



## EASAS Newsletter Spring 2016

### 1. Release of new EASAS website – [easas.eu](http://www.easas.eu)

EASAS released its new designed website last year. You will find us at [www.easas.eu](http://www.easas.eu) as before.

**Members are encouraged to inform the EASAS office about relevant conferences related to South Asian Studies.** These will be announced at <http://www.easas.eu/events>.

### 2. Preparations on 24<sup>th</sup> European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS) in Warsaw, Poland, 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016

The preparations for the 24<sup>th</sup> European Conference on South Asian Studies in Warsaw are in full swing. We are happy to inform you that the 24<sup>th</sup> ECSAS' keynote speaker will be Sumit Guha, Professor of History at the University of Texas in Austin, the author of the highly acclaimed book *Beyond Caste Identity and Power in South Asia, Past and Present* (for more about Professor Guha please see [here](#)). Over 480 papers in [49 panels](#) have been accepted, promising a big event in Warsaw. Especially with these numbers, the main preoccupation of the Organising Committee now is to raise enough funds to facilitate large participation from South Asia and Central & Eastern Europe in all the panels.

**Early registration is now open and will continue until 4 May 2016.** All payments for the Warsaw conference are due to be paid in PLN – Polish zloty. The registration fee rates are as follows:

**Full membership: early registration 620 PLN** increased later to 700 PLN

**Student: early registration 360 PLN** increased later to 450 PLN

We look forward to meet you in Warsaw in summer 2016! For more details please consult the [conference website](#). If you have any queries, please contact [ecsas2016@nomadit.co.uk](mailto:ecsas2016@nomadit.co.uk).

#### 2.a. EASAS Research Student Awards

One of the stated aims of the European Association for South Asian Studies is to encourage and support young scholars working in the field of South Asian Studies. In pursuit of this aim, the Association is offering awards linked to its biennial conference. Awards are to be made for the most outstanding papers by currently registered research students presenting at the conference. At the 24<sup>th</sup> EASAS conference in Warsaw, up to three awards of €300 each will be made. All current PhD students fully registered and presenting at the conference may submit their paper for consideration. The submitted papers will be considered by a panel of judges selected by the EASAS Council. It is hoped that by offering three Awards, the competition will reflect the full range of disciplines represented at the conference.

## Details

### Submission criteria:

- Authors must be currently registered PhD students.
- Papers must be delivered at the conference.
- Papers must be written in English.
- Papers must be a full and complete (including references and bibliography).
- Papers must be in the range 6000 to 8000 words.
- Papers must include an abstract up to 200 words.
- Papers must be submitted by email to [anne.schnellen\\_easas@gmx.de](mailto:anne.schnellen_easas@gmx.de) by 30 June 2016.
- Please include the subject line 'EASAS Research Student Awards' in your email.

### Assessment criteria:

- The papers will be assessed in terms of their contribution to the field, the quality of their research data, and their ability to convey ideas and arguments clearly and effectively.
- After these primary considerations have been taken into account, the panel will hope to make awards that reflect the full range of disciplines represented at the conference.
- A named panel of judges will assess the qualities of the papers under consideration.
- The awards will be made on the basis of the written paper, not its presentation (although the paper must be presented at the conference).

## 2.b. SAMAJ-EASAS special issues

The call for proposals for the fifth and sixth SAMAJ-EASAS special issues is now open. If you are organising a panel at the 24<sup>th</sup> ECSAS in Warsaw, your panel papers and an introduction to the special issue have to be submitted to SAMAJ-EASAS by 31 August 2016. Please email [anne.schnellen\\_easas@gmx.de](mailto:anne.schnellen_easas@gmx.de) to let the Council know if you wish to have papers from your panel considered for publication and include the subject line 'SAMAJ-EASAS special issues 5 and 6' in your email.

