Nordic South Asia Network

Nordic newsletter 2 - January 1, 2017

View | Edit | Revisions | Nodequeue

Submitted by admin on Tue, 2016-12-20 22:43

NORDIC SOUTH ASIA NETWORK

Subscribe to the newsletter by sending an e-mail to sydasien@sydasien.se



Contents:

- Research Community News
- Educational News
- Conferences and workshops outside Scandinavia
- Conferences and workshops in Scandinavia
- Business and Politics
- South Asia related Culture
- New and updated information

Research Community News

- **PhD thesis on Subaltern Urbanization and Census Towns in West Bengal**

Navigation

- Add News item
- Create new page
- See content and pages
- Create URL shortcut (alias)
- Broken link Report
- Import
- Imported From NIAS
- Sammanställ ett nyhetsbrev
- Skapa verksamhetsrapport
- Open newsletter template

SASNET & Nordic Newsletters

Nordic newsletter 2 - January 1, 2017
Nordic newsletter 1 - June 2016
Newsletter 186 – 13 April 2016
Newsletter 185 – 8 March 2016
Newsletter 184 – 18 February 2016
Newsletter 183 – 21 January 2016
Newsletter 182 – 22 December 2015
Newsletter 181 – 25 November 2015
Newsletter 180 – 28 October 2015
Newsletter 179 – 30 September 2015
Newsletter 178 – 2 September 2015
Newsletter 177 – 6 August 2015
Newsletter 176 – 3 June 2015
Newsletter 175 – 7 May 2015
Newsletter 174 – 15 April 2015
Newsletter 173 – 26 March 2015
Newsletter 172 – 12 February 2015
Newsletter 171 – 20 January 2015
Newsletter 170 – 18 December 2014
Newsletter 169 – 25 November 2014
Newsletter 168 – 28 October 2014
Newsletter 167 – 6 October 2014
Newsletter 166 – 9 September 2014
Newsletter 165 – 21 August 2014
Newsletter 164 – 16 July 2014
Newsletter 163 – 10 June 2014
Newsletter 162 – 20 May 2014
Newsletter 161 – 29 April 2014
Newsletter 160 – 4 April 2014
Newsletter 159 – 14 March 2014
Newsletter 158 – 17 February 2014
Newsletter 157 – 24 January 2014
Newsletter 156 – 19 December 2013
Newsletter 155 – 20 November 2013
Newsletter 154 – 22 October 2013
Newsletter 153 – 2 October 2013
Newsletter 152 – 5 September 2013
Newsletter 151 – 19 August 2013
Newsletter 150 – 17 July 2013
Newsletter 149 – 19 June 2013
Newsletter 148 – 20 May 2013
Newsletter 147 – 30 April 2013
Newsletter 146 – 4 April 2013
Newsletter 145 – 28 February 2013
Newsletter 144 – 5 February 2013
Newsletter 143 – 11 January 2013
Newsletter 142 – 10 December 2012
Newsletter 141 – 17 October 2012
Newsletter 140 – 27 September 2012
Newsletter 139 – 31 August 2012
Newsletter 138 – 9 August 2012
Newsletter 137 – 18 June 2012
Newsletter 136 – 22 May 2012
Newsletter 135 – 3 May 2012



Srilata Sircar from the Department of Human Geography, Lund University, defended her doctoral dissertation entitled *"Between the Highway and the Red Dirt Track: Subaltern Urbanization and Census Towns in India"* on Friday 9 December 2016. Venue: Världen, Geocentrum I, Sölvegatan 10, Lund. The faculty opponent was Tariq Jazeel, Reader at the Dept. of Geography, University College London (UCL), United Kingdom.
Sircar has been supervised at the department by Prof. Agnes Andersson Djurfeldt.
Abstract: In the 2011 census of India, more than 2500 settlements have been newly inducted into the category of 'census towns' – the lowest size-class of urban settlements in India. This is a staggering figure in light of the observation that a comparable number constituted the total number of all urban settlements recorded since 1900. Furthermore, it has been revealed through aerial images, that a vast majority of these new census towns are situated away from million-plus metropolitan areas and are parts of smaller settlement agglomerations. This geographical phenomenon of small-town based urbanization independent of state planning has been termed subaltern urbanization. The study was conducted in West Bengal - the state with the highest share of new census towns. The fieldwork was carried out in two towns in the south-western districts of West Medinipur (Garbeta town) and Bankura (Jhantipahari town). Read more...

• Tribhuvan University representatives visited Lund University

On Tuesday 6 September 2016, Dr. Bal Mukunda Bhandari, Director, International Office, Tribhuvan University, Nepal, made a courtesy visit to Lund University, along with Hari Maya Sharma, Lecturer at Tribhuvan University and also a PhD Student connected to Aarhus University, Denmark. The visit was made in connection with a week-long stay in Denmark. Dr. Bhandari is in charge of the different collaboration programmes and MoUs that TU has with foreign universities, including several Danish universities, especially Aarhus, Aalborg and Roskilde.



Lars Eklund, Hari Maya Sharma, Bal Mukunda Bhandari and Elisabeth Axell.

