

KHABAR

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THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF UCB SCHOLARSHIP

The University of California, Berkeley, one of the world's top public universities, was recently ranked as the second greatest university in the world by the Times Higher Education Supplement. It counts among its faculty numerous Nobel laureates, Pulitzer Prize winners, MacArthur Fellows, Guggenheim Fellows, Presidential Young Investigators, and members of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and American Academy of Arts and Sciences. UC Berkeley has been a premier site for the study of South Asia for the past century, with its commitment to South Asia Studies dating back to the University's first Sanskrit course in 1897. Today, Berkeley is a vital center of South Asia Studies and South Asia faculty at Berkeley remain undisputed leaders in their fields, continually redefining the scope and relevance of the field while maintaining the rigorous standards of traditional South Asia studies.

One of Cal's great strengths is teaching and research on India. We have over 40 faculty who specialize in various aspects of India - from art history to Sanskrit and from engineering to energy. We also recognize the enormous talent in India and believe very strongly in building collaborative and mutually reciprocal re-

On April 13, 2008 CSAS, along with the India Community Center in Milpitas, hosted a program to highlight the achievements of such UCB faculty led collaborations.

The title of the event was "Investing in India's Future," and the program included updates on UC Berkeley's South Asian programs and the university's latest educational, governmental, medical and environmental initiatives in India.

The proceedings were opened by College of Engineering Dean Shankar Sastry. An internationally recognized expert on embedded and autonomous software, Dean S. Shankar Sastry has an exceptional background in technology research, spearheading projects to improve the nation's cyber security and network infrastructure, as well as delving into robotics and hybrid and embedded systems. Since becoming dean on July 1, 2007, Professor Sastry has set out to change the curriculum at the university, both to make engineering more attractive to students and to make engineering education more attuned to the demands of the



Shankar Sastry,
Dean, College of
Engineering

India is going through a profound cultural, societal, and economic transformation. It is only natural that UC Berkeley, one of the world's pre-eminent public universities, would be at the forefront of grappling with understanding these changes, and promoting vigorous intellectual partnerships with institutions in India.

Robert Birgeneau, Chancellor, University of California, Berkeley

lationships with India-based scholars, research centers, corporate sponsors as well as both non-governmental and governmental institutions. Such collaborations, we believe, not only enhance the level of scholarship on South Asia but also have a direct impact on the well being of people as well as influence policy making at the highest levels of government.

working world. A major thrust of that effort has been mixing courses from the oft-derided "soft sciences" like sociology and economics, as well as law and design, into engineering students' academic curriculum, in the hope that such a move could, ideally, help bridge the rift that exists between producers and consumers of technology.

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BERKELEY TEAM USES WiFi TO BRING EYE CARE TO VILLAGES IN SOUTH INDIA

Lead Faculty:
Eric Brewer, Berkeley/
CITRIS.
Collaboration:
Aravind Eye Hospital



By modifying simple and readily available wi-fi technologies, a Berkeley team of computer scientists led by Eric Brewer, has linked tiny local eye clinics in the southern India state of Tamil Nadu to bigger clinics, like the Aravind Eye Hospital at Theni. Until the clinics opened, local people would walk as far as 12 miles to get eye care. Now many can walk to the local eye center and get their eye care needs met in an hour or two. The clinics are run by ophthalmic technicians, usually local women without extensive education, trained in eye care by Aravind. Patients get a rudimentary exam from the technician and then have a brief consultation on a Web camera with a doctor at the distant hospital. Patients can buy glasses and medications at the vision centers. And if the doctor believes that an in-person examination or a medical procedure is warranted—most often cataract surgery—the patient is given an appointment at the hospital.

In the past three and half years, the project has grown to include thirteen clinics linking up to three different hospitals. The clinics provide videoconferences with eye doctors for about 5,000 rural patients a month. Since 2006, more than 80,000 people have received treatment and of those over 14,000 have gone from being functionally blind to having effective vision.

The Aravind Eye Hospital project is part of a larger initiative Brewer leads called Technology and Infrastructure for Emerging Regions (TIER), a collaborative project between UC Berkeley and Intel underwritten by the National Science Foundation and sponsored by CITRIS, the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society. The emphasis is on tailoring technology to meet pressing community needs in practical ways.

A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

by Raka Ray

Dear friends,

Welcome to the new academic year of 2008-2009. I'd like first of all to thank you for the overwhelmingly positive feedback we have received for the new design and content of our newsletter. Thanks especially to Puneeta Kala for her determination to make this change, and her creative flair.

Spring began with a bang with our annual conference, with keynote speaker Sugata Bose and an author meets critic panel with Sheldon Pollock. This year, we also had a pre-conference organized by two immensely talented graduate students – Renu Desai and Romi Sanyal – on urbanism in contemporary South Asia. The keynote speaker at the preconference was Amitav Kumar. We were privileged to have with us as a Townsend fellow this spring, noted historian Sunil Kumar, who delivered three highly acclaimed lectures on Islam and the idea of a Muslim Community in North India in the 13th century. Other notable speakers include sociologist Meenakshi Thapan, philosopher John Taber from the University of New Mexico, historian Stewart Gordon and novelist and translator Musharraf Farooqi. We also held the fourth Annual Tamil conference, a conference on local government in South and Southeast Asia and a conference on technology Development in Nepal.

Continuing our relationships with the South Asian community beyond the university, we worked with SACHI to bring the inimitable William Dalrymple to campus, and with the India Community Center on various events, most notably "Investing in India's Future" in which Shankar Sastry, Dean of the College of Engineering, as well as faculty members Isha Ray, Ananya Roy and Pradeep Chhibber spoke to a packed hall about research and teaching about India at UC Berkeley. The program was conducted in partnership with Calparents. A sample of projects in which our faculty is engaged can be found on the pages of this issue of Khabar. We continue our partnership with FDRI as we look forward to the 2nd conference on Indian Democracy. This year's theme is Justice and the Law, and fittingly, our keynote speaker is Justice B.N. Srikrishna, who headed the investigation into the Bombay Riots of 1992-93.

We have also been proud to assist in the creation of two initiatives that involve students directly. The first, the Tata International Social Entrepreneurial Program (TISES), created in collaboration with the Blum Center for Developing Economies, enabled five students to travel to India this past summer to work on social development projects. The second, with IIT-Kharagpur, enabled eleven students from IIT-Kharagpur to spend a summer here working in research teams and in Berkeley research labs on issues of energy and health. The strong positive feedback from both projects indicates that they are destined to flourish and grow.

Our students and faculty continue their award winning ways, winning research grants and teaching awards, writing books and creating new opportunities for students. For our part, we were pleased to be able to award Qayum travel grants to students to enable them to travel to South Asia for research and to reward excellence in scholarship in the field of Sikh Studies by awarding the 2007-08 Amrit Kaur Ahluwalia Memorial Outstanding Paper prize to Shruti Devgan of Rutgers University.

This year, we said good-bye to staff members Max Jacobs, Veena Hampapur and Kishan Barot. We wish them well in their travels and graduate school careers. We welcome talented musician and UCB graduate Sudev Sheth, as our finance and program assistant.

As always, we look forward to seeing you at our events and here at the Center. Our new website, now in construction, will be up shortly, and will carry news of our forthcoming events.

As we enter a new school year, the Center is excited to launch several new activities and initiatives. We have developed partnerships with wonderful community organizations such as FDRI and SACHI—both featured in this issue—as well as the America India Foundation. These collaborations allow us to continue with our work of developing high quality conferences and programs for the campus and the larger Bay Area community. We thank you for helping us grow and look forward to seeing you at our events! Our new CSAS website will be launched in September so please do tune in then for more information.



From left: Raka Ray, Sudev Sheth, Puneeta Kala, Sanchita Saxena

Sanchita Saxena received her Ph.D. in Political Science (focus on Comparative Political Economy) from UCLA. Sanchita has taught courses in Comparative Politics and on the Politics of Developing Countries at UCLA, UC Davis, and the University of San Francisco. Prior to joining CSAS, Sanchita was the Assistant Director of Economic Programs at the Asia Foundation, where she was responsible for designing and implementing programs to stimulate private sector growth in 18 countries throughout Asia. Sanchita's current research focuses on the effects of trade liberalization in garments and textiles on smaller South Asian countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Puneeta Kala joined as Program Representative. She is an East Asianist who specialized in Japanese studies. She holds one M.Phil and three M.A. degrees with the most recent from Harvard University. She has taught at the University of Vermont and the University of San Francisco and has been involved in a number of programming and fundraising initiatives at Harvard and elsewhere.

Sudev J Sheth joined the Center as Program/Finance Assistant. After receiving his B.A. in South Asian Studies and Political Science in 2007, he worked as a research assistant in an ethnomusicology archive near New Delhi. Sudev also enjoys playing the tabla and regularly accompanies visiting artists to the Bay Area on most weekends. He looks forward to promoting South Asia studies and events on campus, especially among the undergraduate students.

Sanchita Saxena, Vice Chair

GLOBAL POVERTY & PRACTICE

Lead Faculty: Ananya Roy

In 2007, UC Berkeley launched a new undergraduate curriculum in Global Poverty and Practice. A unique endeavor, this curriculum trains students in the study and analysis of global poverty and allows them the opportunity to participate in forms of praxis that engage global poverty in imaginative and practical ways. The signature element of the minor is that all students have to complete a global practice experience by working with a poverty-focused organization. The Global Poverty and Practice curriculum hopes to train a generation of global citizens who are

committed to the cause of tackling poverty and inequality - in the United States and all around the world.

An initiative of the Blum Center for Developing Economies, the Global Poverty and Practice minor has already met with great success. More than 75 students have declared the minor in the first year and have completed global practice experiences in countries ranging from India to Rwanda. The flagship course, Global Poverty: Challenges and Hopes for the New Millennium, taught by Professor Ananya Roy, attracted over 500 students in its first offering. For this course, earlier this year, Professor Roy was awarded the

Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching, the only teaching award conferred on Cal faculty by undergraduate students.

Several CSAS affiliated faculty are actively involved in the new minor. Dean S. Shankar Sastry serves as the Faculty Director of the Blum Center for Developing Economies; Professor Ananya Roy serves as Education Director of the Blum Center; Professors Raka Ray and Isha Ray serve on the Education Committee that steers the minor.



HAATH MEIN SEHAT (HEALTH IN YOUR HANDS)



Lead faculty: Isha Ray (ERG) and Kara Nelson (CEE).

Collaborations: Engineers for a Sustainable World (Berkeley), Behrampada Mahila Mandals, Somaiya Vidyavihar, Welingkar Institute of Management, SP Jain Institute of Management, Navjeet Community Center at the Holy Family Hospital, Committee for the Right to Housing

Support: ESW, the Blum Center, Qayum Foundation, Deshpande Foundation

HMS is a part of an exciting new effort on the UCB campus that brings together faculty, students, and professionals from many disciplines to address issues pertaining to health, water, and sanitation in developing countries.