## 3. EASAS Academic Workshop on "*Opening up Intimate Spaces: Women's Writing and Autobiography in India*"

at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland, 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> May 2016

The workshop will focus on Indian women's writing in India. Most studies of India have tended to focus on the public and the political spheres, seeing them entirely in masculine terms. The fact of women's much lower literacy levels, their containment within ideologies of femininity and domesticity, compounded by the deafening silence of the imperial archive on women's experiences have led to the relegation of women's writing to the margins of mainstream Indian history. This workshop follows an important shift in studies of Indian history towards a reappraisal of women's role in the making of pre-modern and modern India by focusing on their writing about their own lives.

**Contact person:** Dr. Monika Browarczyk, Adam Mickiewicz University ([monikabr@amu.edu.pl](mailto:monikabr@amu.edu.pl))

Workshop website: <https://womenswritingandautobiography.wordpress.com>

#### **4. Results of Call for Academic Workshop Proposals, Autumn 2015**

The EASAS Council has decided to fund two more Academic Workshops in 2016. These will be:

***"South Asian Apparel Workers in the Post-Rana Plaza World: Worker Health Beyond the Factory Floor"*, University of Edinburgh, UK, in June/July 2016**

The Academic Workshop has the purpose of developing a new research project that aims to extend academic debates around health and safety to make worker health the focal point. The organizers hope to look at the origins and trajectories of worker health problems. The workshop aims to follow garment workers' longer-term health and employment choices by tracing their lives outside the factory and after factory employment. This may help illuminate how employment in the apparel sector affects later employment choices, labor and social mobility of workers. In so doing, the workshop intends to help to trace how laboring for the garment sector has shaped life trajectories in ways that are either beneficial or disadvantageous to workers' health.

**Contact Person:** Dr. Kanchana Ruwanpura, University of Edinburgh ([kanchana.ruwanpura@ed.ac.uk](mailto:kanchana.ruwanpura@ed.ac.uk))

***"Potent Substances' between Asia and Europe. Redefining materia medica in Tibetan and Himalayan Medicine and Buddhist Ritual"*, University of Vienna, Austria, 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> September 2016**

The Academic Workshop will bring together local experts and an interdisciplinary academic team in Vienna to think through the key theoretical and methodological issues of a draft proposal for a planned 3 year research project on potent substances in Asia materia medica, with fieldwork in India and Bhutan (to be submitted to the Wellcome Trust in 2016). It shall be examined how medical and ritual substances are identified and categorised in Tibetan traditions, as well as possible impacts on their "potency" within recent EU pharmaceutical regulations (e.g. Directive 2004/24/EC). The key topics of discussion are: 1) issues of identification, equivalence, and correspondence between Tibetan medical, ritual, and modern pharmaceutical taxonomies of potent substances, to open up innovative avenues in research methodology, 2) the effect of EU regulations on Tibetan materia medica sourced and compounded by PADMA AG, the only pharmaceutical company in Europe producing Tibetan multi compound formulas legally for the European market, and 3) possible theoretical frameworks to approach the materiality of these potent substances). The objective is to debate socio-historical, ethnobotanical, anthropological, ritual, and contemporary legal aspects that shape the materiality and identification of potent substances across Asia and Europe.

**Contact Person:** Dr. Barbara Gerke, University of Vienna ([barbara.gerke@univie.ac.at](mailto:barbara.gerke@univie.ac.at))

#### **5. Call for Papers – 10<sup>th</sup> European PhD Workshop in South Asian Studies, Lisbon, 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

The Center for International Studies (CEI), ISCTE University Institute of Lisbon will host the 10<sup>th</sup> European PhD Workshop in South Asian Studies in Lisbon, on 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June 2016. This is EASAS annual workshop, which aims at giving PhD students the opportunity to discuss their thesis with fellow candidates and senior scholars who work on South Asia. The students who want attend the workshop must be in their 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year. The Center for International Studies and EASAS will provide accommodation and board at [Inatel Oeiras](#), an inspiring resort by the Tagus, 20 minutes away from Lisbon by train. At the conference, the PhD researchers are to share rooms with another participant, as is usually the case at EASAS PhD workshops. For more information please see the separate Call for Papers on [easas.eu](http://easas.eu).