In Lund Bhandari and Sharma met with Elisabeth Axell, Regional Coordinator for South and Central Asia at the Division for External Relations, Strategic Partnerships and Networks, Lund University, and SASNET deputy director Lars Eklund, both old acquaintences of Bhandari, who was involved in the 2012 Erasmus Mundus Action 2 Asia Regional mobility programme EMEA coordinated by Lund University (with TU being a partner university). More information about EMEA and other South Asia related Erasmus Mundus Action 2 programmes.
Lars also met Bhandari during an official SASNET visit to Tribhuvan University in 2012. Read more about the Kathmandu visit.
While at Lund Univerity, a meeting was also held with Associate senior lecturer Henrik Davidsson at the Department of Architecture and the Built Environment, discussing a Capacity Building project involving Tribhuvan University.

The current Danish-Nepalese collaboration projects are both partly funded by the Danish development assistance agency Danida. One project, MAGART, involves besides three Danish universities and Tribhuvan also one university in Kenya and one in Uganda.
A second project is The Platform for Stability, Democracy & Rights (PSDR). It has as its goal to strengthen human and institutional capacity in partner universities in line with the overall objectives of the Building Stronger Universities (BSU) initiative, and with a specific focus on academic focus areas that can feed into three of the priorities identified in the newly revised strategy for Denmark's development cooperation, namely: 1) Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights; 2) Gender Equality; and 3) Stability and Fragility.
In Nepal, the Platform has identified three units as initial entry points for collaboration, namely the multi-disciplinary research institute Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies (CNAS) at TU, and two constituent campuses located in the Western Development Region, namely the small Gorkha Campus and the larger Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara. More informtation about the project.

• SASNET board meeting approved organisational changes

On Monday 10 October 2016, the Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET) held its final board meeting as an autonomous unit of Lund University. On 1 January 2017, an organizational change took place, and SASNET merged with the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES), and became a subdivision of CMES.
The focus of SASNET henceforth will be on South Asia related research

Newsletter 134 – 4 April 2012
Newsletter 133 – 8 March 2012
Newsletter 132 – 9 February 2012
Newsletter 131 – 16 January 2012
Newsletter 130 - 19 December 2011
Newsletter 129 – 24 November 2011
Newsletter 128 - 28 October 2011
Newsletter 127 – 11 October 2011
Newsletter 126 - 2 September 2011
Newsletter 125 - 12 August 2011
Newsletter 124 - 13 June 2011
Newsletter 123 - 13 May 2011
Newsletter 122 - 7 April 2011
Newsletter 121 - 18 March 2011
Newsletter 120 - 15 February 2011
Newsletter 119 - 20 January 2011
Newsletter 118 - 30 December 2010
Newsletter 117 - 14 December 2010
Newsletter 116 - 12 November 2010
Newsletter 115 - 22 October 2010
Newsletter 114 - 5 October 2010
Newsletter 113 - 7 September 2010
Newsletter 112 - 17 August 2010
Newsletter 111 - 24 June 2010
Newsletter 110 - 21 May 2010
Newsletter 109 - 23 April 2010
Newsletter 108 - 9 April 2010
Newsletter 107 - 12 March 2010
Newsletter 106 - 10 February 2010
Newsletter 105 - 29 January 2010
Newsletter 104 - 2 December 2009
Newsletter 103 - 6 November 2009
Newsletter 102 - 20 October 2009
Newsletter 101 - 2 October 2009
Newsletter 100 - 4 September 2009
Newsletter 99 - 23 July 2009
Newsletter 98 - 11 June 2009
Newsletter 97 - 26 May 2009
Newsletter 96 - 30 April 2009
Newsletter 95 - 6 April 2009
Newsletter 94 - 10 March 2009
Newsletter 93 - 4 February 2009
Newsletter 92 - 14 January 2009
Newsletter 91 - 5 December 2008
Newsletter 90 - 3 November 2008
Newsletter 89 - 3 October 2008
Newsletter 88 - 15 September 2008
Newsletter 87 - 21 August 2008
Newsletter 86 - 10 June 2008
Newsletter 85 - 20 May 2008
Newsletter 84 - 25 April 2008
Newsletter 83 - 27 March 2008
Newsletter 82 - 27 February 2008
Newsletter 81 - 30 January 2008
Newsletter 80 - 14 December 2007
Newsletter 79 - 29 October 2007
Newsletter 78 - 9 October 2007
Newsletter 77 - 14 September 2007
Newsletter 76 - 13 July 2007
Newsletter 75 - 20 June 2007
Newsletter 74 - 29 May 2007
Newsletter 73 - 27 April 2007
Newsletter 72 - 17 April 2007
Newsletter 71 - 6 March 2007
Newsletter 70 - 9 February 2007
Newsletter 69 - 9 January 2007
Newsletter 68 - 11 December 2006
Newsletter 67 - 9 November 2006
Newsletter 66 - 17 October 2006
Newsletter 65 - 20 September 2006
Newsletter 64 - 25 August 2006
Newsletter 63 - 20 June 2006
Newsletter 62 - 24 May 2006
Newsletter 61 - 28 April 2006
Newsletter 60 - 7 April 2006
Newsletter 59 - 9 March 2006
Newsletter 58 - 23 January 2006
Newsletter 57 - 17 November 2005
Newsletter 56 - 20 October 2005

and teaching at Lund University. The members of the board approved the new organisation, but added that they hope that SASNET's brand continues to be independent and suggested that a reference group should be appointed with representatives from several faculties. The Board also emphasized the importance of SASNET's national network function, and that it somehow may survive. SASNET should also be active in the upcoming new Asia strategy at Lund University.