An estimated seven million people live

in the slums of Mumbai, India. Residents of these underserved communities suffer from a high incidence of enteric dysentery largely on account of contaminated drinking water, poor hygiene habits and amenities, and a lack of adequate sanitation. In response, the HMS team has been working since the summer of 2004

to help improve livelihoods through health and hygiene education and practical, low-cost water treatment methods.

This summer, HMS started working in Hubli-Dharwad, Karnataka, to mitigate the spread of water-borne diseases. Website: www.hmsindia.org



UCB SCHOLARSHIP, CONT'D

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The "Serving Society" tagline may figure prominently in the engineering school's motto, but it may as well be used to describe the motto of UCB as a whole, particularly with those students and faculty involved in South Asia related projects. This spirit is exemplified by the various projects described below where UC Berkeley is doing collaborative work in India. By challenging students to solve society's greatest problems and by educating them to not only build services but also to build them into the fabric of society, Berkeley today leads the world in cutting edge research on technology that cuts down on carbon emissions, the building of zero-net-energy homes, pre-symptomatic diagnosis and the use of telemedicine in the developing world.

Finding ways to produce safe drinking water is another example of how students from UC Berkeley provide needed services as is imagining new models of urbanization for Indian cities, another project that is being spearheaded by a team of UCB faculty and students.

Analyzing the growing traffic in transplant organs and its effects on organ donors and recipients is a growing concern and UC Berkeley leads the world by establishing a one of a kind center to both monitor as well as study this trade.

Other projects included in this issue include the examination of governance in India to measure the responsiveness of different political parties to their constitu-

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THE FUTURE OF INDIAN CITIES



Lead faculty: Professors Nezar AlSayyad and Susan Ubbelohde (Architecture)

Collaboration: State government of Haryana and Nanoworks Developers

This project brings together faculty and graduate students from a variety of disciplines, professions, and technical fields to imagine alternative futures for Indian cities. A pilot program is the NanoCity Super Studio, an architecture and planning studio sponsored by Sabeer Bhatia and led by Professors AlSayyad and Ubbelohde (Architecture). This studio involves UC Berkeley faculty and students in the planning of a new city, and thus new model of urbanization, in northern India.

NanoCity Studio. In 2007, Sabeer Bhatia, best known as the co-founder of Hotmail Inc., approached UC Berkeley faculty and students with his ideas for a new city in Northern India: NanoCity. A public-private partnership between the state government of Haryana and Bhatia's company, Nanoworks Developers, NanoCity is an ambitious project that seeks to create a model of sustainable urbanism in India. It is conceived as an antidote to the most pressing problems faced by Indian cities: the lack of infrastructure; growing polarization between the spaces and jobs occupied by different social groups; high levels of pollution; the rapid depletion of water; and the displacement of the poor, first from vil-

lage to city and then within the city. In addition, NanoCity is meant to serve as an "intellectual property capital," a catalyst for high technology and green technology innovation in India. From January-August 2007, faculty and students at UC Berkeley worked on designing the core principles and master plan for this city. In doing so, they undertook a trip to India to meet with stakeholders, villagers, political leaders, architects, and planners. They then organized in a unique knowledge generation process drawing on different disciplines to propose various planning innovations: the creation of a world-class public transit system; the design of a "living machine" ecological structure to ensure the sustainable use of water; a mixed-use, mixed-density urban fabric that rejects the gated enclaves of Indian high-technology cities; and the incorporation of rural migrants and construction workers into the life of the city. Today, as NanoCity moves from blueprint to reality, the work of UC Berkeley students and faculty is at the center of the project's mission and values.

For more on UC Berkeley's NanoCity Studio see: http://www2.arch.berkeley.edu/courses/arch201_nanocity/



THE INDIAN MIDDLE CLASS



Lead Faculty: Raka Ray.

Collaboration: Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi.

The size and social role of the Indian middle classes have been issues of great public concern since 1990 when policies of economic liberalization were officially instituted. It has been argued that the substantial and growing presence of the middle classes would be the motor powering greater production and consumption in the Indian economy. At the same time, these classes would steer the Indian nation towards better governance by demanding greater public accountability and by exercising more vigorously the rights of citizenship (Varma 1998). Fifteen years of liberalization later, these claims and assumptions remain unexamined.

Dr. Amita Baviskar and Professor Raka Ray applied for and received a grant from Ford Foundation for a project on the Indian middle class with three components. The first was a workshop, held in March 2007 from which an edited volume on the Indian middle class is being produced. The second component is a dissertation workshop, based on the Berkeley/SSRC model, which took place between March 27-29 this year. The third is a workshop which will be held in January 2009 where scholars and civil society activists discuss the relevance and impact of middle class activism in India today.

The focus on the dissertation workshop stems from the realization that there is a dearth of rigorous research mentoring at the PhD levels in India. This intensive two-day workshop brought together 11 students from around India – not just the elite universities – who were developing dissertation proposals or were in early phases of research or dissertation writing, with four faculty members: Amita Baviskar (Institute for Economic Growth, University of Delhi), Satish Deshpande (Department of Sociology, University of Delhi), Carol Upadhy (National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore) and Raka Ray (University of California, Berkeley). The workshop invited applications from young scholars working on major transformations in Indian politics, economy and society including new middle class formation.

Faculty and students spent two days in the beautiful grounds of Sanskriti Kendra outside Delhi, working through dissertation proposals collectively, refining methodology and clarifying key questions. Topics ranged from OBC Politics in India in the Post-Mandal Era to questions of Development, displacement in contemporary Orissa and from the new property rights regimes emerging in India today to the ICT industry and the creation of new exclusions. Individual projects were worked on during the day, while informal conversations about methodological strategies and ethnographic fieldwork were held in the evenings.

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encies. The study will provide answers to questions ranging from which states are better for civil rights to which states treat their minorities.

Finally, one collaborative project assesses the post-liberalization era middle class in terms of its impact on civil society.

POLITICAL PARTIES AND REPRESENTATION IN THE INDIAN STATES



Lead Faculty:

Pradeep Chhibber

Collaborations:

Lokniti, Delhi

A major challenge that the governments in the Indian states face is their capacity to fulfil the needs and aspirations of its citizens. The level of trust reposed by the citizens in the capacity of the state has often been a subject of animated debate. Some state governments in India, however, are better at addressing people's needs than others. For instance, in Tamil Nadu the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is implemented with far fewer leakages than in Uttar Pradesh.

In collaboration with FDRI and other partners Pradeep Chhibber, along with Lokniti is working to develop an index of democratic empowerment and governance for the Indian States. Democratic empowerment implies the extent to which citizens have a say in how they are governed and democratic governance refers to the capacity of the government to deliver its policies equitably and in an accountable manner. This index will have four aims: first, to showcase the states which are doing better than others; second, to help develop best practices across the states; third, to assess whether different groups in the states – such as the middle classes; Dalits; Muslims; women etc. have varying perceptions of the working of state governments and fourth, to develop a globally bench-markable index of governance.

NEW SURGICAL ETHICS: ORGANS WATCH, FAMILY PLANNING, AND CATARACT CAMPS



Lead faculty: Professors Lawrence Cohen and Nancy Scheper-Hughes, Department of Anthropology

Collaborations: MOHAN Foundation, Chennai; DGHS, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (GOI); Open Society Institute



The fast-paced growth of India's medical sector and the rise of medical tourism to India has raised new challenges for policy and human rights debate. Much attention followed the latest "kidney scam" in Gurgaon, near Delhi. The chief physician was charged not only with illegally trafficking in organs but also with conducting operations without formal surgical training. While much evidence of malpractice was found, some persons allegedly forced to donate a kidney were found to have both kidneys intact. Making sense of conflicting economic, clinical, political, and media interests that complicate the widespread giving as well as selling of human organs in India and dozens of other countries (including the United States) has been the task of Organs Watch. The organization, run by these Berkeley professors, works with lawyers, journalists, governments, activist groups, and the World Health Organization in providing both scholarly research and public accounting of how the great profitability of transplant medicine has in many situations created disastrous outcomes for organ donors and recipients alike.

Cohen's research on transplantation led him to explore the long history of surgery in India, from the classic work of Sushruta to the rise of surgical solutions to "problems of the masses" for the elite planners of the modern state. Modern India developed unique forms of mass surgeries—the assembly-line camps for both sterilizations and cataract surgeries—offering accessible mass treatment but often at significant risk of complications. Rethinking surgical politics and policy, for Cohen, benefits from such broad historical study.

STUDENTS LEAD NEW COLLABORATION WITH INDIAN UNIVERSITY

In a bold step to develop worldwide research collaborations while tackling some of the greatest global challenges of the century — energy and health care — UC Berkeley has launched a new partnership with one of India's leading institutions of higher education: the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur. What sets this program apart from others is the way it was conceived. Spearheading this initiative are not faculty members but a group of students who will act as ambassadors for the program.

"We decided to grow the program in an unusual way," said Mark Richards, executive dean of the College of Letters and Science during a reception welcoming the students. "We thought the most straightforward way to make this happen is directly through the students. They will explore research opportunities here with the understanding that these projects will continue when they return and in the process grow faculty bonds." Richards, along with Geoff Owen, dean of the College's Biological Division, laid the groundwork for the collaboration during a trip to India last November.

PAPER ON RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND ASSIMILATION IN POST 9/11 AMERICA WINS OUTSTANDING PAPER PRIZE

CSAS is pleased to announce that the 2007-08 Amrit Kaur Ahluwalia Memorial Outstanding Paper Prize has been awarded to Shruti Devgan for her paper, "Donning Religion: Religious Symbols among Second Generation Sikhs." In this paper, Ms. Devgan explores the issue of religious identity and assimilation among Sikh immigrants. Through an examination of religious symbols and dress, she sheds light on the significance of adopting a conspicuous religious identity in the US, especially in the post 9/11 years.



Prizewinner Shruti Devgan

Ms. Devgan is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Her research interests lie in South Asian and diaspora studies. For her dissertation, she plans to investigate the intergenerational transmission of the 1947 Partition memories amongst Punjabi immigrants. She has a BA in Sociology from Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi and an MA and MPhil from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

The inaugural group of 11 exchange students arrived on campus on May 26 for an eight-week summer research session. Most of them did not have time to get over their jet lag before rushing to join their mentors in labs across campus.

"I'm so excited, I already worked two days in the lab," said Varada Vilas Bal, a bubbly fourth-year physics student working in the field of photovoltaics — a technology that converts light into electricity. This is her first trip to the United States, yet three days into her experience she had already made up her mind to return to Berkeley for her Ph.D. The same effusive enthusiasm comes through from all students. "I'm looking forward to the exchange of ideas and discussions with some of the best minds in the world," said fellow student Suman Bikash Mondal.

The initiative hopes to build on the experience of this first round of students to develop major lasting collaborations within the next two years. During the next phase, students from Berkeley will travel to India, with faculty following in their footsteps with collaborations of their own.

