



RAS 05.001 'The Approach of the Emperor of China to his Tent in Tartary to receive the British Ambassador'

#### Convened by

Mrinalini Venkateswaran, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, RHUL  
Weipin Tsai, Senior Lecturer, RHUL  
(The Centre for Global South Asia, Royal Holloway)

#### Supported by

Tsao Yung-Ho Foundation  
HARI, Engaged Humanities Lab, CGSA (Royal Holloway)  
The Leverhulme Trust

We are grateful to the Nehru Trust, American Institute for Pakistan Studies, and Lim Pen-Yuan Cultural and Educational Foundation for enabling some of our international delegates to attend.

#### EACF Partners

The Heritage Lab; Kyushu University, Japan; National College of Arts, Pakistan; University of Delhi, India; National Museum of Taiwan History, Taiwan; The Royal Asiatic Society; Queen Mary University of London.



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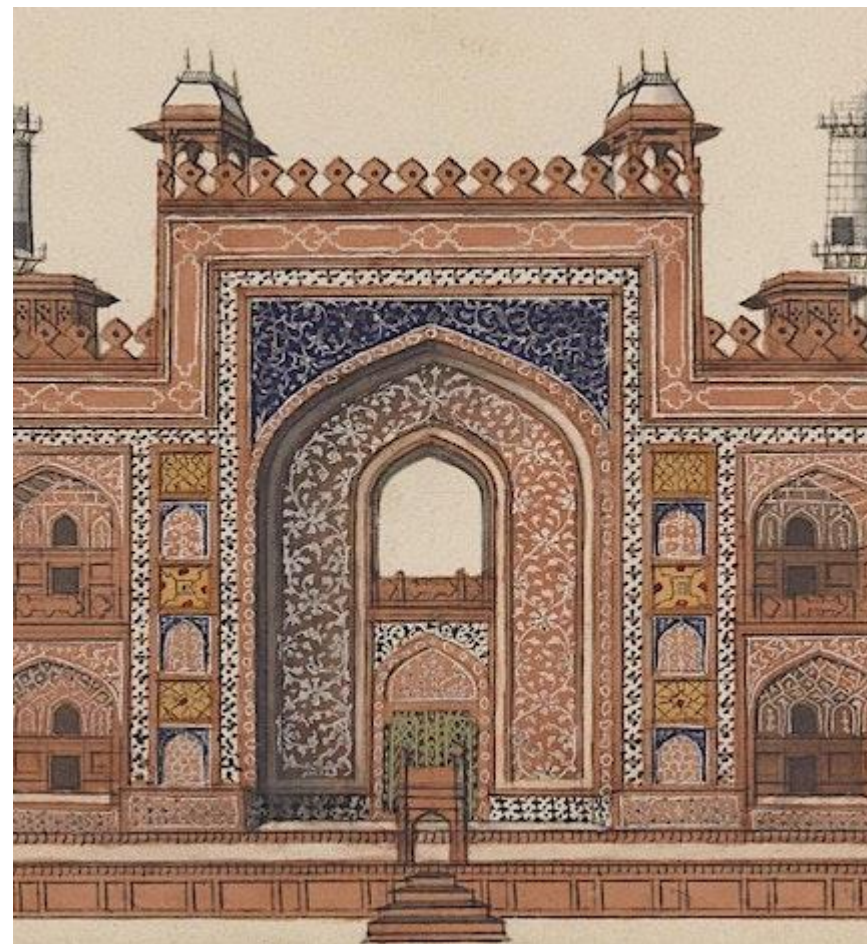
博物館研究所  
GRADUATE INSTITUTE  
OF MUSEUM STUDIES



Queen Mary  
University of London



## Exhibit Asia: Partition and the Transition to Nation States in South and East Asia



RAS 018.001 'The gateway of Akbar's tomb at Sikandra'

**31 August—2 September 2023**  
**Moore Auditorium**  
**Royal Holloway, University of London**  
Egham Hill, Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX

[www.centreforglobalsouthasia.org](http://www.centreforglobalsouthasia.org)

## Programme

### Thursday 31 August 2023

- 14.45-15.15 Registration
- 15.15-15.30 Introductions  
*Lung-chih Chang and Weipin Tsai*
- 15.30-16.30 Keynote  
**'Public history, colonial victimhood and the fascist impulse - Chauvinism and paranoia in the representation of the Asian past'**  
*Edward Vickers*
- 16.30-17.00 Tea
- 17.00-17.30 'Rethinking Asia: Tea and Tigers' presentation and Q&A
- 17.30-18.30 Panel: **'Art, museums and our understanding of Asia in Britain Today'**  
in collaboration with the Royal Asiatic Society and the London Centre for Public History  
*Alison Ohta, Edward Vickers, Sarah Ansari with Exhibit Asia Curatorial Fellows*
- 18.30-19.30 Drinks reception

