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## **Swedish South Asian Studies Network SASNET News Bulletin**

**Lund 14 October 2016**

### **SASNET key staff retires – two researcher positions announced**

On 31 October 2016, SASNET director Anna Lindberg will retire from her position after nine years; and two months later - on 31 December - deputy director Lars Eklund will also retire after 15 years in SASNET service. The replacement of these key SASNET staff is currently in process and will soon be announced.

Additionally, Lund University now announces two positions as Researchers to be based at SASNET.

The first is a 75 % position for a person who will contribute to the development of research at SASNET and especially promote research on South Asia and the Middle East in Sweden. The second researcher position is on 100 %, and the requirements are similar, a PhD in the humanities or social-oriented area with a focus on South Asia. He/she should also have training in media and communications at the college or university level. For both positions, candidates are required to be proficient in Swedish and English in speech and writing. Deadline for applications is 31 October 2016. [Read more...](#)

### **SASNET Conference on Modernity in South Asia successfully completed**

On 20-22 September 2016, the Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET) successfully organized a conference entitled "Modern Matters: Negotiating the Future of Everyday Life in South Asia" at Lund University. The conference attracted more than 60 researchers, Swedish and European, but a large number of them also came from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The three keynote speakers were Prof. Dipesh Chakrabarty (photo to the left) from the Dept. of History at University of Chicago, USA; Associate Professor Sumi Madhok from the Gender Institute at London School of Economics (LSE), UK; and Prof. Sasanka Perera, Dept of Sociology at South Asian University (SAU), Delhi, India.

On the final day, at the vote of thanks, unexpected news for most of the participants were given. Prof. Ravinder Kaur from IIT Delhi and Dr. Neil Webster from DIIS in Copenhagen broke the news that both Anna Lindberg and Lars Eklund, SASNET director and deputy

director respectively, will retire by the end of 2016.

[Full information including links to keynote videos.](#)

### **Successful 2016 SASNET media workshop at Lund University**

On September 23, 2016, SASNET and School of Journalism at Lund University jointly organized a workshop day entitled: "The Digital Transition of Media" in the LUX building in Lund. The workshop got very good reviews.

Watch all sessions from the workshop The workshop day consisted of five interesting presentations. First out were Vibodh Parthasarathi, Associate Professor in Centre for Culture Media & Governance at Jamia Millia Islamia and Andreas Mattsson, project coordinator for SASNET and program director for School of Journalism at Lund University. Vibodh and Andreas talked about the media challenges in India and Sweden and highlighted the similarities and differences. Zeenah Annez, Research Associate in the Researchers at Work (RAW) programme at Centre for Internet & Society, held a presentation over Skype about some of the Media transitions in Indian newsrooms. Shaheen Ahmed, PhD student in Visual Studies from the School of Arts and Aesthetics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, talked about the circulation of news through digital media. Tasneem Khalil, Swedish-Bangladeshi journalist and editor of Independent World Report, talked about independent journalism and the Internet. Josefin Wennang, former journalist student at School of Journalism at Lund University, shared her experience as a Swedish Journalist student in India. [Read more...](#)

### **Social entrepreneurs awarded at SASNET Media and Innovation Day in Mumbai**

A part of the South Asia Media Project, SASNET organised a one day media workshop on social innovation in a digital context in Mumbai on Thursday 13 October 2016. The Media and Innovation workshop brought together researchers, entrepreneurs and journalists on a common ground to explore solutions that use technology to promote human rights. The day included inspirational speakers, presentations by the winning candidates of the #InnovationForGood Award, honouring enterprises or individuals from India for their work in social innovation in a digital context. The award carries a cash prize of INR 125,000, and it recognises innovators who have created platforms at the intersection of technology, media and human rights.

The FRirst prize winner of #InnovationForGood 2016 goes to the enterprise Touché, and its manager Paul D'Souza, and honorary prizes were awarded Menstrupedia (Aditi Gupta) and Spothole - the app (Rupesh Mandal and Lokesh Khemani). [Read more...](#)

### **SASNET/SASA seminar on Gandhi's Self-rule and the Critique of Modern Society**

On Thursday 20 October, 17-19 SASA continues its Fika Without Borders series with a lecture by Erik Ringmar, Senior lecturer in Department of Political Science at Lund University. He will hold a lecture entitled: "Self-rule and the Critique of Modern Society". In his Hind Swaraj, Mohandas Gandhi was sharply critical of modern society as foisted upon India by the British. Yet this critique of modern society was itself quite a staple of conservative, romantic and reactionary thought in Europe itself. In his talk Erik Ringmar will explore this connection, reflecting on the meaning of 'self-rule.' [Read more...](#)

### **NIAS conference on NORDIC Asian Studies in the 21st century**

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

Colleagues from the five Nordic countries are invited to inform about the current situation of Asian Studies in their country. Through this sharing effort, the aim is to map the actual situation in the region. A representative from one of the major Nordic research councils has also been invited in order to hear about their priorities and discuss possible new avenues in Asian Studies. The programme will consist of keynotes, panel debates, roundtables,

informal discussions and networking. [Read more...](#)