IIT Kharagpur, the largest and oldest of India's seven Indian Institutes of Technology, was chosen for this collaboration because of its high-tech profile (the Indian government named it as the lead national organization in biotechnology), its rich academic environment, top-notch students, and its institutional knowledge base in areas such as energy, medical science, and plant genetics. Kharagpur's students, Dean Richards said, "are known in the U.S. for being universally brilliant," due to the institute's exceptionally competitive admission policy: only one in 100 students who apply are admitted.

Like Berkeley, Richards noted, IIT Kharagpur is a world-class public university. "As a premier public institution, Berkeley has a natural affinity with IIT in terms of our culture. We felt that personally when we visited IIT Kharagpur, both intellectually and culturally."

The collaboration focuses on research in the cutting-edge areas of clean energies (particularly biofuels) and neglected diseases. The program was made possible in large measure by the recent launch of two large multidisciplinary centers based at U.C. Berkeley that promise to make seminal contributions to science in the 21st Century.

The Energy Biosciences Institute (EBI), a large consortium funded by a 10-year, \$500-million grant, focuses on energy biosciences research to devise solutions to global energy challenges and reduce the impact of fossil fuels on global warming.

"While there's no single solution," said EBI Director Chris Sommerville, "the general solution is to look at all possible clean and renewable resources. Our focus is the application of modern biology to the energy sector."

Sommerville emphasized the need for endeavors like EBI to engage in global partnership. "Our mission cannot be ac-



Students from IIT Kharagpur with program organizers at a welcoming reception. (photo by Peg Skorpinski)

complished in isolation," he said. "We have here at Berkeley a unique opportunity to partner with an institution in a country that has substantial share of the world energy market. These are world problems, not regional problems, and we need to approach them at that level."

The other key project is the Berkeley Alliance for Global Health initiative, a recent alliance between U.C. Berkeley's School of Public Health and the Center for Emerging and Neglected Diseases, which aims to address large-scale public health issues, focusing in particular on fighting drug-resistant diseases such as TB and malaria, rampant in many parts of the world.

"There's a great urgency to it, as we have no defense against these diseases at the moment," said Dean Owen, pointing to the fact that 100,000 people in India alone have fallen pray to the extremely drug-resistant form of tuberculosis, XDR TB.

"These diseases affect the whole world as the ease of travel makes everyone vulnerable," he added. "We need to develop and grow relationships with institutions in other countries. The collaboration with IIT Kharagpur is a perfect marriage."

Another key to the success of this project is its strong support from IIT Kharagpur alumni at Berkeley. One of them, Shail Kumar, senior director of external relations in the College of Letters and Science's College Relations Office, has worked intensely with Richards and Owen on launching this program.

Finally, Berkeley has a long history of collaborating with India and developing related programs. Some 70 India-related courses are taught here every semester, and a large number of faculty members have projects in India. "With India's rising reputation right now, lots of universities are jumping on the bandwagon," said Raka Ray, director of the Center for South Asia Studies at Berkeley. "But here we have a longstanding collaboration with India that started many decades ago."

"And what better way to promote true collaborations," she added, "than to have here the best and brightest minds working together to make the world a little more disease free and a little less dependent on fossil fuels?"

Monica Friedlander, Communications Manager, College of Letters and Science

LESSONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

As Jamal Khan looked out of the window of his train compartment, travelling from Jamnagar airport to Mithapur, he saw some tribal women in their colourful attire walking in the distance, balancing huge pots of water on their head. "It was so incredibly hot and the women were carrying this heavy weight on their heads," he recalls. "It was something that I'd seen only in National Geographic, but now I was experiencing it first hand". It was a moment of epiphany for the senior from Berkeley, one that has profoundly changed his attitude and way of thinking. "I realised how critical water, which we take for granted, is to these people."

Mr Khan is one of five students who have travelled a little over 14,000 km from the University of California, Berkeley, to spend eight weeks in India working with Tata companies on various social development projects as part of the Tata International Social Entrepreneurship Scheme (TISES).

TISES, launched in January 2008, aims to give international students an opportunity to work on community initiative projects undertaken by different Tata companies, and thereby promote international understanding. The Tata Group has signed an agreement with the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Cambridge for three years.

Shernavaz Colah, a consultant at Tata Services who has been coordinating this programme, says: "We hope TISES will help these interns gain insights on how the Tata Group is committed to building the community and how Tata values are reflected in its corporate sustainability projects. It will also bring an international, and fresh, perspective to our corporate sustainability projects."

The five students, the others being Liza Cirolia, Shu Shang, Annemieke Wilcox and Pedro Rosado, were selected

by UC, Berkeley after an intensive process. They were then taken through a pre-induction orientation programme, which included briefings about the projects that they would be working on as well as some background on the culture and languages of India.

Ms Cirolia, currently pursuing a graduate degree with a major in development studies and social welfare, and Ms Shang, who will be completing her graduation in molecular and cellular biology and environmental studies, travelled to Jamshedpur to work with Tata Steel's Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health Project (RISHTA). Their objectives were to set up a school session curriculum to impart education and awareness about sexual health issues to rural adolescents in the 14-16 age group, develop staff training modules, and ensure the project's sustainability.

Ms Cirolia and Ms Shang often had to drive long distances to reach the schools for their sessions.

"We found that there were many misconceptions about sexual and reproductive health, and this had more to do with local traditions than any lack of knowledge," says Ms Cirolia.

Adds Ms Shang, "It was a very sensitive topic and one which is generally taboo in most rural areas. So it was not easy for us to teach it, but we tried to include a lot of information in our sessions. We used different techniques to make the programme as interactive as possible." The two interns are hoping that the work

that they did will help strengthen the youth resource centres that will eventually take on the role of community resource centres, where the community itself will play a major role in bringing about social change.

Further north, at the Tata Chemicals' fertiliser plant at Babrala, Mr Rosado, who recently graduated from UC, Berkeley and Ms Wilcox, a student of peace and conflict studies and economics, worked with a team from the Tata Chemicals Society for Rural Development (TCSRSD) to develop a sustainable livelihood model through agriculture-based interventions.

Meeting the farmers and villagers from around the plant, they looked at various ways in which agricultural outputs and incomes could be increased - better utilisation of resources, cooperation among

farmers, crop diversification, etc. - while also exploring alternative means of livelihoods for village communities. Based on their research, they recommended the need to further strengthen the already established self-help

groups and micro-credit societies. They suggested a three-tiered approach to facilitate and promote cooperation among farmers, at the individual, village and community level.

At Mithapur, where Tata Chemicals operates India's largest inorganic soda ash plant, Mr Khan, a senior at Berkeley who is majoring in economics and political science, was moved by his eight-week interaction with the people from the Tupni and Poshitra villages of Okhamandal taluka.

Mr Khan was assigned the task of developing a 'water code' for rural areas in the Jamnagar district that have implemented the integrated watershed management project initiated by Tata Chemicals. "I started by quantifying the amount of water used, as opposed to the water available to farmers, finding out the shortfall and trying to find a way to decrease this," he explains. The plan was to initiate a total package of water use and understand the economy of water harvesting, water management and optimum agriculture production. This would finally lead to the creation of a rural water code that is generated by the community itself. "My experience at Mithapur has been a life-changing one," says Mr Khan. "The generosity, kindness and large-heartedness of the villagers, despite their problems, has had a profound effect on me. The community togetherness we saw in these villages is something we see little of in the US. It was also good to be able to put a face to a community that is facing socio-economic problems in a way that cannot be compared with any knowledge gained from a classroom lecture or a textbook. I would definitely recommend this experience to others."

Eight weeks after completing their internships, the five students gathered



(L-R) Shu Shang, Liza Cirolia, Jamal Khan, Pedro Rosado, Annemieke Wilcox

UC Berkeley/Tata Summer Internship Program in India

UC Berkeley is proud to announce the launch of a new program-- the Tata International Social Entrepreneurship Scheme (TISES)-- in collaboration with the Tata Group, one of India's largest private sector conglomerates and a global leader in innovative corporate social responsibility initiatives. The primary objective of TISES is to provide international students with opportunities to contribute to community initiative projects of Tata Group companies in India and in so doing to promote international understanding.

Berkeley will identify up to five upper division undergraduate or graduate students for an 8-week summer TISES internships with Tata Group's community initiative programs. Competitively selected interns will join Tata community development teams working on the economic and social empowerment of communities surrounding the company's operating units.

Selected students will participate in a pre-departure orientation program at Berkeley and be provided with elementary language training in Gujarati (Mithapur) or Hindi (Babrala and Jamshedpur). They will be provided with additional orientation by Tata in India prior to traveling to their individual assignments. On-the-job translation assistance will be provided by Tata staff. This is the first year of a new program. The program will be closely monitored and evaluated. Students will be asked to make presentations on their findings and recommendations to Tata Corporate Sustainability Services management team prior to departure from India. Interns will also participate in a Berkeley-Tata workshop on the program following their return.

Tata will cover all in-country travel and living costs and provide interns with a modest daily stipend for incidental costs. Interns will be housed in guest accommodations operated by Tata. Interns are expected to cover a portion of their international travel expenses (approximately \$500).

2008 Fellows UC Berkeley/Tata International Social Entrepreneurship Scheme

Liza Cirolia

Major: Development Studies & Social Welfare

Jamal Khan

Major: Economics and Political Science;
Minor: Global Poverty

Pedro Rosado

Major: Sociology & Political Science;
Minor: Global Poverty and Practice

Shu Shang

Major: Molecular and Cellular Biology & Environmental Sciences

Annemieke Wilcox

Major: Peace and Conflict Studies & Economics

in Mumbai to make presentations about their experiences. Ms Cirolia sported a nose ring and ethnic hoop earrings while Ms Wilcox wore an embroidered salwar

CONFERENCE ON TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT IN NEPAL

On July 12 and 13, 2008, a diverse lineup of academics, professionals, policy makers, aid-organization activists, industry leaders and Nepali expatriates living in the bay area participated in conference on Information & Communication Technology (ICT) in Nepal. The two-day symposium, titled "US-Nepal Technology Development Conference," and organized by the Center for South Asia Studies and the Computer Association of Nepal-USA (CAN-USA), deliberated on how state-of-the-art knowledge in this area could be used to solve the problems Nepal currently faces in the areas such as rural village connectivity, remote health care (tele-medicine), emergency communication infrastructure, e-governance and productivity enhancement in both manufacturing and service industries.

The conference was opened by His Excellency Dr. Suresh Chandra Chalise, Ambassador of the Republic of Nepal to the United States who expressed hope that it would provide an opportunity for ICT professionals to forge sustained partnerships in their areas of competence and thus be able to assist Nepal in her pursuit of overall socio-economic development. He also lauded the efforts of CAN-USA for providing a platform where effective ICT related projects, that directly impact the community, could be built. On the same occasion UC Berkeley Professor Isha Ray, of the Energy and Resources Group, expressed the hope that the conference would identify and address issues of equity associated with technology development and diffusion in developing countries in

The faculty and students of UC Berkeley enthusiastically welcome the launch of the Tata Group's innovative new student internship programme focused on social entrepreneurship. The name "Berkeley" is known throughout the world not only for excellence in education and research but also for a unique record of community engagement. The latter we share with the Tata Group, laying the foundation for what will undoubtedly be a productive effort, benefiting those served by Tata's community initiatives but also reinforcing leadership skills and the appreciation of India and its people among the UC Berkeley community

Mr. George Scharffenberger, Executive Director
Blum Center for Developing Economies, University of California, Berkeley

kameez and had mehndi on her hands and arms. However, it is not just Indian customs and fashion that the interns will take back with them.

