

**The 7th ACSAS International Conference**

# **SOUTH ASIA IN ASIA: CHALLENGES AND POSSIBILITIES**

**22-23 NOVEMBER, 2024**

**Venue: AS 7, Shaw Foundation Building**

**South Asian Studies Programme,  
National University of Singapore**

**Keynote speaker: A/P Kelvin Low**



**The Asian Consortium of South Asian Studies**



DAY ONE  
22 November, Friday

Programme subject to changes

900 – 930

Registration and Coffee/Tea

930 – 1030

**Opening Session** (AS7-0102)

Welcome Address by A/P Rajesh Rai (Chair, Singapore Organising Comm.)

Keynote Address by A/P Kelvin E.Y. Low (Head, Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology)  
‘The Contours of Bracketed Belonging: Gurkha Migrant Warriors and Transnational Lives’

1030 – 1045

Break

1045 – 1215

**Panel 1: The India–China Effect on Power** (AS7–0102)  
Chair: Dr. Sinderpal Singh (S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU, Singapore)

*Nepal's Foreign policy in the India–China Strategic Competition*  
Dr. Phan Cao Nhat Anh (Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Vietnam)

*China and India factor in South Asia’s quest for clean energy transition*  
Dr. Puspa Sharma (Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS, Singapore)

*Navigating Power and Interdependence: India’s Approach to Critical Minerals*  
Ms. Devyani Chaturvedi (Institute of South Asian Studies, NUS, Singapore)

**Panel 2: Consumption on Display**(AS7–0107)  
Chair: Dr. Priya M. Jaradi (Art History, NUS, Singapore)

Consumer Culture on Display: Colonial Exhibitions and Commercial Museums in Colonial India and Singapore  
Dr. Aki Toyoyama (Kindai University, Japan)

Building Space for Trade in New Delhi: Asia ’72 and development of Pragati Maidan, c. 1950-1980  
Ms. Harleen Kaur (SASP, NUS, Singapore)

1215 – 1315

Lunch

1315 – 1445

**Panel 3: Uncertainty, Visibility, and Belonging** (AS7–0102)  
Chair: Ms. Vithya Subramaniam (SASP, NUS, Singapore)

*Moving Men: Masculinity, Infrastructure, and Urban Belonging in Hyderabad, India*  
Dr. Sneha Annavarapu (SASP and Sociology & Anthropology, NUS, Singapore)

*Uncertainty of Attention: Exploring the Hypervisibility and Invisibility of Flood Affected Communities.*  
Ms. Ranjita Dilraj (SASP, NUS, Singapore)

**Panel 4: Asian Transnational Networks** (AS7–0107)  
Chair: Dr. Czarina Saloma-Akpedonu (Ateneo de Manila University, The Philippines)

*Connecting (South) Asia: The Case of the Indian-Chinese Community of Kolkata*  
Ms. Joita Das (Comparative Asian Studies, NUS, Singapore)

*Pathans in Southeast Asia: Trade, Identity and Transnational Networks in the Borderlands of Thailand-Malaysia*  
Dr. Mala Rajo Sathian (Universiti Malaya, Malaysia)

1445 – 1500

Break

1500 – 1630

**Panel 5: Development: Reliance and Refusal** (AS7–0102)  
Chair: Dr. Ronojoy Sen (SASP and ISAS, NUS, Singapore)

*Diversity of livelihoods and rural to urban migration: Unraveling the social-ecological complexity within the Kumaon hills of Western Himalayan region in India*  
Dr. Navarun Varma and Mr. Tan Qing Heng (Residential College 4, NUS, Singapore)

*Dhaka Weaving and Development Assistance in Eastern Nepal: A Study on the Concept of Culture as Creative Refusal*  
Dr. Yuko Takamichi (Kyoto University of Advanced Studies, Japan)

**Panel 6: Gender: Norms and Alternatives** (AS7–0107)  
Chair: Dr. Sneha Annavarapu (SASP and Sociology & Anthropology, NUS, Singapore)

*Gender norms in Singapore’s South Asian micro-communities*  
Ms. Nilanjana Sengupta (independent scholar, Singapore)

*Decolonizing Gender: The Impact of Alternative Education on Gender Identity among at-risk Malaysian Indian youths*  
Dr. Nithiya Guna Saigaran (Universiti Malaya, Malaysia)

1630 – 1700

Tea Break

1700 – 1830

**Panel 7: Social Politics in India** (AS7–0102)  
Chair: Prof. Minoru Mio (National Museum of Ethnology, Japan)

*An analysis of the political processes of the Indian state’s acquiescence to social opposition*  
Dr. Kesava Chandra Varigonda (Asia Research Institute, NUS, Singapore)

