



Rina Banerjee, *Take me, take me, take me... to the Palace of Love* (2003).

Plastic, antique Anglo-Indian Bombay dark wood chair, steel and copper framework, floral picks, foam balls, cowry shells, quilting pins, red colored moss, antique stone globe, glass, synthetic fabric, shells, fake birds.  
Courtesy of the artist.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY  
Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs

# SOUTH ASIA CENTER

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2023

## WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello everyone,

Welcome to our newsletter! I am the new Director of the South Asia Center (from Fall 2022). I am a sociologist and work on the South Asian diaspora as well as the connections between South Asia and the diaspora.

The past year has been very busy as I have been learning about all the many dimensions of the center and its grants. I am very grateful to Brian Taylor, Peg Hermann, Susan Wadley, and Juanita Horan who have taken the time to provide me with detailed instructions at every step. I am so happy to have Matthew Baxter on board as the Regional Programs Manager-Asia from December 2022 and have greatly valued his help and support. Until he and other Moynihan staff came on board, Juanita Horan had to put in long hours to handle everything and I really appreciate her uncomplaining work and effort.

One of my goals as director has been to expand the number of people, departments, and schools involved in SAC and the diversity of the programming we offer, both in person and via Zoom. We generally have events about every two weeks. Over the course of this past year, we had talks on Muslim rituals in Old Delhi, the governance of water in India, Mithila art, Adivasis in Jharkhand, communities living in the Brahmaputra floodplains, critical Kashmir studies, undivided Bengal and language policies, women in the Shia Ismaili diaspora, several events surrounding artist Rina Banerjee's two-week residency on campus, and a mini conference on the South Asian American diaspora. This coming year, we have a major talk on India's economy by Professor Kaushik Basu from Cornell in the fall and another major talk on India's democracy in the spring by Professor Pratap Mehta, former Vice-Chancellor of Ashoka University, India, along with several other speakers and events. Please check the South Asia Center website for our calendar of events. If you want to be added to our listserv, please contact Matt.

I have made it a priority to reach out to graduate and undergraduate students with South Asia interests across campus to find out how we can support them. We have also strengthened our connection with our consortium partner, Cornell's South Asia Program and its Einaudi Center. Matt and I have regular monthly meetings with our partners at Cornell, and we have begun conferences every semester for graduate students and faculty that alternate between our two campuses. The first such conference, hosted at Syracuse University this past spring, was a big success.

Matt has been expanding our outreach efforts in the community beyond just focusing on K-12 educators and junior colleges to connecting with a variety of South Asian groups in the larger Syracuse area. He has also co-organized a South Asia working group involving faculty from colleges and universities in Central New York.

Please contact me if you have suggestions for events or speakers but please know that these are set up at least a semester in advance.

Warmly,  
**Prema Kurien**

**“One of my goals...has been to expand the number of people, departments, and schools involved in SAC and the diversity of the programming we offer.”**

# NEW FACES

**Matthew Baxter** joined as the Regional Programs Manager—Asia at the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs in December 2022 and serves as Assistant Professor by Courtesy Appointment in the Department of Political Science. Baxter's teaching revolves around comparative political theory with an emphasis on politics and thought in and across South Asia.

Baxter (PhD, University of California, Berkeley, 2013), who is returning home to Syracuse after decades away (Westhill '95), has served on the faculty at Ashoka University (2018-2022), as a Visiting Scholar at Cornell University's South Asia Program (2016-2018), as a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University (2015-2016) and at Rutgers University (2014-2015), and as the Associate Editor for South Asia at Asian Survey (2012-2014). His work has been supported by organizations like the American Institute of Indian Studies and the Fulbright-Hays Program.

Baxter's research focuses on the world-wide travel of critical imaginaries, with a particular emphasis on Tamil-speaking South India during the interwar years. His publications have engaged themes like intimacy, conversion, and translation through the Tamil periodicals associated with the Self-Respect Movement [*Cuya-Mariyatai Iyakkam*].

**Arun Brahmbhatt** is joining as Assistant Professor of Religion at Syracuse University in Fall 2023. He is a teacher-scholar of Hinduism and South Asian religions.

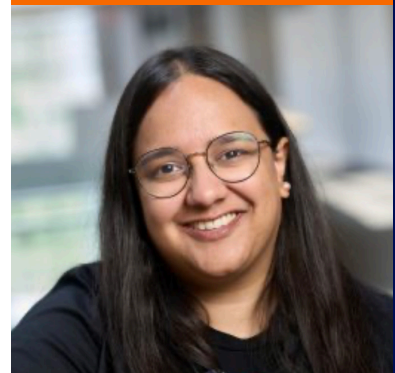
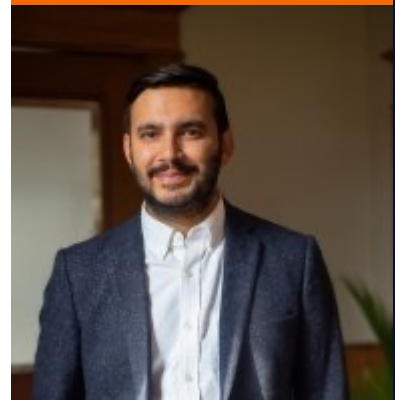
Brahmbhatt was previously an Assistant Professor of South Asian Religions at St. Lawrence University and an ASIANetwork-Luce Postdoctoral Fellow at Kenyon College. He holds a PhD in the Study of Religion and South Asian Studies from the University of Toronto and an MTS in South Asian Religions from Harvard Divinity School. He has held fellowships with the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, the Mellon-Sawyer Seminar Series, and the Fulbright-Nehru Program. Brahmbhatt serves as a South Asia section editor for Religion Compass and is on the South Asian Religions programming unit for the American Academy of Religion.

Brahmbhatt's research explores language, place, and modernity in colonial and contemporary South Asia and in the South Asian diaspora. His current book project employs archival, textual, and ethnographic approaches to examine the sustained deployment of Sanskrit in Gujarati religious communities from the nineteenth century to the present day.

**Nausheen Husain** (she/her) is a reporter who writes about Muslim communities and civil liberties issues, incarceration, and inequity; she also teaches journalism at Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Communication. She is from Chicago.

Before joining academia, Husain worked on data and investigative journalism projects at the Chicago Tribune. Husain earned her Master's of Journalism from the University of California, Berkeley. Her Master's project, *Islam For Reporters*, built in affiliation with the Islamophobia Research and Documentation Project, collected anti-Muslim hate crime data and explained commonly misused Islam-related vocabulary. She earned her Bachelor's of Arts in both Journalism and Middle Eastern Studies from New York University.

Husain's research at SU focuses on the American news coverage of domestic War on Terror-related policies and national security cases, as well as data journalism practices and pedagogy.



**Elizabeth (Liz) Lance** joined the David B. Falk College of Sport and Human Dynamics as the Director of the college's Office of Research Development in November 2022. She partners with Falk faculty in securing sponsored funding that drives high-quality, high-impact scholarship.