What left an indelible impression on these visitors was the simple village folk, "who had nothing much to give, yet gave so much in terms of their warmth, generosity and willingness to throw open their households." Just as strong a takeaway was the Tata Group's unique approach to corporate sustainability, which strives to involve communities in the process of change and, wherever possible, make them stakeholders and owners.

"It was really interesting to know that the Tatas have full-time employees who work closely with the local community," says Mr Khan. "Also interesting was the

fact that the company ensures that the community contributes some amount towards an initiative, giving it a sense of ownership." Adds Mr Rosado: "There is a lot of validity in the Tata approach. Corporations usually give money; there is no sustainability. But here we saw a corporate entity directly helping communities."

"What will stay with me the most," says Ms Wilcox, "is the realisation that a smile is universal. If you smile, people will smile back at you. So even though you don't speak the same language, you can still connect with people." For Ms Cirolia what mattered was "the realisation that every person thinks differently, has different ideas. It's important not to put people into groups".

As the students head back home to Berkeley, Mr Rosado's words seem to sum up their thoughts: "Earlier I used to say, 'Let's help one person at a time.' Now I want to help the world - one village at a time. I say, 'Let's help the world, let's all get together and work together to make the world a better place.' This is a good way to do it."

Article written by Jay Wadia and reprinted with permission from Tata Sons

MENTORING PROGRAM FOR CAL STUDENTS

The Undergraduate Research Forum at the Center for South Asia Studies works to encourage, facilitate, and enhance undergraduate research related to South Asia studies at Berkeley. The Forum provides opportunities for second to fourth year students to work with advanced graduate students on cutting edge projects with the goal of understanding various stages of research in the humanities and social sciences through first-hand experience. In addition, working closely with graduate students in an intimate setting allows undergraduates to deepen their knowledge and research skills in their areas of interest, while simultaneously building strong professional relationships. Most importantly, the Forum provides an opportunity for students to experience what it means to be a part of Berkeley's intellectual community, widely known for highly original and creative research.

Fall 2008 will be the first semester CSAS is facilitating such a program, and undergraduates from all of the schools and colleges at UC Berkeley are invited to participate. So far, graduate students from the Departments of Music, Anthropology, South & South East Asian Studies, and English have committed to mentoring interested undergraduates. The program will conclude with a symposium where students will present aspects of their project to their peers and invited faculty members. For further information or to participate please contact Sudev J. Sheth, at csasast@berkeley.edu



From left: Binit Sharma, Suzanne Gilbert, Mahabir Pun, Ambassador Suresh C. Chalise, Amod Pokhrel, and Suresh Ojha.

general and Nepal in particular.

At the conference, Professor Shiva Gautam (Harvard Medical School), Sonesh Surana (UC Berkeley), Rabin Patra (UC Berkeley), Mahabir Pun (Social activist and Ramon Magsaysay laureate), Bhawani Sapkota (Agito Networking) and Jim Forster (Cisco) discussed rural village connectivity and e-library projects. Professor Rifat Latifi (University of Arizona), Amod Pokhrel (UC Berkeley), Arun Kunwar (SUNY, Upstate Medical University) and Professor Heather Hudson (University of San Francisco) shared their experiences and knowledge on tele-medicine applicable to

Nepal. Suresh Ojha (Phase Matrix), Michelle M. Geddes (City of San Francisco, Emergency Management Department), Woody Baker-Cohn (Chair Disaster Operations, Bay Area Red Cross) talked about emergency communication infrastructure. Ajaya Gulati (VMWare) and Biswo Poudel (UC Berkeley) shared ideas on e-governance and e-education and Professor David Zilberman (UC Berkeley) and Bowei Du (UC Berkeley) shared their knowledge and experience on information technology and productivity enhancement.

We hope that this symposium will provide momentum for further events at UC Berkeley on the unfolding conflict in Nepal.

CAN-USA is an American organization dedicated to the professional development of its members and technologies progress of Nepal. It is a non-profit organization with members throughout the United States. For further information please visit www.can-usa.org
Amod Pokhrel, Graduate Student contributed to this article.

FACULTY & GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Paola Bacchetta (Associate Professor, Gender and Women's Studies) was awarded the Graduate Assembly's Distinguished Faculty Mentorship Award for 2008. The committee received 36 applications this year from current students in departments all over campus and from former students all over the country. Paola Bacchetta stood out as a mentor who went far beyond the role of a traditional academic advisor.

Matt Baxter (Graduate Student, Political Science) is a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Research Abroad Fellow during the 2008-2009 academic year. His dissertation is a work in comparative political theory focusing on Periyar, Ambedkar, and Gandhi. As a Fellow, he will be based at archives in Chennai, Delhi, and Bangalore.

Padmanabh S. Jaini (Professor Emeritus, South & Southeast Asian Studies) has published two articles. The first titled *Jain Sectarian Debates: Eighty-Four Points of Contention (Cauryamsi bol) Between Shvetambaras and Digambaras* has been published in a special issue of the *Journal of Indian Philosophy*, Vol. 36 (2008), pp. 1-246. The second is titled *A Note on Miccaditthi in Mahavamsa, Ch. 25.110* and has been published in the *Journal of the Pali Text Society (UK)*, Vol XXXIX (2009), pp. 153-68.

Prasad Krishnamurthy (Graduate Student, Economics) is spending the year teaching at the National Legal Academy (NALSAR) in Hyderabad under the Yale Law School's Oscar M. Reubhausen Teaching and Research Fellowship. He is teaching a course on Law and Economics and guest-lecturing in courses on Corporations,

Banking and Financial Institutions, and Law and Poverty. He is also working on two research papers while there. The first is on the effects of financial deregulation on firm access to credit, the size and sectoral distributions of credit reliant firms, and the entry and exit patterns within affected industries. The second paper is a paper on the concept and implementation of "social and economic" rights, comparing the constitutional structure and role of the courts in India and South Africa.

Adnan Naseemullah (Graduate Student, Political Science) has just come back from 8 months of dissertation research in India on varieties of industrial development, funded by a Simpson Fellowship and a Fulbright-Hays DDRA Fellowship. He is also co-presenting a paper entitled 'State Security and Elite Capture: The Implementation of Anti-Terrorist Legislation in India' with Manoj Mate at the 2008 American Political Science Association annual conference in Boston.

Ananya Roy (Associate Professor & Chair, Urban Studies Department of City & Regional Planning) is the 2008 recipient of the Golden Apple Award for Outstanding Teaching. One of the most prestigious teaching awards on the UC Berkeley campus, the Golden Apple Award began in 2003 as a project of ASUC Senator Evan Bloom. It is presented to honor those professors who teach with energy & inspiring, demonstrating passion, and showing care in the classroom. It is the only teaching award at UC Berkeley conferred by the students. The award is intended to recognize those teachers who

consistently teach each lecture as if it were their last.

Michael Slouber (Graduate Student, South & Southeast Asian Studies) has advanced to PhD candidacy and will be in Nepal for the 08/09 year studying Nepali on a FLAS fellowship. At the annual workshop of Hamburg's Centre for Tantric Studies, to take place in Kathmandu in September, he will make a presentation about earliest sources for the Bhuta and Garuda Tantras. His dissertation will analyse the theme of Garuda medicine in Sanskrit literature and in modern South and Southeast Asia."

"RECOVERING AFGHANISTAN'S PAST"

CSAS is proud to co-sponsor "Recovering Afghanistan's Past," a conference focusing on Afghanistan's cultural heritage in its past and present contexts. Scholars from various disciplines will gather in the Chevron Auditorium at the International House, University of California, Berkeley on November 14-15, 2008 to address, among others, the following issues: the recovered objects from the National Museum; recent research and preservation/renovation projects; challenges of cultural heritage protection; the complexities of 'targeted' heritage; cultural heritage and nationalism; and cultural heritage and globalization. Sponsored by several other UC Berkeley departments and research units, as well as the Asian Art Museum, the Society for Asian Art and the Association for the Protection of Afghan Archaeology, this conference has been organized in conjunction with the Afghanistan: Hidden Treasures exhibit which is on display at the Asian Art Museum October 24, 2008 through January 25, 2009.

2008-09 AIIS FELLOWS

CSAS is pleased to announce that the following scholars have been awarded the American Institute of Indian Studies fellowships to carry out their projects in India in 2008-2009:

Prachi Deshpande, an assistant professor in the Department of History at the University of California, Berkeley, was awarded a senior fellowship to carry out her project, "Itinerant Geographies: Maratha Migration, Homeland and Expansion, 1750-1900." Professor Deshpande's fellowship is being funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Michele Friedner, a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology at the University of

California, Berkeley, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out her project, "Focus on Which Family?: Deaf Identity and Social Movements in India."

Daniel Malinowski Stuart, a graduate student in the Group in Buddhist Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, was awarded a junior fellowship to carry out his project, "Text, Path, and Practice: Meditation Theory and Community Imperatives in Indian Buddhism."



Ornament for the neck of a robe (Tillya Tepe, Tomb V), 1st century BC-1st century AD
gold, turquoise, garnet, and pyrite
National Museum of Afghanistan
©Thierry Ollivier / Musée Guimet

JOURNALISM STUDENT WINS DOROTHEA LANGE FELLOWSHIP FOR “CALIFORNIA’S MAIN STREET”

Adithya Sambamurthy, a 28-year-old student pursuing master’s degrees at the University of California, Berkeley’s Graduate School of Journalism as well as in International and Area studies, has won this year’s Dorothea Lange Fellowship for his project “Main Street, California—A Photographic Journey Along Route 99.” The \$4,000 UC Berkeley fellowship is in memory of photojournalist Dorothea Lange, probably best known for her stark yet humanizing photos taken for the federal Farm Security Administration and documenting the lives



Adithya Sambamurthy (Deborah Stalford/UC Berkeley photo)

of migrant workers who fled the Dust Bowl for jobs in California’s fertile farmlands. Lange worked with her husband, Paul Taylor, who was a UC Berkeley professor and labor economist.

Adithya started photographing along Route 99 last spring, initially hoping to find images that speak of its almost iconic past. Taking exits along the road, he photographed livestock auctions, church services, drive-in movie theatres and honky-tonks featuring the Bakersfield Sound—

remnants of an older California, one seemingly far removed from the metropolitan hubs on the coast. But he also found a surprising amount of diversity in these mostly agricultural communities. Today’s global “Dust Bowl migrants” are Sikhs from Northwest India, Hmong from Southeast Asia, and migrant workers from Mexico and Central America, who are often seen as distinct from the older Latino communities already established along the road.

