

Summary of the Swedish South Asia Studies Network, SASNET seminar at Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm 2003-05-14

Professor Lindblad welcomed the representatives of all Stockholm Universities and Colleges and introduced Professor Staffan Lindberg, Sociology, University of Lund, the SASNET Director and Coordinator, and Lars Eklund, Webmaster of SASNET and Editor of the South Asia Journal.

Professor Lindberg then gave a presentation of SASNET and welcomed grant applications, next deadline 15th June. He would welcome a Stockholm-Uppsala link in South Asia Studies in analogy with the Öresund link, ÖRNAST.

He emphasised the need for masters programmes at Swedish Universities, as the ones that will start in Lund and Uppsala in the Fall 2003. He suggested that we get together and ask the universities to start new courses.

Lars Eklund presented the network and the website <www.sasnet.lu.se> It presents all South Asian related research in Sweden, institutions around the world in the field, library services, etc.

Professor Lindberg then gave an account of the PhD strategy of SASNET. He mentioned what came out of the Marstrand seminar for PhD students in Sweden dealing with South Asian issues, like preparations and recruitment. The results of the discussion on "perceived needs" of research students are presented extensively at <www.sasnet.lu.se/phdsymp.html>. Other issues discussed at Marstrand were an Ombudsman for PhD students, publications and work report series and the need for specialist advisors and "sandwich" type of training between universities in South Asia and Sweden.

He discussed the new plans of Sida SAREC to give priority to post-doc support and that support for PhD students would in the future be given via programmes led by senior professors. According to Anders Clarhäll there is a problem of reporting within the current system of support, that is, the economic and reporting problems arising if the student uses his rights to change supervisor.

Prof. Lindberg emphasized the need for establishing post-doc positions like 'biträdande lektor' in order to help young post-doc researchers to stay on and maintain research capacity at the university departments so as to prepare for the retirement of professors born in the 1940s, which is just around the corner

He recommended Nordic collaboration in setting up courses and of exchange of supervisors to increase competence in supervision. He mentioned the need for electronic publication, like Journal of Peace and Democracy in South Asia by Professor Ishtiaq Ahmed. He distributed the plans for a NorfAsia Research School, a graduate school in Asian Studies for the Social Sciences and Humanities to start 1 January^t 2004.

Professor Lindblad then led a short presentation of the researchers present and a discussion on how to increase contacts in South Asian Studies between the Stockholm Universities and between the disciplines. It was concluded that a good start would be if whenever a seminar is planned at any of the universities in Stockholm, there is an invitation sent to the emails given above and that the invitation is extended to Uppsala, c/o Gunnel Cederlöf, Department of Cultural Anthropology as a contact person, E-mail: <gunnel.cederlof@antro.uu.se>

It was suggested that the message is spread inside the institutions of the individuals represented by the E-mail addresses above.

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