Nordic Conference on South Asian Studies for Young Scholars

Falsterbo, August 17–19, 2009

Organised by:

SASNET – Swedish South Asian Studies Network, Lund University
The objective of the Nordic Conference on South Asian Studies for Young Scholars is to gather Masters students, Ph.D. candidates, and postdoctoral researchers, along with other junior scholars who are affiliated with universities in the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden) and who focus on South Asia in their work.

The main goal of the conference is to discuss various issues which young scholars face in doing research focused on South Asia – from organising their fieldwork to publishing the results of their investigations and locating a job. In pursuit of its overall objective, the conference includes plenary and thematic sessions addressing issues related to South Asian Studies from both disciplinary and multidisciplinary angles. The themes to be discussed in the plenary sessions are the following:

**Input:** Career Planning and Passion for South Asian Studies  
**Outreach:** Publication, Conference, Teaching and Other Activities  
**Output:** Networking and Future Research

On the first day, all young scholars will have the opportunity of presenting and discussing their own research projects in parallel sessions divided into five thematic groups and supervised by senior chairpersons. The five thematic groups are:

– History, Religion, and Culture  
– Society, Development, and Gender  
– Nature, Health, and Environment  
– Politics, Economics, and International relations  
– Technology, Business, and Innovations

On the second and third days, the participants will gather in three plenary sessions for discussions on themes related to research and academic careers in South Asian Studies. In order to generate fresh and novel questions the plenary sessions will begin with presentations by two or more “challengers” – junior scholars on masters, doctoral or postdoctoral level – who have prepared questions and will address relevant issues in relation to the respective themes. In response, two or more “champions” – senior researchers and resource persons – will follow up the questions which have been brought to their attention. After that all participants will gather in either thematic or multidisciplinary groups to continue the discussion for approximately one hour. At the end, all will again meet for a joint session to summarize the discussions and draw conclusions.

Full information is on the conference web page:  
[http://www.sasnetconference.se/](http://www.sasnetconference.se/)

SASNET Student Forum:

We would also like to remind you about the SASNET Student forum at [http://www.sasnet.lu.se/studentforum](http://www.sasnet.lu.se/studentforum), which is a meeting place for interaction between conference participants and other students interested in South Asian Studies.
Conference programme:

Day 1, August 17, Monday

13.30 – 15.00  Registration and check-in at Falsterbo Conference Retreat
15.00 – 15.30  Welcome by SASNET director Anna Lindberg. Presentation of the conference program. Venue: Altona Conference Room.
16.30 – 17.00  Coffee & tea
17.00 – 19.00  Thematic sessions with presentations of individual research projects:
   Group 1 - History, Religion & Culture (I).
   Chairperson: Prof. Knut A. Jacobsen, University of Bergen
   Venue: Room Motala
   Group 2 - History, Religion & Culture (II)
   Chairperson: Dr. Peter B. Andersen, Copenhagen University
   Venue: Room Tingstede
   Group 3 - Society, Development & Gender
   Chairperson: Dr. Catarina Kinnvall, Lund University
   Venue: Room Armérum II
   Group 4 - Nature, Health & Environment
   Chairperson: Dr. Per Knutsson, Gothenburg University
   Venue: Room Altona I
   Group 5 - Technology, Economics & International Relations
   Chairperson: Dr. Per Hilding, Stockholm University
   Venue: Room Altona II
19.30                  Dinner

Day 2, August 18, Tuesday

09.00 –10.00   Principal lecture: “Being a South Asianist in Norden: Being Glocal” by Prof. Pamela Price, University of Oslo.
   Venue: Altona Conference Room
10.00 – 11.00  Plenary session
   “Career Planning, Funding and Passion for South Asian Studies”
   Introduction and presentation by the challengers:
   – Peder Gedda, M.A., Gothenburg University
   – Johan Skog Jensen, B.A., University of Oslo
   – Md. Ashiqur Rahman, M.A., Lund University
   Response from champions:
   – Prof. Bo Lindblad, Karolinska Institutet
   – Dr. Anna Godhe, Gothenburg University
   – Dr. Jan Magnusson, Lund University
   Venue: Altona Conference Room
11.00 – 11.15  Coffee & tea
11.15 – 12.15 Session “Input: Career Planning, Funding, and Passion for South Asian Studies” continues with interdisciplinary group discussions
– Interdisciplinary Group 1, Venue: Room Altona I
– Interdisciplinary Group 2, Venue: Room Altona II
– Interdisciplinary Group 3, Venue: Room Motala
– Interdisciplinary Group 4, Venue: Room Tingstede
– Interdisciplinary Group 5, Venue: Room Armerum II

12.15 – 13.00 Plenary session with concluding discussion led by the champions:
– Prof. Bo Lindblad, Karolinska Institutet
– Dr. Anna Godhe, Gothenburg University
– Dr. Jan Magnusson, Lund University
Venue: Altona Conference Room