Sixty years after Lange documented life along “California’s Main Street,” Adithya Sambamurthy’s photographic safari along Highway 99 offers a contemporary take on it – as well as on the communities that live along the road.

More information about the fellowship, a slide show of Sambamurthy’s winning photos and a listing of previous Lange winners is online at the Dorothea Lange Fellowship Web site. The fellowship was first awarded in 1982.



Stockton Gurdwara Sahib, SR 99, Charter Way exit

23RD ANNUAL SOUTH ASIA CONFERENCE

The 23rd South Asia Annual Conference at UC Berkeley was held on February 15 and 16, 2008. More than a hundred scholars attended the conference. The topics covered in the panels ranged from India and her relations with the West to the politics

NEW PUBLICATIONS BY UCB FACULTY

The Contested Commons: Conversations between Economists & Anthropologists

Edited by: Pranab Bardhan and Isha Ray

The *Contested Commons* explores the theme of common environmental resources from the dual perspectives of economics and anthropology, with a focus on developing countries. The essays

in this collection include contributed readings written by senior scholars in the fields of Economics, Anthropology, and Sociology. The volume:

- Looks at the challenges of interdisciplinary work in the social sciences, illustrating the variation in approaches/methodology;
- Focuses on economic security, ecological sustainability, identity formation, and participatory decision-making, particularly in the developing world.

About the Authors:

Pranab Bardhan is Professor of Economics at the University of California at Berkeley.

Isha Ray is Assistant Professor in the Energy and Resources Group at the University of California at Berkeley.

The Oxford India Hinduism Reader

Edited by: Vasudha Dalmia and Heinrich von Stietencron

The essays in this collection seek to set up the genealogy of modern Hinduism. They trace key moments in the formation of Hindu traditions, in their relations as well as in the major shifts in their configurations.

The endeavour is not only to dismantle colonial and nationalist constructions, but also to seek viable models to reconstruct past traditions.

Vasudha Dalmia in a comprehensive introduction

locates these essays as part of an engagement in understanding the processes moulding modern Hinduism.

About the Authors:

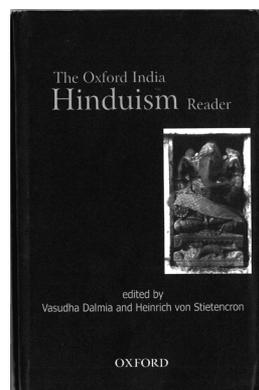
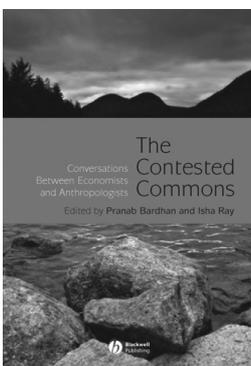
Vasudha Dalmia is Professor of Hindi and Modern South Asian Studies at the University of California, Berkeley

Heinrich von Stietencron is Professor Emeritus of Indology and Comparative History of Religion at the University of Tuebingen.



From L: Prithvi Shobhi, Raka Roy, Sheldon Pollock, Robert Goldman, Sugata Bose

of emerging middle classes and from musical practices and performative traditions of South Asia to the role of information and communications technologies in development. In the “Author Meets Critics Panel,” Sheldon Pollock of Columbia University discussed his latest book, *The Language of the Gods in the World of Men: Sanskrit, Culture, and Power in Premodern India* with Robert P. Goldman, Professor of Sanskrit, UC Berkeley and Prithvi Datta C. Shobhi, Assistant Professor of Humanities, San Francisco State. The Rajendranath Das keynote address titled *Different Universalisms, Vernacular Cosmopolitanisms: The Global Imagination of the Colonized* was given by Sugata Bose, Director, South Asia Initiative and Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs, at Harvard University.



DEMOCRACY IN INDIA

India is unique in history in having a sustained democracy in a poor country with a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural society. Today, its economic strength is also widely recognized and celebrated. While India's power as an emerging economy is being celebrated and analyzed, equal weight must be given to its democratic institutions, without which India's economic, social and human potential will remain unfulfilled. Thus the role democratic processes play in the sustenance and diffusion of this economic strength into the wider reaches of Indian society is a central question that must be engaged as we look toward the future.



Mani Shankar Aiyar addressing the audience in last year's conference on Democracy

In order to create an environment in which such crucial questions can be discussed and alternative solutions offered by policy makers, thought leaders, NGO activists, and scholars, the Center for South Asia Studies at the University of California, Berkeley, together with the Foundation for Democratic Rights in India, has instituted a high-level annual seminar series hosted on the Berkeley campus.

The first in a series of annual seminars on Indian democracy was held at Berkeley on May 24-25, 2007 and attended by

a host of Indian dignitaries, including Union ministers, Mani Shankar Aiyar and Jaipal Reddy, former Chief Minister of MP Digvijay Singh, Kerala finance minister Thomas Isaac, Infosys CEO Kris Gopalakrishnan, well-known media personalities Chandan Mitra and Kalpana Sharma, NGO activists Arvind Kejriwal, Ramesh Ramanathan and Jayaprakash Narayan, constitutional lawyer Rajiv Dhavan, as well as prominent Berkeley academics.

In addition to noting the sheer magnitude of what India had managed to achieve and sustain regarding development of democratic institutions, local governance and empowerment, the conference highlighted the obstacles that stood in the way of achieving higher levels of accountability, lower levels of corruption and more effective governance, as well as broader challenges facing Indian democracy. In particular, the role of Center-state relations and fiscal constraints on devolution, as well as the strains brought about by increasing inequality, were noted by participants.

In September of 2008, we will hold our second seminar, which will focus on the role of law in Indian democracy. Without mechanisms in place to ensure safety, justice and certainty, a democracy cannot survive. India has had an independent judiciary for decades, but how effectively does it function and is able to truly deliver impartial justice to its citizens? How do other state actors like

the police and army function to uphold the law? What recourse is available when these instruments of the state themselves break the law? Civil society, like citizens groups and even the private sector, are often involved in promoting justice and just practices. How does civil society work with the average citizen when he or she does not feel that justice has been served? What alternate forms of dispute resolution mechanisms are available? What lessons can we learn from successful examples of effective and democratic legal environments? Luminaries from government, the judiciary, civil society, the media, academia, and the corporate world will be invited to address these and other vital questions through a series of panel presentations, breakout sessions, and keynote lectures.

The primary objective of these seminars is to provide direction and reflection on key issues that may challenge the democratic institutions of India in the 21st century. The aim is to gener-

CSAS COMMUNITY PARTNER: FDRI

www.fdpi.org

The Foundation for Democratic Reforms in India (FDRI) is a US based non-profit organization dedicated to the study of the democratic and constitutional institutions of India, and evaluation and promotion of reforms of these institutions. FDRI believes that key reforms in the Indian governance structure can afford all citizens the opportunity to reach their full potential and lead to a renaissance of the Indian Republic, making it a confident, prosperous leader in the global arena. FDRI's model of governance reforms includes free, fair, and informed elections, decriminalization of politics, rule of law, judicial and administrative reforms, self-correcting institutions with checks and balances, and implementation of best practices from all over the world.

CSAS would like to especially thank FDRI members, Sridar Iyengar, Naren Bakshi, Venkatesh Shukla and Raj Mashruwala for their intellectual contributions and guidance in shaping the evolution of UC Berkeley's conference series on Democracy in India.

- Sridar Iyengar is associated with Bessemer Venture Partners and sits on the Boards of American India Foundation, Infosys, ICICI Bank and Rediff.com. He is an active investor in and mentor of early stage companies particularly with interests/operations in India.

- Venkatesh Shukla, a veteran of four start up ventures in Silicon Valley with proven track record of leading companies through rapid growth, is the CEO of Nusym Technology, Inc. Venkatesh served as the founding president of Foundation for Excellence (www.fpe.org) for 10 years and is a charter member of TiE (www.tie.org). He also serves on the advisory board of Silicon Valley Indian Professionals Association (www.sipa.org).
- Naren Bakshi is an entrepreneur and is a founder of Versata, and CEO of JumpStart (an investment and advisory group). He is now an angel investor, and mentor to start-ups here and in India. He is the Global Chair for the TiE's Global's 45 chapters in 10 countries and President of the India Community Center in the Bay area.
- Rajesh Mashruwala (Raj) is an entrepreneur who has helped fund several startups in the areas of Telecommunication, Medical Technology and Internet Companies. A veteran of Tibco Software, he is currently serving on the Board of Kovair as one of its Directors. Prior to Tibco, Raj was involved in three other successful start ups in Silicon Valley, Consilium Software, Media Computer Technology and YieldUp. He is also an active Charter Member of The Indus Entrepreneur (TiE) since its founding.

FDRI/BERKELEY SEMINAR SERIES ON INDIAN DEMOCRACY JUSTICE & THE LAW

September 26-27, 2008
Lipman Room, Barrows Hall
University of California, Berkeley

Tentative Agenda

Friday, September 26

- 8:30 am Registration
- 9:30 am Panel I: Framing the Issues
- 11:00 am Panel II: Instruments of Law - The Judiciary
- 1:00 pm Presentation of FDRI/Lokniti data on judiciary
- 2:30 pm Panel III: Instruments of Law - The Police and Army

Saturday, September 27

- 10 am Panel IV: Human Rights
- 1:30 pm Panel V: Case Study of Chhatisgarh
- 3:15 pm Panel VI: Alternative Institutions of Dispute Settlement
- 5 pm Where do we go from here?

Confirmed Participants

- Mani Shankar Aiyar (Union Minister of Panchayati Raj); Flavia Agnes (Director, Majlis); Rajiv Dhavan (Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India); Marc Galanter (University of Wisconsin, Madison); Colleen Gonsalves (Lawyer; Executive Director, Human Rights Law Network); Erik Jensen (Stanford Law School); Madhu Kishwar (Founder, Manushi for Women); Sunil Kumar (Editor, Daily Chhatisgarh); Manoj Mate (Fellow in Comparative Law, Berkeley Law School); N. R. Madhava Menon (Founder Director, National Law School, Bangalore); Pratap Bhanu Mehta (Director, Center for Policy Research); Vikram Ravhavan (World Bank, TBC); Vishva Ranjan (DGP of Chhatisgarh); Anasuya Sengupta (Graduate Student, Oxford); Justice B.N. Srikrishna (retired Supreme Court); Nandini Sundar (University of Delhi); Siddharth Varadarajan (Journalist, The Hindu); Arvind Verma (University of Indiana)

DEMOCRACY, CONT'D

ate ideas that will not only spur greater understanding of complex issues, but can also be implemented in terms of policy. The pace with which changes are taking place in India makes such a seminar series imperative. The ability to have conversations across disciplines and professions will, we expect, greatly enhance the ability to create innovate solutions and out-of-the-box thinking.

These seminars will address these vital questions with the goal of critically evaluating existing projects, generating new ideas, and analyzing the feasibility of alternative models of democratic functioning. In addition to the panel sessions, several high-profile keynote speakers will share their insights, and the seminar will conclude with an extended closed session to enable all of the invited participants, including major Indian politicians, to freely exchange views and formulate innovative policy suggestions. We will also have smaller breakout sessions throughout the conference, which will allow smaller groups to discuss and reflect on the ideas that have been generated.

