

## ISAS Public Lecture Series



### **Trust Amidst Trust-Deficit: Credit, Conflict and Improvidence in Kashmir**

a talk by

**Aditi Saraf**

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**ABSTRACT:** This talk examines how legacies of regional trade generate claims and attachments that contest frameworks through which the Kashmir dispute is generally understood – that of competing nationalism or communal tension. Particularly, the focus will be on non-formal credit in a wholesale market in Indian occupied Kashmir. Such credit relations persist despite being curtailed by military occupation, political violence and the breakdown of regulatory structures. These systems of promissory payments are also criminalized outside their networks of circulation, particularly by the state. Notions of trust as residing in legal and financial transparency do not apply here, nor those attributed to communal solidarities. Instead, the speaker will show how trust persists by taking on a contingent and experimental form, seeking antecedents in past networks of frontier trade rather than uncertain futures, and in credit forming the basis for trust rather than the other way round.

**SPEAKER BIO:** Aditi Saraf is a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology, Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich. Combining ethnographic and archival work, her research focuses on the relationship between commerce and sovereignty in South Asian borderlands as manifested in social movements, the history of economic regulation, patterns of mobility and material practices of exchange.

**Monday, November 19, 2018**

**12 - 1:30 pm**

**10 Stephens Hall, ( For directions look up "Institute for South Asia Studies" on Google Maps )**

Cosponsors: Sarah Kailath Chair of India Studies

Event is free & open to public. 510-642-3608 or southasia.berkeley.edu