### **Successful Swedish Institute leadership programme for young Southasians**

Young Connectors of the Future (YCF) is an intercultural leadership programme initiated by the Swedish Institute, 2016 run for the third or fourth time. The programme is directed towards young people with leadership talents from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka who represent different sectors of society and are visionaries in positions to make a difference. SASNET deputy director Lars Eklund is involved in the programme, as a member of the selection committee, and he attended the final session of the three-week long Stockholm programme, establishing contacts with several interesting people. The second module will take place for a week in February/March 2017 in Malmö/Sweden to continue the exchange and follow up the development of their work. The module will also include workshops and seminars with speakers and build on the sharing of the participants' own experiences and knowledge. The organisers look forward to collaboration with SASNET, just like what happened with the previous programme, when on Monday 15 February 2016, SASNET along with its student organisation SASA, organised a Fika without borders event in Lund for the participants attending the Young Connectors of the Future (YCF) programme. [Read more...](#)

### **Lars Eklund attends 45th Annual University of Wisconsin–Madison Conference**

The 45th Annual Madison Conference on South Asia is held 20–23 October 2016. This year's theme is DECAY.

The conference, sponsored by the Center for South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, attracted over 550 scholars and specialists on South Asia last year, coming from countries all over the world and much of the United States. This year the Joseph W. Elder keynote lecture at the conference will be given by Professor Radhika Coomaraswamy, and the 2016 Plenary Address speaker will be Pankaj Butalia.

This year, SASNET deputy director Lars Eklund will participate in the Madison conference, also representing the European Association for South Asian Studies, EASAS, an organisation for which he serves as the Treasurer. He will afterwards spend four days in Chicago, planning to visit Uni of Chiacago and the Northwestern University. [Read more...](#)

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

In collaboration with the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR), the Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte) has announced a joint call for collaborative research projects in the field of ageing and health. The call is open for joint proposals from research teams based in India and Sweden. The call will stimulate interdisciplinary, innovative, close to practice research in the field of ageing and health. The programme is an outcome of an MoU signed during President Pranab Mukherjee's official visit to Sweden in 2015. Deadline for applications is 17 January 2017. [Read more...](#)

### **Five Nordic universities among top 100 according to THE World University Ranking list 2016-17**

According to the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2016-17 five Nordic universities appear among the top 100 in the world. Three of them are Swedish – Karolinska Institutet as No. 28 (same position as last year in spite of recent research scandal news), Uppsala University ranked as No. 93 (down by 12), and Lund University ranked as No. 96 (down by 6). The ranking list was published on 21 September 2016. In South Asia, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore continues to be ranked highest, now climbed up to be among the positions between 201 and 250. Only one more South Asian university – Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay – is ranked among the top 400.

Compare this information with another ranking service, QS World University Rankings 2016/17, said to be among the most trusted university rankings available. According to this ranking, Lund University is the premier Swedish university, ranked as No. 73, down by 3 positions compared to previous year), whereas University of Copenhagen is No. 1 in Scandinavia on position No. 68. Another three Nordic universities appear among the top 100, they are University of Helsinki on position No. 91, KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm on position 97 and Uppsala University on No. 96.

Regarding South Asia QS agrees upon putting IISc in Bangalore on top, at position No. 157, followed by a number of IITs – Delhi on position 185, down by 6 positions (photo of IIT Delhi students), Bombay on No. 219, Madras on No. 249, Kanpur on position No. 302, Kharagpur on position no. 313, Roorkee on No. 399, and Guwahati (in the gap 481-490).

[Read more...](#)

### **Lund University researchers analyses the Agrarian Change in India**

Structural Transformation and Agrarian Change in India is a new publication by Prof. Göran Djurfeldt, and PhD candidate Srilata Sircar, both at Lund University. The two researchers investigate whether family labour farms are gaining prominence as a consequence of the structural transformation of the economy. They work alongside Weberian methodology of ideal types and develop different types of family farms; among them family labour farms that rely mainly on family workers, contrasted with capitalist farms that depend on hired labour. Göran Djurfeldt is Professor in Sociology and a veteran development researcher who has worked extensively on India and sub-Saharan Africa. Srilata Sircar is based at the Dept. of Human Geography, and will defend her PhD thesis on the issue of Social Transformation in Emerging Census Towns of West Bengal, India in early December 2016. [Read more...](#)

### **Fika Without Borders: Nepal**

On Thursday 29 September, 17-19 SASA continued its Fika Without Borders series with a lecture by Lalita Bashyal, PhD Scholar in Centre for the Study of Social System at JNU. She held a lecture entitled: "The Status of Women and Female Community Health Volunteers in Nepal". [Read more...](#)