The first conference on governance and empowerment generated quite a bit of excitement both here at Berkeley and in India. As a result of this first successful meeting, we are working closely with Union Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar to

CSAS COMMUNITY PARTNER: SACHI

www.sachi.org

SACHI, the Society for Art and Cultural Heritage of India, is a nonprofit, educational organization based in the San Francisco Bay area. It serves as a forum for promoting the appreciation of the art, culture and heritage of India. For more than ten years SACHI has organized unique and innovative presentations by distinguished scholars, artists, authors, filmmakers and performers on Indian art and culture. For CSAS, it has been a great pleasure working with SACHI and its Co-President, Gita Vaish and we look forward to exciting and inspiring collaborations in the future.

Gita was born in India. She majored in History from Miranda House, in Delhi, India. After gradu-

ation, Gita worked for several years as a sales and advertising executive with Japan Air Lines, Delhi. In 1977 she moved to the US and worked as a travel consultant in the bay area for over 20 years. She has traveled extensively through Asia and Europe and has a keen appreciation of the culture, history and art of India, Southeast Asia and Europe. She enjoys working with people and has provided exceptional leadership skills in all her professional and volunteer positions.



Gita Vaish

hold a counterpart conference in India every year. In addition, we have established a partnership with Lokniti (the research arm of the Centre for Developing Societies in New Delhi) to rank Indian states on a set of governance and

empowerment indicators. Finally, we are developing a publication series that will focus on each year's theme, as well as a web portal on Indian democracy that will be linked from the CSAS website.

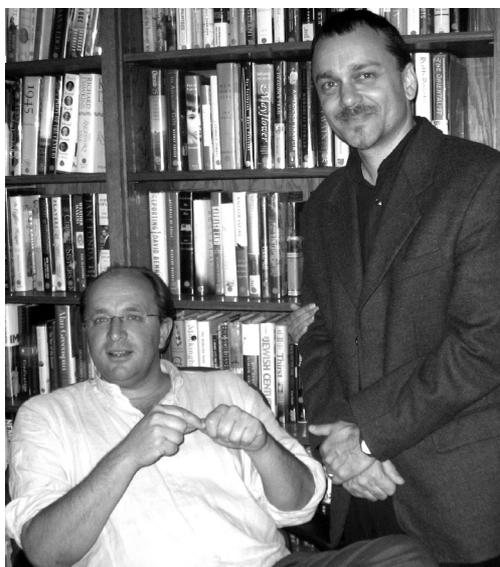
AN EVENING WITH WILLIAM DALRYMPLE

More than 120 students, faculty and visitors gathered in the Morrison Room of Doe Library on the evening of April 2 to hear renowned travel writer and historian William Dalrymple discuss his latest book, "The Last Mughal: The Fall of a Dynasty, Delhi, 1857." The talk and discussion was co-sponsored by SACHI, South & Southeast Asian Studies, the English Department, and the Centers for Middle Eastern Studies and British Studies.

In recent years, Dalrymple's writings have illuminated near-forgotten chapters of India's history and explored their remarkable relevance to contemporary events. This book-lecture was no exception. Piecing together, from a trove of 20,000 native primary documents about the Rebellion, called the Mutiny Papers, which have languished with little scholarly attention at the National Archives of India since the 1920s, he told to the enthralled audience, in a vivid and somewhat elegiac tone, the poignant tale of the final flowering and violent end of the last Mughal imperial court, that of Bahadur Shah Zafar.

The Last Mughal, revolves around the tragic figure of Bahadur Shah Zafar and tells the story of the events that led to that great watershed in Anglo-Indian relations: the Uprising of 1857. More than that, the book describes a brilliant and magnificent city – Mughal Delhi – and details its culture and customs; it also tells of the great literary renaissance that Bahadur Shah Zafar inspired, despite a title reduced by the British from Mughal Emperor to King of Delhi and with little power beyond the Red Fort. Zafar was an accomplished Urdu poet too.

Dalrymple read out excerpts from the wills of army officers, letters by celebrated Delhi personalities like Ghalib and by British officials to their wives and siblings that often oscillated between emotional outbursts (on seeing poor civilians being killed inhumanly) and brave proclama-



William Dalrymple photographed with Munis Faruqi during the book signing

tions (for being able to take revenge for the innocent British families that were butchered by mutineers), all together creating a throbbing picture of the indescribable cruelties that took place in Delhi during the summer of 1857.

The failure of the rebellion, and the bloodbath which followed did more than sound the death knell for the Mughal empire—it illustrated how much had changed since the enlightened pluralism of India pre-1800, how Britain's expansionist policy, fuelled by evangelical

Christianity and led by the multinational East India Company, bred bigotry and apartheid. The message of the story, however, about the fragility of multiculturalism and the dangers of cultural imperialism, belongs as much to the present day as to India 150 years ago. Dalrymple finds resounding parallels with current events, where the United States finds itself the sole superpower after the collapse of the Soviet Union and is convinced that its gospel—democracy—will lead the benighted peoples of the Middle East out of their darkness.

Dalrymple concluded his talk with a moving reading of the late Ahmed Ali's elegant translation of the famous verses that were supposedly written by Zafar shortly after his imprisonment, and as Mughal Delhi lay in ruins around him:

*Delhi was once a paradise,
Where Love held sway and reigned;
But its charm lies ravished now
And only ruins remain.*

*No tears were shed when shroudless they
Were laid in common graves;
No prayers were read for the noble dead,
Unmarked remain their graves*

*But things cannot remain, O Zafar,
Thus, for who can tell?
Through God's great mercy and the
Prophet
All may yet be well.*

William Dalrymple is truly a powerful storyteller and his great love for Delhi and his fascination with its Mughal past reverberated throughout the book-lecture. We urge you to read this book if you haven't already.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

WHOSE CITY IS IT?

Asher Ghertner is a PhD student in the Energy and Resource Group (ERG) and was interviewed just after he returned from a year of fieldwork in New Delhi. His research focuses on slum settlements in and around New Delhi: how they are being demolished to make way for India's cities to become "world-class," how the demolition of these settlements, which were formed and maintained with government support in the past, is being justified and carried out today, and how the people who live in these slums—roughly 30% of Delhi's population—understand their changing relationship with land and the city. This is an excerpt from the interview about his experience.



Asher Ghertner during fieldwork in Delhi, September 2007.

What was it like working with these people who were the subject of your research?

Overall, I'd say it was a totally humbling experience. So much of my understanding of urban change in Delhi comes from just hearing wise old slum dwellers "tell it like it is." It definitely gave me an appreciation for the importance of doing long-term field research, because earning the confidence of people living in such insecurity is not a quick process. That's the irony: that the people who know the most about how policy changes are affecting the everyday lives of the poor are the least consulted. Of course, that's because most people doing the "consulta-

tion" want the slums to disappear...

What are the actual rights of slum dwellers in Delhi?

Well, the answer is changing as we speak because they are being increasingly criminalized. Until just this past year, the poor were formally entitled to 25% of residential land in the city of Delhi. This was planning law. It was never implemented properly, but it at least gave the poor a right to the city. In reality this population lives on less than 2% of the city's land, so they've been deprived of a historical entitlement. But, like most neoliberal logic today, the fact that they've been denied access to a resource is treated as an inherent "inefficiency" in the system, so the solution is to abandon the whole entitlement. So, now this population is being kicked off this measly 2% of land so that the land can be sold for fancy, "world class" developments. This is the story of so much of urban development in India today: Public land acquired in the past for "public use" is now being auctioned or sold to build shopping malls, gated communities, and highways. You see who "the public" is today!

What do these slum dwellers think about the central government's "world class" project?

Surprisingly, I've found, many of them find the idea of the "world class" city desirable. They have a sort of nationalistic pride that Delhi, India's capital, has a Metro system and is hosting the upcoming Commonwealth Games. But, they also see that making Delhi "world class" means they will likely be displaced. This is the contradiction at the core of urbanization in India today. Why do people celebrate the making of a city that requires their own degradation? With rising inequality and forced displacement, why aren't there stronger organized movements, or more unorganized crime for that matter? This is really the core of my research. Why do people, put crudely, "buy into" a project based on their own destruction?

How are they compensated when their slums are demolished?

The short answer is that they're not compensated very well. The longer answer is that the best case scenario for a family that can prove it has lived in the city since before 1998 is to receive a 12 square meter empty piece of land about 30 kilometers outside the city, totally cut-off from employment, education, etc. And, this is only on a 5-year license, so the government can kick them off again if it wants. And, less than a third of those displaced are given even this much.

Has this experience changed your attitude towards research?

I suppose I've found that the most rewarding research for me has a certain groundedness to it. I learned the importance of allowing research ideas and claims to emerge from my research experience, rather than simply "testing" pre-conceived hypotheses or theories. Being open to the field itself opens doors into greater richness than I could have expected. I guess, then, to keep theory tied to practice and to welcome the tangential.



Police and the municipal corporation tear down the homes of thirty-year residents of one of Delhi's slums, April 2007.

CSAS EVENTS 2008

December 6

The Crisis in Pakistan
Dr. Neil Joeck, CSAS Research Associate; Senior Fellow, Center for Global Security Research, LLNL &
Dr. Ahmad Faruqui, Principal, The Brattle Group, San Francisco

February 7

Islam, the Queen as Monarch and Muslim Society in the Early Thirteenth Century: A Study of Sultan Raziyya (r. 1236-40)
Sunil Kumar, Professor, Medieval History, Delhi University; Editor, Indian Economic and Social History Review; Resident Scholar, Townsend Center, Spring '08

February 14

Cities and Citizenship: Interrogating Urbanism in Contemporary South Asia
Pre-Conference to the 23rd South Asia Annual Conference

February 15/16

23rd South Asia Annual Conference
Author Meets Critics Panel
The Language of the Gods in the World of Men: Sanskrit, Culture, & Power in Premodern India
Sheldon Pollock, Columbia University in conversation with Robert Goldman, Vasudha Dalmia, Prithvi Shobhi

February 16

Different Universalisms. Vernacular Cosmopolitanisms: the Global Imagination of the Colonized
Sugata Bose, Director, South Asia Initiative and Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs, Harvard University

February 19

The Shape of Water
Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Director & Professor of Sociology, UC Santa Barbara

March 6

Spices & Scales of Analysis: Social Networks in Pre-Modern Asian History
Stewart Gordon, Senior Research Scholar, Center for South Asian Studies, University of Michigan

March 11

The Doctrine of the Eternality of Language in Indian Philosophy
John Taber, Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of New Mexico

March 12

Citizens in the Making: Schooling, Identity and Citizenship Education in Contemporary India
Meenakshi Thapan, Professor, Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

March 13

Electoral Politics & Cultural Resistance: The Fate of Democracy in Narendra Modi's Gujarat
Shabnam Hashmi, Social and political activist, Founding and Managing Trustee, ANHAD (Act Now for Harmony and Democracy)

March 26

Local Government Performance & Economic Reform Strategies in South & Southeast Asia
Bruce Tolentino, Director, Economic Reform & Development Programs, The Asia Foundation
Eddy Malesky, Assistant Professor, Univer-

CSAS EVENTS 2008

sity of California, San Diego
Veronique Salze-Lozac'h, Regional Director, Economic Reform and Development Programs, The Asia Foundation
Neil McCulloch, Director, Economic Programs, The Asia Foundation – Indonesia

April 2

The Last Mughal: The Fall of a Dynasty, Delhi 1857

William Dalrymple, Writer & Historian

April 13

Investing in India's Future

Shankar Sastry, Dean, College of Engineering, UC Berkeley

BV Jagadeesh, ICC Board, CEO 3Leaf Systems

Raka Ray, Chair, Center for South Asia Studies

Ananya Roy, City & Regional Planning

Isha Ray, Energy & Resources Group

Pradeep Chhibber, Political Science

April 15

Musical Strategies in the Context of Ritual Healing Performances: Trance Music in Uttaranchal-Himalayas

Franck Bernède, Cellist / Ethnomusicologist

Chinese Culture University, Taipei, Taiwan

April 16

Secular and Religious Nationalism in India and Sri Lanka

Timothy Samuel Shah, Adjunct Senior Fellow, Religion and Foreign Policy, Council on Foreign Relations.