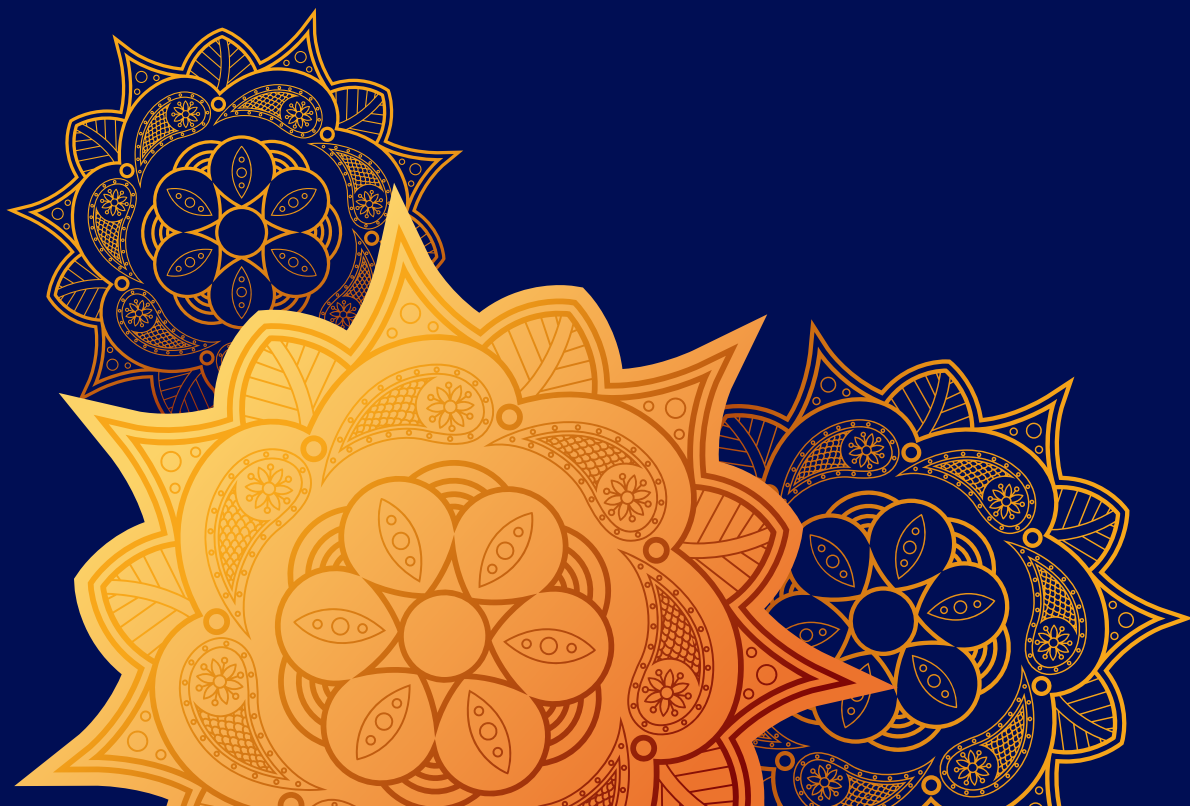
Lance (PhD, Newcastle University, 2021) has over a decade of experience in international higher education in the Middle East and South Asia. She established the Research Office at Northwestern University's international campus in Qatar, managing the office for nine years. Lance's connection to Nepal began as a student on the University of Wisconsin's College Year in Nepal program in the late 90s, and continued through her time as a Fulbright U.S. Student Fellow in 2008-09. Lance was also a recipient of a U.S. State Department Critical Language Scholarship to study in Bangladesh in 2012 and 2013. She speaks Nepali fluently and is conversant in Bangla.

Lance's research explores the nexus of gender and the media, most recently representations of women in the Qatari press and among women social media influencers in Qatar. She is an expert on the Global Media Monitoring Project's codebook, a validated tool used in the global survey of media that takes place every five years.

**Srivi Ramasubramanian** (she/her) is Newhouse Professor & Endowed Chair whose scholarship addresses pressing contemporary global issues relating to media, diversity, and social justice. She teaches courses on media theory and research at Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Communication. She is from Chennai in South India.

Ramasubramanian (PhD, Penn State University) works on global communication, social change, transnational feminist media, and community-based projects, including in South Asia. Her current project focuses on data equity and resistance within AI Empire.

Ramasubramanian is widely recognized for her pioneering work on race and media, media literacy, critical media effects, bias reduction, and scholar-activism. She has over 125 presentations, 100 invited talks and workshops, and 100 publications to her credit.



## SYRACUSE ART MUSEUM HOSTS ARTIST-ENGINEER RINA BANERJEE'S AWARD-WINNING EXHIBITION "TAKE ME TO THE PALACE OF LOVE"

The South Asia Center was proud to be one among Syracuse University's record-breaking 30+ departments and programs across campus co-sponsoring artist Rina Banerjee's 2023 residency as the Jeannette K. Watson Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities (a position held in the past by Noam Chomsky, Angela Davis, Toni Morrison, and Margaret Atwood) and her exhibition *Take Me to the Palace of Love* (January 19-May 14, 2023) at the SU Art Museum. Banerjee's residency was filled with events that touched on everything from materiality to geography, science to diaspora, and race to marriage, while Banerjee's exhibition was the first at SU to be awarded a "Grants for Arts Projects" grant by the National Endowment for the Arts. Professor **Romita Ray**, who was the animating force behind Syracuse University hosting Banerjee as well as the curating and fund-raising for the exhibition, reflects on the exhibition's success and related events—and the labor required to make them possible.

The idea to invite artist-engineer Rina Banerjee to be the Jeannette K. Watson Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities at SU, and to organize an exhibition of her work at the Syracuse University Art Museum, emerged nearly four years ago. As the COVID-19 pandemic brought the world to a grinding halt, the kernel of an idea grew into a full-blown project. The theme of love became more prescient than ever during a period of social isolation, for it is through the nourishing power of love that we define our interconnectedness. Rooted in cultural memory and storytelling, Banerjee's exhibit would invite us to ask: how does love make us view ourselves and shape our sense of place? Has climate change been shaped by a loss of love? Can love shape or resist gendered and racialized identities? As we began coming to terms with a global pandemic, these questions grew sharper and more relevant than ever. Love swiftly became the main theme of Banerjee's exhibition and residency. So too did it settle into the title of the exhibition, *Take Me to the Palace of Love*.

As Banerjee selected her art installations and drawings for the exhibition, the contours of her residency emerged. Each of her three installations—*Take Me, Take Me, Take Me...to the Palace of Love* (2003), *A World Lost* (2013) and *Viola, from New Orleans...* (2017)—enabled us to curate public interactions by faculty across disciplines as varied as Geography, African American Studies, Law, English, Art History, South Asian Studies, and Architectural



The artist Rina Banerjee and her SU Art Museum exhibition.

Spring 2023

History. Their meticulously engineered constructions drew Banerjee into a conversation with the university's Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) program. Banerjee's expertise in polymer science inspired a workshop on plastics organized by the Plastics Collection in the Special Collections Research Center in Bird Library, while her work with archival sources paved the way for a seminar on women artists of color in Bird Library. Her drawings enabled art history graduate student Ankush Arora ('23) to curate a wall of Mithila art from our collections, with the help of Sue Wadley, Professor Emerita, Anthropology. A riveting public lecture, a public art-making project in Downtown Syracuse with members of refugee and minority communities, and a lively dialogue with acclaimed scholar Gayatri Spivak rounded off Banerjee's residency. Finally, a collaboration with four Narratio Fellows who wrote poetry and created a film in response to Banerjee's work, along with a moving chant performance by Museum Studies graduate student Amarachi Attamah ('23), concluded the public programs for the exhibition. *Take Me to the Palace of Love* was fundamentally a labor of love.

I began fundraising for this exhibition in 2020 and was struck by the generosity of multiple departments and units, The Republic of Tea, the Engaged Humanities Network, and the National Endowment for the Arts—all of whom made these projects possible. A community-driven online exhibition catalogue is scheduled to be published in Fall 2023, a testament to the joy of collaborating and the power of curiosity and discovery that underscored the exhibition and residency every step of the way.



