

**SASA 10:**



**India at the  
Crossroads**

## **The SASA Tenth Anniversary Conference**

**March 18-20, 2016  
TERI University  
Plot No. 10 Institutional Area  
Vasant Kunj  
New Delhi**

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## MINOTI CHAKRAVARTY-KAUL



Professor Minoti Chakravarty-Kaul taught Economics at Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi, from 1961 until her retirement as Emerita in 2002. The community concerns over the distribution of common lands from the villages of a cluster in North West Delhi in 1977 sparked her research into common property, and ultimately resulted in her most famous work, *Common Lands and Customary Law: Institutional Change in the Past Two Centuries* (Oxford UP, 1996).

Throughout her career she worked closely with the 2009 Nobel Prize winner in Economic Science, Elinor Ostrom.

Her work has been recognized with a Fulbright Fellowship, a Ford Foundation Fellowship, a Ciriacy Wantrup Fellowship, and a University of California, Berkeley and The Shastri Indo-Canadian Fellowship.

She is the founder of the Raah Shamilat Research Group and the RAHAT Resource Center. She is also a founding member of the International Association for the Study of Commons. Her current work widens her geographic scope, but maintains her strict focus on the cause and the curse of the commons.

# ABOUT SASA

## OUR PURPOSE

The South Asian Studies Association was founded to promote scholarly study of and public interest in South Asian civilizations and affairs; to provide a public forum for the communication of research and scholarship on South Asia, by means of an annual conference; to promote scholarship and networking opportunities for scholars of South Asia between annual conferences through electronic and other media; to assist public and private cultural and educational agencies and institutions in the development and dissemination of programs and teaching materials on South Asia; by means of a newsletter, journal, or other such publications and programs as may be feasible for the association to undertake, to facilitate exchange of information among persons and accredited academic institutions interested in South Asian studies, to disseminate research results, and to further educate the general public about South Asian affairs; and to build bridges of understanding linking the academic, entrepreneurial and diaspora communities.



# PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

## FRIDAY, MARCH 18

11:00 Registration Desk Opens

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Break

1:15 Session A

2:30 Break

2:45 Session B

4:00 Day's End

## SATURDAY, MARCH 19

8:00 Registration Desk Opens

8:30 Session C

9:45 Break

10:00 Session D

11:15 Break

11:30 Keynote Address Dr Minoti Chakravarty-Kaul, Reader in Economics (Emeritus)  
Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi

12:45 Lunch

Plenary Presentation Dr. Anuradha Murali  
Mrudani School of Performing Arts

2:00 Session E

3:30 Break

3:45 Session F

5:15 Day's End

## SUNDAY, MARCH 20

9:00 Registration Desk Opens

9:30 Session G

10:45 Break

11:15 Lunch and Concluding Remarks

12:30 Conference Closes

# FRIDAY, MARCH 18

**11:00 REGISTRATION**

**12:00 LUNCH**

**1:00 BREAK**

**1:15 SESSION A | PLEASE CHECK THE TELEVISION MONITORS FOR THE LOCATION OF EACH PANEL.**

## **PANEL 1 Building Big Business**

*Moderator: Nalin Kumar, Christ Church College, Kanpur*

**The Political Economy of Indo-Pak Cricket**

Zarnaab Adil Janjua | New York University, USA

**Medical Tourism: A Mega-Service Industry**

Shipra Srivastava | Christ Church College, Kanpur, India

**The Nature of the Entrepreneurial Process in Medium-Scale Manufacturing Sector Enterprises in Sri Lanka**

Rathnayake Mudiyansele Kumari | University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

## **PANEL 2 Going Green and Growing Green**

*Moderator: Fawzia Tarannum, TERI University*

**The Greening of Indian Railways**

Monish Gulati | Society for Policy Studies, Delhi, India

**Algal Biodiversity of the Yamuna River at Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh, India: A Biological Indicator of Water Quality**

Ram Mohar Shukla | Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya, India

**Going Green: Environmental Awareness and Activism in the Hindu Traditions**

Bhakti Mamtara | University of Florida, USA

**2:30 BREAK**



सत्यमेव जयते

**2:45**      **SESSION B** | PLEASE CHECK THE TELEVISION MONITORS FOR THE LOCATION OF EACH PANEL.

**PANEL 3**      **Contemporary Caste**

*Moderator: David Blundell, National Chengchi University*

**The Vacillating Dalit Movement in Contemporary India**

Arushi Mathur | Jesus and Mary College, Delhi University, India

Prashant Shekhar | Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India

**Transmuting Caste: Bhumihars in Bihar**

Aniket Nandan | Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India

**The Relevance of Kabir's Revealing Poetry of the Caste System to Modern Indian Society**

Chathurini Fernando | University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

