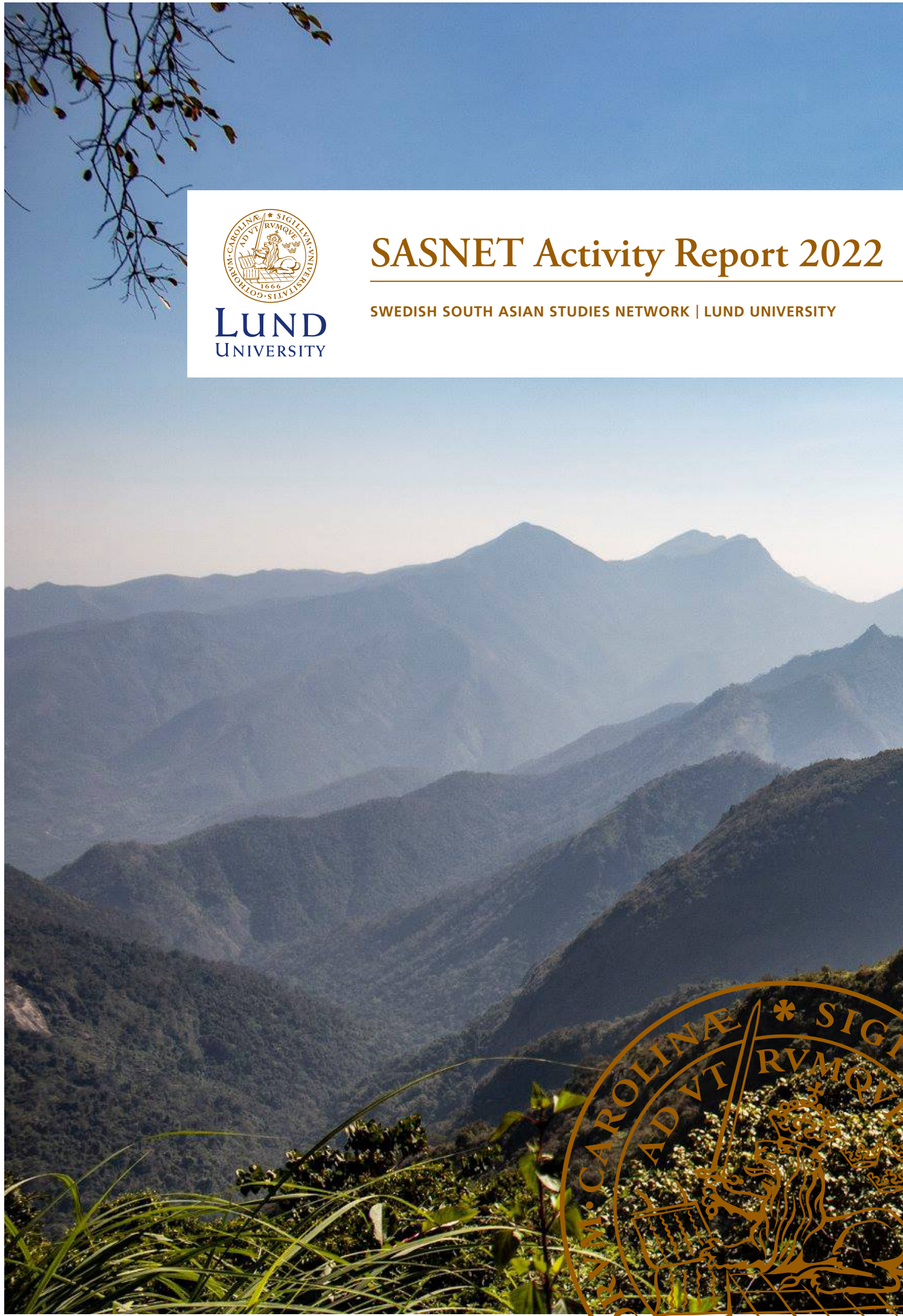




LUND
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SASNET Activity Report 2022

SWEDISH SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES NETWORK | LUND UNIVERSITY





Mountains in Vattakanal, India. Photo: Sandra Jakobsson.

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Participants at the SASNET Symposium 2022. Photo: Sandra Jakobsson.



Shruti Kapila presenting at Lund University. Photo: Sindre Gade Viksand.