Professor Romita Ray solicits questions from workshop participants

## SU ART MUSEUM'S MITHILA COLLECTION SUPPORTS BANERJEE'S EXHIBIT

**Susan Wadley** (Previous SAC Director and Professor Emerita, Anthropology, Maxwell School of Syracuse University) was instrumental in building the unique collection of India's Mithila art at SU's Art Museum. Wadley discusses the collection's history, its relationship to the SU Art Museum, and its involvement in the recent Banerjee exhibition "Take Me to the Palace of Love."

In the spring of 2023, the first connection that the 5000 visitors to Rina Banerjee's exhibition "Take me to the Palace of Love" had with Indian art was a wall presenting eight paintings from the Mithila region of northern Bihar, part of the SU Art Museum's extensive collection of Indian art.

Shortly after I arrived in Syracuse in 1970 as a very junior professor of Anthropology, I was introduced to the Ruth Reeves Collection of primarily lost wax (cire perdue) folk bronzes and stunning terracotta sculptures. A renowned American fabric artist, Reeves went to India as a Fulbright scholar in the 1950s and lived there until her death in 1966. In the early '60s, she collected and sent some 500 "folk" pieces to Syracuse. For years they remained on dark, dusty shelves in a tunnel-like closet. In 2002, the museum presented the exhibition "Under the Banyan Tree" which highlighted the Reeves Collection as well as paintings from the Mithila region. The paintings were collected in the 1970s by Professor of Religion H. Daniel Smith, who later donated them to SU Art. Beginning in the early 2000s, I began adding more paintings, exploring changes in artistic style and content.

*With some of the genre's earliest pieces and demonstrating changes in style, content, and artistic community since the 1960s, SU's Mithila collection is amongst the best in the U.S. For more on the 8 pieces featured alongside the Banerjee exhibition, see Sue Wadley's 2023 lecture: <https://www.instagram.com/tv/CqqXfFOpEJF/?igshid=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==>*



Dr. Melissa Yuen discusses Mithila art during a tour of the Banerjee exhibition with Ankush Arora (far right) looking on.

## SOUTH ASIA CENTER HOSTS

# FIRST BI-ANNUAL CORNELL-SYRACUSE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER CONSORTIUM SYMPOSIUM

Syracuse University's South Asia Center and Cornell University's South Asia Program have functioned as a Title VI National Resource Center consortium on South Asia since 1985—with the planning of our consortium beginning as early as 1983. In recognition of this successful 40-year relationship, the South Asia Center hosted the first bi-annual consortium event at Syracuse University on Tuesday, March 21. The event consisted of a roundtable focused on research ethics in contemporary South Asia, a catered dinner held in the Maxwell Founders' Room, and a private after-hours tour of Rina Banerjee's award-winning exhibition "Take Me to the Palace of Love" at the Syracuse Art Museum. Moderated by South Asia Center Director Prema Kurien, the roundtable featured four presentations by Cornell/Syracuse graduate students at various stages of their work. Geethika Dharmasinghe (Asian Literature, Religion, and Culture) and **Karlie Fox-Knudtsen** (Anthropology) presented from Cornell University. Taveeshi Singh (Social Science) and Poonam Argade (Social Science) presented from Syracuse University. Karlie discusses her experience at the event and the importance of the SAC-SAP consortium in Upstate NY:

The first bi-annual Cornell-Syracuse National Resource Center symposium was a unique and valuable interdisciplinary platform that brought together researchers from Cornell and Syracuse Universities for discussions related to South Asia regionally-focused research. I participated in the formal research panel that marked the commencement of the symposium. This panel was dedicated to the intricate politics that underlie research efforts in South Asia, a topic particularly relevant for PhD students like me who are either embarking on or nearing the conclusion of their dissertation research journeys. The articulate array of analytic perspectives presented by fellow panelists sparked thoughts and synergies that not only led to insightful discussions at the event but have continued to deepen my own research analysis during this critical phase of my dissertation writing. The dynamic interchange of ideas during the panel discussions, coupled with a convivial networking meal, established a collegial and lively atmosphere that nurtured a strong sense of community and served as a platform for conversations about the extensive South Asia-related research unfolding at both campuses.



Getting the conversation started (far table, from left to right): Karlie Fox-Knudtsen, Taveeshi Singh, Prema Kurien, Poonam Argade, Geethika Dharmasinghe



The symposium reached its culmination with a captivating tour of the Rina Banerjee exhibition at the SU Art Museum, along with related pieces from its South Asia collection, guided by the expertise Professor Romita Ray and Dr. Melissa Yuen with assistance from Ankush Arora ('23). The conference's shift of venue to the museum lent fresh perspectives to the politics of research by emphasizing the significance of non-textual and material archives and sources. This segment of the symposium further ignited creative thinking and fostered dynamic discussions among scholars about innovative and novel directions for the craft of South Asia-focused research. The symposium, in its entirety, heralded an exciting new era of collaboration between the South Asian programs at Syracuse University and Cornell University. It was an honor for me to take part.



Workshop participants grapple with research ethics in contemporary South Asia



The first Bi-Annual Cornell-Syracuse South Asia Consortium meeting members pose for their group photo in Eggers Hall (photo courtesy of George Carter)

## BOOK LAUNCH: THE ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF CRITICAL KASHMIR STUDIES

On Friday, March 31, 2023, the South Asia Center hosted the book launch of the Routledge Handbook of Critical Kashmir Studies, co-edited by Syracuse University's Ford-Maxwell Professor of South Asian Studies **Mona Bhan**, Haley Duschinski (Associate Professor, Anthropology, Ohio University), and Deepti Misri (Associate Professor, Women & Gender Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder). Bhan discusses the intervention of Critical Kashmir Studies, the process of co-editing this volume, and the importance of the engaged questions she, her co-editors, and the two contributors who virtually presented (Mohd Tahir Ganie, Postdoctoral Fellow at Dublin City University & Haris Zagar, Doctoral Candidate at Erasmus University) received during the launch.

My colleagues and I collectively highlighted how, over the past decade, the new Critical Kashmir Studies field has focused on the implications of the prolonged occupation of Kashmir and the everyday effects of war and militarization on Kashmir's society, economics, and politics. This critical approach outlined in the handbook centers Kashmiri voices and perspectives to produce a body of knowledge that challenges the conventional statist status quo and provides new ways of thinking about the past, present, and future of the region. As a body of scholarship, Critical Kashmir Studies brings perspectives from literary and cultural studies, feminist studies, cultural anthropology, socio-legal studies, history, and geography into conversation with settler colonial studies and critical indigenous studies.

We all foregrounded how and why Critical Kashmir Studies centers Kashmir in a manner that calls into question prevailing area studies formations such as South Asia, the Middle East, Central Asia, and West Asia, compelling us to rethink naturalized categories of nations, borders, and territories. Scholarship that represents Kashmir as part of South Asia, we argued, erases other geographies that have shaped Kashmir's history, as well as its people's long-standing cultural, linguistic, economic, and aesthetic connections with communities in Central Asia.

There were a total of nearly 30 faculty and students in attendance from across different departments and programs at Maxwell, along with a few members of the Syracuse community and several colleagues from Cornell University, who came to attend the event in person. The robust discussion that followed our presentation focused on a range of issues, which included: the ethics and politics of doing ethnographic fieldwork in Kashmir; questions of indigeneity and settler colonialism and their particular valence in the South Asian sub-continent; and power and representational disparities between the global North and South and how these inform the distribution of editorial labor and credits. The conversation foregrounded the importance of collaborative scholarship and engaged research to decolonize hegemonic theories and praxis that limit our ways of seeing and understanding the world.