**PANEL 4**      **Reading Religiously**

*Moderator: Purnima Bhatt, Hood College*

**Yat Pinde Tat Brahmande**

V. K. Katiyar | Brahmanand College, India

**Environmental Ethics as a Means of Social Transformation: Insights through the Religious Study of *Mahābhārata***

Geetesh Nirban | University of Delhi, India

**Gods, Nature, and History in the Literary Corpus of Kazi Nazrul Islam, 1900-1930**

Samina Sirajuddowla | City College of New York, USA

**4:00**      **DAY'S END**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 19**

**8:00**      **REGISTRATION**

**8:30**      **SESSION C** | PLEASE CHECK THE TELEVISION MONITORS FOR THE LOCATION OF EACH PANEL.

**PANEL 5**      **Diaspora and Identity**

*Moderator: Kathryn Myers, University of Connecticut*

**Patriarchal Oppression and Marginalized Women Revisited: Deepa Mehta's Diasporic Gaze in *Fire and Water***

Artemis Tzioli | Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar

**Life in the Diaspora: Growing up Cosmopolitan in Divakaruni's *The Mistress of Spices***

Prabal Das Gupta | East Delta University, Bangladesh

**PANEL 6**

**Shifting Images: Transforming Indian Identity and the Politics of Representation** (organized by the South Asian Muslim Studies Association)

*Moderator: Laura Jenkins, University of Cincinnati*

**Explaining the Relationships between Ideology, Identity, and Development for Indian Muslims in Post-Sachar India**

Mujibur Rehman | Jamia Millia Islamia, India

**Muslims and Christians and Ghar Wapsi: Converts, Reconverts, and Reservation Law**

Laura Jenkins | University of Cincinnati, USA

**Muslim South Asia at the Crossroads: Asghar Ali Engineer's Writings on Liberation Theology in the Light of 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Islamic Discourses on Religious Authority**

Fabian Falter | University of Bonn, Germany

**9:45 BREAK**

**10:00 SESSION D | PLEASE CHECK THE TELEVISION MONITORS FOR THE LOCATION OF EACH PANEL.**

**PANEL 7**

**Hand in Hand: The Future for Business and Government**

*Moderator: Nalin Kumar, Christ Church College, Kanpur*

**India's Nuclear Identity: A Constructivist Explanation**

Smita Singh | Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

**From Corporate Social Responsibility to Cultural Sustainability: Moving Towards the Future**

Asmita Basu | Academy for Professional Excellence, India

**India and South Asia: A Constructivist Perspective**

Leslie Keerthi Kumar | Lady Shri Ram College, India

**PANEL 8**

**Ambedkar and his Influence**

*Moderator: Mangesh Dahiwale, Jambudvipa Trust, Pune*

**Religion as an Instrument of Emancipation: An Analysis of Ambedkar's Buddhism in India**

Karamala Areesh Kumar | Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

**How Engaged is Dr B R Ambedkar's Legacy?**

David Blundell | National Chengchi University, Taiwan

**11:15 BREAK**



**11:30 KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

*Hall L-001*

**The First Century of New Delhi 1911-2011:  
Unfolding a Tragedy of the Commons?**

Dr. Minoti Chakravarty-Kaul, Reader in Economics (Emeritus)  
Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi

**12:45 LUNCH AND PLENARY SESSION**

*Open-Air Theatre*

**Ganga Margam**

Indian Classical Dance

Dr. Anuradha Murali, Mrudani School of Performing Arts

**2:00 SESSION E | PLEASE CHECK THE TELEVISION MONITORS FOR THE LOCATION OF EACH PANEL.**

**PANEL 9 The Location of Art and Culture in Currents of Stasis and Change**

*Moderator: Pradosh Mishra, Banaras Hindu University*

**Creating Community and Engaging New Viewership in Public Art Workshops in Odisha**

Pradosh Mishra | Banaras Hindu University, India

**Contesting Congested Byways: Contemporary Art and Issues of Urbanization**

Kathryn Myers | University of Connecticut, USA

**Emancipated Pedagogy and Practice: Needs and Concerns for Art Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Sharmila Sagara | Ahmedabad University, India

**The Evolution of Tradition in the Revitalization of Cultural Heritage: New Challenges and Methodologies**

Lina Vincent Sunish | Art Historian and Curator

**PANEL 10 Points of Contact: South Asia and the World**

*Moderator: Vandana Asthana, Eastern Washington University*

**Cultural Contact between the East Coast of India and China: A Study Based on Chinese Potteries**

Durga Basu | Calcutta University, India

**When the Empire had to “Look East”: Trade Routes and Cross-Border Commerce in Colonial North-Eastern India, 1826-1914**