Soumi Banerjee, PhD Student, School of Social Work. Photo: Sandra Jakobsson.



Priscyll Ancia, Postdoc, Department of Political Science. Photo: Sandra Jakobsson.



Ted Svensson and Jude W. Genilo, Head of the Media Studies & Journalism Department, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh. Photo: Sammy Khan.

Overview

During 2022, SASNET conducted a wide range of activities to promote, support and disseminate research on South Asia at Lund University. SASNET arranged many of these activities in collaboration with academic departments, research groups and student organisations at the University. SASNET's numerous undertakings and initiatives during the past year are detailed in this report.

SASNET Organisation

In January 2022, Ted Svensson became the new Director of SASNET. He replaced Andreas Johansson who had been the Director since 2016. As part of this change, SASNET's office moved to the Department of Political Science, at which Svensson is an Associate Professor.

During 2022, Ulrika Liard Wedin initially held the position as Communications Officer. From August, Sandra Jakobsson assumed this role. Therese Boje Mortensen was SASNET Coordinator between January and July. From August and until December, Soumi Banerjee temporarily filled this position.

An important development during 2022 was that new regulations were decided upon and implemented. These, among other things, stipulate:

Purpose and mission

SASNET is an organisation for cooperation between faculties, departments and individual researchers that are engaged in research on South Asia. The overarching purpose of the organisation is to promote research on South Asia. Within this framework, SASNET is also to pursue information and development activities, support faculty and department-wide cooperation at Lund University and work to establish and maintain contact between Lund University and other stakeholders within and outside Sweden that are engaged in the field.

SASNET's mission is:

- to serve as a facilitator for researchers, teaching staff and students at Lund University who are engaged in research and education related to South Asia
- to promote department and faculty-wide cooperation and to support the furthering of knowledge regarding issues that pertain to South Asia within individual disciplines
- to cooperate with and serve as a contact point for other higher education institutions, public authorities and organisations regarding research on and education about South Asia
- to support applications for external funding to conduct research on South Asia
- to help disseminate research on South Asia that is being produced at Lund University.



Entrance to Edén, the main building of the Department of Political Science at Lund University. Photo: Johan Persson.

Lectures and Seminars

With the end of pandemic-related restrictions in April 2022, SASNET could, once again, organise live events at Lund University. These events – e.g. lectures, seminars and panel debates – are summarised below.

MAY

Book panel: Vernacular Rights Cultures, with Professor Sumi Madhok

In May, Sumi Madhok, Professor of Political Theory and Gender Studies at the London School of Economics and Political Science, visited Lund for a discussion of her new book *Vernacular Rights Cultures: The Politics of Origins, Human Rights and Gendered Struggles for Justice* (Cambridge University Press, 2021).

The panel consisted of Miia Halme-Tuomisaari, Associate Professor of Human Rights Studies, Lund University and Helle Rydström, Professor of Gender Studies, Lund University. Therese Boje Mortensen chaired the discussion.

The event was jointly organised by SASNET and the division of Human Rights Studies at Lund University.

Colonialism and the Making of Sociology in the Global South, with Professor Sujata Patel

SASNET also organised a lecture with Professor Sujata Patel titled “Colonialism and the Making of Sociology in the Global South”.

Professor Patel was, at the time, Kerstin Hesselgren Visiting Professor. While the Department of Sociology at Umeå University acted as the main host during Professor Patel's time in Sweden, her visiting profes-

sorship was co-hosted by SASNET, REMESO at Linköping University, the Umeå Centre for Gender Studies and the Department of Sociology at Uppsala University.

Most recently, Professor Patel was a Distinguished Professor at Savitribai Phule Pune University and a National Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla.

Autocratization in South Asia, with Professor Sten Widmalm

Sten Widmalm, editor of the new Routledge Handbook of Autocratization in South Asia (2022) and Professor at the Department of Government, Uppsala University, visited Lund in May to present and discuss the handbook and its findings regarding current political trends in South Asia.

The seminar was organised together with the Department of Political Science at Lund University.

SEPTEMBER

How Will Russia's Invasion of Ukraine Affect Geopolitics in Asia?

In collaboration with the Centre for East and Southeast Asian Studies (ACE) at Lund University, SASNET organised a panel debate in September on how the Russian invasion of Ukraine has affected the foreign policy of key Asian states, with an

emphasis on India, China and Japan.