Students, faculty, staff, and community members learn about Critical Kashmir Studies while Mirjahon Turdiyev (PhD Student, Social Science) examines a copy of the presenter's new book.

From left to right: Mona Bhan & Deepti Mishra (in-person) with Haley Duschinski, Mohd Tahir Ganie, & Haris Zagar (on-line) discuss Critical Kashmir Studies

# COLLABORATION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION:

## FALK COLLEGE PROFESSOR RAMADOSS PURSUES “HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE SOUTH ASIAN COMMUNITY”

*Kamala Ramadoss (Associate Professor, Human Development & Family Science, Falk College of Syracuse University) is working with Prof. Natrajan-Tyagi (Alliant International University), Payal Sawhney (Saahas for Cause), Sheetal Ayyatan (Saahas for Cause), and Anchu Biswas (Saahas for Cause) on “Project Saathi.” Ramadoss discusses the collaboration’s development and its relationship to the NGO’s goals.*



**“Project Saathi  
...emphasizes the prevention  
of intimate partner violence  
and domestic violence in the  
South Asian community.”**

“Project Saathi” is one of the signature projects of the NGO “Saahas for Cause.” It emphasizes the prevention of intimate partner violence and domestic violence in the South Asian community. The goal of Project Saathi is to develop and field-test a curriculum on “Healthy Relationships for the South Asian Community.” My colleagues and myself have developed an evidence-based curriculum for healthy relationships by focusing on life in America (including, but not limited to: banking and insurance system navigation, self-care, communication in families, parenting skills, aging, dealing with grief and loss, career mentoring, and preventing teen dating violence). To date, thirty workshops have been completed to field-test the curriculum: 22 workshops with women and older adults in Orange County and Los Angeles County; 7 workshops for students and mental health counselors in K-12 schools, and; 2 workshops for students in colleges in southern California. I presented highlights from the collaborative work done through Project Saathi at the Family Life Educators’ Virtual Summit on June 23, 2023, organized by the National Council on Family Relations (NCFR). Curriculum development on other aspects of healthy family relationships is ongoing.

## KOLKATA CONFERENCE GATHERS INTERNATIONAL FACULTY TO INTERROGATE THE IMPERIAL LEGACY OF THE VICTORIA MEMORIAL HALL

From January 1st to 11th, 2023 in Kolkata, India, the South Asia Center co-sponsored the international workshop “Taj of the Raj: Decolonizing the Imperial Collections, Architecture, and Gardens of the Victoria Memorial Hall” organized by Romita Ray (Associate Professor, Art and Music Histories, Syracuse University), Tim Barringer (Paul Mellon Professor of the History of Art, Yale University), and Dr. Jayanta Sengupta (Director Emerita and Secretary, Victoria Memorial). The workshop was awarded a Collaborative Research grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and was also co-sponsored by the Department of Art and Music Histories and a generous donation from Todd B. Rubin (’04). Seventeen scholars from the USA, the UK, and India participated in the workshop, three of whom—including two of the co-organizers—discuss how critically situating the Victoria Memorial Hall helps us think about the role of global networks involving art and architecture more broadly.

### Jayanta Sengupta (Victoria Memorial Hall)

The Victoria Memorial Hall (VMH), Kolkata—India’s most-visited museum and the largest museum on modern South Asian history—completed 100 years in 2021. It is an institution unique to the subcontinent, with a grand architecture that has served for more than a century as the visual icon of a city once known as the “City of Palaces” and a collection that has evolved from an assortment of imperial memorabilia to a stellar collection of late medieval and modern Indian art and historical manuscripts. The VMH collaborated with Syracuse University for a National Endowment for the Humanities research project because we felt that the history of the architecture, collection, and the gardens of this iconic institution deserved to be able to call upon the collective research of a truly outstanding international cohort of scholars. The project received funding and, after several months of online meetings and much email correspondence interspersed with Covid-induced disruptions, we finally gathered for the first in-person workshop at the VMH in January 2023.

For ten days, the cohort looked closely at a large range of artifacts brought out from storage for close inspection



inside the historic and imposing Calcutta Gallery where we discussed and brainstormed among our group as a whole and in smaller cohorts, aided by the staff of the VMH's Documentation Unit. There were scholars who joined the group for the first time during this workshop and quickly became part of the project. After intensive sessions till around 3pm each day, the group made pre-arranged visits to the Indian Museum, Fort William, the Raj Bhavan (erstwhile Government House), the Botanical Gardens, St. John's Church, and the Marble Palace to compare their collections with the VMH's and to explore the networks and circuits of artists, collectors, donors, and other miscellaneous patrons that sustained these collections. The questions that came to be formed during these interrogations, and the networks that unraveled themselves, were then inventoried for further research and in-depth discussion at the next workshop at Yale. Overall, the workshop was a perfect start for a landmark research project about a unique South Asian institution.

### **Joanna Marschner (Senior Curator, Historic Royal Palaces)**

Open honest discussion is crucial in approaching the present imperative to address the violent history and legacy of empire. This must cross continents and national borders, involve the privileged and disenfranchised, beneficiaries and the dispossessed, and, most importantly, support communities which historically have been rendered voiceless in this debate. The period of global pandemic pushed all scholars to explore technologies available to them, and in the digisphere conversations towards the *Taj of the Raj* project started, allowing an international team to meet round the same table, albeit initially a virtual one.

The opportunity to meet in person in the Victoria Memorial Hall in Kolkata early in 2023 gave the project further powerful impetus, as our group of international scholars were able to address the material aspects of the subject. Each participant brought their particular background, their experience, and their research to a now physical table. Together we sought to map the journeys of ideas, ambitions, and understandings that have shaped this important site, and of the historic artifacts that form its collections, including paintings, sculpture, plants, and even Queen Victoria's piano, as they travelled not just geographically, but also through multiple new contexts and over time.

### **Tim Barringer (Yale University)**

The Victoria Memorial Hall is among the most spectacular survivals of the British Raj; its palatial architecture is as familiar to the people of Kolkata as its vast and lovingly-tended gardens, where families gather and couples meet in the shade of mature trees. The building, its collections, and the grounds have survived the dramatic political, economic convulsions of the century since they opened and the site is among the most visited of any in India. Despite the massive if outmoded ambitions it enshrines and the affection it has garnered, the Victoria Memorial Hall has largely evaded the attention of scholars. Its complex history and its multiple collections are a rich and urgent topic for research and analysis. That potential became a reality when our group of seventeen scholars from India, the UK, and the USA gathered for ten days in January to examine the collections, architecture, and grounds of the VMH. The research conducted then will be shared in a follow-up conference at Yale University in September and will eventually form the basis for a published collection of essays.

Many moments of revelation remain vivid in my memory from our time in Kolkata. Foremost was the opportunity to see materials long in storage, such as the uniforms and musical instruments from the 1903 and 1911 durbars, vast ceremonial parades stage-managed by the British Raj to celebrate the coronations, respectively, of the king-emperors Edward VII and George V. While the plush red and bright gold of the uniforms remind us of the brash triumphalism of the imperial regime, the fragile frayed cloth, carefully folded so long ago, seems to offer a metaphor for the chimerical aspects of imperial power. The empire on which the sun would never set is gone, but so many aspects of its history remain to be told.