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

The India-China Corridor Spring School will be held in Guwahati, Assam, India, on 25-26 March 2017. The theme for the spring school will be "Modern Empires, Flows, Environments and Livelihoods", and it is jointly organised by Prof. Gunnel Cederlöf, Centre for Concurrences in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies, the Linnaeus University, Sweden (lead faculty member); Prof. Arupjyoti Saikia, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati; Dr. Mandy Sadan, Department of History, SOAS, University of London, UK; Prof. Em. Willem van Schendel, Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Dr. Dan Smyer Yu, Director, Center for Trans-Himalayan Studies, Yunnan Minzu University, China; and Prof. Mahesh Rangarajan, Ashoka University, India. The Spring school is sponsored by IIT Guwahati, and the Swedish Research Council. Deadline for the submission of applications is 10 November 2016. [Read more...](#)

### **Hawwa Nashfa first Maldivian student to graduate from IIIIE**

On 23 September 2016, the International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIIE) at Lund University held its traditional graduation ceremony for the MSc students at its graduate Programme in Environmental Management and Policy, a programme attracting students from all over the World. In September 2016, Hawwa Nashfa from the Maldives graduated from the programme.

She was the first IIIIE student from the Maldives, but many Indian students have passed over the years. Hawwa Nashfa has been close to SASNET, being a member of its student organisation SASA, and besides she was awarded a SASNET/SASA travel grant to carry out other field work in the Maldives during the summer 2016. [Read more...](#)

### **Fourth Conference on Bengal Related Studies for Young Scholars in Halle**

The Fourth Conference on Bengal Related Studies for Students and Young Scholars will be held in Halle (Saale), Germany, 28-30 October 2016. It is being organised by the South Asia Seminar of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. The aim of the conference is to provide an interdisciplinary venue for students and young scholars who focus on the Bengal regions in their studies. [Read more...](#)

### **Researcher in the field of Media and Public Spheres wanted in Göttingen**

The Centre for Modern Indian Studies at the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen is looking to fill the position of a Researcher (PhD or postdoctoral) working in the 'Media and Public Spheres' Research Cluster. This position should be filled by 15 January 2017. The position

Spheres Research Cluster. This position should be filled by 15 January 2017. The position is offered within the framework of the DFG Priority Program "Proper Times of the Aesthetic. Time and Representation in Polychronic Modernity." [Read more...](#)

### **BASAS Annual Conference 2017 at Nottingham**

On 19-21 April 2017, the British Association of South Asian Studies (BASAS) will hold its annual conference in Nottingham. The conference is hosted by Nottingham University's Institute of Asia and Pacific Studies (IAPS) and Nottingham Trent University's Postcolonial Studies Centre. The keynote speaker is Urvashi Butalia, sponsored by IAPS. Panel and paper proposals should be sent to the conference organisers before 30 November 2016. [Read more...](#)

### **Cambridge MUSA conference on Negotiating Technologies**

The Muslim South Asia Research Forum (MUSA) at SOAS, University of London, UK, arranges a Workshop on Negotiating Technologies, 14-15 October 2016. The MUSA Workshop is organized in collaboration with CEIAS, Paris & the Centre of South Asian Studies, Cambridge, and will be held at Trinity College, University of Cambridge. One session is devoted to South Asian Muslims & the History of Science & Techniques. [Read more...](#)

### **Sanskrit workshop at the Tibetan Pavilion in Auroville**

Dr. Rama Nath Sharma (Professor Emeritus, University of Hawaii) will be presenting a 5 day workshop on Pāṇini's Aṣṭādhyāyī. This will take place between 12-16th November 2016 in the Tibetan Pavilion in Auroville, India. This is the 2nd year this workshop will be held and the organisers extend an invitation not only for Sanskrit scholars but also for other researchers in the field of Linguistics, Computer Science and many other disciplines. [Read more...](#)

### **Mother Teresa Sadbhawana Award to Shantiniketan researcher**

Dr. Sujit Kumar Paul, Head, Department of Lifelong Learning and Extension, Institute of Rural Reconstruction, Visva-Bharati University in Shantiniketan, West Bengal, India, has been conferred Mother Teresa Sadbhawana Award with Medal for his outstanding achievement in individual contribution for National Economic and Social Development. The award was presented to him in a function held in the Deputy Speaker Hall, Constitution Club of India, New Delhi on September 24, 2016. [Read more...](#)

### **Tea & Tabla – Indian Brunch concert in Malmö**

Indian tabla player Abishek Mishra from Varanasi, currently on Europe tour performs in Malmö on Sunday 16 October 2016, at 12.00.

Mishra is one of India's most promising tabla player and despite his young age played with several of the most prominent musicians in Indian classical music such as Shahid Parvez, Vishwa Mohan Bhatt and brothers Rajan and Sajan Mishra. The concert is part of a brunch session at Blå Båten, Anna Lindhs plats in central Malmö, from 12 till 15, and besides Mishra, the Tagore Choir in Lund will perform. [Read more...](#)

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

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