The panellists were Julie Yu-Wen Chen, Professor of Chinese Studies at the Department of Cultures, University of Helsinki, Catarina Kinnvall, Professor at the Department of Political Science, Lund University and Karl Gustafsson, Professor of International Relations at Stockholm University.

The seminar was chaired by Paul O'Shea, Senior Lecturer at ACE and a specialist in the international relations of East Asia.

OCTOBER

What is Happening in Sri Lanka?

SASNET invited two researchers from the University of Gothenburg – Kanchana N Ruwanpura, Professor of Human Geography, and Camilla Orjuela, Professor at the School of Global Studies – to take part in a panel debate on Sri Lanka's economic and political crisis.

The panel debate, which was arranged in cooperation with the Association of Foreign Affairs (UPF Lund), took place in late October.

The discussion primarily focused on the politics and corruption that have resulted in a democratic deficit and an economic crisis, and on how the current crisis relates to Sri Lanka's other unresolved conflicts.

NOVEMBER

Lecture on Circular Economy, by Manisha Anantharaman

In November, the Department of Service Management and Service Studies at Lund University and SASNET hosted a lecture with Manisha Anantharaman, Associate Professor of Justice, Community and Leadership at Saint Mary's College of California.

The lecture was held at the beginning of Dr. Anantharaman's three week long visit at Lund University and was centred on the topic of circular economy and resource extraction and reuse.

Roundtable with Shruti Kapila on Violent Fraternity

In November, SASNET also had the pleasure of hosting Shruti Kapila, Professor of Indian History and Global Political Thought at the University of Cambridge, for a roundtable on her recently published book *Violent Fraternity: Indian Political Thought in the Global Age*. The roundtable was organised in collaboration with the Department of Political Science at Lund University.

Workshops

A NATION AND ITS FAULT LINES • 25 FEBRUARY

Jointly organised by the SASNET-affiliated researchers Amrita Ghosh and Isha Dubey, this one-day workshop in February was the culminating event of their work at and affiliation with SASNET. The workshop focused on the interconnected themes of postcolonial conflict zones, protracted displacement, historical trauma and memory politics in modern and contemporary South Asia, particularly through the lens of the Kashmir conflict, the Partition and the Bangladesh War of 1971.

Structured along the core theme – i.e. fault lines of the nation in South Asia – the workshop was divided into three parts. It began with a panel discussion, in which Amrita, Isha, Humera Iqbal (UCL), Anushay Malik (Simon Fraser University) and Asiya Zahoor (Cornell University) participated. The panel discussion was followed by a keynote address by Professor Ananya Jahanara Kabir (King's College London). In her talk, Professor Kabir brought together theories of the pastoral and the concept of 'alegropolitics'. The workshop concluded with a multi-lingual (and due to the pandemic), online cultural session – Le thennai Kreyol – that revolved around Professor Kabir's and the French novelist Ari Gautier's vision for a plural and creolised India.

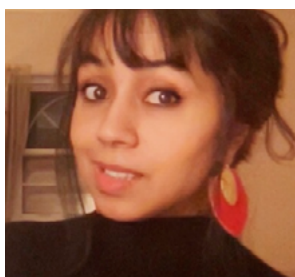
SUMMER SCHOOL: GENDER, DISASTERS AND CLIMATE RISK • 19-23 SEPTEMBER

With support from SASNET, the Division of Risk Management and Societal Safety at Lund University organised a summer course for PhD students on the theme "Gender, Disasters and Climate Risk".

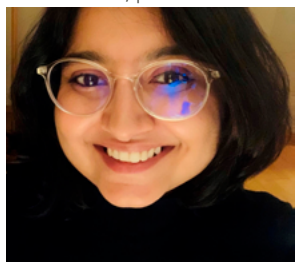
The course aimed to address and contribute to discussions regarding the need for a gender inclusive approach in research on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation, but also to bring together doctoral students and practitioners in order to facilitate dialogue and co-create knowledge in relation to gender inclusive designs in the areas of response, recovery and preparedness.



Participants from the summer course. Photo: Maja Svenbro.



Amrita Ghosh, photo: Private.



Isha Dubey, photo: Private.



Ari Gautier and Ananya Jahanara Kabir. Photo: Corentin Deva.