Check out the details of the September 2023 conference at Yale University that continues the Victoria Memorial Hall project: <https://artsandsciences.syracuse.edu/art-music-histories/news/romita-ray-co-convenes-international-conference-at-yale-university/>

## CITIZENSHIP AND EXTRACTION WORKSHOP PROMPTS NEW DIRECTIONS IN RESEARCH

From September 8th to 11th, 2022, a CUSE Grant-funded and South Asia Center co-sponsored four-day multidisciplinary and intergenerational workshop on the “Effects of Extraction on Citizenship” was held at Syracuse University’s Minnowbrook Conference Center. The workshop examined ideas regarding how the effects of extraction—broadly conceived—intensify social, political, economic, and ecological crises across multiple sites and contexts and brought together faculty and graduate students to think collectively, from different perspectives and methodologies, about questions of collective belonging, political imagination, and social mobilization in the 21st century. The following scholars—who were among the 26 workshop participants—briefly discuss the workshop, touching on how it engaged with their own work.

### **Goldi Osuri**

*Professor, Sociology  
University of Warwick*

Participating in the “Effects of Extraction on Citizenship” was a wonderful, stimulating, and thought-provoking experience. Initially, I had not been sure how my work could be relevant for those I found myself workshoping with, or indeed how their projects could offer insights for directions in my work. I thought myself to be with odd bedfellows as it were. Yet, when those in my group described their projects and we conversed about them, I found myself thinking about how extraction could be understood as linking sovereignty with crises and catastrophes through the analytic of settler-colonialism. The weekend spent with the faculty and graduate students was intellectually nourishing, creatively generative, and immensely enjoyable, a rare combination in academic forums. I thank the organizers and the South Asia Center for inviting me to participate in this effectively designed workshop.

### **Bramsh Khan**

*PhD Student, Social Science  
Maxwell School of Syracuse University*

During the workshop, I had the opportunity to share my perspective on extraction, extending beyond its conventional association with material resources. My work emphasized extraction as the erasure of collective memory, historical significance, and ancestral heritage tied to the profound connection between the Gwadar Sea (Balochistan), its intricate waterways, and the communities inhabiting its surroundings. This extraction is brought about by a transnational connectivity initiative, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), disguised as national progress, which aims to transform Gwadar into a small-corporate urban port city.



**Mohammad Ebad Athar**

*PhD Candidate, History*

*Maxwell School of Syracuse University*

In September of 2022, I had the opportunity to attend the “Effects of Extraction on Citizenship Conference.” As a graduate student, working closely with Syracuse faculty members of various disciplines alongside other graduate students was unique, rewarding, and insightful. Getting the opportunity to hear about ongoing research and discussing my own work in relation to other projects allowed me to better appreciate diverse perspectives I never considered previously. Overall, the atmosphere of the conference was welcoming to graduate student ideas and insights, something other graduate attendees and I immensely appreciated.

**Gretchen Purser**

*Associate Professor, Sociology*

*Maxwell School of Syracuse University*

The workshop was a tremendous opportunity to engage in cross-disciplinary dialogue on the theme of extraction and citizenship. The conversations facilitated new ways of examining longstanding projects and laid the groundwork for possible future collaborations, particularly amongst those of us committed to ethnographic forms of inquiry. Throughout the workshop, I explored questions about extractive labor within present-day programs of neoliberal poverty management.



**“The workshop examined ideas regarding how the effects of extraction... intensify social, political, economic, and ecological crises across multiple sites and contexts.”**

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD: NIMISHA THAKUR

On January 23, 2023, the South Asia Center hosted talks by two of its recent Agehananda Bharati Memorial Award recipients, Jay Sharma (Anthropology, “Rethinking Subaltern Politics: Memories, Spiritual Beings, and Law”) and **Nimisha Thakur** (Anthropology, “River Song: Beyond Caste and Cultural Assimilation in the Brahmaputra River Valley, Assam”). The pairing of these two talks resulted in some interesting synergies. Nimisha discusses her Bharathi Memorial Award-supported research and the ways in which engagements with her talk helped her reflect further on the project.

When I joined the PhD program in 2017, I had aimed to focus on constructions of belonging amidst debates on citizenship and indigeneity in the riverine landscapes of the Brahmaputra floodplains in Assam, India. As I began preliminary fieldwork, the fluid nature of land and life in the floodplains shaped by fluvial flows of water, sand, and alluvium shifted my project towards exploring the mobilities that riverine land and life allows for. In 2019, with the aid of the Bharati Memorial Award, I spent the summer months of June and July on the river’s northern bank where a community called the Mising live on small river islands. This helped in planning and setting the stage for the longer duration of ethnographic fieldwork that I undertook from 2021 to 2022.

I followed riverine flows in people’s everyday lives while accompanying community members on their daily agricultural, fishing, grazing, and plant gathering activities across the river island region. In doing so, I realized that the materiality of the river island was central to the Mising people’s imagination of a future. Interlocutors emphasized that seasonal floods shaped the formation of land in these river islands and while erosions drifted away land in the monsoon, soil deposition led to the formation of sandbars that became cultivable and inhabitable over time. It was this regenerative nature of riverine land that community members linked to their ancestors’ ability to maintain an autonomous mode of life. Invoking and commemorating ancestors’ settlement of these river islands served as a reminder of the place-based religious, moral, and ethical values that could continue to facilitate autonomy and a riverine future amidst increasing precarities due to climate change, state land consolidation processes, and adverse impacts of big dams upstream.

As I returned to Syracuse University in January 2023 to start dissertation writing post-fieldwork, the talk hosted by the South Asia Center enabled me to discuss my research around these themes of place-based ethics, values, and cosmologies. I am grateful for the interactive discussion with students and faculty which helped me gain feedback on dissertation chapters and form a roadmap for dissertation writing.



Nimisha Thakur conducts interviews



Mising community member gestures across the Brahmaputra floodplains



## FACULTY FOSTER INTERNATIONALIZATION OF K-12 CLASSROOMS

Every summer, the Cornell University Einaudi Center for International Studies and Syracuse University's South Asia Center collaborate to host the Internationalization Studies Summer Institute, a professional development workshop for practicing and pre-service K-12 educators to help incorporate global regions—particularly South Asia, Southeast Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Sub-Saharan Africa—into the classroom. Last year's theme was "Identities, Inequalities, and Justice" and featured Mona Bhan (Professor, Anthropology, Maxwell School of Syracuse University). This year Nausheen Husain (Assistant Professor, Journalism, Newhouse School of Syracuse University) organized the workshop "Storytelling with Data" for this year's ISSI, whose theme was "Testimonies of Migration." Held at Cornell University's A.D. White House on June 27th and anchored by the Einaudi Center's Student Engagement and Community Outreach Coordinator, Sarah Plotkin, the day-long event engaged 40 local educators through faculty and graduate-student led panels that wrestled with themes like ethically responsive engagements with migrant narratives, supporting immigrant families in schools, and contemporary art and migration, as well as through workshops that focused on methodologies involving photo and voice, data-based narratives, and project-based approaches to global migration.

### Feedback from participants:

- "I personally felt this was the best workshop I have attended... the material so tangible and relatable regardless of population taught."
- "Great day packed full of interesting content. Tackled the subject from various angles which I enjoyed. Great presenters. I particularly enjoyed the data graphing workshop—wished it could have been longer!"
- "Excellent! Powerful! Best PD [professional development] out there!"
- "I love listening to other teachers and professionals who are working with specific populations. I enjoyed the experience and would like to come next year. I am always energized by this experience. I am making banners with my summer school class. (First of many activities that I will incorporate.)"