Anna Lindberg and Lars Eklund

Both Director Anna Lindberg and Deputy Director Lars Eklund have retired, Anna from 1 November 2016, and Lars from 1 January 2017. They were warmly thanked for their many years in SASNET service - Anna since 2007 and Lars since the launch of the network in January 2001. Dr. Andreas Johansson now takes over the chair position, and the board agreed to let Andreas become Acting Director (*ställföreträdande föreståndare*) already from 1 November. Two young post-doc researchers will also be employed as of January 1, 2017, on one-year project positions with a focus to seek external funding. Since SASNET merges with CMES, this meeting was also the final one for the board that has been in charge of business since 2013 (information about SASNET's board). From January 2017, the board of CMES takes over the responsibility.

Read the verified Minutes from the October 2016 meeting (in Swedish only).

• Forte announces research project grants in the field of ageing and health

In collaboration with the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte) has announced a joint call for collaborative research projects in the field of ageing and health. The call is open for joint proposals from research teams based in India and Sweden. The call will stimulate interdisciplinary, innovative, close to practice research in the field of ageing and health. Proposals may address one of the two themes: innovative and assistive technology studies or models of homebased care. Projects should be of 2-3 years duration and it is anticipated that a maximum of 4 research projects will be funded. The programme is an outcome of an MoU signed during President Pranab Mukherjee's official visit to Sweden in 2015.



Ewa Ställdal, Director General of Forte, along with Indian Ambassador Banashri Bose Harrison sign the MoU on 1 July 2015. Behind them Indian President Pranab Mukherjee and Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

Proposals must include both Swedish and Indian Principal Investigators. Sweden-based principal investigators must hold a PhD and be a scientist at a Swedish university, higher education institute (HEI) or at another research organisation that has been approved as an administrative organisation by Forte. India-based principal investigators must be working in a permanent position in an Indian medical college, research institute or university. Sweden-based principal investigators may apply for a maximum of 3 MSEK for the entire project duration. India-based principal investigators may apply for a maximum of 70 lakhs for the entire project duration. Deadline for applications is 17 January 2017. Full information.

• Mother Teresa Sadbhawana Award to Shantiniketan researcher

Dr. Sujit Kumar Paul, Head, Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension, Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Visva-Bharati University in Shantiiketan, West Bengal, India, has been conferred Mother Teresa Sadbhawana Award with Medal for his outstanding achievement in individual contribution for National Economic and Social Development. The award was presented to him in a function held in the Deputy Speaker Hall, Constitution Club of India, New Delhi on September 24, 2016. Dr. Paul is a Life Member of Indian Adult Education Association and the Vice President of the Association for World Education (AWE) – An International NGO with the consultative status of the United Nations. He is also closely associated SASNET. Dr. Paul has vast experience in the field of Rural and Community Development and actively engaged in Teaching, Research, Extension and Field Outreach activities. Dr. Paul has published nearly 100 research papers in reputed National and International Journals and also published 7 books in different Social Science issues.



Newsletter 55 - 22 September 2005
Newsletter 54 - 15 August 2005
Newsletter 53 - 30 June 2005
Newsletter 52 - 19 May 2005
Newsletter 51 - 19 April 2005
Newsletter 50 - 18 March 2005
Newsletter 49 - 21 February 2005
Newsletter 48 - 20 January 2005
Newsletter 47 - 23 December 2004
Newsletter 46 - 25 November 2004
Newsletter 45 - 2 November 2004
Newsletter 44 - 5 October 2004
Newsletter 43 - 17 September 2004
Newsletter 42 - 27 August 2004
Newsletter 41 - 15 July 2004
Newsletter 40 - 15 June 2004
Newsletter 39 - 11 May 2004
Newsletter 38 - 14 April 2004
Newsletter 37 - 10 March 2004
Newsletter 36 - 17 February 2004
Newsletter 35 - 27 January 2004
Newsletter 34 - 7 December 2003
Newsletter 33 - 13 November 2003
Newsletter 32 - 13 October 2003
Newsletter 31 - 12 September 2003
Newsletter 30 - 12 August 2003
Newsletter 29 - 11 July 2003
Newsletter 28 - 12 June 2003
Newsletter 27 - 13 May 2003
Newsletter 26 - 17 April 2003
Newsletter 25 - 17 March 2003
Newsletter 24 - 12 February 2003
Newsletter 23 - 21 January 2003
Newsletter 22 - 19 December 2002
Newsletter 21 - 15 November 2002
Newsletter 20 - 24 October 2002
Newsletter 19 - 26 September 2002
Newsletter 18 - 6 September 2002
Newsletter 17 - 9 August 2002
Newsletter 16 - 11 June 2002
Newsletter 15 - 13 May 2002
Newsletter 14 - 8 April 2002
Newsletter 13 - 14 February 2002
Newsletter 12 - 8 January 2002
Newsletter 11 - 5 December 2001
Newsletter 10 - 23 October 2001
Newsletter 9 - 12 September 2001
Newsletter 8 - 22 August 2001
Newsletter 7 - 18 July 2001
Newsletter 6 - 12 June 2001
Newsletter 5 - 9 May 2001
Newsletter 4 - 4 April 2001
Newsletter 3 - 1 March 2001
Newsletter 2 - 1 February 2001
Newsletter 1 - January 2001