April 19

2008 Amrit Kaur Ahluwalia Memorial Lecture on Sikhism

Sikh & Muslim Understandings of Baba Farid

Christopher Shackle, Professor of Modern Languages of South Asia, School of Oriental and African Studies; Member, Centre of South Asian Studies, University of London &

Farid Bani Shabad Keertan

(Sikh Classical Devotional Music Performance)

Inderjit N. Kaur, Research Associate, Music Department, UC Santa Cruz; Founding Director, Sikh Music Heritage Institute, Santa Cruz, California.

April 25-27

Rivers: The Fourth Annual Tamil Conference

May 7

Screening of *Char Diwari* (Within Four Walls)

Rinki Bhattacharya, Noted Indian Author, Filmmaker and Activist &

Panel discussion: *Domestic Violence and Women's Inheritance Rights*

Rinki Bhattacharya

Raka Ray, Chair, Center for South Asia Studies

Atashi Chakrabarty, Narika Executive Director

Annie Fukushima, PhD Student

May 20

A Hero's Demons: The Adventures of Amir Hamza and the Islamic Storytelling Tradition

Musharraf Farooqi, Author, novelist, and translator.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

NOTES FROM THE FIELD: DESERT DHUN

Shalini Ayyagari is a PhD student in Music with a focus in Ethnomusicology. Her research focuses on the Manganiyar, a community of hereditary caste musicians, and the intersections of musical patronage, small-scale development, and cultural tourism within their community. Every year since the summer of 2003, she has been returning to western Rajasthan to live and learn as well as conduct fieldwork among the Manganiyar musicians. She has been recently awarded the Marilyn Yarbrough Dissertation/Teaching Fellowship at Kenyon College, where she will be teaching in the Music Department and writing her dissertation. This summer she traveled back to western Rajasthan and began work on a documentary film about the Manganiyar musician community. This is an excerpt from an interview about her experiences in India.

How did you get interested in the Manganiyar community and their art?

During Summer 2003, I was awarded a FLAS Fellowship to study Hindi language in Jaipur, Rajasthan through AIIS. During that summer, I traveled to Jodhpur to meet the renowned Rajasthan folklorist, Komal Kothari. I only spent a few hours with him, but that meeting changed my academic career. He encouraged me to travel to western Rajasthan and meet musicians from the Manganiyar community. I braved the summer heat and traveled to Jaisalmer, a small town near the India-Pakistan border in the heart of the Thar Desert. There, I met a lok kalakar (folk musician) and traveled with him to his village. I was immediately drawn to the desert landscape and the music of the Manganiyar hereditary musician community. After completing my language program, I stayed on in Jaisalmer, visiting various villages inhabited by the Manganiyar, taking in the desert landscape, and learning about regional musical practices of western Rajasthan. It was then that I knew that this is where I wanted to focus my research, energy, and dedication.



Rana Khan Manganiyar, Shalini Ayyagari, and Fakira Khan Manganiyar. Jaipur, Rajasthan.

What was it like working with these musicians?

During my twenty months of fieldwork, I conducted a plethora of interviews and recording sessions with Manganiyar musicians, participated in music lessons, and spent long periods of time with musicians and their families in their rural villages. None of this would have been possible without the amazingly kind and generous hospitality of everyone I met in the Manganiyar community. Not only did they welcome me into their homes, but also they openly shared their musical knowledge with me.



Thanu Khan Manganiyar and Party. Khudi Village, Rajasthan.

How have their lives changed?

Customarily, the Manganiyar, a community considered to have been extremely low caste and lacking voice and class mobility, have provided family genealogies and ceremonial music to their hereditary patrons for remuneration for at least the past three centuries. They have been affiliated not only with individual patron families, but entire family lineages over many generations through social and economic co-dependence. I became aware of increasing and encroaching local development projects (mainly related to ecology, empowerment, and education) in Rajasthan and the broad affects of these projects on specifically the Manganiyar community. I found that a few key and influential musicians in the Manganiyar community have founded

their own non-governmental organizations (NGOs), mainly aimed at preservation of musical traditions, musical education within the Manganiyar community, and empowerment and uplift of the community as a whole. My research focuses on these new institutions and NGOs and examines the ways in which the Manganiyar community and their music are changing as a result.

Have your fieldwork experiences changed your attitude towards research?

Working with this community has enabled me to grapple with contemporary issues of globalization, cultural tourism, ecology, and subaltern positionality. Also, importantly, it has taught me about human relations and what it means to conduct ethnographic research with living people—grappling with relationships, giving something back to the Manganiyar community, and learning to then translate the experiences that I have had conducting fieldwork into my doctoral dissertation as well as sharing these experiences within the academic community.

These Manganiyar musicians will be touring the US this fall. They will perform at UC Berkeley on October 10, 2008.

NOOR-I-HIND

Light of India: A Conflagration of Indian Matchbox Art by Warren Dotz

Berkeley & Toronto: Ten Speed Press, 2007, 40 pp. \$16.95 (paper with ornamental slipcase).

It is not every day, or even every yuga, that a South Asianist has the opportunity to review a book by his or her dermatologist. But when the good doctor in question is also a gifted amateur historian of popular visual culture, an area in which his knowledge is rather more than skin deep, and the topic is the colorful and iconic illustrations and logos on the ubiquitous matchboxes produced for the Indian market it seems like a perfect match.

Dr. Dotz has already produced a number of delightfully illustrated collections of the vibrant packaging on Chinese-made fireworks¹ as well as several charming pictorial collections of popular international advertising characters.²

In keeping with its theme, the current small volume comes encased in a handsome and profusely illustrated slipcase, made to look itself like an oversized (8.5 X 5.5 in.) matchbook

complete with an abrasive striking strip along its bottom edge. The case hints at the pleasures within, illustrated as it is on its front with a blow-up of a matchbook motif (of which more below) and a lower border of a sampling of the types of illustrations cataloged in the book. The back contains one large reproduction of an appropriately iconic image from a box of 'Deepak' brand matches in which a beautifully dressed and ornamented Indian woman is shown in the act of lighting a hanging brass lamp with a match she has just struck on a prominently displayed box, presumably of the same brand of matches. The covers of the book itself are covered with a colorful potpourri of matchbox image types.

Charming as the volume is, however, it is no mere random assortment of eye-candy. Dotz has made an interesting effort to classify the themes and subjects employed by the prolific foreign and domestic manufacturers of matches for the huge Indian market, grouping them under no fewer than twenty-seven separate categories including religious images, nationalist icons, several categories of animals, charming (and sometimes provocative) ladies, architectural, occupational, indus-

trial and other representations and even an odd category that he calls 'Wonder and Whimsy.' Some of the images included under these headings can be quibbled with, but the organization enables us to get clearer sense of the sources and types of images that resonate in the popular culture of India as disseminated in connection with a product that transcends all distinctions of social and economic class to be found in the kitchens and or pockets of virtually every Indian.

But this is not entirely a picture book. Dotz is something of an amateur historian as well as a connoisseur of popular and commercial art. In a brief but informative introduction, he provides an informal his-

tory of the match and points out how, following the development of the safety match in Sweden in 1855 various manufacturers leaped in to exploit the vast Indian market for this inexpensive technology. Most interesting is the

fact that, as result of shortfalls in domestic production capacity to feed the burgeoning market, a very substantial portion of the demand was filled in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by foreign producers, notably in Sweden and Japan as well as by Japanese immigrants to Calcutta. This situation prevailed until after the First World War when domestic production began to boom mainly in Tamil Nadu with the development of the cottage industries started up by the so-called 'Match Kings' of the South.

What is particularly striking is the way in which the foreign manufacturers employed artists who culled the Indian popular and poster art corpora for distinctively Indian images that they believed would enhance the attractiveness of their product. This tradition was, of course, similarly followed by the domestic producers.

Foreign artists were often especially inclined to the literary or 'higher' graphic tradition of the subcontinent. One particularly striking image (Dotz is fond of punning on the match theme) branded both by F. Steiner & Co. of Manchester and Kerr. Tarruck & Co. of Calcutta, derived it seems from the Tanjore school of courtly painting, depicts a fine Krishna as a child sucking his toe and enthroned on a mighty 'Seshanaga' as he is waited upon by two women (one holding a peacock) and lustrated by two winged devas who fly through the starry sky above him. A box made in Sweden is branded 'Oomrao Jani' and shows the saucy image of the famous literary courtesan in a dancing pose. Yet another Swedish brand, 'Shantanu and Ganga' depicts the titular Mahabharata characters in a scene copied directly (and

one presumes unapologetically) from the painting on that theme by the famous, nineteenth century neoclassical artist Raja Ravi Varma whose iconic paintings have heavily influenced modern calendar and poster art representations of religious and mythological figures. The Austrian brand 'Solo' depicts such figures as Dattatreya (with his signature dogs), Radhakrishna and the Ravi Varma rendition of the sage Vishvamitra's rejection of the infant 'Shakuntala' as she is held by her mother, the apsaras Menaka. Regarding the rendition of the famous rishi, Dotz remarks, amusingly, 'Although the subject matter is strictly India, there is one character with a blond beard who looks suspiciously like an Austrian gentleman strolling through a Viennese wood with the Danube in the background!'

Some of the European box covers betray the familiar sort of orientalist exoticism that is characteristic of the age. Thus there are the inevitable snake charmers and turbaned oriental potentates as well as the not unexpected images that titillate by erotizing the 'other.' Along with the various courtesans and fairly demure nautch girls there is a striking and untitled image of a turbaned young woman clad in a kind of dhoti but quite frankly bare-breasted who sits on a pedestal, her legs crossed beneath her as she boldly returns the gaze of the onlooker. Her left arm is provocatively akimbo while her right, supporting her head, leans on a pilaster or small table with an elephant motif.