## The Centre for Global South Asia

CGSA was founded in 2020 to coordinate research on the countries of the South Asian region, and to open up our long-standing expertise in the field to global and comparative perspectives. Associated staff and our substantial postgraduate student body cover a wide variety of projects and approaches. We welcome collaborations with colleagues across the departments within our university and beyond. Whilst we are hosted in the Department of History within the School of Humanities, our research is characterised by an interdisciplinary approach that takes 'History' as a licence to study all aspects of human endeavour with methods gleaned from oral history, geography, anthropology, political theory, cultural studies, literature, material culture and museum studies. To stay in touch, please visit [www.centreforglobalsouthasia.org](http://www.centreforglobalsouthasia.org).

## The Royal Asiatic Society

The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland was founded by the eminent Sanskrit scholar, Henry Thomas Colebrooke, on 15 March 1823. It received its Royal Charter from King George IV on 11 August 1824, *'for the investigation of subjects connected with and for the encouragement of science, literature and the arts in relation to Asia'*.

The Society provides a forum for those who are interested in the history, languages, cultures and religions of Asia to meet and exchange ideas. It offers lectures and seminars and it provides facilities for research and publishing.

The Society welcomes fellowship applications from anyone with an interest in Asian Studies. Fellows receive the journal four times a year and may make full use of the resources and facilities of the Society.

For further information, including details of how to apply for fellowship, please visit [www.royalasiaticsociety.org](http://www.royalasiaticsociety.org).

## Exhibit Asia Curatorial Fellows

## NOTES

**Adela Davis** is a Public History MA student at Royal Holloway, University of London. She also works in the heritage sector, supporting a range of heritage organisations with their communications and other projects.

**Amarjeet Singh** is a Social Science teacher in a government school in Delhi. He has Masters degrees in History and Education from the University of Delhi, India.

**Bian Yudi** is an MA student in Education from Kyushu University, Japan. His area of concern is Chinese nationalism.

**Deepika Gupta** is a history teacher, and a scholar of education at the University of Delhi, India.

**Humna Kazi** is a writer and cultural researcher, currently doing her MPhil in Cultural Studies at the National College of Arts, NCA, Lahore, Pakistan, where she is also assisting work on the inaugural issue of the Journal of Art and Design Education, Pakistan, JADEP.

**Li Yen** is an MA student at the Graduate Institute of Museum Studies, Taipei National University of the Arts, Taiwan. She is concerned with the issues of historical translation and community collaboration in museums.

**Margaux Gackiere** is an art historian specialising in modern Japanese art and museums, pursuing her Master's in Japanese humanities at Kyushu University.

**Nicholas Davidge** is a Medieval Studies MA student at Royal Holloway, University of London. He volunteers in various heritage locations helping with collection-based work, exhibitions and research.

**Steven Hung** is a Master's degree student at the Graduate Institute of Museum Study (GIMS) at Taipei National University of the Arts, working on a dissertation that focuses on researching cinema and public history. He is also currently a specialist and editor in the Tamsui Culture Foundation, which is dedicated to the research of local history.

**Wareesha Shaikh** is a writer and cultural researcher, currently completing her undergraduate degree in Cultural Studies at the National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan.

## Programme

*Each speaker will have 30 minutes to present, followed by 30 minutes for questions to the panel.*

### Friday 1 September 2023

8.30-9.00 Registration

9.00-11.00 **Panel 1: Public histories of partitions and identity**  
Chair: Sarah Ansari

Curating community-led narratives around family history and Partition - through oral history and the role of public and private collections  
*Chandan Mahal*

1957 Kagmari Fair: 'Exhibiting' Subaltern Joy and Afro-Asian Love  
*Layli Uddin*

Weaving Resilience: Encountering Timor-Leste's National Identity  
*Akshatha Rangarajan*

11.00-11.30 Tea

mass politics. Her research reconstructs subaltern political thought and movements in the context of decolonisation, state-formation and the Cold War. Her broader interests are in liberation theologies and subaltern geopolitics in the Global South. She is on the advisory board project; and for Lokayoto Bidyaloy, a campaign and advocacy group in Bangladesh.

**Dr Mrinalini Venkateswaran** is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow in History at Royal Holloway, University of London. Her research connects museums and modern South Asian history, and has attracted prestigious grants and awards, including from the Cambridge Trust, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, and the J. N. Tata Endowment. She also has experience in the Indian museum sector since 2006 in a wide range of roles. Having served two terms on the Board of the Commonwealth Association of Museums she is currently an Advisor. She has been Museum Consultant to the MSMS II Museum since 2016.

