

## http://www.sasnet.lu.se

# SASNET

Swedish South Asian Studies Network (Lund University, Sweden)

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#### What is SASNET?

■ SASNET is a Swedish network for research, education, and information about South Asia. The aim is to encourage and promote an open and dynamic networking process, in which Swedish researchers co-operate with researchers in South Asia and globally. The network is open to all disciplines.

□ Priority is given to co-operation between disciplines and across faculties, as well as between institutions in the Nordic countries and in South Asia. The basic idea is that South Asian studies are most fruitfully pursued in cooperation between researchers working in different institutions with a solid base in their mother disciplines. SASNET is financed by Sida and Lund University.

□ A network root node is based at Lund University and is operating an Internet gateway for South Asian studies. The root node also initiates, stimulates, and supports South Asian studies at Lund University and within Öresund University.



### The main tasks of the network are to:

□ in various ways initiate, stimulate, and support research co-operation via planning grants for networking (which includes meetings, travelling, visits of guest researchers, co-ordination efforts, etc.).

□ in various ways initiate, stimulate, and support academic South Asian studies in Sweden, or studies relevant to South Asia, e g via grants for networking in a development of undergraduate and graduate courses in Sweden and the Nordic countries, if possible in partnership with universities in South Asia.

encourage PhD studies specialising in South Asia, including networking among individual research students in institutions that otherwise do not specialise on South Asia.

□ promote students and researchers exchange between Sweden (the Nordic countries) and South Asia.

□ build an information system for South Asian studies in partnership with academic and public institutions, media, business communities, and NGOs.

□ contribute to co-ordination of consultations between researchers and different public institutions, business organisations, and NGOs.

#### **Current SASNET activities:**

□ Building and maintaing an Internet gateway for South Asian studies presenting all South Asia related education and research at Swedish Universities and Colleges, as well as giving a useful information for students and researchers.

■ Networking in South Asian studies: In 2002 SASNET arranged a Symposium for Swedish PhD candidates, about how to encourage and pursue higher studies about South Asia. In 2003 we arranged a series of seminars for PhD students and supervisors on these issues at major universities in Sweden. In July 2004 SASNET successfully organised the 18th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies in Lund, a conference held on behalf of the European Association of South Asian Studies.

□ Connecting researchers and teachers. In order to promote research co-operation and students exchange, contact journeys have been made to different parts of South Asia. Sri Lanka and Maldives in 2002, Pakistan and Afghanistan in 2003, and India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan in 2005.

□ Promoting existing programmes in education and research, and taking initiatives to establish new ones at Swedish universities and folk high schools. SASNET was instrumental in establishing a Masters Programme in Asian Studies at Lund University.

• Organising focussed workshops to promote interdisciplinary co-operation.

Distributing planning grants and networking grants. Closing dates for applications are 15 June and 15 November each year, and apply to:

A. Planning grants in support of inter- or intradisciplinary research and/or education projects/programmes in South Asia related studies, which can serve as a basis for the application for grants from various research and/or education funding agencies. Planning activities devoted to bridging the gap between natural sciences, humanities and social sciences in South Asian studies. For this kind of activity the grant can be used for networking in the planning of multi-disciplinary workshops, conferences, seminars etc.

B. Continued networking grants in support of networking activities that has already been planned, for example, through a planning grant from SASNET. C. Guest lecture & guest research programme.

#### Welcome!

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