### Feedback from speakers:

- From Professor Rachel Beatty Riedl, Director, Einaudi Center: "Thank you so much for organizing such a meaningful and substantive workshop!!! I was honored to be able to participate in this way. And the panelists were awesome."
- From Carol Hockett, Hints Family Manager of School and Family Programs, Johnson Art Museum: "What a pleasure to be a part of ISSI and spend time with such dedicated and reflective teachers!"
- From Nicole T. Venker, PhD Student, Natural Resources and the Environment, Cornell University: "Thank you for a wonderful workshop—you did an amazing job putting the program together."



Sarah Plotkin (Community Outreach Coordinator, Cornell University's Einaudi Center) organizes K-12 educators

Professor Nausheen Husain (Newhouse) guides K-12 educators through storytelling with data

## 2022-2023 HUMPHREY FELLOWS AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Since its inception in 1978, the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program has provided leading mid-career international professionals the opportunity to build connections around pressing global challenges at select host universities in the United States. Syracuse University, with the Maxwell School's focus on public policy, is one of four universities that hosts Humphrey Fellows around the theme "Human & Institutional Capacity" and is directed by Margaret Lane. From 2022-2023, the two Humphrey Fellows from South Asia were Ananya Sinha (India) and **Sultan M. Nawaz Nasir** (Pakistan). Ananya is the Deputy of Income Tax at the Indian Revenue Service, Ministry of Finance, and provides policy guidance for India's Central Board of Direct Taxes. Sultan M. Nawaz Nasir is a seasoned civil servant and served as an Additional Commissioner, Inland Revenue in Pakistan and supervised tax administration across eleven districts in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. After serving as a Humphrey Fellow and returning to Pakistan, Sultan Nasir was posted as Secretary (Management & Human Resources) at Federal Board of Revenue headquarters, Islamabad. In addition to travelling across 17 states, building bridges through his involvement in various South Asian communities and South Asia Center events on campus, interning with Onondaga County, and maintaining a friendship with his host family (Swiatoslav Kaczmar and Nancy Freeborough), Sultan Nasir notes some of the highlights of his time on campus and in the community.

As a civil servant, my broad area of study as a Humphrey Fellow was Public Policy Analysis and Public Administration and I took related Maxwell School courses on managerial leadership, policy design, illicit finance, and human resource management. As a published Urdu poet and author, I was very happy to be able to audit a course at SU with the renowned poet Bruce Smith.

To share some of my experiences living and working in Pakistan, I gave several presentations and talks. These included: a peer-to-peer presentation on Pakistan's fiscal landscape at the Maxwell School, a presentation on Pakistan's geostrategic location at SUNY Oswego, a presentation on Pakistan's socio-economic dynamics at the Whitman School of Management, a presentation on Pakistan's role during the War on Terror and climate effects at Syracuse's Sunrise Rotary Club, and panel talks on investment opportunities in Pakistan at the Whitman School. I also attended the Global Leadership Forum at Washington DC, which gathers all Hubert H. Humphrey fellows from across the US to discuss global issues. This offered me the opportunity to meet government officials.

I feel very fortunate to have shared time with so many on campus and in the area. I look forward to continuing those relationships for many years to come!



Sultan M. Nawaz Nasir



Ananya Sinha

## FACULTY CORNER: SU FORENSIC LINGUIST REFLECTS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGES

**Tej Bhatia** (Professor, Linguistics & Cognitive Sciences) is the Director of South Asian Languages at Syracuse University and a widely published author in the field of forensic linguistics and the multilingual mind. Bhatia discusses the importance of studying South Asian languages, the opportunities such study makes available, and what might be required to expand South Asian language offerings at Syracuse University.

Last summer, under the auspices of the Government of India's Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN), I was invited to offer a week-long intensive course on the Global Relevance of Forensic Linguistics (May 24-28, 2022). The course was intended for students, faculty, and administrators from India and abroad representing a cross section of disciplines ranging from STEM fields, the humanities, and the social sciences to professionals from public and private sectors. It was indeed a rewarding experience!

**“It is imperative that South Asia programs in the US...expand their language course offerings.”**

So, what is this new field of forensic linguistics?

Forensic linguistics is a promising and growing interdisciplinary area of research and practice world-wide. Forensic linguists specialize in developing “linguistic-finger prints” to solve crime cases. This is tedious work which amounts to “finding a needle in a haystack.” It involves the application of core cognitive-linguistic and machine learning concepts and interpretive techniques to investigate crimes and other legal matters in which language data are used as pertinent evidence. My own work in this area involves topics such as political asylum, courtroom interpretation, trademark infringements, medical fraud, terrorism, and more. Language is everywhere and is an integral part of the work performed by defense language institutions and intelligence agencies.

South Asia is proof of the importance of language, home to staggering diversity and sometimes characterized as the “linguistic laboratory” of the world. Moreover, at least one in every three speakers in the world uses one of the Asian languages. Beside English, my work in forensic linguistics involves a high degree of language skills in Hindi-Urdu, Punjabi, and Saraiki. In the light of these remarks, it is imperative that South Asia programs in the US and particularly Syracuse University expand their language course offerings. A wider diversity of languages taught will sustain academic research and will also offer new practical opportunities to our students engaged in language and professional studies.



## SAC DIRECTOR CO-ORGANIZES SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN INVISIBILITY MINI-CONFERENCE

On April 28th, 2023, Prema Kurien (Director of SAC & Professor, Sociology, Syracuse University) and **Nazli Kibria** (Professor, Sociology, Boston University) organized an all-day mini-conference addressing “South Asian American Invisibility.” Panels explored themes such as boundaries, queerness, gender, race, class, transnationalism, immigration, and religion. The virtual mini-conference also featured a professional mentorship panel on navigating academia along with several informal opportunities for participants to discuss shared concerns. Kibria reflects on how developments in the scholarly literature, including work by herself and Kurien, led to co-organizing the mini-conference and discusses some of the more salient points raised—and potential future directions suggested—by its panels.

The idea for the mini-conference grew out of multiple conversations among scholars of South Asian/diaspora descent in sociology and related fields. We found several common concerns, many of which cluster around the theme of invisibility. One dimension of this involves the difficulties faced by those who study and write about South Asia in getting attention for their work in mainstream US forums. Such difficulties include a lack of publishing opportunities in top journals of various disciplines as well as a general resistance to the challenges posed by South Asia research to dominant Western-centric theoretical frameworks. A second, more general aspect of invisibility extends across scholars of South Asian descent in the United States, regardless of their area of research. This involves the particular nature of South Asian racial location in the United States, which has resulted in forms of marginalization in the profession and academy that are not widely recognized.



**Among the specific issues raised  
was the need for  
expanded publishing  
opportunities  
for South Asia/diaspora  
research and strategies for  
creating an inclusive South Asian/  
diaspora scholarly community.**

Our mini-conference provided the opportunity to discuss these and other aspects of South Asian American invisibility and to move towards building an inclusive community of support and mentoring for South Asian/diaspora descent scholars negotiating US academic environments. The panel “Navigating Academia as a South Asian American” brought together a wide variety of scholars at different career stages who spoke both about their research and career trajectories as well as how being of South Asian/diaspora descent shaped their paths. Panelists emphasized the importance of mentoring networks that included scholars of color with experience in navigating the academy. In lively discussions, audience members expressed appreciation for the opportunity to openly discuss these issues in a community forum. Among the specific issues raised was the need for expanded publishing opportunities for South Asia/diaspora research and strategies for creating an inclusive South Asian/diaspora scholarly community.