• Researcher in the field of Media and Public Spheres wanted in Göttingen

The Centre for Modern Indian Studies at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen is looking to fill the position of a Researcher (PhD or postdoctoral) working in the 'Media and Public Spheres' Research Cluster. This position should be filled by 15 January 2017. The position is offered within the framework of the DFG Priority Program "Proper Times of the Aesthetic. Time and Representation in Polychronic Modernity." More information on the Priority Programme.
In addition to working on a research project (working title: "*Religious times, media genres, and their technical execution: An ethnographic investigation of audiovisual media practices among Shi'ites in Hyderabad*") the position's duties include participation in the interdisciplinary research cluster "Media and Public Spheres" at CeMIS. More information on CeMIS.
The successful candidate will hold a highly qualified PhD or M.A. or M.Phil degree in anthropology, sociology, South Asian studies or related disciplines. Knowledge of Urdu/Hindustani is an advantage. As many activities in the overall DFG priority program will be conducted in German, a willingness to acquire a working knowledge of the language is also expected. This position is designed to foster young researchers and scientists and gives the successful applicant the opportunity to pursue a doctoral or post-doctoral degree. Full information.

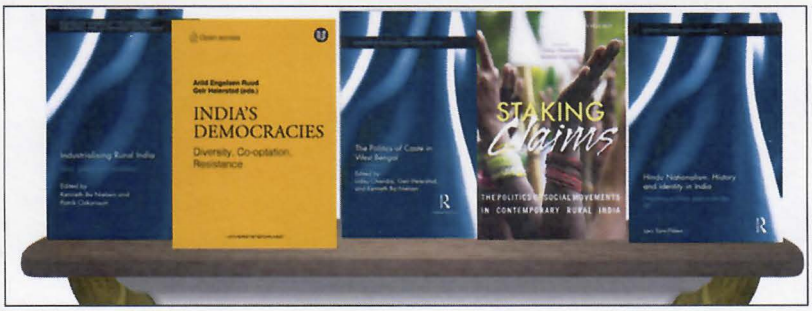
• Copenhagen thesis on Sufi Muslims in Lahore





On Friday 4 November 2016, at 14.00, Ida Sofie Matzen from the Institute of Anthropology at University of Copenhagen defended her PhD dissertation project entitled *"Extremists of Love: Cosmological Activism among Sufi Muslims in Contemporary Lahore, Pakistan"*.
Venue: Center for Sundhed og Samfund, Institut for Antropologi, Øster Farimagsgade 5, room 1.1.18. The evaluation committee consisted of Professor Heiko Henkel, Institut for Antropologi (chair person); Professor Nils Ole Bubandt, Aarhus University; and Associate Professor Naveeda Khan, Department of Anthropology, The John Hopkins University, USA.
This thesis concerns the multiple political forms of Sufi Islam in Pakistan. Although scholars and locals have often associated Sufism with spiritual and folkloristic – and hence overtly apolitical – performances in and around shrines, the thesis explores how Sufi cosmological concepts and practices also amount to more or less explicit forms of political activities and visions. In this sense, the thesis is not only a study of how Sufism is interwoven with the formal politics of state, political parties, and official governance. It is also – and primarily – a study of Sufism's inherent political potential, of Sufi politics in less visible yet notable and multifarious instantiations within as well as beyond the Pakistani state.
Based on twelve months of ethnographic fieldwork carried out between 2009 and 2012 among Sufi followers in and around Lahore, Matzen demonstrates that a focus on the multiple political forms of Sufi Islam is as relevant as ever. As Sufi shrines have been repeatedly targeted by attacks from terrorist groups, Sufis have concurrently been invoked by the Pakistani government and American think tanks as a bulwark against Islamist extremism. This thesis contributes to an understanding of an alternative – and in a distinctly non-violent sense, extremist – political culture in Pakistan. Read more...