**Dr Anguang Zheng** is an Associate Professor of the Department of History and deputy director of the Institute of International Studies, Nanjing University and Adjunct Professor at Johns Hopkins-Nanjing Center. He got a PhD of history in 2004 from Nanjing University. His academic interest and studying fields include: international history and relations in Asian-Pacific region. He published articles on journals including *World History*, *American Studies*, *Contemporary International Relations* and *International Political Studies*.

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*Theoretical Divergence* (Routledge 2022); and *Expanding the Parameters of Feminist Activism* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022).

## NOTES

**Akshatha Rangarajan** is a sculptor who graduated from Illinois State University, USA. She studied Asian Art Histories at LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore and attained her Master's degree in 2022. As an independent researcher, she has presented diverse concerns about Southeast Asian contemporary art histories at various international conferences.

**Mohona Tahsin Reza** is a PhD Candidate in the University of Edinburgh (ESALA). She received her bachelor's in architecture from BRAC University (2014) and a MSc in Architectural History and Theory from the University of Edinburgh (2017). Alongside her research, she is working as part-time lecturer in the University of Edinburgh and BRAC University.

**Dr Santhosh Kumar Sakhinala** is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History of Art, Kala Bhavana, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan. He holds a PhD from the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, and has worked on art institutions and pedagogy in twentieth-century Hyderabad

**Manu Sharma** is currently a PhD candidate at the Centre for International Politics, Organization, and Disarmament at the School of International Studies (CIPOD), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in New Delhi. His PhD thesis examines the visual iconography of postage stamps and its role in articulating a postcolonial national identity and state-building efforts in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. His research interests include visual politics, popular culture, Indian foreign policy and India-Pakistan relations.

**Dr Weipin Tsai** is a historian of modern China. Her principal interests are in China's modernisation and its engagement in globalisation from the 19th century, in particular the role of the foreign-run Chinese Maritime Customs Service, the Chinese Postal Service, and Chinese newspapers in the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries. Her latest monograph is *The Making of China's Post Office: Sovereignty, Modernization, and the Connection of a Nation* (forthcoming, Harvard University Press, 2023).

**Dr Layli Uddin** is a political and social historian of modern South Asia, bringing together interdisciplinary questions on religion, class and

11.30-13.30 **Panel 2: Exhibiting the South Asian Partition**

Chair: Lung-chih Chang

The Missing Museums of South Asia: Partition on Display in Pakistan

*Shaila Bhatti*

‘No Home But in Memory’: Framing Loss and Longing at the Partition Museum, Amritsar

*Sridhar Krishnan*

Museumising Partition: Apolitical Memorialisation of a Political Subject

*Bhanu Ghalot*

13.30-14.30 Lunch

14.30-17.00 **Panel 3: Comparing partitions in East and Southeast Asia**

Chair: Weipin Tsai

From “None more loyal” to “Love Macao, love China”: how religious exhibitions helped transform the identity of Macao’s Catholics during and after the resumption of Chinese administration

*Stephen Morgan*

history recordings, music, wildlife and all matter of sound. Chandan has worked in museums and archives for over twenty years, managing and developing education and community-led research programmes for diverse audiences.

**Rev’d Prof Stephen Morgan** has been Rector of the University of Saint Joseph since 2020, having been the Dean of the Faculty of Religious Studies there since 2018. Originally from Wales in the UK, he is an Associate Professor of Theology and Ecclesiastical History. His research interests are in theology, history and religious studies, with particular reference to Macao, China and East Asia. In October 2021, Catholic University of America Press published his *John Henry Newman and the Development of Doctrine*.

**Dr Stephen A. Murphy** is Pratapaditya Pal Senior Lecturer in Curating and Museology of Asian Art at SOAS, University of London. Prior to this he was Senior Curator for Southeast Asia at the Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore. He specializes in the art and archaeology of early Buddhism and Hinduism in Southeast Asia with a focus on Thailand and Laos. His museological focus engages with issues surrounding colonialism and repatriation with a particular focus on Thailand.

**Dr Alison Ohta** is the Director of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland. She completed her doctoral thesis at SOAS, University of London on bindings of the Mamluk period (1250-1516). She has lectured and published widely on the subject and her recent publications include ‘Looking inside the Book: Doublures of the Mamluk Period’ in *The Making of Islamic Art, Studies in Honour of Sheila Blair and Jonathan Bloom* (2021); ‘Mamluk Qur’ans: Splendour and Opulence of the Islamic Book’, *Proceedings of the Qur’an Symposium, December 2017* (forthcoming); and ‘The Hamadan Qur’an of *Öljaytū*: vestiges of a binding tradition’, *Studies in Honour of Barbara Brend, JRAS* (2022).