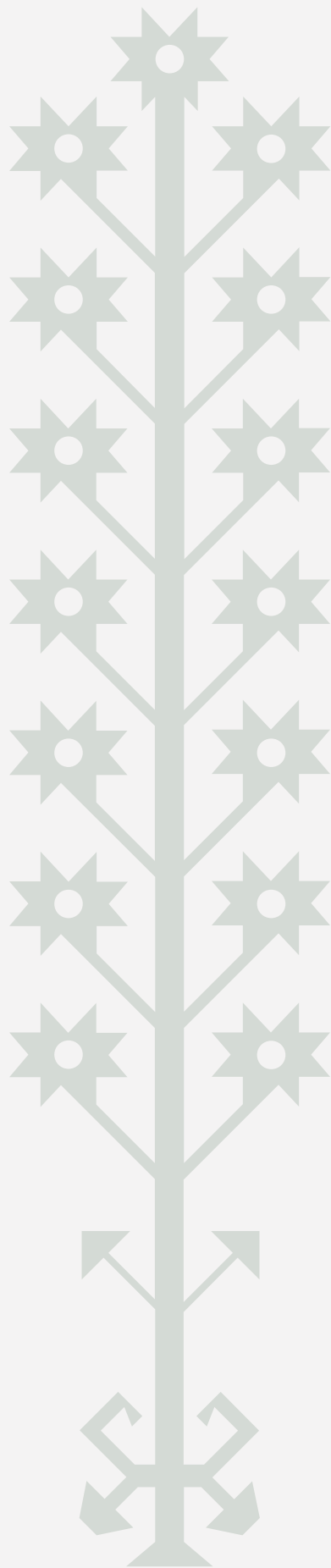
*The Evolution of Caste Understandings within Agrarian Livelihoods*  
Dr. Vani Swarupa Murali (SASP, NUS, Singapore)

**Panel 8: The Past through Sight and Sound** (AS7–0107)  
Chair: Assoc. Prof. Gyanesh Kudaisya (SASP, NUS, Singapore)

*Reimagining a Sonic South Asia: A Case Study of Brass Bands from the Deccan*  
Ms. Khadeeja Amenda (Communications and New Media, NUS, Singapore)

*Nationalist Historiography and Cinema: The Legacy of Bhagat Singh in India and Pakistan*  
Ms. Amrita Ajay (SASP, NUS, Singapore)

END OF DAY ONE



DAY TWO  
23 November, Saturday

Programme subject to changes

900 – 930

Registration and Coffee/Tea

930 – 1100

**Panel 9: Internet Productions of Place and People** (AS7-0102)  
Chair: Dr. Jirayudh Sinthuphan (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand)

*Travel video blogs of Filipino and Indian YouTube content creators: Reflexivity, affinity and alternative narratives of people and place*  
Dr. Jozon A Lorenzana (Ateneo de Manila University, The Philippines)

*Negotiating Content: The Interplay of Politics, Audience, and Gender in Internet-Based Production Cultures in India*  
Dr. Priyam Sinha (SASP, NUS, Singapore)

**Panel 10: Identity and Belonging through Education** (AS7-0107)  
Chair: Dr. Uma Jayaram (Centre for English Language Communication, NUS, Singapore)

*Staying in the academe: Philippine higher education through the professional orientations of third-generation Indians*  
Dr. Czarina Saloma-Akpedonu (Ateneo de Manila University, The Philippines)

*Navigating Challenges and Embracing Possibilities: The Future of Malayalam in Singapore*  
Dr. Anitha Devi Pillai (National Institute of Education, NTU, Singapore)

1100-1115

Break

1115-1245

**Panel 11: (Natural) Materials in History** (AS7-0102)  
Chair: Dr. Darinee Alagirisamy (SASP, NUS, Singapore)

*Chasing Criminals: A Forgotten Experiment of Footprint Identification in the Early Twentieth Century Central India.*  
Dr. Miyamoto Takashi (Osaka University, Japan)

*Between sacred trees and rocks: the role of environment in the adoption of Hinduism and Buddhism in early Southeast Asia*  
Dr. Sureshkumar Muthukumaran (History, NUS, Singapore)

**Panel 12: Family Decisions: Marriage and Adoption** (AS7-0107)  
Chair: Dr. Anitha Devi Pillai (NIE, NTU, Singapore)

*Navigating Marriage in Modern China and India: A Social Media Analysis of Contemporary Challenges and Cultural Shifts*  
Dr. Wenxuan Guo (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand)

*“Deserted Daughters”: Unpacking the Notion of Precarity in Child Transfers among the Indian Community in Pre-Independence Singapore and Malaysia*  
Dr. Theresa W. Devasahayam (independent scholar, Singapore)

1245-1245

Lunch

1345-1515

**Panel 13: Diaspora: Rethinking Nostalgia and Dreams** (AS7-0102)  
Chair: Dr. Mala Rajo Sathian (Universiti Malaya, Malaysia)

*Thai Nepali Community: Nostalgia Homeland and Memoir*  
Dr. Abdunrohman Mukem (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand)

*From “Another Destination” to “Dream Destination”: The Migration of Indians to Japan*  
Dr. Megha Wadhwa (Free University of Berlin, Germany)

**Panel 14: Cultural Transmission in India Today** (AS7-0107)  
Chair: Dr. Sureshkumar Muthukumaran (History, NUS, Singapore)

*A Study of the Transmission of Traditional Indian Music in the Modern Age*  
Dr. Haruo Inoue (Kyoto University, Japan)

*Heritage Energizers: Elders as Dynamic Cultural Ambassadors at BASCON*  
Dr. Luxsnai Songsienchai (Chulalongkorn University, Thailand)

**Panel 15: Modi’s Foreign Policy** (AS7-0117)  
Chair: Dr. Rajshree Jetly (SASP, NUS, Singapore)

*India’s foreign policy in the Modi 3.0 period and India – Vietnam relations*  
Dr. Le Thi Hang Nga (Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Vietnam)

*Modi’s Diaspora Outreach: A Quest for Recognition*  
Mr. Paras Ratna (SASP, NUS, Singapore)

1515-1530

Break

1530-1630

**Plenary Session** (AS7-0102)

END OF DAY TWO

