts: An Overview and Case Study of the Oldest South Asian Manuscripts," Joe Marino (Asian Studies, Cornell University)

March 10: "Going Global: Leveraging Resources for International Education" Conference

March 12: "European Knowledge in Indian Tongues": Delhi College and the Politics of Translation in Colonial India," Osama Siddiqui (History, Cornell University)

March 13: "Multispecies Justice: Against Extinction & Extraction," Subhankar Banerjee (Lannan Chair and Professor of Art & Ecology University of New Mexico)

March 19: "Politics, Political Economy and the 'Permanent Minority': Race and the Indian Poor in Malaysia," Rupa Viswanath (Center for Modern Indian Studies, University of Göttingen)

March 26: "Now You See It, Now You Don't: A cultural history of the Indian Emergency (1975-1977)," Ayelet Ben-Yishai (English, University of Haifa)

March 27: "Rethinking Bilingualism: Multiple Perspectives from India," Shobha Satyanath (Linguistics, University of Delhi)

April 9: "From Sri Lanka to America: Bawa Muhaiyaddeen and Contemporary Transnational Sufism," Merin Shobhana Xavier (Religious Studies, Ithaca College)

April 13: Flute concert, Shashank Subramanyam

April 13-14: "Kings and Dictators: The Legacy of Monarchy and the New Authoritarianism in Asia" Conference

April 16: "Sovereign Figures in Colonial India (ca. 1858-1947)," Milinda Banerjee (History, Presidency University, Kolkata)

April 20-21: "Urban South Asia Writ Small" Conference

April 23: "Sex, Blasphemy and Terrorism: Bangladesh's Systematic Repression of its LGBTQ Communities," Raad Rahman (Writer in Residence, Ithaca City of Asylum)

April 30: "Leaks and the Hydraulic City," Nikhil Anand (Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania)

May 1: *Casting Untouchable Beats: The Story of the Drum Makers and Jaffna: A Glimpse at a Heritage of Trades*, film screenings and Q&A with director Athula Samarakoon (Fulbright Fellow, South Asia Program)

May 2: *Shifting Frames: Migration and the Movies in India*, work-in-progress film screening, with filmmakers Mary Woods (Architecture, Cornell University) & Vani Subramanian

June 12: "Kahat Kabira: The Kabir Experience," concert, Prahlad Singh Tipanya

GOING GLOBAL:

Cross-Cultural Communication Skills for the 21st century

By Brenna Fitzgerald



In her keynote address at the Going Global: Leveraging Resources for International Education conference on March 10, 2018, Carina Caldwell of Community Colleges for International Development emphasized the value of job skills such as intercultural competency, curiosity, and problem-solving over computer skills in the 21st century. Community colleges are hubs for international students and new Americans to get an education because of their affordability and vocational focus. The increasing multicultural demographic at community colleges opens the opportunity for American students to gain experience in cross-cultural communication and exposure to global perspectives by interacting with peers from other countries.

Sponsored by the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, the Southeast Asia Program, and the Cornell-Syracuse South Asia Consortium, using Title VI funding from US Department of Education National Resource Center grants, the conference, held at Tompkins Cortland Community College, presented ways in which area studies programs can serve educators, administrators, and libraries as hubs for internationalization at K-12 schools, community colleges, universities, and other organizations. Driving all conference presentations and panels was the shared understanding that schools and institutions of higher education have a collective

responsibility to train students in what it means to be a global citizen and equip them with the skills they will need to live and work in an increasingly connected world.

One way for students to gain cross-cultural experiences is through study abroad programs, which tend to be limited at community colleges due to budget constraints. However, partnering with institutions that have robust study abroad programs is one way to help students at community colleges gain access to international experiences. In reflecting on the value of institutional partnerships that provide short-term study abroad opportunities for students, faculty from Tompkins Cortland Community College, Onondaga Community College, and Cornell University provided numerous stories about their students' experiences during and after trips abroad. These narratives highlighted student growth prompted by exchanging diverse perspectives with local citizens and NGOs in foreign countries. They also discussed how students often become motivated post-study abroad to learn new languages and usually return home advocating the value of global learning.

Faculty members from community colleges and schools of education lauded the professional development opportunities offered by area studies programs at Cornell and Syracuse to develop courses with short-term global travel. They spoke of



the steps they took to internationalize their curricula, including attending workshops to further their knowledge of specific countries and initiating pen-pal exchanges with students and faculty in other countries. For example, Lin Lin, Associate Professor of Social Studies Education at SUNY-Cortland's School of Education, spoke about her trip to Sri Lanka in January 2018 and her plans to incorporate comparative research on education in Sri Lanka into her education courses in the hopes of widening future teachers' perspectives (see p. 4).

Other speakers championed leveraging technology, such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Zoom, Blackboard, and Google Hangouts, for global engagement and for facilitating cross-cultural class activities. From New York to Egypt, educators spoke of the ease with which students across cultures could connect with each other through various distance-learning platforms.

The panel on workforce readiness and global education was facilitated by Heather Singmaster, Associate Director of the Center for Global Education at the Asia Society. They explored the merits of equipping students with cultural competencies before they enter the workforce and discussed what skills these competencies translate to: communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, empathy, and networking.