**Dr Kyunghhee Pyun** is associate professor of art history at the Fashion Institute of Technology, SUNY. Her scholarship focuses on history of collecting, reception of Asian art, diaspora of Asian artists, and Asian American visual culture. She wrote *Fashion, Identity, Power in Modern Asia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2018) and *Dress History in Korea: Critical Perspectives on Primary Sources* (Bloomsbury, 2023). She co-edited *Interpreting Modernism in Korean Art: Fluidity and Fragmentation* (Routledge 2021); *American Art from Asia: Artistic Praxis and*

## Biographies

## NOTES

**Dr Andrew Amstutz** is an Assistant Professor of History at Queens College, CUNY in New York. He teaches courses on South Asian history, museum studies, and public history. He received his PhD in South Asian history from Cornell University. He has published articles in "Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East" and "South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies." In 2021, he was a member (fellow) at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton.

**Prof Sarah Ansari** is a historian of South Asia, also known as the Indian subcontinent. Much of her research focuses on the province of Sindh and the mega port-city of Karachi, today found in Pakistan, and explores the issues of religion, migration, identity, citizenship and gender.

**Dr Shaila Bhatti** is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Cultural Studies at the National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan. Her academic interests span material and visual cultures of South Asia, colonial/postcolonial social and object histories and identities, as well as the politics of cultural representation. She is the author of *Translating Museums: A Counterhistory of South Asian Museology* published by Routledge.

**Bhanu Ghalot** is a historical researcher and a cultural practitioner. Her research and practice is rooted in the study of difficult histories of South Asia. She is currently heading a project on 1947 Partition for ReReeti Foundation, British Council and Glasgow Museums. As part of the project she has co-curated an immersive digital exhibition titled Un.Divided Identities: Lesser Known Stories of the Partition. She is also conducting workshops on the subject with schools across South Asia.

**Sridhar Krishnan** is currently in the final year of his PhD at the Department of International Relations (IR), South Asian University. His research interests have coalesced around issues pertaining to cultural politics and IR. He is currently working on how the Partition of 1947 has remained absent from public memory and the manner in which this amnesia manifests itself in curatorial spaces, especially in the Partition Museum in Amritsar, India.

**Dr Chandan Mahal** is currently the National Learning and Partnership Manager at the British Library for the Unlocking our Sound Heritage, a project with 10 regional Hub partners aimed to digitise and preserve over 300,00 rare and unique recordings that include oral

Exhibiting the Colony, Exhibiting the Nation: the case of  
Postwar Taiwan  
*Lung-chih Chang*

## ***NOTES***

Diamond Mountain in Post-Partition National Narratives:  
Landscape Paintings from North Korea  
*Kyunghee Pyun*

Collecting and Exhibiting the Straits Settlements and its  
Post-Colonial Legacies for the Nation States of Singapore,  
Malaysia and India  
*Stephen A. Murphy*

18.00      Dinner (The Beehive, Egham)

All conference delegates are welcome to dinner. Please  
sign up at the registration desk if you'd like to join in.



14.30-16.30 **Panel 5: Post-partition exhibitions and identity in South Asia**

Chair: Shaila Bhatti

**NOTES**

Incorporating Hyderabad into the Nation: The Diplomacy of Display in the Capital

*Santhosh Kumar Sakhinala*

Reclaiming the Sikh Empire for Independent India

*Mrinalini Venkateswaran*

Exhibiting Pakistan, Italian Style: Partition and the Exhibition of Buddhist Sculpture in Italian Museums

*Andrew Amstutz*

16.30-17.00 Tea

17.00-18.00 Conclusions and brainstorming led by Sarah Ansari and Edward Vickers

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18.30 Dinner (Egham)  
All at own expense.

**Saturday 2 September 2023**

***NOTES***

9.30-10.30 'Rethinking Asia: Tea and Tigers' presentation  
and discussion (led by Fellows present)

10.30-11.00 Tea

11.00-13.30 **Panel 4: Post-partition transitions in  
South and East Asia**  
Chair: Edward Vickers

From Imperial Frontier to Cold War Front Line: Visual  
Representations of Minorities in Southeast Asia  
*Anguang Zheng*

Partition at 75: Interrogating its 'Philatelic' History and  
futurity in South Asia  
*Manu Sharma*

A Message from Free China: Postal Transition in Post-War  
Taiwan  
*Weipin Tsai*

Nationalism and Architecture in Postcolonial Bangladesh,  
1947-1971  
*Mohona Tahsin Reza*

13.30-14.30 Lunch