Two panels on intersections of race and religion among South Asians in North America featured several original research papers, each offering a unique perspective on these topics. Papers by Shruti Devgan and Manu Multani (with co-authors Karmine Kaur, Manmit Singh, Prabhdeep Singh Kehal, Sukhmony Brar) offered reflexive discussions on research and identity dynamics in their studies of Punjabi Sikh diaspora communities. Debadatta Chakraborty spoke about her research on youth mobilization and nationalist politics in the Indian diaspora in the US while Diditi Mitra shared findings on Sikh immigrant identity and the intersections of race, religion, and socioeconomic location. Drawing on her research on high-skilled Pakistanis in the US, Maheen Haider spoke about race and religious identity in the context of Islamophobia. Extensive comments by Prema Kurien and Pallavi Banerjee on the papers were followed by generative discussions about issues for future research, including South Asian/diaspora political coalitions, impacts of immigration policy, and intersectional perspectives on racial location and identity.



Some of the panelists in the midst of Zoom discussion.

Prema Kurien, Bandana Pukayastha, Ali Chaudhary, Jyoti Puri  
Arun Hendi, Ranita Ray, Debadatta Chakraborty, Amita Verma

## NEW CNY HUMANITIES CORRIDOR WORKING GROUP: UPSTATE SOUTH ASIAs

*In May 2023, the proposal for a working group titled “Upstate South Asias: Citizenship, Comparison, & Equity” was accepted by the CNY Humanities Corridor. This working group joins Syracuse University and the schools of the New York Six Liberal Arts Consortium (Colgate University, Hamilton College, Hobart and William Smith Colleges, St. Lawrence University, Skidmore College, & Union College) “to build a more robust ecosystem for South Asia’s study in Upstate New York addressing challenges to democratic institutions.”*

**Matthew Baxter** (Regional Programs Manager-Asia, Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs & Assistant Professor by Courtesy Appointment, Political Science), who joined Syracuse University’s Maxwell School of Citizenship in December 2022 and manages the South Asia Center, discusses the process of the working group’s formation and some goals for its future.

I grew up in Syracuse during the 1980s and 1990s, returning only in December 2022 to begin my current position at the Maxwell School of Citizenship after decades working on and in India. Part of the appeal of this position was the opportunity it provided for fostering a community of critical reflection on the relationship between Upstate NY locations and South Asia’s study. South Asia—home to 25% of the world’s population and related tremendous diversity, the largest democratic experiment in human history, and some of the fastest growing economies on earth—provides unique challenges in the classrooms of Upstate NY and elsewhere: given its colonial history, the subsequent prevalence of English in government and business, and its persistent centrality in shaping the health of our planet and the justice of human institutions, what is the role of learning the region’s rich languages or complex histories? given the variety of cultures and governance challenges, what forms of expertise are required for meaningful engagements? and given the rigorous training and innovative scholarship among South Asianists spread across Upstate NY, how can we mobilize regional faculty specializations, student proficiencies, and knowledge resources to address shared challenges? Our current geopolitical environment, while celebrating the importance of global citizenship, often leaves institutions struggling to support the language learning, abroad experiences, and curricular currency that South Asia’s study requires from any location—including our own in Upstate NY. The CNY Humanities Corridor working group “Upstate South Asias” was the product of related conversations I had not only with South Asia-committed faculty across NY6 schools and SU but with the talented staff of these schools’ language centers. We hope this working group will, in whatever small way, move towards promoting deeper and more critical studies between South Asia and Upstate NY.



# SOUTH ASIA CENTER GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE & AREA STUDIES FELLOWS

### SUMMER 2022

**Alexandra Burger**, Religion:  
Urdu, American Institute of Indian Studies

**Fatima Burney**, Public Administration and International Affairs:  
Urdu, Lahore University of Management Sciences

**Travis Ghirdharie**, Public Administration and International Affairs:  
Hindi, American Institute of Indian Studies

**Madison Young**, Public Administration and International Affairs:  
Hindi, American Institute of Indian Studies

### AY 2022-2023

**Travis Ghirdharie**, Public Administration and International Affairs  
Hindi (graduated December 2022)

**Kayleigh Hamernik**, Public Administration and International Affairs:  
Hindi

**Robbyn Jimenez**, Public Administration and International Affairs:  
Hindi

**Rashida Thomas**, Public Administration and International Affairs:  
Hindi

**Madison Young**, Public Administration and International Affairs:  
Hindi

### SUMMER 2023

**Ashley Mathew**, Public Administration and International Affairs:  
Malayalam, South Asia Institute, University of Texas, Austin

**Brooklyn Montgomery**, Geography & the Environment:  
Hindi, South Asia Summer Language Institute, University of Wisconsin, Madison

### AY 2023-2024

**Mohammed Ebad Athar**, History:  
Hindi-Urdu/Dissertation Writing Award

**Alexandra Berger**, Religion:  
Hindi-Urdu/Dissertation Writing Award

**Avital Datskovsky**, Anthropology:  
Hindi

**Brooklyn Montgomery**, Geography & the Environment:  
Hindi

**Rashida Thomas**, Public Administration and International Affairs:  
Hindi

## 29TH BHARATI MEMORIAL AWARD GRADUATE RECIPIENTS (2022)

**Ankush Arora**, Art and Music Histories, “Researching Mithila Art at the Syracuse University Art Museum”

**Mohammad Ebad Athar**, History, “Here but Not Here: The South Asian Immigrant Experience in the U.S. and Persian Gulf”

**Avital Datskovsky**, Anthropology, “Madhopur Has a Forest: Dismantling the Human-Nature Dichotomy in Ranthambore National Park”

**Ajaya Mali**, Anthropology, “How Does Policy Develop? The 40-yr Checkered Modernization of Nepal’s Religiously Pivotal Pashupati Kshetra”

## 30TH BHARATI MEMORIAL AWARD GRADUATE RECIPIENTS (2023)

**Avital Datskovsky**, Anthropology, “Controlling the Forest: Colonial Legacies and Conservation in Ranthambore National Park”

**Avia Nahreen**, Geography & the Environment, “Water Accessibility at Peri-Urban Sites: Role of Inequality in Manifesting Injustices”

**Kazi Farzana Shoily**, History, “Youth Participation and the Creation Bangladesh in 1971: Beyond the Nationalist Narrative”

## GRADUATE STUDENT UPDATES

**Poonam Argade** (PhD Candidate, Social Science; Bharati Award 2018) received a Dissertation Fieldwork Grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation (2023-2024)

**Ankush Arora** (MA Art History 2023, Bharati Award 2022, South Asia Center Travel Grant 2022) was accepted by Yale University’s Department of the History of Art to begin its PhD program in Fall 2023.

**Falak Nur Hadi** (PhD Student, Political Science) received an Anderson Award to attend the Institute for Qualitative & Multi-Method Research as well as the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award.

**Kayleigh Hamernik** (MPA/MAIR 2023, Certificate of Advanced Study in South Asian Studies; FLAS Fellowships AY 2021-2022, AY 2022-2023) has accepted a position as a Public Policy Fellow at the Nature Conservancy in Anchorage, Alaska starting on September 1.