"It's not difficult to find new hires with technical training. It is hard to find those with professional skills in

communication and relationship-building," said Christine Sharkey, Vice President of Corning Enterprises and the Director of Community Development. She talked about how communication skills have always been a high priority in Corning Inc.'s hiring process and that candidates who cannot relate well to people, especially to people they don't know, are not valuable to the organization. While underscoring that closing the skills gap is a responsibility of students, schools, and employers, speakers praised community colleges as centers of global activity and cross-cultural interaction. For many new Americans and American citizens, community college is where they start their higher education and careers as well as connect to people of other cultures, often for the first time.

Throughout the conference, educators and administrators alike grappled with difficult questions such as how to think through and address uncomfortable global cultural experiences. Andrew Wilford, professor of anthropology at Cornell, challenged the audience to imagine how a place like Cornell, with a history of immersing students in area studies, should bring culture alive so that it is not just a box that is checked but becomes "a learning process, something in motion."



Understanding the Global Impacts of **CLIMATE CHANGE**

By Valerie Foster Githinji and Brenna Fitzgerald

“The earth is our home...
charity begins at home...
teach climate hope,”

declared Mike Hoffman, Professor of Entomology and Executive Director of the Cornell Institute for Climate Smart Solutions, in his inspiring keynote talk at the 2018 International Studies Summer Institute (ISSI) workshop for teachers: Understanding the Global Impacts of Climate Change. Held in June on the Cornell campus and hosted by the Cornell-Syracuse South Asia Consortium and the Cornell Southeast Asia Program, the workshop for K-12 teachers and students of education the internationalization of school curricula by discussing the effects human behavior is having on climate change across the globe.

ISSI brought together 14 presenters with collective expertise on climate change in different world regions to share their knowledge with teachers and future teachers and, most importantly, to motivate them to take climate change action in their classrooms. While much of the scientific research and global cultural examples of the effects of climate change appear stark, the urgency of equipping teachers with knowledge and strategies for educating children, our future leaders, on this critical topic cannot be underestimated.

Many presenters touched on ways to reroute the course humans have taken thus far in relationship to the earth's resources. Zellman Warhaft, Professor Emeritus of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Cornell, emphasized the importance of global collaboration, pointing out that we have to be in this together as a planet. While often more responsible for generating a greater portion of deleterious climate effects worldwide, wealthier regions of the world typically have more economic power and technological resources, compared to poorer countries, to mitigate the negative effects of climate



ISSI received sponsorship from the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies as well as the six area studies programs at Cornell: the South Asia Program and the Southeast Asia Program using U.S. Department of Education Title VI funding, the Latin American Studies Program, the East Asia Program, the Institute for European Studies, and the Institute for African Development. Other sponsors included the Syracuse University South Asia Center and the Teacher's Professional Development Network.

change. Prajapati Shapkota, a PhD candidate at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, discussed how most of these negative effects, including floods, droughts, rising sea levels, food insecurity, and mass migrations, are already affecting communities and countries throughout South Asia.

Other speakers focused on the idea that climate change strategies need to be proactive rather than reactive. While mitigating the effects of climate change is important, it is even more important to focus on prevention. For example, Alexandra Moore of the Paleontological Research Institution talked about how Hawai'iian island youth advocate for sustainability that connects scientific knowledge and practices with indigenous cosmology and culture. Similarly, Orvil White, Associate Professor at the SUNY Cortland School of Education, emphasized the link between biodiversity and cultural diversity in Thailand, articulating that with the extinction of species comes the loss of culture and ancient ways of being.

Carol Hockett, Coordinator of School and Family Programs at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, gave a stellar

presentation demonstrating the powerful statements made by artists from all over the world who communicate through captivating images derived from garbage and waste materials. These artists call attention to human behaviors that exacerbate climate change while also showing creative responses to excess waste. In addition, ISSI participants had opportunities for hands-on learning themselves, with visits to the Cornell Institute for Climate Smart Solutions and the Climate Change Demonstration Garden at the Cornell Botanic Gardens.

Throughout ISSI, teachers learned how to integrate climate change activities into their classes in ways that will give their students ample opportunities to see the impacts human behaviors have on the planet and the ways climate change effects can be mitigated. Teaching students how their daily behavior affects climate change and the lives of others in both negative and positive ways is key to taking action to protect the resources, species, and cultures on our planet.

2018 TAGORE LECTURE

*“The Mirror and
the Windowpane:
Two Paths for the Novel”*

NEEL MUKHERJEE



photograph by Nick Tucker

Rabindranath Tagore
Modern Indian Literature Lecture Series

Friday, September 28, 2018 at 4:30pm
Kahin Center, 640 Stewart Ave
Reception to follow

In this lecture, Neel Mukherjee will discuss how the world of writers is divided into two kinds: those who write about themselves, and those who write about others. At this particular historical moment, which belongs to autofiction, it would be safe to say, a particular question seems relevant: What is it that gives fiction truth? Is authenticity the right value to ask of fiction? How is authenticity, in a genre founded on making things up, measured?