SASNET Symposium 2022

The annual SASNET symposium took place in the Old Bishop's House at Lund University in late September and gathered academics from across the social sciences and the humanities at Lund University as well as scholars based at other universities in the Nordic region.

The symposium was divided into three main themes: Urban Spaces and Community-Making, Majoritarianism and Nation-Building, and Development, Activism and Shrinking Civic Space.



From upper left to right: Rishi Jha, Sammyh Khan, Isha Dubey, Ted Svensson, Jan Magnusson, Eleonor Marcussen, Priscyll Ancil, Niladri Chatterjee, Soumi Banerjee, Mine Islar, Marie Stissing Jensen and Catarina Kinnvall.



Priscyll Ancil, postdoc, at the Department of Political Science, was one of several who presented their ongoing research. She presented her research: 'The Continuum of Militancy: 15 Years of Maoist Female Ex-Combatants Reintegration'.

SASNET Research and Grants

SASNET-FUNDED RESEARCH

Religion and Politics in Sri Lanka, Andreas Johansson (CTR, Lund University)

To broaden the knowledge about the role of religion in the ethnic conflicts of Sri Lanka this project deals with the difficult historical and contemporaneous problems that the country presently suffers from.

The project will run between 2022 and 2025. In its initial phase the project will focus on analysing the Muslim magazine Star of Islam. In its second phase, the project is focussed on analysing material drawn from the Buddhist organisation Bodu Bala Sena's social media channels.

As a project output, Johansson wrote a piece – titled Sri Lanka's Protests Show a Fragile Unity – about the 2022 protests in Sri Lanka, which was published by The Conversation in May 2022. In the article, Johansson tries to analyse the possible implications of Sri Lanka's economic crisis, with an emphasis on recent ethnic tensions in the country.



Andreas Johansson,
photo: Lund University.



SASNET GRANTS

In 2022, SASNET offered several grants that were meant to facilitate and support South Asia research at Lund University. These included:

- Planning grants for the submission of a major research application
- Grants for writing a research application ("ansökningsmånad")
- PhD travel grants
- An award for an outstanding thesis written on issues that pertain to South Asia

Two Researchers Received a Grant for Writing a Research Application ("ansökningsmånad")

Maryam Nastar, researcher at Lund University Centre for Sustainability Studies (LUCSUS), and Rashmi B. Prasad, Associate Professor at Lund University Diabetes Centre, received the first two SASNET grants intended to support individual researchers at Lund University in their writing of research applications.

Maryam Nastar: "(Mal)Adaptation to extreme urban heat: At what cost, to whom?"

The proposed research project aims to explore maladaptation responses to extreme urban heat and to identify the institutional conditions required to avoid them.

More specifically, it aims to analyse the impacts of "smart" adaptation strategies in the Global South since there are growing concerns over the inclusivity and fairness of digitalisation and the extent to which it can improve the living conditions of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in exposure to extreme urban heat.

Rashmi B. Prasad: “Dissecting the heterogeneity and early life origins of diabetes in undernourished and overnourished populations for early prediction and prevention, an Indo-Swedish collaborative study”

This research project aims to disentangle and understand causes of type 2 diabetes (T2D) in Sweden and in India. Since the risk of developing T2D is influenced by a complex amalgam of genetic predisposition, events during early life, and the impact of the diverse cultural, social and economic factors that define our adult “environment”, this study is focussed on understanding these factors through two research objectives:

1. Dissect the differences in etiology and evolution of diabetes in undernourished and overnourished populations in India and Sweden.
2. Investigate the early life origins of diabetes in both populations and uncover underlying molecular mechanisms in tissues of interest.

Catarina Kinnvall Received a Planning Grant

Catarina Kinnvall, Professor at the Department of Political Science at Lund University, received a planning grant for her project proposal “Dismantling Democracy: Insecurity, Emotions and Authoritarian Populism”.

The project intends to develop a novel approach to the study of insecurity and emotions, by highlighting the co-production of insecure lives between states, between leaders and followers, and between individuals and groups. The project will be based on extensive empirical analyses of cases in South Asia.



Maryam Nastar, photo: Lund University.



Rashmi B. Prasad, photo: Lund University.



Catarina Kinnvall, photo: Lund University.

See you in 2023!



About SASNET

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Follow or contact us for information about our activities, grants and more:

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- www.instagram.com/sasnetlund/



Visit SASNET's office
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