• Oslo University seminar connected to release of five new books on India



On 3 November 2016, the Network for Asian studies (Asianettverket) at University of Oslo organised an interesting seminar combined with a book launch event for five recently published books on India. In the seminar, entitled *"Modi and the Politics of Progress"*, the authors and editors participated and based on their respective books they discussed current issues of caste, democracy, social movements, industrialisation and nationalism. The aim was search for an answer to the questions: What have Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his government achieved so far, and where are they heading?
The researchers and their books:
- Uday Chandra (Georgetown University, Qatar), editor of "The Politics of Caste in West Bengal" (Routledge, 2016) and "Staking Claims" (Oxford University Press)
- Geir Heierstad (Norwegian Institute of Urban and Regional Research), editor of "The Politics of Caste in West Bengal" (Routledge, 2016) and "India's Democracies" (Universitetsforlaget, 2016)
- Lars Tore Flåten (University of Oslo), author of "Hindu Nationalism, History and Identity in India" (Routledge, 2016)
- Kenneth Bo Nielsen (Asianettverket), editor of "Industrialising Rural India (Routledge, 2016) and "The Politics of Caste in West Bengal" (Routledge, 2016)
- Patrik Oskarsson (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences), editor of "Industrialising Rural India (Routledge, 2016)

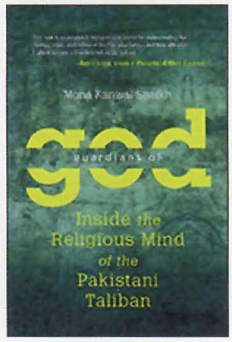
- Arild Engelsen Ruud (University of Oslo), editor of "India's Democracies" (Universitetsforlaget, 2016

The seminar was held at the Centre for Development and Envitonment (SUM), University of Oslo. More information.

• Copenhagen seminar on Talking with the Pakistani Taliban



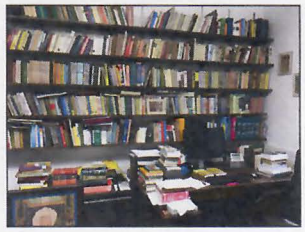
Dr. Mona Kanwal Sheikh from the Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) held an Asia Dynamics lecture at University of Copenhagen on Friday 11 November 2016, 10.00-12.00. She spoke about "Talking with the Pakistani Taliban".



The question of whether governments should engage with talks with terrorist groups is at the center of international controversy due to attempts to negotiate with the Taliban movement in Afghanistan and Pakistan. In spite of heavy criticism, both the US, Afghanistan and Pakistan have been reaching out to elements of the Taliban movements in Pakistan or Afghanistan, albeit with distinct agendas. This talk will focus on the case of Pakistan and draw out the counterinsurgency rationale behind talks with insurgent groups as well as the potential conflict de-escalating effects of meeting with the militants. Sheikh will also draw on her own experiences from meeting militants in Pakistan, and what she has learned from her interviews with Taliban activists and leaders.

Mona Kanwal Sheikh has a PhD in Political Science from the University of Copenhagen, and has later been a visiting scholar at the Orfalea Center for Global and International studies at University of California Santa Barbara and the Center for South Asia Studies at UC Berkeley. She has recently published a book on the Pakistani Taliban movement (Guardians of God – Inside the Religious Mind of the Pakistani Taliban, Oxford University Press, 2016). More information.

• Lars Eklund visited University of Chicago



After attending the 45th South Asian Studies conference at Madison, Wisconsin, 21-23 October 2016, SASNET deputy director Lars Eklund did not return immediately to Sweden (read his report from Madison). Instead he travelled to the nearby metropolitan city of Chicago in order to visit the University of Chicago and its Center for South Asian Civilizations and Culture (SALC), located in the impressive and beautiful late 19th century building Foster Hall. The SALC Department offers graduate and undergraduate programs with a focus on the study of the textual traditions of South Asia and its languages as a basis for a fuller understanding of the civilizations of the Indian subcontinent and surrounding areas. He met Gary Tubb, Anupama and Guru Ramakrishnan Professor, Chair of the SALC Department (and a renowned Sanskrit scholar); Associate Professor Whitney Cox; Associate Professor Rochona Majumdar; and Assistant Professor Thibaut d'Hubert. Read more...

• PhD thesis on Finnish business leader's India experiences



Narashima Boopathi Sivasubramanian from the Department of Management at University of Vaasa, Finland, defends his doctoral dissertation entitled *"Managing across cultures with Cultural Intelligence Quotient (CQ) - Study of Finnish business leaders experience in India"*, on Friday 16 December 2016 at 12.00. Vene: Auditorium Kurtén (C203, Tervahovi), University of Vaasa.

Sivasubramanian's doctoral thesis aims at testing the theory of Cultural intelligence Quotient (CQ). Dissertation looks at CQ level of Finnish leaders who are leading business in India and investigates how CQ is used by them in overcoming cross-cultural challenges. Two years ago he received as a PhD student "The Best Paper" award at the International Conference on Global Business, Economics, Finance and Social Sciences which was held in Chennai, India. The paper was entitled "A detailed comparison of Finland and India through Hofstede & GLOBE study". More information.

• Pakistani activist against bonded labour visited SASNET

On Wednesday 23 November 2016, Liaqat Javed, Executive Director for the Backwards Rehabilitation and Improvement Commission Pakistan (BRIC), visited SASNET at Lund University. Javed had come to Lund - as part of a Sweden tour - on invitation from the regional outfit of ABF, Sweden's largest adult non-profit educational organisation and a collaboration partner of SASNET. His mission is to share his experiences from workers' rights among brick kiln workers in Pakistan. Being born in a family of bonded labour

working in the brick kilns around Lahore himself, but later being able to get proper education and have his family set free from the debt slavery, Javed is a strong proponent of mobilizing the disadvantaged groups in his home country, exploited workers, tribal groups etc. In Lund a public seminar was organised by the Fairtrade City Lund organisation.