Bikram Bora | Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India

**Migrants and Mandals: Perspectives from Gujarati Travel Writers in Colonial Kenya, 1920-1964**

Misha Mintz-Roth | Johns Hopkins University, USA

**The Trend of India-China Relations under the Modi Administration: A Chinese Perspective**

Fang Tien-sze | National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan

**3:30 BREAK**

**3:45 SESSION F** | PLEASE CHECK THE TELEVISION MONITORS FOR THE LOCATION OF EACH PANEL.

**PANEL 11 Intersections with “The Other”**

*Moderator: Purnima Bhatt, Hood College*

**Hinglish and Negotiations of Identity in Contemporary Indian Literature and Film**

Alan Johnson | Idaho State University, USA

**“Dying” to Be White: India’s Obsession with White Skin**

Purnima Bhatt | Hood College, USA

**“With love, from Kabul”: How Afghans have Impacted the Cultural Landscape in South Delhi**

Chayanika Saxena | Society for Policy Studies, Delhi, India

**PANEL 12 Minorities and Majorities**

*Moderator: David Blundell, National Chengchi University*

**Bio-political Governmentality and the LGBT Mobilization: A Case Study of Aravanis in Tamil Nadu**

Lakshmi Parvathy | Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India

**The Role and Status of Women: The Matrilineal System of the Khasi Tribe of Meghalaya**

Rebecca Soanes | North-Eastern Hill University, India

**Ethnic Minority Groups Residing in India and Taiwan**

Kevin Hutt | National Chengchi University, Taiwan

Dinithi Wijesuriya | National Chengchi University, Taiwan

**PANEL 13 Learning from the Past**

*Moderator: Fawzia Tarannum, TERI University*

**Colonial Codification of Education in India until 1920**

Preeti | Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

**Reconstruction of the Age, Gender, Stature, and Way of Life of the Prehistoric Human Skeleton Displayed at the National Museum, Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Katupelella Chandimal | University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka

**Communal Relations in East Pakistan, 1947-1965: A Historical Analysis in State and Civil Society**

Azizul Islam Rasel | University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh

**5:15 DAY’S END**



# SUNDAY, MARCH 20

**9:00 REGISTRATION**

**9:30 SESSION G | PLEASE CHECK THE TELEVISION MONITORS FOR THE LOCATION OF EACH PANEL.**

## **PANEL 14 Tensions and Traditions**

*Moderator: Alan Johnson, Idaho State University*

**Asian and Asian-American Self-Conception in American Secondary Education**

Irene Y. Chun | Phillips Exeter Academy, USA

**The Idea of India: Contestations and Paradoxes**

Alex Tsakiridis | Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India

## **PANEL 15 Art, Artifacts, and Religion**

*Moderator: Purnima Bhatt, Hood College*

**The Story of Krishna in Bengal Terracotta Temples**

Shreela Basu | Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, India

**A Study of Cultural and Design Elements in the Queen's Stepwell of Patan**

Shekhar Chatterjee | Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Jabalpur, India

**Cultural, Religious, and Spiritual Sanctity of Ganga and Self-purification**

A.C. Shukla | Eastern Washington University, USA

## **PANEL 16 Expanding Contact Zones**

*Moderator: Vandana Asthana, Eastern Washington University*

**Border Haat: A Way Forward**

Suparna Bhattacharjee | North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, India

**Early Indic Maritime Networks in Monsoon Asia, Spread of Dharma, and Austronesian Navigation**

David Blundell | National Chengchi University, Taiwan

**10:45 BREAK**

**11:15 LUNCH AND CONCLUDING REMARKS**

On-Site Hosts

Vandana Asthana | Professor of Political Science  
Eastern Washington University, USA

Purnima Bhatt | Professor (Emerita) of History, Anthropology and Interdisciplinary Studies  
Hood College, USA

David Blundell | Professor, International Master's & Doctoral Programs in Asia-Pacific Studies  
National Chengchi University, Taiwan

**12:30 CONFERENCE CLOSES**

## AN INDULGENCE



I call this an indulgence because I ask you to indulge me in offering praise for a friend. And I ask for his indulgence, because there is no way that Bill Vanderbok would ever want this kind of praise from someone who has worked with him.

I can hear you yawning already, as I tell you that Bill was there in the beginning of SASA, along with many others, who created something special with this organization. And yes, if this were the usual academic praise piece, the kind of panegyric where you're unsure if the person written about is leaving, retiring, or dying, you'd have every right to yawn.

But I wasn't there at the beginning, so I don't know that Bill Vanderbok. The one I know is never boring, would never make you yawn. And if you could see him posing with statues of little boys playing hooky from school in a Low Country harbor, or negotiating the streets of Moscow where no one but us seemed to speak English, or shopping in Salt Lake City so conference attendees would have enough to eat, you'd think the same. If you knew his academic and post-academic careers, you'd think him fascinating. If you saw him when he thought no one was looking, as he shook off his weariness and his age because

there was yet more work to be done, you'd think him giving. If you experienced his graciousness, his low-key humor, his genuine concern for others, you'd already consider yourself lucky.