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.00 Workshop: “How to Displease an Editor” by Teddy Primack, editor, Academic Documents Associates, Greenbelt, Maryland, USA.
Venue: Altona Conference Room

15.00 – 16.00 Plenary session
“Outreach: Publication, Conference, Teaching, and Other Activities”
Introduction and presentation by the challengers:
– Anne-Line Sandåker, M.A., University of Oslo
– Mikko Juhani Viitamäki, M.A., University of Helsinki
– Suraj Shakya, M.Sc., Nepal Medical College
Response from the champions:
– Dr. Christer Norström, Stockholm University
– Dr. Zarina Kabir, Karolinska Institutet
– Dr. Stig Toft Madsen, SASNET
Venue: Altona Conference Room

16.00 – 16.15 Coffee & tea

16.15 – 17.15 Thematic sessions with chairpersons:
“Outreach: Publication, Conference, Teaching, and Other Activities”
Group 1 – History, Religion & Culture (I)
Chairperson: Prof. Knut A. Jacobsen, University of Bergen
Venue: Room Motala

Group 2 – History, Religion & Culture (II)
Chairperson: Dr. Peter B. Andersen, Copenhagen University
Venue: Room Tingstede

Group 3 – Society, Development & Gender
Chairperson: Dr. Catarina Kinnvall, Lund University
Venue: Room Armérum II

Group 4 – Nature, Health & Environment
Chairperson: Dr. Per Knutsson, Gothenburg University
Venue: Room Altona I

Group 5 – Technology, Economics & International Relations
Chairperson: Dr. Per Hilding, Stockholm University
Venue: Room Altona II
17.15 – 18.00 Plenary session with concluding discussions led by the champions:
– Dr. Christer Norström, Stockholm University
– Dr. Zarina Kabir, Karolinska Institutet
– Dr. Stig Toft Madsen, SASNET
Venue: Altona Conference Room
19.00 Dinner & performance by sitar player Shri Harvinder Singh
Venue: Dining hall

**Day 3, August 19, Wednesday**

9.00 – 10.00 Principal lecture: “A Nordic Perspective on Prospects and Challenges for Scholarly Interaction with South Asia” by Dr. Mirja Juntunen, Uppsala University
Venue: Esset Conference Room

10.00 – 11.00 Plenary session: “Output: Networking and Future Research”
Introduction and presentation by the challengers:
– Anna Rebecca Frilund, M.A., University of Turku
– Mette Gabler, B.A., Lund University
Response from the champions:
– Prof. Devdatt Dubhashi, Chalmers University of Technology
– Prof. Pamela Price, University of Oslo
– Prof. Staffan Lindberg, Lund University
Venue: Esset Conference Room

11.00 – 11.15 Coffee & tea

11.15 – 12.15 Session “Output: Networking and Future Research” continues with interdisciplinary group discussions
Interdisciplinary Group 1, Venue: Room Altona I
Interdisciplinary Group 2, Venue: Room Altona II
Interdisciplinary Group 3, Venue: Room Motala
Interdisciplinary Group 4, Venue: Room Tingstede
Interdisciplinary Group 5, Venue: Room Armerum II

12.15 – 13.00 Plenary session with concluding discussion lead by the champions:
– Prof. Devdatt Dubhashi, Chalmers University of Technology
– Prof. Pamela Price, University of Oslo
– Prof. Staffan Lindberg, Lund University
Venue: Esset Conference Room

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 14.30 Final conference session: Summary and conclusion by Dr. Anna Lindberg, SASNET Director
Presentation of the SASNET Student Forum by Malin Gregersen, Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. of History, Lund University.
Venue: Esset Conference Room
## Participating Young Scholars:

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HRC1 = History, Religion, and Culture, group 1
HRC2 = History, Religion, and Culture, group 2
SDG = Society, Development, and Gender
NHE = Nature, Health, and Environment
TEI = Technology, Economics, and International Relations
Welcome to Falsterbo!

Organising Committee:

- Kristina Myrvold, Assistant Professor in History of Religion, Lund University
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- Julia Velkova, Masters Student in Eastern Philosophy and Culture, University of Sofia
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- Ferdinando Sardella, Doctoral Student in Religious Studies, Gothenburg University
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- Anna Lindberg, Director, SASNET
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- Lars Eklund, Deputy Director, SASNET
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Keynote speakers:

- Vinayak Chaturvedi
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- Pamela Gwynne Price
  Professor of History, Dept. of History, University of Oslo (Norway).
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- Mirja Juntunen
  Teacher and researcher in Indology at Uppsala University (Sweden) and Director of the
  Nordic Centre in India, a consortium of leading universities in the Nordic countries.
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- Teddy Primack
  Director of Academic Documents Associates based in the USA and a long-time editor of journal
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