Javed was accompanied by Christoffer Sjöstrand from ABF MittSkåne, and met with SASNET deputy director Lars Eklund and communications officer Elina Vidarsson at SASNET's new office in Villa Norlind at Biskopsgatan 5. They had a fruitful discussion on the issues BRIC highlights, and possible future common activities such as organising seminars.



Elina Vidarsson, Liaqat Javed and Lars Eklund.

As a side effect of the meeting, Christoffer Sjöstrand (*photo to the right*) and the SASNET representatives agreed upon reviving the public brownbag seminars presenting Lund University's South Asia research that ABF and SASNET organised during the period 2011-2013 at Lunds konsthall. A new series of lectures will be planned for the spring 2017.



It should be added that during his stay in Sweden, Liaqat Javed also visits several other places - Gothenburg, Skara, Stockholm among others - and organisations with which BRIC has established collaboration, for example Swedewatch, with an interest in investigating working conditions in the surgical manufacturing industry in Pakistan. More than 150 million surgical instruments are produced in Pakistan every year and the global market value amounted to € 277 million in 2013-2014. Many of the instruments reach hospitals in Sweden through Swedish suppliers. More information on the procurement of surgical instruments and the developments in Pakistan in a Swedwatch report from February 2015. Go for it.

Conferences outside Scandinavia

- **Cambridge MUSA conference on Negotiating Technologies**

The Muslim South Asia Research Forum (MUSA) at SOAS, University of London, UK, arranged a Workshop on Negotiating Technologies, 14-15 October 2016. The MUSA Workshop was organized in collaboration with CEIAS, Paris & the Centre of South Asian Studies, Cambridge, and was held at Trinity College, University of Cambridge.

One session was devoted to South Asian Muslims & the History of Science & Techniques. The narrative locating the birth of modern science in the European 'scientific revolution' of the 16th and 17th centuries has long been challenged. Many, like Joseph Needham on China or Seyyed Hossein Nasr on the Muslim world, have highlighted that other parts of the world were, at particular times in history, more advanced technologically than Western Europe. To disprove Western claims of superiority, the role of Muslims in the preservation of Greek knowledge or in mathematical and technological innovation is often contrasted to the situation in medieval Europe. What about South Asia? How have South Asian Muslims – whether erudite or illiterate, princely counsels or craftsmen – taken part in knowledge production, not as isolated inventors, but as persons both inscribed in a social setting and yet connected much beyond it? More information.

- **45th Annual University of Wisconsin–Madison Conference on South Asia**



The 45th Annual Madison Conference on South Asia was held 20–23 October 2016. This year's theme was DECAY. The conference, sponsored by the Center for South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's, attracted over 750 scholars and specialists on South Asia, coming from countries all over the world and much of the United States. This year the Joseph W. Elder keynote lecture at the conference was given by Professor Radhika Coomaraswamy, former under-geneal secretary from Sri Lanka, and the 2016 Plenary Address speaker was Pankaj Butalia.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN – MADISON
Annual Conference on South Asia
Center for South Asia, a member of the International Institute at UW-Madison

The Annual Conference on South Asia invites scholars, students, professionals, and anyone interested in research on the region to Madison, Wisconsin, for a four-day event featuring research panels and roundtables, lectures and addresses, film screenings, booksellers, association receptions, and other special presentations.

This year, SASNET deputy director Lars Eklund participated in the Madison conference, also representing the European Association for South Asian Studies, EASAS, an organisation for which he serves as the Treasurer. Afterwards he spent four days in Chicago, visiting the University of Chiacago. More information.

• Fourth Conference on Bengal Related Studies for Young Scholars in Halle



The Fourth Conference on Bengal Related Studies for Students and Young Scholars was held in Halle (Saale), Germany, 28-30 October 2016. It was being organised by the South Asia Seminar of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. The aim of the conference was to provide an interdisciplinary venue for students and young scholars who focus on the Bengal regions in their studies. The conference committee consisted of Stefanie Beine, Carmen Brandt, Kirsten Hackenbroch, Ludwig Merker, Paul Rupschus, Franziska Strich, and Boris Wille. A large number of highly interesting papers were presented, amomg them two contributions by Scandinavia-based researchers, namely Tiyasha Sengupta from Syddansk Universitet in Odense, presenting a aper on *"The Indian Bengali: Exploring Identity through a Critical Discourse Analytical Approach to Narayan Debanath's "Bā̆ṭul the Great"*; and Isha Dubey from Aarhus University, presemting a paper on *"Incipient Bengali Nationalism and Muhajirs in East Pakistan: 1948-1955"*. Go for the full programme.

• Sanskrit workshop at the Tibetan Pavilion in Auroville

Dr. Rama Nath Sharma (Professor Emeritus, University of Hawaii) presented a 5 day workshop on Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī. This took place between 12-16th November 2016 in the Tibetan Pavilion in Auroville, India.