Japanese boxes have, as Dotz notes, a distinctive appearance and are in many instances reminiscent of Japanese block prints. They too generally depict Hindu deities such as Kali, Shiva, and Krishna. Some that most resemble East Asian images depict Buddhist figures while one shows an equestrian image of the Nizam of Hyderabad.

The feminine in all its traditional representations comes to form an important design motif in the boxes produced by the emerging and finally dominant South Indian match industry. But, in keeping with cultural values associating the female agent with norms of submissive piety, powerful divinity and the emerging nationalist fusion of the two trends in the exaltation of the figure of Mother India, there is a sharp move away from the erotized danseuses and courtesans who adorn the European boxes. Several general types emerge. One is the woman as devotee. Well-dressed young women are represented in silhouette or profile standing or kneeling to light or offer worship to a lamp or to venerate the ultimate light in performing suryapuja. Goddesses of course figure prominently. There are a few interesting figure examples of renditions of Kali, Lakshmi and Meenakshi. A large, detailed and rather captivating image of Durga as Mahishasuramardini is surrounded with images of gold Swedish coins suggesting its European provenance.



1 *Firecrackers: An Eye-popping Collection of Chinese Firework Art* (with Jack Mingo and George Moyer). Ten Speed Press 2008. *Firecrackers: The Art and History*. Ten Speed Press, 2000.

2 *Advertising Character Collectibles: An Identification & Value Guide*. Collector Books, 1993. *Meet Mr. Product: The Art of the Advertising Character*. Chronicle Books LLC, 2003. He has also, under a fairly transparent nom de plume, co-authored a number of rather amusing send-ups of popular advertising images of women of the 1950s, 1960s, etc.

The collocation of the divine and the commercial can sometimes yield unintentionally amusing results. Thus a bust of a bloodthirsty mother goddess, identified as Tara Mai, her tongue lolling, holds a bloodstained scimitar above her head. Above her name are prominently inscribed the words *Waterproof*.³ Similarly, a benign-looking forest goddess *Van Devi* stands in a sylvan setting holding a staff with a star at its tip. Close behind her are a tiger and an elephant, the latter holding a lotus in its trunk. Beneath her feet a bold, upper case inscription reads, *IMPREGNATED*. In both cases one must understand that the adjectives, no doubt both referring to waterproofing, are to be taken as alluding to the matches, not the divinities.

Yet another popular representation of the feminine is in the form of more individuated portrait-type art. In these we have larger full face images of smiling or pensive women gazing coyly at the viewer. These sometimes include actual portraits of recognizable celebrities such as the film star Meena Kumari and Indira Rahman, Miss India of 1952. Occasionally a historical woman is represented as in the standard equestrian portrait of the proto-nationalist icon Lakshmibai, the Rani of Jhansi. Some are simply odd as in the curious *Flying Rani* named, one supposes, for the old Mumbai-Surat train³ and represented as a chimera-like winged cow with the crowned head of a woman.

³ Another feminized railway name can be found in the portrayal of the "Deccan Queen" in which a sari-clad woman is shown seated on a crouching cow.

For some reason Dotz identifies this composite creature with the Kamadhenu or wish-fulfilling cow of the Indian mythological tradition.

The feminine figures prominently in the panoply of nationalist representations that appear on many matchboxes. Most noteworthy here are the variations on the theme of Mother India called variously by that English name, Bharat Mata, Hind Mata, and Swaraj Lakshmi. Particularly striking here, among the familiar mappings of the feminine body across the outline of the Indian subcontinent is a full-page representation of a colossal Mother India, a spear in her left hand, standing in a red cloud of cosmic dust, who stoops over a comparatively diminutive globe to plant a gigantic lotus in the center of the red subcontinent.

Masculine images also feature prominently in the pictorial nationalist imaginary. Several boxes featuring flag-draped portraits of Gandhi are shown while one depicts a kneeling male figure in a Congress topi and quasi-military uniform offering reverence to a huge tricolor marked with the charkha, the spinning wheel emblematic of the swadeshi movement. The figure is unidentified but bears a resemblance to representations of Subhas Chandra Bose. One untitled cover, included, for some reason in Dotz's *Wonder and Whimsy* section, shows a haloed portrait of Swami Vivekananda, while under the heading *Warriors and Weapons* we see a stereotyped likeness of Shivaji.

As one might expect in a medium so closely aligned with calendar art, representations of gods and goddesses abound.

Aside from the goddesses mentioned above one finds many images of figures such as Gajalakshmi, *Shiva Nataraja*, Krishna and of course the ubiquitous Hanuman and Ganesha, the latter two unhappily included in the section titled *Mythical Creatures*.⁴ Even the Buddha finds himself on a box or two. Notable by its absence is any representation of Rama or Sita who figure so prominently in the closely iconography of poster art.

Several sections of the collection feature images of animals, wild and domestic. Among the latter the lion, tiger and elephant are most common while deer, swans and peacocks are also not uncommon. Among the latter pride of place is, naturally, given to the cow although horses are also well represented. Animal fights are also a popular theme. One of these, reproduced in a full-page format both as the front cover of the slipcase and as the frontispiece of the section entitled *Forest Fantasies and Fights*,⁵ depicts a life or death tug of war between a crocodile and an elephant in which the former, holding the latter's trunk in its mighty jaws tries to drag him into a river.

Dotz identifies the image as an illustration of Kipling's well-known *Just So* story, *The Elephant's Child*.⁶ He may well be correct in this but the theme also strongly suggests the famous *Gajamoksha* episode from the *Bhagavata Purana*. Then again, the Vaishnava allegory may, through a folktale type of transmission, well be the inspiration for Kipling's story. The image thus makes us think about the question of literary and iconographic influences in traditional and modern India.

One of the zoological sections of the book is entitled *Sacred Creatures*.⁷ Here we see the expected cow, the naga, and a few representations of Siva's vahana the bull Nandi. Also included are several images of bullock carts and one (*Kisan* brand) of a farmer ploughing with a pair of oxen. The *sanctity* of these oxen is a matter of some debate, but one does not wish to quibble too much.

For the rest there are numerous striking and charming images of fruits, vegetables, famous buildings (Taj Mahal, Charminar, Qutub Minar etc.), trains, planes, automobiles, commercial products and miscellaneous other images in the popular cultural domain.

Despite a few questionable or omitted identifications that can be expected from a nonspecialist, Dr. Dotz has put together a remarkably entertaining and informative collection of these *striking* images drawn from the colorful world of Indian matchbox covers. One would also have liked to have a note on the collection from which these images are drawn.

Nonetheless, aside from providing a sparkling feast for the eyes this witty and colorful little book provides us with ample fuel to fire our imagination in reflecting on the pervasive role of religious and nationalist iconography in even the humblest and most quotidian media of the popular and commercial culture of India. The good doctor should be congratulated for having offered to both the lay and specialist audiences this matchless collection.

R.P. Goldman, Professor of Sanskrit,
Dep't of South & Southeast Asian Studies

Support the Center for South Asia Studies

The Friends of CSAS Fund strengthens CSAS by supporting events and research not covered by our federal National Resource Center Award. The Fund provides the faculty director with resources to support various Center priorities, such as:

- Fund student summer research projects in South Asia
- Provide scholarships to students from South Asia to attend graduate programs at UC Berkeley
- Support visiting scholars from South Asia to give talks at UC Berkeley and interact with faculty and students
- Host performances and speakers of interest to the wider Bay Area community
- Develop web based South Asian language materials for instruction

We welcome major gifts that permanently endow student summer research grants or annual lectures, as well as those that focus on a specific CSAS program or initiative, including:

• Berkeley India Initiative

The BII provides opportunities to support research and programmatic development, and collaboration with major Indian institutions under the broad themes of Contemporary India (focusing on India's democracy and emerging economy) and Arts and Culture of India (focusing on the fine arts, music, and theater)

• Support for South Asian Language Instruction

1) Berkeley Bengali Studies Initiative:

The Bengali Studies Initiative helps to support the cultivation and development of Bengali literature, humanities, performance

and social science outside of India. This initiative seeks to teach the Bengali language at all levels, create new and innovative materials to enhance the study of Bengali, and create a forum for intellectual and cultural exchanges with West Bengal and Bangladesh.

2) Berkeley Telugu Initiative:

This Initiative will support instruction in Telugu language and literature at Berkeley on a permanent basis. The object is to ensure that the Telugu language and its rich heritage are studied by future generations of scholars from all backgrounds, improve business relationships with Andhra Pradesh, and create new and innovative materials to enhance the study of Telugu.

• Pakistan Studies at UC Berkeley

CSAS will initiate a campaign to broaden and deepen Pakistan Studies at Berkeley. Our first priorities will be to financially strengthen the Urdu program, raise funds for graduate fellowships (and thereby training the next generation of scholars of Pakistan), and initiate an annual lecture series by prominent scholars working on Pakistan. We also wish to extend our Pakistan-specific programming to engage growing academic and community-based interest in the study of culture, religion, and politics.

For more information please contact CSAS Vice Chair, Sanchita Saxena at sanchitas@berkeley.edu

A LETTER TO KOLKATA

In Spring 2008, first year UCB students of Bangla participated in a project in which all them were required to exchange letters with the students of Shikshamitra, a non-profit run school in Kolkata. It was a fun project UCB Bangla students eagerly shared information about their families, pets, food, languages, and everything Bangla with their friends in Kolkata. Below is the letter written by Kimberly Wiesbrock.

2/23/2008

Dear Chaitali,
My name is Kimberly. I live in California. I study Russian and Bangla. To me, it is great fun to learn languages. When I do not have any class, I love to sing and go to the market. I am twenty-two years old. One of my sisters lives in Los Angeles. We love to eat food very much. Sometimes, I cannot wake early enough for breakfast, but I eat a lot everyday. I cannot make good food, but I want to learn how.

I liked reading your letter. Many thanks! Tell me more!

Love,
Kimberly

প্রিয় চৈতালী,

২-২৩-০৮

আমার নাম কিম্বলি। আমি ক্যালিফোর্নিয়াতে থাকি। আমি রাশিয়ান আর বাংলা পড়ি। আমার গন্য, ভাষা শিখতে খুব মজা। যখন আমার ক্লাস নেই আমি গার্হতে আর বাজার যেতে পছন্দ করি। আমার একুশ বছর বয়স। আমার একটা দিদি যে লস এঞ্জেলসে থাকে। আমরা খাবার খেতে খুব ভালবাসি। মাঝে মাঝে জানখাবার জন্য আমি উঠতে পারি না, কিন্তু সব দিন আমি বেশি খাই। আমি খুব ভাল খাবার বানাতে পারি না, কিন্তু আমি খাবার ভাল বানাতে চাই।

তোমার চিঠি পড়ে ভাল লাগল। অনেক ধন্যবাদ! আমাকে আরও বল!

৯,
কিম্বলি

KHABAR

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