Neel Mukherjee is an India-born writer who lives in London. Mukherjee studied at Jadavpur University before attending University College, Oxford where he graduated in 1992. He completed his Ph.D. at Pembroke College, Cambridge, and graduated with an M.A. in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia.

Mukherjee's first novel, *Past Continuous*, received the Vodafone-Crossword Award, India's premier literary award for writing in English, for best novel of 2008, and Writers' Guild of Great Britain Award for Best Fiction. It was published in the US as *A Life Apart*. His second novel, *The Lives of Others*, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Costa Novel Award in 2014, and won the Encore Award for best second novel in 2015. His third novel, *A State of Freedom*, was published in January 2018. He has published reviews in *The Guardian*, *New Statesman*, *Spectator*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and *Wall Street Journal*.

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.



2018–19

South Asian Studies Fellowships

We are proud to welcome to campus the second group of South Asian Studies fellows. Each of the following four scholars, researchers and artists will be in residence at Cornell for two months in 2018. 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. SAP will announce details about the 2019 fellowship completion in Fall 2018.

NIDA KIRMANI Fall 2018

Associate Professor, Sociology, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Pakistan

Gendering Urban Conflict: Exploring the Everyday Dynamics of Violence in Lyari, Karachi

P. PUSHPAKANTHAN Fall 2018

Lecturer, Department of Visual & Technological Arts, Eastern University, Batticaloa, Sri Lanka
Disappearance

SUMANA ROY Fall 2018

Author & Poet, Siliguri, India
Five Plant Thinkers of Twentieth Century Bengal

SHABRI WABLE Spring 2018

Fashion Entrepreneur, Kutch, India
Indigenous Clothing and Sustainable Fashion



**BONNIE GRAHAM
MACDOUGALL**
(1941-2017)

By Daniel Aloï & Edith Fikes

Bonnie Graham MacDougall, Professor Emerita of Architecture and former Director of the South Asia Program, died in November 2017. MacDougall joined the architecture faculty in AAP as a visiting assistant professor in 1979 and was associate professor of architecture and Asian studies from 1988 until her retirement in 2014. A cultural and architectural historian with teaching experience in anthropology and linguistics, she received a Senior Fulbright Hays Award in 1979 to lecture in anthropology at the University of Sri Lanka, and another Fulbright award to conduct research there in 2012.

As director of the South Asia Program (1983–88) she was instrumental in the establishment of the Cornell-Syracuse South Asia Consortium. With colleagues in linguistics, she helped shape the study of Sinhala, resulting in a three-volume Sinhala Basic Course designed for U.S. State Department foreign service officer training.

Her scholarly legacy includes *Beyond the Taj*, a Cornell University Library digital collection launched in 2006, produced in collaboration with Margaret Webster, director emerita of AAP's Knight Visual Resources Facility. Containing written work, photography, and other materials on architectural and cultural traditions in South Asia, the project draws in part from an unfinished study by MacDougall's late husband, anthropologist and architect Robert (Scotty) MacDougall, who died in 1987; as well as a joint ethnographic study by the MacDougalls and approximately 7,000 photographs, many by Robert, of architecture, rituals, pilgrimage locales, and domestic life in India and Sri Lanka.

Her works on Sri Lankan architecture include *Sinhalese Domestic Life in Space and Time* (coauthored with Robert) and *Text Into Form: Dwelling, Cosmos, and Design Theory in Traditional South Asia*.

Originally appeared in *Cornell Chronicle* (November 29, 2017)



Online collection captures Sri Lankan village life

By George Lowery

A new digital collection launched by the Cornell University Library depicts the evolution of a remote Sri Lankan village over five decades. *Depicting the Sri Lankan Vernacular* comprises more than 500 images and originates from the research of Bonnie MacDougall in Mimure, in the Knuckles mountains, including the photos below. Many of the photographs and drawings in this collection were previously published in MacDougall's book, *Sinhalese Domestic Life in Space and Time*, co-authored with her husband, Robert MacDougall. Unlike other ethnographic studies of Sri Lanka, the MacDougalls described the relationship of the village to its architecture and material culture. Bonnie MacDougall conceived "Depicting the Sri Lankan Vernacular," as a way to make the visual record of the village available to a wider audience.

Depicting the Sri Lankan Vernacular highlights Robert's detailed photographic and architectural representation of the village. "My mother, of course, understood the project as a testament to cultural change over the half-century of her research on the village," said Carlin MacDougall, the MacDougalls' daughter. "The photographs show not just change in a cultural landscape, which contains abandoned structures and updated dwellings, but a personal and human change as well. We see these people grow old and there is the sense that some of their traditional ways will die with them." The site also includes photographs of an exhibit about traditional agricultural life from Sri Lanka's National Museum. Taken together, the collection provides a unique ethnographic record of life in a small Sri Lankan village from the mid-20th century to the present.

Depicting the Sri Lankan Vernacular was funded by the Podell Emeriti Award and the Grants Program for Digital Collections in the College of Architecture, Art and Planning. Bonnie worked on the collection until her death, when the site was substantially complete but before it was launched to the public.

"My mother wanted to document her research with my father, and she wanted to make this work accessible to scholars and people studying Sri Lanka, so they can see this village the way it was," Carlin MacDougall said. "And I think she wanted to provide a resource for Sri Lankans themselves, who are trying to access an immediate past that's disappearing. Eventually the village will have reliable internet service, and then these people and their descendants will be able to see their own images."

