

Post-Exotic India

Roskilde University - Lille Auditorium - 26-27 September 2007 - 9am - 5pm

A New Narrative in Making

Invited Speakers:

[Nicholas Dirks, Columbia University]
[Thomas Blom Hansen, Amsterdam University]
[Staffan Lindberg, Lund University]
[Ravinder Kaur, Roskilde University]
[Srirupa Roy, Amherst, USA, SSRC New York]
[Nandini Gooptu, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford]
[Pamela Price, Oslo University]
[Anna Lindberg, Lund University]
[Jørgen Dige Pedersen, Aarhus University]
[Pritam Singh, Oxford University]
[Sus Ulbæk, Danish Foreign Ministry]

The workshop is open to the general public.
Participation is free.

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WORKSHOP





Post-Exotic India: A New Narrative in Making



Workshop
26-27 September 2007
Lille Auditorium, Roskilde University

The 1990's economic liberalization programme in India is often seen as a sharp turning point that transformed India from an aid recipient developing nation to a fast growing global player. In less than two decades, India has become the new Asian success story comparable to China. New global buzzwords – outsourcing, call centers – have found inextricable Indian associations. In short, India speaks and is spoken of in a new global language, the lexicon of which is derived from its historic economic growth. The exotic – foreign, distant, mysterious and veiled – produced through the oriental gaze no longer dominates the Indian imagery. The post-exotic of 1990's seeks to produce a new narrative of global India.

As India posts 9.4% growth rate for the first time in its 60 years of post-colonial history (1947-2007), a sense of national *euphoria* tinged with *scepticism* is fast gaining ground. The reasons for euphoria are evident in the impressive statistics produced by the government that show high growth, low inflation, large flows of foreign direct investments and ever growing foreign exchange reserves. The successive governments, since 1990's economic liberalisation, have tried to capture the spirit of new India in catchphrases and slogans such as 'Shining India' and 'Incredible India' to captivate people's imagination in India and abroad. These media driven campaigns have been received sceptically as they gloss over uncomfortable facts of mass suicide deaths, communal violence, caste conflicts, growing rich-poor gap, social inequalities and falling levels in the human development index.

This two day intensive workshop explores the competing post-exotic narratives India through following themes:

- a. processes and affects of 1991 economic liberalisation ,
- b. emergence of a vocal, mobile and astute middle class,
- c. global ambitions of India, and
- d. the regional implications in South Asia.

The speakers include Nicholas Dirks, Thomas Blom Hansen, Srirupa Roy, Pritam Singh, Nandini Gooptu, Pamela Price, Jørgen Dige Pedersen, Anna Lindberg, Staffan Lindberg and Ravinder Kaur.

The workshop is open to the general public. Participation is free. For registration please contact Laurids Lauridsen lsl@ruc.dk, Staffan Lindberg Staffan.lindberg@soc.lu.se, or Ravinder Kaur rkaur@ruc.dk.

**Graduate School of International Development Studies, Roskilde University
& SASNET, Lund University**

Post-Exotic India: A New Narrative in Making

Two Day Workshop Programme

26th September 2007

9.30-9.35 *Welcome*
Laurids Lauridsen, ISG

9.35-9.45 *Introduction*
Ravinder Kaur, ISG

Past of Present

Chair: Staffan Lindberg, SASNET, Lund

9.45-10.45 India: A Colonial History of the Present
Nicholas B. Dirks, Columbia University

10.45-11.00 Coffee

India in a Globalised World

Chair: Laurids Lauridsen, ISG

11.00-12.30 Post-Exotic India: Speaking Global in a 'Flat World'
Ravinder Kaur, ISG

A New India-Denmark Partnership
Sus Ulbæk, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

12.30-13.30 Lunch

Middle India

Chair: Niels Brimnes, Århus University

13.30-17.00 New Visions of the City and the poor in contemporary India
Nandini Gooptu, Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford University

Being a Woman in 21st Century India
Anna Lindberg, Lund University
Coffee

An 'Ordinary' Progress: Notes from Middle India
Staffan Lindberg

Middle Class Activism and the Politics of Neoliberalism
Srirupa Roy, University of Amherst and SSRC, New York

27th September 2007

India Shining?

Chair: Steen Folke, DIIS

9.30-11.00

India that does not Shine: Muslims and the Sachar Report
Thomas Blom Hansen, Amsterdam University

Political Economy of the conflict between centralisation and decentralisation in India before and after 1991
Pritam Singh, QEH, Oxford University

11.00-11.30

Coffee

Growth, Development and Industry

Chair: Neil Webster, DIIS

11.30-13.00

Accelerated economic development in the context of global warming: new challenges to political capacity in India
Pamela Price

India's industrial strategy: Failure, success, and future
Jørgen Dige Pedersen, Århus University

13.00-14.00

Lunch

14.00-17.00

Anna Lindberg and Ravinder Kaur

PhD Workshop 1

Amandeep Singh Sandhu, University of California, Santa Barbara

Mahesh Sarma, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Rana Ghose, Institute for Development Studies, Sussex

Rasmus Wendt, ISG

Stinne Håkon Jakobsen, DIIS

Swagato Sarkar, QEH, Oxford University

14.00-17.00

Laurids Lauridsen and Jørgen Dige Petersen

PhD Workshop II

Caroline Wilson, Institute for Development Studies, Sussex

Elizabeth Williams-Oerberg, Århus University

Tommaso Bobbio, Royal Holloway, University of London

Antia Bouzas, UNED, Madrid, Spain

Katherine Martineau, University of Michigan

Eric Eide, University of Michigan