

SASNET

Swedish South Asian Studies Network
Lund University, Sweden

<http://www.sasnet.lu.se>

Mailing address: Scheelevägen 15 D
SE-223 70 Lund, Sweden
Offices: Ideon Research Park
Bldg. Alpha 1, Rms. 2041-2042

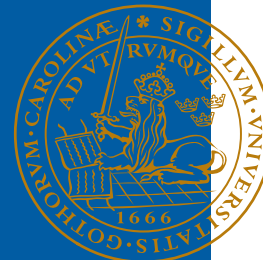
Director/Coordinator:

Dr. Anna Lindberg, Phone +46 46 222 3606
e-mail: Anna.Lindberg@sasnet.lu.se

Deputy Director/Webmaster:

Lars Eklund, Phone +46 46 222 7340
e-mail: Lars.Eklund@sasnet.lu.se

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SASNET - Swedish South Asian Studies Network

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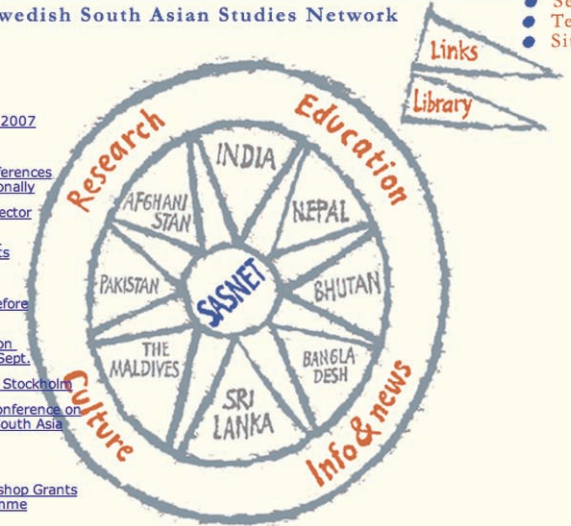
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SWEDISH SOUTH ASIAN
STUDIES NETWORK

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Swedish South Asian Studies Network

Lund University
Scheelevägen 15 D
SE-223 70 Lund
Sweden

Phone: +46 46 222 7340/3606
Fax +46 46 222 3041
E-mail: sasnet@sasnet.lu.se
<http://www.sasnet.lu.se>

What is SASNET?

❑ SASNET is a Swedish network that facilitates research, education, and disseminates information about South Asia – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Its aim is to establish a dynamic process through which Swedish researchers can cooperate with their counterparts in South Asia and across the globe.

❑ The network is open to all interested parties, with priority given to contacts among disciplines, across faculties, and between institutions in the Nordic countries and South Asia. SASNET believes that South Asian studies are best pursued through exchanges among researchers at different institutions who have a solid base in their mother disciplines. SASNET is financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and Lund University.

❑ The network's operations (its root node) have their headquarters at Lund University, where SASNET manages an Internet gateway for South Asian studies. SASNET also initiates, encourages, and supports South Asian studies at Lund University and within the Öresund University framework.

Aims:

❑ to initiate, encourage, and support cooperation among researchers by establishing grants for networking (including meetings, travel, guest researchers, and other coordinating activities).

❑ to enable academic studies of South Asia in Sweden by providing networking grants for the development of undergraduate and graduate courses in Sweden and the Nordic countries – preferably in partnership with South Asian universities.

❑ to facilitate Ph.D. studies relevant to South Asia, including communication between graduate students in institutions not specialising in South Asian studies.

❑ to promote the exchange of students and researchers between Sweden and South Asia.

❑ to build an information system for South Asian studies in partnership with media, academic and public institutions, the business community, and NGOs.

❑ to enable cooperation between individual researchers and the entities cited above.



Current SASNET activities:

❑ Maintaining and developing an internet gateway for education and research on South Asia at Swedish colleges and universities.

❑ Continuing and expanding a variety of networking options. Since its inception in 2001, SASNET has been arranging symposiums and seminars for Ph.D. students. In July 2004, SASNET convened the 18th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies in Lund on behalf of the European Association of South Asian Studies. In 2006, SASNET organised a workshop of 60 participants entitled "The Role of South Asia in the Internationalisation of Higher Education in Sweden". In the same year, SASNET also supported an interdisciplinary graduate course, "Religion, Conflict, and Identity in South and South East Asia". In August 2008, SASNET will organise a conference on "Nature, Knowledge, and Empire" in collaboration with Uppsala University.

❑ Linking researchers and teachers. The SASNET staff visits colleges and universities in various parts of South Asia in order to promote research collaboration and student exchanges. SASNET was recently instrumental in the formation of the South Asian Sociological Society, whose members come from most of the South Asian countries.

❑ Promoting education and research programmes. SASNET is actively involved in supporting existing courses and programmes, as well as proposing new ones. We are presently attempting to organise a Nordic Research School for South Asia in conjunction with the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) in Copenhagen.

❑ Convening workshops and seminars to promote interdisciplinary studies of South Asia. As a recent example, on September 26–27, 2007, in collaboration with Roskilde University Centre, SASNET organised a two-day workshop entitled "Post-Exotic India – A New Narrative in the Making?"

❑ Organising lectures and seminars at Lund University to stimulate academic discussion of South Asia. The SASNET webpage will list all such upcoming events.

❑ Awarding grants for planning and networking. The closing date for applications is June 15th of each year. The grants are of three kinds:

1. Planning and supporting inter- or intradisciplinary research, education projects, and programmes in studies related to South Asia, as well as supporting applications for grants from various research and education funding agencies. Planning activities bridging the gap between the natural sciences, the humanities, and the social sciences in South Asian studies are also underwritten.
2. Extending networking grants to support activities that are already in progress.
3. Guest lecture and guest researcher programmes.

For more information, please see our webpage at www.sasnet.lu.se.

Anna Lindberg, Director/Co-ordinator
Anna.Lindberg@sasnet.lu.se

Lars Eklund, Deputy Director/Webmaster
Lars.Eklund@sasnet.lu.se