Originally appeared in *Cornell Chronicle* (July 17, 2018)



New exhibit finds art in unusual places

By Linda B. Glaser

Marbled plastic, strange fluorescent colors, irregular forms: large-format photographs on display in Fall 2018 in the John Hartell Gallery in Sibley Dome scale images of tiny plastic toys up 30 times in an exploration of what artists Iftikhar Dadi and Elizabeth Dadi call “tilism.” The word, they explain, means “an inanimate object transformed into its own world.” The toys in the photographs are machine-molded but appear to be handmade, blurring the line between craft objects and industrially manufactured commodities. Created in small workshops in Karachi, they are made from inexpensive recycled plastic granules to which new colors have been added.

SAP Director Iftikhar Dadi grew up in Karachi, Pakistan, where there were historical museums, private art collections and galleries, but no dedicated modern art museum. “But there were lots of things to see that weren’t seen as art,” he said. “It’s important to not just look at the formal art scene – when examining culture in places like South Asia and the global south, you have to think more capaciously and broadly about the aesthetics of everyday life.”

The art in their exhibit looks at the largely invisible processes of informal labor, production and consumption in the “global south.” “This is a realm of superexploitation, but also one of immense productive capacities, in which



Two works from the *Tilism* series (2018) by Iftikhar Dadi & Elizabeth Dadi. Archival pigment print on Diasec.

branding and intellectual property regimes are constantly challenged by those who seek to fashion a world from affordable materials and designs they find at hand or create anew,” they write in the exhibit description. Iftikhar Dadi and Elizabeth Dadi have worked collaboratively for 20 years. They describe their art as investigating “popular media’s construction of memory, borders and identity in contemporary globalization, the productive capacities of urban informalities and the mass culture of postindustrial societies.”

Originally appeared in *Cornell Chronicle* (August 30, 2018)

Chai and Chat series awarded Perkins Prize

By Nancy Doolittle

Chai and Chat, a dialogue series to promote inclusivity developed by the South Asian Council student group, received the 2018 James A. Perkins Prize for Interracial and Intercultural Peace and Harmony. The Perkins Prize is given annually to honor the Cornell individual or program making the most significant contribution to furthering the ideal of university community while respecting values of racial diversity.

Chai and Chat provides a “valuable forum” for South Asian students and other groups to discuss complex issues of identity and belonging, President Martha E. Pollack said. “I strongly believe that while each of us is very different, and each of us should honor and celebrate our individual experiences and understanding, there is also at core a commonality to us – and that is what will allow us to communicate, to come together as a community, and continue to push for equity and justice,” Pollack said.

For instance, Pollack noted, at a recent Chai and Chat gathering, the South Asian Council collaborated with the



Senior leaders join with South Asian Council students at the annual Perkins Prize reception. From left, front row: Shivani Parikh, Cornell President Martha E. Pollack, Aliza Adhami, Kumar Nandanampati, Meera Shah; Back row: Sophie Sidhu, Rachel George, Anvush Vejalla, Vice President for Student and Campus Life Ryan Lombardi, Dean of Students Vijay Pendakur, Trustee Emeritus Thomas Jones, Vegen Soopramanien, Aashka Piprottar.

LGBTQ group HAVEN to focus on the implications of identifying as queer or questioning. Upcoming gatherings will focus on other issues relevant to the South Asian student community: anti-blackness in the South Asian community; divisions rooted in the partition of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh; and the “model minority” myth.

Administered through Cornell’s Office of the Dean of Students, the Perkins Prize was created and endowed in 1994 by Cornell Trustee Emeritus Thomas W. Jones ’69 to honor Cornell President Emeritus James A. Perkins, the university’s seventh president.

Originally appeared in *Cornell Chronicle* (March 21, 2018)



Course marks 50 years of international engagement

By Linda McCandless

As the bus carries Cornell's International Agriculture and Rural Development 602 class through the streets of India, a Cornell student practices her Hindi with an Indian student from Tamil Nadu, as they bop to Ed Sheeran on a shared mobile phone. Shy to use language skills learned at Cornell, she soon finds herself being tutored by other Indian students and faculty. "Time for your lesson," they say every day as they board the bus. By the end of the second week, the Hindi/English class at the back of the bus has grown into a chattering group of young people. Many are now fast Facebook and WhatsApp friends, and destined for careers in international development.

Such is IARD 602 – Cornell's longest-running experientially engaged learning course. Run by International Programs in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (IP-CALS), the class, the first international course offered at Cornell, turns 50 in 2018. "It is anything but a typical classroom," said K. V. Raman, adjunct professor of plant breeding, who has been involved in the course since 2001. "As faculty, it is a very rewarding experience. Students learn in ways they can never read in a book or be exposed to in a class lecture. The experiential learning is highly appreciated by all." Learning opportunities include visiting the Kothapaly

Watershed, talking to cotton farmers, interacting with women's weaving groups, visiting the Garag Village of handicrafters, accessing livestock and vegetable markets, and participating in cultural and heritage events.