Bill is a worker. That's the highest compliment I can give. He's not the kind of guy who can just show up for a few meetings and call his job complete. And he's not the stand-on-a-stage-and-tell-you-how-hard-he-works kind of guy. He digs in, and does the work that no one really notices until it's not done. He's been the president of SASA for the overwhelming majority of its existence, and, at several points, he has saved us from our own inertia.

He's also a thinker. His Brown Bag Radio was a podcast before podcasts were cool. His ideas about virtual conferences, or web presence, or academic publishing on demand, or Exemplar, or SASA Books, have all been crucial for the success of SASA.

And now he's giving up the presidency of SASA, for the second time, and leaving us much the lesser for his leave-taking. He's going out quietly, not wanting anyone to make a fuss about him or recall his contributions. So I'm just taking this half of a page in a small program printed half a world away from his home to genuflect in a way so small that he might actually approve of it, because the work has been done and there's still a bit of space for this, a little indulgence.

Joe Pellegrino

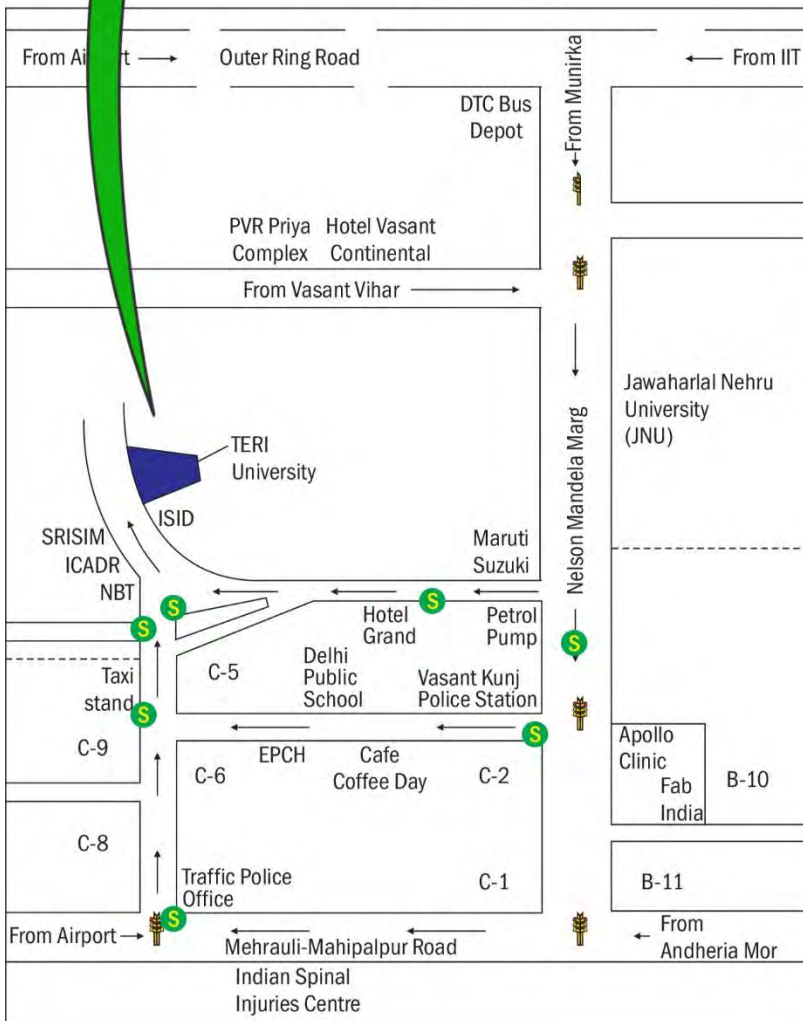




TERI University Location Map



- 1: Commercial block**
- 2: Classrooms**
- 3 & 4: Laboratories**
- 5 & 6: Administrative Offices**
- 7: Dining Hall**
- 9 & 10: Courts**
- 11: Open-air Theatre**



**S** TERI University signboards are placed at these points



## THE SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

UNDERSTANDING SOUTH ASIA'S CULTURES, HISTORIES, ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

### SASA GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THOSE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS CONFERENCE POSSIBLE

#### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Vandana Asthana, Eastern Washington University  
Gunjan Bagla, Amritt Ventures  
Purnima Bhatt, Hood College  
David Blundell, National Chengchi University, Taiwan  
Bradley Clough, University of Montana  
Chandrika Kaul, University of St. Andrews  
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