This was the 2nd year this workshop was held and the organisers extended an invitation not only for Sanskrit scholars but also for other researchers in the field of Linguistics, ComputerScience and many other disciplines. More information.

Registration: http://www.dl.gt/panini2016

• Swedish support to Guwahati spring school on the India-China Corridor



The India-China Corridor Spring School will be held in Guwahati, Assam, India, on 25-26 March 2017. The theme for the pring school will be *"Modern Empires, Flows, Environments and Livelihoods"*, and it is jointly organised by Prof. Gunnel Cederlöf, Centre for Concurrences in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies, the Linnaeus University, Sweden (lead faculty member); Prof. Arupjyoti Saikia, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati; Dr. Mandy Sadan, Department of History, SOAS, University of London, UK; Prof. Em. Willem van Schendel, Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Prof. Dan Smyer Yu, Director, Center for Trans-Himalayan Studies, Yunnan Minzu University, China; and Prof. Mahesh Rangarajan, Ashoka University, India. The Spring school is sponsored by IIT Guwahati, and the Swedish Research Council.

For the first time in three hundred years, India and China are rapidly emerging as global powers in a world economy gravitating from the Atlantic to the Asia-Pacific. Deep histories of interconnection have materialized via enormously varied ecologies and eco-zones, and a broad spectrum of polities across times of interaction, alliances, and warfare. Borders and boundaries have variably hardened, softened and moved, from the times of imperial Mughal, Manchu and British domination until the formation of the nation-states we know today. The transregional effects have not only cartographically reshaped the interconnected territories of the Himalayas, Northeast India, and the highlands of Southeast Asia. They have also engendered geopolitical perceptions of the eco-geological contiguities, and geo-economic alterations of traditional trade and religious networks between multiple nations and multi-centred ethnolinguistic societies. Deadline for the submission of applications was 10 November 2016. Full information.

Scandinavian conferences

• NIAS conference on NORDIC Asian Studies in the 21st century

The Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS) in Copenhagen invited all Nordic colleagues in Asian studies for a conference entitled "NORDIC Asian studies in the 21st century - Stocktaking for the future" that was held 7-9 December 2016. The reason behind the conference is, according to NIAS Director Geir Helgesen, is the paradox that even though the importance of Asia is fast growing and easy for all to observe, academics in the Nordic countries experience budget cuts, downgrading of Asian studies, sacking of colleagues, and difficulties in obtaining research funding. It is paradoxical, but it is happening. Moreover, it is happening while the interest in Asia for "the Nordic model" is growing.

Colleagues from the five Nordic countries are invited to inform about the current situation of Asian Studies in their country. Through this sharing effort, the aim is to map the actual situation in the region. A representative from one of the major Nordic research councils has also been invited in order to hear about their priorities and discuss possible new avenues in Asian Studies. The programme will consist of keynotes, panel debates, roundtables, informal discussions and networking. Colleagues who wanted to present a paper were invited to do so. Keynote speakers included Prof. Ummu Salma Bava from the Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. Full information about the NIAS conference.

• Stockholm seminar on Social Democracy and its implications for the Global South



The Forum for Asian Studies at Stockholm University organised an Open Seminar entitled *"Reinventing Social Democracy - Implications for the Global South and Scandinavia"* on Wednesday 5 October 2016, 18.00-20.00. Venue: Medelhavsmuseet, Fredsgatan 2, Stockholm. Among the speakers were Niraja G. Jayal (*photo*) from the Centre for the Study of Law and Governance at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi, India; Olle Törnquist, Oslo University; and the Economist Stefan de Vylder.

In an age of uneven development and growing inequality globally, this seminar discussed possibilities to reinvent a development model that combines democratic, economic development and social equality. The seminar brings together a number of noted scholars and practitioners to a dialogue on the findings of Törnquist and Harriss et al's pioneering book *Reinventing Social Democratic Development: Insights from Indian and Scandinavian Comparisons* (2016). Is social democracy an answer to development challenges in the Global South? What are the policy implications for the

Global South and for Scandinavia? The seminar takes a broad geographic focus in experiences primarily from India and Scandinavia, pointing also to parallels with other parts of Asia as well as Latin America and Africa. The seminar was also co-arranged by ARENA, and Föreningen för utvecklingsfrågor (FUF). More information.

Educational News

• SASNET/CREST scholarships for two Lund University masters students



Dea Busk Larsen and Nashfa Hawwa.