IARD 602 starts in the fall semester, with a campus-based two-credit course at Cornell. Over the last 16 years, the course has been taught collaboratively online and includes students and professors from several state agricultural universities in India. Students then participate in a three-credit 20-day field trip abroad in January, where they visit in-country agricultural systems, value-added food enterprises, rural development agencies, and sites for animal husbandry, veterinary services, and fiber and other crafts.

"Student engagement with development practitioners, field researchers and rural people in the countries visited brings to life the issues and ideas that too often remain classroom abstractions," said Raman. "Students and faculty benefit from the involvement of host country counterparts who help participants navigate the context-specific cross-cultural dimensions of development studies."

Originally appeared in *Cornell Chronicle* (December 14, 2017)

Selected SAP Faculty Publications 2017–18

Anindita Banerjee and Sonja Fritzsche, eds. *Science Fiction Circuits of the South and East*. New York: Peter Lang, 2018.

Anindita Banerjee, ed. *Russian Science Fiction Literature and Cinema: A Critical Reader*. Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2018.

Ann Starrs, Alex Ezech, Gary Barker, **Alaka Basu**, Jane Bertrand, et al. "Accelerate Progress—Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights for All: Report of the Guttmacher–Lancet Commission." *The Lancet* 391, Issue 10140 (2018): 2642–2692.

Subhayu Bandyopadhyay, **Arnab Basu**, Nancy Chau, and Devashish Mitra. *Offshoring Barriers, Regulatory Burden and National Welfare*. Working Paper 2018-003. St. Louis: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2018.

Subhayu Bandyopadhyay, **Arnab Basu**, Nancy H. Chau, and Devashish Mitra. *Offshoring in Developing Countries: Labor Market Outcomes, Welfare, and Policy*. Working Paper 2016-11. St. Louis: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2017.

Arnab Basu and Nancy Chau, eds. *Contributions to the Economics of International Labor Standards*. Hackensack: World Scientific, 2017.

Kaushik Basu and Tito Cordella. *Institutions, Governance and the Control of Corruption*. Cham: Palgrave MacMillan, 2018.

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Anne M. Blackburn. "Buddhist Networks across the Indian Ocean: Trans-Regional Strategies and Affiliations." in *Belonging Across the Bay of Bengal: Religious Rites, Colonial Migrations, National Rights*, Michael Laffan, ed. London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2017, 15–33.

Daniel Boucher. "Recruitment and Retention in Early Bodhisattva Sodalities," in *Setting Out on the Great Way: Essays on Early Mahāyāna Buddhism*, Paul Harrison, ed. Sheffield: Equinox Press, 2018, 95–118.

Jeffrey Chusid. "Joseph Allen Stein's Experiments in Concrete in the US and India." *APT Bulletin: The Journal of Preservation Technology* 48, no. 1 (2017): 23–31.

Iftikhar Dadi. "Calligraphic Abstraction," in *A Companion to Islamic Art and Architecture*, Finbarr Barry Flood and Gülru Necipoğlu, eds. Hoboken: Wiley Blackwell, 2017, 1292–1313.

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B. Srinivasan, D. O'Dell, **Julia L. Finkelstein**, S. Lee, D. Erickson, and **Saurabh Mehta**. "IronPhone: Mobile Device-Coupled Point-of-Care Diagnostics for Assessment of Iron Status by Quantification of Serum Ferritin." *Biosensors and Bioelectronics* 99 (2018): 115–121.

Durba Ghosh. "The Terrorist and his Jailor: The Conundrum of Friendship and Intimacy." *Itinerario* 42, no. 1 (2018): 102–119.

Aparna Chandra, William Hubbard, and **Sital Kalantry**. "The Supreme Court of India: A People's Court?" *Indian Law Review* 1, no. 2 (2017): 145–181.

Sital Kalantry. "Harmful Anti-Sex-Selective Abortion Laws Are Sweeping US State Legislatures: Why do Some Pro-choice People Support Them?" *Cornell Legal Studies Research Paper*, no. 18–16, 2018.

Sital Kalantry, "The French Veil Ban: A Transnational Legal Feminist Approach," 46 *University of Baltimore Law Review* (2017)

Luc Christiaensen, and **Ravi Kanbur**. "Secondary towns, jobs and poverty reduction: Introduction to World Development Special Symposium." *World Development* 108 (2018): 219–220.

Karim-Aly Kassam, Morgan Ruelle, Cyrus Samimi, Antonio Trabucco and Jianchu Xu. "Anticipating Climatic Variability: The Potential of Ecological Calendars," *Human Ecology*, 46, no. 2 (2017): 249–257.

Karim-Aly Kassam. "The Cognitive Relevance of Rural: Why is it Critical to Survival?" *Cultural Studies in Science Education*, 12 (2017): 97–118.

Kathryn March. "Shifting subjectivities in Tamang gender relations" in *Global Nepalis: Religion, Culture, and Community in a New and Old Diaspora*, David Gellner and Sondra Hausner, eds. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Chaturong Napathorn and **Sarosh Kuruvilla**. "Human Resource Management in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand," in *Routledge Handbook of Human Resource Management in Asia*, Fang Lee Cooke and Sunghoon Ki, eds. London: Routledge, 2017, 333–354.

