GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE FOR SOUTH ASIAN RELIGIONS

5-6 OCTOBER, 2017 • UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Schedule
Day 1: UTM, Council Chambers
Davis Building DV3130

AM & REGISTRATION
7.30 - 8.30  Travel to UT Mississauga
8.30 - 8.55  Breakfast & meet and greet
9.00 - 9.10  Opening remarks

PANEL 1. SITES OF THE NUMINOUS:
TEXT, HOUSEHOLD, SHRINE

9.10 - 10.40
Discussant: Luther Obrock, University of Toronto
Moderator: Jonathan Peterson

- Michael Butcher, University of Washington (Asian Languages and Literature, Ph.D.): “Burining the Buddha: stūpas and bodily imagery in the Senior Collection”
- Durga Kale, University of Calgary (Department for Classics and Religion, Ph.D.): “Sati Stones in Western India: numinous objects in profane landscapes”

SHORT BREAK
10.40 - 10.50
PANEL 2. EARLY-CAREER RESEARCH
10.50 - 11.35
Discussant: Ajay Rao, University of Toronto
Moderator: Sukshmadarshi Maharaj

• Sakinaa Rizvi, University of Toronto (B.A.): “Wilayat-e Faqih: Islamic jurisprudence in perspective”
• Alif Shahed, University of Toronto (B.A.): “In Haste, Into the Waves: Incarnation of the River Goddess in Manik Bandopadhyay’s Padma Nadir Majhi”

COFFEE BREAK
11.35 - 11.45

PLENARY SESSION
ASPIRATIONS AND AGITATIONS FOR THE FUTURE BUDDHA IN THERAVĀDA SOURCES
KEYNOTE BY DR. KRISTIN SCHEIBLE
REED COLLEGE, OREGON
11.45 - 13.00

LUNCH
Catered lunch at UTM 13.00 - 14.00
Day 1: UTM, Council Chambers
Davis Building DV3130

PANEL 3. TEXT AND KNOWLEDGE-POWER IN MEDIEVAL AND EARLY-MODERN SOUTH ASIA

14.00 - 15.30
Discussant: Ajay Rao, University of Toronto
Moderator:

• Tanisha Chakma, Dalhousie University (Classics, M.A.): “Śravas Aḵṣitam: Indo-European Formula?”
• Madhusudan Rimal, University of Alberta (Department of History and Classics, Ph.D.): Core value of Ayurveda in Vāgbhaṭa’s Aṣṭāṅgahdayasamhitā’s (Heart of Medicine) First Chapter
• Manasicha Akepiyapornchai, Cornell University (Asian Literature, Religion, and Culture, Ph.D.): “Surrendering to God in Tamil: A Study based on Vedāntadeśika’s Mummanikkōvai”
• Nabanan Maitra, University of Chicago (Divinity School, Ph.D.): “Homo Vedicus: subjectivity in ritual and reading”

SHORT BREAK
15.30 - 15.35
Day 1: UTM, Council Chambers
Davis Building DV3130

PANEL 4. MEDIATING RELIGION: TEXT AND PRACTICE IN POPULAR TRADITIONS

15.35 - 16.50
Discussant: J. Barton Scott, University of Toronto
Moderator: Mirela Stosic

• Nabeel Jafri, University of Toronto (Department for the Study of Religion, M.A.): “Out with mourning, In with marja‘iyyat: Shifting ontologies of popular religious practice among Twelver Shi‘a of Pakistan”

• Marie-Josée Blanchard, Concordia University (Humanities, Centre for Sensory Studies, Ph.D.): “(Not so much) Dancing by the Book: mapping a new religious discourse around the practice of Indian classical dance”

• Gianni Sievers, University of Pennsylvania (South Asian Studies, Ph.D.): “Singing Gents with Turbans: Hazrat Inayat Khan and the Advent of Hindustani Music in the West, 1910-1932”

SHORT BREAK

16.50 - 17.00
Day 1: UTM, Council Chambers
Davis Building DV3130

PANEL 5. RELIGION AND THE NATION-STATE: IDENTITY AND SOVEREIGNTY

17.00 - 18.30
Discussant: Kristin Scheible, Reed College
Moderator: Nika Kuchuk

• Prabjot Singh, University of Alberta (Department of Political Science, Ph.D.): “Khalistan and Patshahi: Navigating Discourses of Sikh Sovereignty”
• Catherine de Guise, Université de Montréal (Department of Anthropology, M.A.): “Choosing Hinduism: the case of western ascetics in India”
• Krishantha Fedricks, University of Texas—Austin (Department of Anthropology, Ph.D.): “The Revival of Ravana in Post-War Sinhala Nationalist Discourse”
• Soorakkulame Pemaratana, University of Pittsburgh (Department of Religions Studies, Ph.D.): “Bringing The Buddha Closer: the role of venerating the Buddha in the modernization of Buddhism in Sri Lanka”