Ms. Dea Busk Larsen, Masters student in Social Anthropology at Lund University; and Ms. Nashfa Hawwa, Masters student at the at the Environmental Management and Policy programme, also Lund University, have been selected by SASNET for a scholarship to be carried out in South Asia with the assistance of CREST, Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation, in Kozhikode, Kerala, India.
Dea will carry out her masters thesis work during early 2017, on a project entitled "*Living Caste: Educated Rural Dalit Women's Lived Experiences in Urban South India*", focusing on the informal sphere of young educated dalit women's lived experiences especially the aspect of migrating from rural to urban India. Dea has previously lived in the Indian states of Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu for 16 months in total.
Nashfa has carried out her field work during the summer 2016. After a few weeks staying at CREST in Kozhikode, she has spent time in Male, the capital city of the Maldives, working on a project entitled "*Establishing a Deposit-Refund System in the Maldives – an ex-ante Evaluation*", The project deals with the management of polyethylene-terephthalate (PET) plastic waste, a complex issue for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as the Maldives. This is because of the geographical complexity, small landmass, and lack of infrastructure and resources. Furthermore, changes from subsistence lifestyles to increased consumerism, increased imports, and population growth has escalated the number of PET bottles in the waste stream. While PET is deemed as the most optimal plastic for beverage bottles, and for recyclability, the Maldives lacks vital technical infrastructure to manage the PET waste in an environmentally sound manner. For her thesis, she seeks to conduct a research assessing the feasibility of implementing a deposit-refund system in the Maldives.

Cultural news

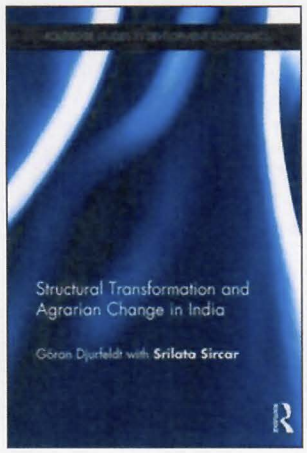
• Tea & Tabla - Indian Brunch concert in Malmö



Indian tabla player Abishek Mishra from Varanasi, curently on Europe tour performed in Malmö on Sunday 16 October 2016, at 12.00. Mishra is one of India's most promising tabla player and despite his young age played with several of the most prominent musicians in Indian classical music such as Shahid Parvez, Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and brothers Rajan and Sajan Mishra. In September 2016, he appeared on one of India's biggest music festivals in Kolkata, a concert that was broadcast on television across India. He has an explosive and virtuoso playing style and to see him perform live is a real experience!
The concert was part of a brunch session at Blå Båten, Anna Lindhs plats in central Malmö, from 12 till 15, and besides Mishra, the Tagore Choir in Lund performed, and a delicious, home-cooked Indian buffet with vegetarian stews, grilled tandoori chicken and other goodies was served. To this steaming hot Indian chai tea and other beverages!
More information.

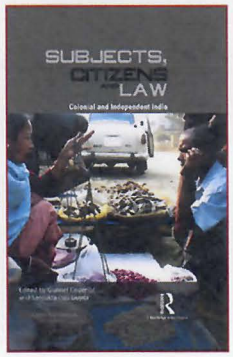
New and updated items

• Lund University researchers analyses the Agrarian Change in India



Structural Transformation and Agrarian Change in India, by Prof. **Göran Djurfeldt**, and PhD candidate **Srilata Sircar**, both at Lund University. Routledge Studies in Development Economics, 2016.
The landlord and his emaciated labourer are symbolic of Indian agriculture. However, this relationship has now changed as large landowners have fallen from their superior position. This volume explores how this emblematic pair becoming a thing of the past. The two researchers investigates whether family labour farms are gaining prominence as a consequence of the structural transformation of the economy. They work alongside Weberian methodology of ideal types and develop different types of family farms; among them family labour farms that rely mainly on family workers, contrasted with capitalist farms that depend on hired labour. Agriculture is shrinking as a part of the total GDP at the same time as agricultural labour is shrinking as part of the total labour force. This book successfully criticizes popular narratives about Indian agricultural development as well as simplistic evolutionist, Marxist or neoclassical prognoses. It is of great importance to those who study development economics, development studies and South Asian economics. Read more...
Göran Djurfeldt is Professor in Sociology and a veteran development researcher who has worked extensively on India and sub-Saharan Africa. Srilata Sircar is based at the Dept. of Human Geography, and defended her PhD thesis on the issue of Social Transformation in Emerging Census Towns of West Bengal, India in early December 2016.

- **Subjects, Citizens and Law in North India**



Subjects, Citizens and Law. Colonial and independent India, edited by Professor **Gunnel Cederlöf**, Linnaeus University, Växjö; and Professor **Sanjukta Das Gupta**, Sapienza University of Rome. Routledge India 2017. This volume investigates how, where and when subjects and citizens come into being, assert themselves and exercise subjecthood or citizenship in the formation of modern India. It argues for the importance of understanding legal practice – how rights are performed in dispute and negotiation – from the parliament and courts to street corners and field sites. The essays in the book explore themes such as land law and rights, court procedure, freedom of speech, sex workers' mobilisation, refugee status, adivasi people and non-state actors, and bring together studies from across north India, spanning from early colonial to contemporary times. Representing scholarship in history, anthropology and political science that draws on wide-ranging field and archival research, the volume will immensely benefit scholars, students and researchers of development, history, political science, sociology, anthropology, law and public policy. More information.

Best regards

Lars Eklund

Subscribe to the newsletter by sending an email to sydasien@sydasien.se!

Nordic South Asia Network (NSAN)
Address: 23 A, Sardar Sankar Road,
Kolkata - 700 029, India
Phone: +91 90 51173899
Webmaster: Lars Eklund

Subscribe to NSAN Newsletters by
sending an e-mail to sydasien@sydasien.se