Saurabh Mehta and **Julia L Finkelstein**, eds. *Nutrition and HIV: Epidemiological Evidence to Public Health*. Boca Raton: Taylor & Francis, 2018.

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Saurabh Mehta, S. Colt, S. Lee, and D. Erickson. "Rainer Gross Award Lecture 2016: A Laboratory in Your Pocket: Enabling Precision Nutrition." *Food and Nutrition Bulletin* 38, no. 2 (2017): 140–145.

Madeleine Wood, Elaine Yu, and **Saurabh Mehta**. "The Human Microbiome in the Fight Against Tuberculosis." *American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene*, 96, no. 6 (2017): 1274–1284.

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Lucinda Ramberg. "Who and What is Sex For? Notes on Theogamy and the Sexuality of Religion." *History of the Present* 7, no. 2 (2017): 175–196.

Lucinda Ramberg. "Casting Religion and Sexing Gender in South India" in *Gender, Caste and the Imagination of Equality*, Anupama Rao, ed. Delhi: Women Unlimited Press, 2018.

Anchal Dass, Subhash Chandra, **Norman Uphoff**, Anil Choudhary, Ranjan Bhattacharyya, and K. S. Rana. "Agronomic Fortification of Rice Grains with Secondary and Micronutrients under Differing Crop Management and Soil Moisture Regimes in the North Indian Plains." *Paddy and Water Environment* 15, no. 4 (2017): 745–760.

Andrew Willford. *The Future of Bangalore's Cosmopolitan Pasts: Civility and Difference in a Global City*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2018.

Hope Craig, C., R. Jeyanthi, Gretel Peltó, **Andrew Willford**, and Rebecca Stoltzfus. "Using a Cultural-Ecological Framework to Explore Dietary Beliefs and Practices during Pregnancy and Lactation among Women in Adivasi Communities in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve, India." *Ecology of Food and Nutrition* 57, no. 3 (2018): 165–186.

Tata-Cornell Institute for Agriculture and Nutrition (TCI) Scholars

Tata-Cornell Scholars include a multidisciplinary group of Cornell graduate students who are in the process of earning their PhD or Master's Degree and who are actively engaged in applied and field-based research aligning with TCI's key research priorities. You can learn more at: tci.cornell.edu.

ROHIL BHATNAGAR

PhD student, Food Science

Rohil Bhatnagar is a second year PhD student in the field of Food Science and Technology. His research interests lie in bridging the gap between nutritional intake and optimal health. He aspires to alleviate the state of persistent micronutrient malnutrition by utilizing scientific strategies to develop affordable and nourishing food therapies.

JOCELYN BOITEAU

PhD student, International Nutrition

Jocelyn Boiteau is a second year PhD student at the Division of Nutritional Sciences. She is interested in studying agriculture and nutrition linkages, specifically how changes in food systems impact women's roles in agriculture and contribute to nutrition outcomes. Her research project focuses on estimating and understanding quantity and quality food loss of fruits and vegetables in Indian food value chains.

KAVYA KRISHNAN

PhD student, Soil and Crop Sciences

Kavya Krishnan is a first year PhD student in the School of Integrative Plant Science. Her primary research interests are studying soil health – particularly its effects on food security. For the fieldwork component of her PhD, she is working with India-based agricultural universities like the Dr. Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University in Bihar to advance India's understanding of soil health.

KATHRYN MERCKEL

PhD student, International Nutrition

Katy Merkel is a third year PhD student at the Division of Nutritional Sciences. She is interested in studying maternal and child nutrition in India, particularly the ways in which education and empowerment influence the consumption patterns of mothers and their families. For her field-based research, Katy is studying behavior change messaging for orange-flesh sweet potatoes in rural villages in Uttar Pradesh.

VIDYA BHARATHI RAJKUMAR

PhD student, Applied Economics and Management

Vidya Rajkumar is a third year PhD student in the Applied Economics and Management department. Her research interests lie in the fields of development economics and public policy. She currently researches labor saving technologies in agriculture for the Indian context.

PAYAL SETH

PhD student, Applied Economics and Management

Payal Seth is a third year PhD student in Applied Economics and Management. As a TCI Scholar, her fieldwork focuses on linkages between sanitation and nutrition. Working with the local partner NGO Grameen Development Services, Payal is examining the behavior change methodology known as Community-led Total Sanitation. She is analyzing the bearing of this behavior change and of the construction of toilets on the sanitation practices, diarrheal incidence and the safety of women in rural Uttar Pradesh.

NAVEEN SUNDER

PhD candidate, Economics

Naveen Sunder is a fifth year PhD candidate in the Economics Department. His primary research interests are in the field of development economics, health economics and applied econometrics. As a TCI Scholar, he researches socioeconomic topics such as agriculture-nutrition linkages, child marriage and the relationship between maternal literacy and child health systems.

ANNA DAVID THOTTAPPILLY

PhD student, Applied Economics and Management

Anna David Thottappilly is a first year PhD student in the Applied Economics and Management department. Her primary research interest lies in looking into issues related to development and social mobility. She is interested in policy-oriented research that could aid in bridging the inequality gap.