DINNER & PM

18.30 - 20.30 Dinner at The Host, Mississauga
20.30 - 21.00 Return travel to downtown Toronto
Day 2: UTSG, Jackman Humanities Building  
JHB 318-317

AM & COFFEE  
Breakfast 8.00 - 8.45

PANEL 6. THE OCCLUSION OF THE OCCULT IN SOUTH ASIAN ISLAM  
8.45 - 10.15  
Discussant: Karen Ruffle, University of Toronto  
Moderator: Adil Mawani

- Quinn Clark, Columbia University (Department of Religion,  
on Vow Prayers”  
- Jazmin Graves, University of Chicago (South Asian Languages  
and Civilizations, Ph.D.): “Spirit Mediumship in the Islamic  
Devotional Tradition of the Sidi (African-Indian) Ancestor-Saints in  
Western India”  
- Daniel Morgan, University of Chicago (South Asian Languages  
and Civilizations, Ph.D.): “Applied cosmology in late-Mughal  
Delhi: the case of Shāh Wali Allāh of Delhi”  
- Samantha Pellegro, University of Chicago (Divinity School,  
Ph.D.): “Gender, Islam, and the Fantastical in the Hamzanāma”

SHORT BREAK  
10.15 - 10.30
Day 2: UTSG, Jackman Humanities Building
JHB 318-317

PANEL 7. COMMUNITIES, COHESION, AND
FRAGMENTATION: RELIGION FROM A SOCIAL
PERSPECTIVE

10.30 - 12.00
Discussant: Malavika Kasturi, University of Toronto
Moderator: Shweta Banerjee

- Purna Roy, Concordia University (Department of Religion and
  Culture, Ph.D.): “Blurred Lines: an ethnographic study of
  contemporary pilgrim-tourist experiences at the Ramakrishna
  Mission’s Belur Math”
- Jonathan Peterson, University of Toronto (Department for the
  Study of Religion; Centre for South Asian Studies, Ph.D.):
  “Circumscribing Vaidika: ritual eligibility and the language of
  exclusion in early-modern religious polemic”
- Siddharth Sridhar, University of Texas—Austin (Asian Studies,
  caste uplift movement”
- Janaki Phillips, University of Michigan (Department of
  Anthropology, Ph.D.): “Ghostly Encounters in the Shimla Hills: an
  investigation of memory, colonialism, and the supernatural”

LUNCH

12.00 - 13.00 Catered lunch from the Afghan
Women’s Collective
Day 2: UTSG, Jackman Humanities Building
JHB 100

SPECIAL PANEL
COMMUNITY AND CONQUEST:
WRITING HISTORY IN TROUBLED TIMES
13.00 - 15.00

A roundtable discussion featuring

Shahid Amin, A.M. Khwaja Chair at Jamia Millia University, New Delhi; Visiting Professor of History, Columbia University
Rosalind O’Hanlon, University of Oxford
Natalie Zemon Davis, Emerita, Princeton University and University of Toronto

Moderated by
Malavika Kasturi, University of Toronto

SHORT RECEPTION
15.00 - 15.30
PANEL 8. RELIGIOUS REGISTERS OF POPULAR AND LITERARY DISCOURSE

15.30 - 17.00
Discussant: Srilata Raman, University of Toronto
Moderator: Alexander O’Neill

- Mariam Sabri, University of California—Berkeley (Department of History, Ph.D.): “Lifting the Veil Off the Hamzanama: marvelous storytelling and meaning-making in early-Mughal India”
- Kiran Sunar, University of British Columbia (Asian Studies, Ph.D.): “Like a Hair in the Butter:’ transformative logics and conversion in the literature of Bhai Vir Singh”
- Sukshmadarshi Maharaj, University of Toronto (Department for the Study of Religion, Ph.D.): “Kṣemendra and the Politics of Religious Satire”
- Krissy Roghan, University of Toronto (Department for the Study of Religion, Ph.D.): “Milestones and Divine Songs: Nineteenth Century Perspectives on the Tamil Shaiva Past”

SHORT BREAK

17.00 - 17.15
Day 2: UTSG, Jackman Humanities Building
JHB 100

PLENARY SESSION

WIVES, INTELLECTUALS, AND ASCETICS: THE BRAHMAN SCHOLAR HOUSEHOLD IN EARLY-MODERN INDIA

KEYNOTE BY DR. ROSALIND O’HANLON
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

17.15 - 18.30

RECEPTION

18.30-20.00

Join us for a final reception at JHB 318/317
catering by the Tempered Room