**Robbyn Jimenez** (MPA/MAIR 2023, Certificate of Advanced Study in South Asian Studies; FLAS AY 2022-2023), after studying Hindi in Jaipur through the Critical Language Scholarship program during Summer 2023, was offered a position as a Presidential Management Fellow through the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

**Taveeshi Singh** (PhD Candidate, Social Science; Bharati Award 2015) co-organized—along with her PhD pursuing colleagues in Social Science, Poonam Argade and Bramsh Khan, and Professor Himika Bhattacharya (Women & Gender Studies)—SU’s second annual Dalit History Month Lecture, “Earthy Humanness: Dalit Women’s Activism & Performance Intersectionality” by Dr. Roja Suganthi-Singh (St. John Fisher University) on April 3, 2023.

**Madison Young** (MPA/MAIR 2023; FLAS Fellowships AY 2021-2022, Summer 2022, AY 2022-2023) received the “Clements Internship Award” (2023) for an internship in Tamil Nadu for land stewardship work at the Keystone Foundation and the “Personal, Academic, and Creative Work Grant” (2022-2023) to present her paper “Death by Freedom of the Press: Fatal Retaliation in South Asia” at Harvard University’s November 2022 “The Pakistan Conference: 75 Years of Independence.”



# SOUTH ASIA CENTER

## FACULTY UPDATES (2022-2023)

### MONA BHAN

- 2022. With Haley Duschinski & Deepti Misri. *The Handbook of Critical Kashmir Studies*. London: Routledge.
- 2022. With Haley Duschinski. Critical Kashmir Studies: Settler Occupations and the Persistence of Resistance. *The Handbook of Critical Kashmir Studies*. 1-17.
- 2022. With Haley Duschinski. Third World Imperialism and Kashmir's Sovereignty Trap. *The Handbook of Critical Kashmir Studies*. 323-341.
- 2022. Development: India's Foundational Myth. Saffron Republic. *Hindu Nationalism and State Power in India*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 275-283.
- 2022. *Lines of Control: An Interactive Documentary on Kashmir*. Buried Signal Production.
- 2022. *De(humanizing) War: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of the Human*. The Lender Center for Social Justice Fellowship Project, Syracuse University.
- 2023. With Haley Duschinski & Cabeiri Robinson. *The Palgrave Handbook of New Directions in Kashmir Studies*. New York: Palgrave.
- 2023. With Haley Duschinski & Goldie Osuri. Critical Interventions: Human Rights and International Justice on Kashmir. *The Palgrave Handbook of New Directions in Kashmir Studies*. 153-172.
- 2023. With Haley Duschinski. Interlocution and the Limits of Constitutional Morality. *The Palgrave Handbook of New Directions in Kashmir Studies*. 139-149.
- 2023 With Samina Raja, Athar Parvaiz, Lanika Sanders, Alexandra Judelsohn, Shireen Guru, Goldie Osuri, Mehroosh Tak, Yeeli Mui, and Emmanuel Frimpong Boamah. Planning and Food Sovereignty in Conflict Cities, *Journal of the American Planning Association*. 89:2, 183-195.

### TEJ K. BHATIA

- 2022. With Salikoko S. Mufwene and Anna María. Multilingualism in India. *The Cambridge Handbook of Language Contact. Vol 2-Multilingualism in Population Structure*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 201-227.
- 2022. Mental Landscaping in India: Reach and Impact. *Language Studies in India: Cognition, Structure and Variation*. Singapore: Springer Nature. 143-164.
- 2022. The Global Relevance of Forensic Linguistics. Government of India's Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) Grant.

### NAUSHEEN HUSAIN

- 2023-2025. Leader Center for Social Justice Faculty Fellow.

### RADHA KUMAR

- 2022. Witnessing Violence, Witnessing as Violence: Police Torture and Power in Twentieth-century India. *Law & Social Inquiry*. 47(3), 946-970.
- 2022. Vacant Villages: Policing Riots in Colonial India. *India after World History: Literature, Comparison, and Approaches in Globalization*, ed. Neilesh Bose. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. 151-168.

### PREMA KURIEN

- 2022. The Racial Paradigm and Dalit Anti-Caste Mobilization in the U.S. *Social Problems*. 70(3), 717-734.
- 2022. Indian American versus South Asian American Advocacy Organizations: Diasporic Political Activism in the U.S. *Journal of South Asian Diaspora*. 14(1), 1-20.
- 2022. Religion as Social Location: Global and Comparative Perspectives. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. 61(1), 5-20.
- 2023-2024. Claiming Citizenship: Race, Religion, and Belonging among New Ethnic Americans. Appleby Mosher Faculty Award, Maxwell School, Syracuse University.
- 2022-2023. Race, Religion, and Citizenship: New Ethnic American Advocacy Organizations. Appleby Mosher Faculty Award, Maxwell School, Syracuse University.

# SUPPORT

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## KAMALA RAMADOSS

- 2023. South Asia Center Curriculum Enhancement Grant for HFS 482/682: South Asian Immigrant & Refugee Families.

## ROMITA RAY

- 2021-2022. Taj of the Raj? Decolonizing the Imperial Collections, Architecture, and Gardens of the Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata. National Endowment for the Humanities, Collaborative Research Grant.
- 2022. Unruly Indigo? Plants, Plantations, and Partitions. *Landscape and Earth in Early Modernity. Picturing Unruly Nature*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press. 181-208.
- 2022. A Box of Tea and the British Empire. *Small Things in the Eighteenth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 274-290.
- 2022. On the Prowl: Tigers and the Tea Planter in British India. *Romantic Environmental Sensibility: Nature, Class and Empire*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. 113-129.
- 2022. The “Clumsy” Lion? Disruptions and Darshan in Pushpamala N.’s Imaging of Mother India. *Motherland: Pushpamala N.’s Woman and Nation*, eds., Sumathi Ramaswamy and Monica Juneja. New Delhi: Roli Books. 44-57.
- 2022. Spilling the Tea: Adapting our Tea Conference during a Global Pandemic. *The Linnean*. 38(3), 33-36.
- 2022. In Sparkling Company: A Review. *Journal 18* (3).
- 2023. Take Me to the Palace of Love. National

## SUSAN WADLEY

- 2022. Exploring Shakti, the ‘Power of Women,’ in Mithila Painting. *Shuddhashar* (27).

## EMERA BRIDGER WILSON

- 2022. With Lin Lin & Guichun Zong. Expanding the Global View through Children’s Books: Bringing South Asians and South Asian Americans to K-6 Curriculum. *Ohio Social Studies Review*. 58(2), 1-18.

Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs  
Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs

## South Asia Center

346F Eggers Hall  
Syracuse University  
Syracuse, NY 13244

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The South Asia Center Newsletter is the official bulletin for the South Asia Center at Syracuse University, housed by the Moynihan Institution of Global Affairs at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

## SOUTH ASIA CENTER

Funded by a federal Title VI National Resource Center grant from the Department of Education in consortium with Cornell University's South Asia Program since 1985, the South Asia Center at Syracuse University serves as a liaison between Syracuse University's faculty and students with research interests in South Asia, regional educators across K-12 grades through undergraduate and graduate schools, local community organizations, interested individuals, and the wider public in the Central New York area. Our resources and faculty interests cover South Asia, broadly defined as Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, and the Maldives. The South Asia Center's outreach initiatives include workshops, seminars, lectures, film screenings, cultural programs, and other public events.

For more information about Syracuse University's South Asia Center, its programming, and how to get involved, contact Dr. Matthew H. Baxter, <mhbaxter@syr.edu>, and check out our website: <https://www.maxwell.syr.edu/research/moynihan-institute-of-global-affairs/regional-centers/south-asia-center>