MAUREEN VALENTINE

PhD candidate, Animal Science

Maureen Valentine is a fourth year PhD candidate in the department of Animal Science who is continuing as a TCI scholar after completing her Master's degree with the program. Her research focuses on the widespread deficit of biomass for animal consumption in India, and she plans to work with women's dairy cooperatives to research how livestock feeding and nutrition could be improved.

SHIULI VANAJA

PhD candidate, Applied Economics and Management

Shiuli Vanaja is a fourth year Ph.D. candidate in the department of Applied Economics and Management. Her research interests lie in the field of development economics and resource economics. She is interested in exploring the linkages between nutrition and poverty in a backward but natural resource-rich region of India.

VIDYA VEMIREDDY

PhD candidate, Applied Economics and Management

Vidya Vemireddy is a fourth year PhD candidate in the department of Applied Economics and Management. She is interested in Development Economics and, in particular, exploring the linkages between agriculture and development. Her research builds on her extensive data collection effort in Chandrapur, Maharashtra for her thesis project "Impact of women's time allocation patterns in agriculture on time-saving food choices and nutrition in rural India."

ANTHONY WENNDT

PhD student, Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology

Anthony Wendt is a third year PhD student in the School of Integrative Plant Science. He is interested in the biology and ecology of toxigenic fungi infecting crop plants and the impacts of mycotoxins on food security and nutrition. He plans to engage with smallholders in India to characterize the extent of mycotoxin contamination in village-level food systems, and to develop context-specific survey methodologies for sustainable, scalable mycotoxin management.

2018–19

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellows

Kaitlin Emmanuel

Degree: PhD, History of Art
Language: Sinhala
Research Interests: Emergence of modernism in Sri Lanka and its legacy on contemporary artistic production

Palina Gurung

Degree: MPA, Cornell Institute of Public Affairs
Language: Hindi
Research Interests: Role of youth and women in development in Nepal and India

Lavanya Nott

Degree: MA, Asian Studies
Language: Bengali
Research Interests: Intellectual History and Social Movements in Modern South Asia

Noah Schumer

Degree: MRP, City and Regional Planning
Language: Urdu
Research Interests: Land use planning, urban informality, and the 20th century growth of New Delhi

Recently Graduated Students

Natasha Bissonauth, PhD History of Art, *Play at the Turn of the Millennium: Reframing South Asian Diasporic Art (1980s - present)*

Anaar I. Desai-Stephens, PhD, Music, *Singing through the Screen: Indian Idol and the Cultural Politics of Aspiration in Post-Liberalization India*

Natalia Di Pietrantonio, PhD, History of Art, *Erotic Visions: Poetry, Literature, and Book Arts from Avadh, 1754–1857*

Anna Golovkova, PhD, Asian Literature, Religion & Culture, *A Goddess for the Second Millennium: Transgression and Transformation in the Hindu Tantric Worship of Tripurasundari*

Naadhira Ali, MPS, Agriculture and Life Sciences

Anya Gedrath-Smith, MRP, City and Regional Planning

Satomi Iida, MPA, Public Administration, *Addressing the Challenges Of Landscape Conservation and Restoration in the Hindu-Kush Himalayan Region with Attention to Transboundary Issues*

Disha Mendhekar, MRP, City and Regional Planning, *Connecting Natural and Societal Domains for Sustainable Rural Community-based Water Systems in Odisha, India*

Johannah Mitchell, BS, Industrial and Labor Relations

Deepa Saharia, BS, Industrial and Labor Relations

Mi Joung Yu, BA, Government

2017–18 VISITING SCHOLARS



Aziz Ali, National Manager, Natural Resources Management, Aga Khan Foundation, Kabul, Afghanistan, was a 2017-2018 South Asian Studies Fellow with the South Asia Program. His fellowship project was on *Vulnerability and Disaster Risk Assessments in the Emerging Scenario of Climate Change in North-Eastern Afghanistan*.



Matthew Baxter works on South Asia as a comparative political theorist, focusing on Tamil-speaking South India and Non-Brahmin politics. As a SAP Visiting Scholar, he worked towards the completion of a book manuscript tentatively titled *The Politics of Embrace: On the Non-Brahmin Self-Respect Critique of Gandhian Self-Rule*. Baxter described his experience at Cornell as “wonderful,” with “great people, a supportive environment, and amazing resources.”



Ranjana Das, Regional Manager, Bihar & Jharkhand, Oxfam, India was a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow, focusing on gender equality, social justice in agriculture, and rural livelihoods.



Shaila Desouza has been the principal champion of Women’s Studies at Goa University, Goa, India for the past 25 years. She has been actively involved through her research, writing, teaching and activism with social movements in India working for equality, justice and peace. As a SAP Visiting Scholar, she said, “Cornell enabled the blend of a beguiling natural landscape with intellectual enrichment – the best place to be in the world.”



Carter Higgins came to SAP as a Visiting Scholar, after holding academic positions at Wake Forest University and the National University of Singapore. He is a scholar of contemporary Hinduism in northern India (especially in Rajasthan and its regional connections) and the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal. Overall, he described his experience as a visiting scholar at Cornell as “productive and enjoyable.” He added that the SAP Seminar series “offered a welcomed opportunity both to hear about exciting research in many fields, and to interact with faculty and graduate students at Cornell.”



Sumaira Ishfaq, Project Manager, Agriculture and Livelihood Program, Association for Behavior and Knowledge Transformation, Pakistan, was a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow, focusing on rural development for small farmers, especially women.



Jake Oorloff and Ruhanie Perera are co-founders of the Floating Space performance arts company, Colombo, Sri Lanka. They were both on campus as 2017-2018 South Asian Studies Fellows with the South Asia Program, with extra support from the American Institute of Sri Lanka Studies. While at Cornell, they focused on their fellowship project, *Archiving Practice: Reflecting on Floating Space Theatre Company’s Performance-Making Approaches and Politics in the Context of the Conflict and Cultural Landscape of Sri Lanka*.



Athula Samarakoon, Senior Lecturer, Department of Fine Arts, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, was a Fulbright Fellow, with a project on *Representing Sri Lanka through Cinematic Image*. He is an author, translator, documentary filmmaker and film critic, having previously served as a producer on national television in Sri Lanka for more than 10 years. He is currently engaged with the U.S. Ambassadors Fund for Cultural Preservation (AFCP) in Sri Lanka as a documentary filmmaker, where he works to preserve endangered traditional and indigenous ritual music and dance forms.



Aziz Sohail, an Independent curator and writer, Karachi, Pakistan, was a 2017-2018 South Asian Studies Fellow with the South Asia Program, with a fellowship project on *Visual & Cultural Production in 1990’s Karachi*.



Tarangini Sriraman, Assistant Professor, School of Liberal Studies, Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India was a 2017-2018 South Asian Studies Fellow with the South Asia Program, working on *Itineraries of Evidence: Refugees and their Displaced Documents of Identity*. What surprised her most about Cornell, were “the vastness of resources that Cornell gives its students, be it in terms of the online access to research in one’s field, the warm support that faculty provide to their students, or the vibrant cultural and social life on campus.”



Fawzia Tarannum, Lecturer, Coca Cola Department of Regional Water Studies, TERI University, India, was a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow, focusing on water and sanitation management.



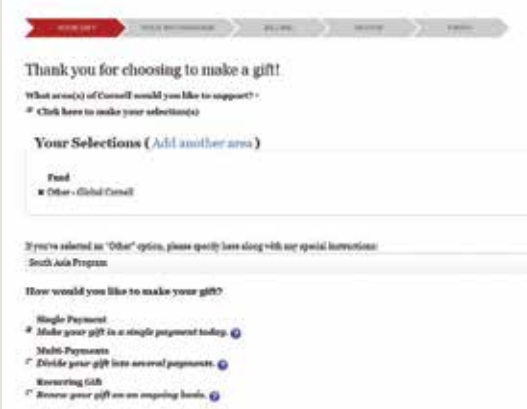
Shabri Wable, a Fashion Entrepreneur, Kutch, India was a 2018 South Asian Studies Fellow with the South Asia Program, focusing on *Indigenous Clothing and Sustainable Fashion*.

Giving to the South Asia Program

The South Asia Program welcomes your support!

Gifts from Cornell alumni and other friends of SAP are a key resource for the Program, allowing us to protect foundational strengths, while also expanding South Asian Studies at Cornell in innovative ways.

Gifts to SAP can be made easily at giving.cornell.edu. As shown in the image, use the menus to direct your gift to the South Asia Program as a one-time or recurring gift. Should you wish to direct your gift more specifically (for instance, towards language lecturer endowments), please contact Director Iftikhar Dadi at mid1@cornell.edu. Professor Dadi will also help to coordinate larger gifts with appropriate offices at Cornell.



The screenshot shows a web form for making a gift to the South Asia Program. It includes a progress bar at the top with steps: 'THANK YOU!', 'SELECT YOUR GIFT', 'REVIEW', 'RECEIPT', and 'DONOR'. The main text says 'Thank you for choosing to make a gift!'. Below this, it asks 'What area(s) of Cornell would you like to support?' and provides a link to 'Click here to make your selection(s)'. The 'Your Selections (Add another area)' section shows 'Fund' with 'Other - Global Cornell' selected. A note states: 'If you've selected an "Other" option, please specify here along with any special instructions: South Asia Program'. The 'How would you like to make your gift?' section offers three options: 'Single Payment' (selected), 'Make your gift in a single payment today', 'Multi-Payments' (Divide your gift into several payments), and 'Recurring Gift' (Recur your gift on an ongoing basis).

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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This page: Site-specific installations at Mubarak Haveli, Lahore Biennale.

TOP: Text by Ayesha Jatoi (Pakistan) on façade, and sculptures in courtyard by Ayesha Sultana (Bangladesh)

BOTTOM: Muhanned Cader (Sri Lanka), *Lost Horizons* (2018)

Back cover: CAMP (Shaina Anand & Ashok Sukumaran - India), *From Gulf to Gulf to Gulf* (2013).

Video projection, Alhamra Art Centre, Lahore

Front cover: Ayesha Jatoi (Pakistan), *The Illuminated Page* (2018). Site-specific neon installation in the Miniature Gallery of Lahore Museum



Jam Salaya, Gulf of Kutch, India



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