



European Association for South Asian Studies

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

## EASAS Newsletter Winter 2013-14

### 1) EASAS-SAMAJ collaboration and call for papers

The Council is very pleased to announce that the annual SAMAJ-EASAS special issue for 2013 has just been published. The issue can be accessed at <http://samaj.revues.org/3644>. It is entitled 'Delhi's Margins: Negotiating Changing Spaces, Identities and Governmentalities', and it is based on a panel organised by Dr Radhika Govinda, University of Edinburgh, at the Lisbon ECSAS. Another set of papers is being processed for the second SAMAJ-EASAS special issue, for publication in 2014.

The call for proposals for the third and fourth SAMAJ-EASAS special issues is now open. If you are organising a panel at the 23<sup>rd</sup> ECSAS in Zurich, your panel papers and an introduction to the special issue have to be submitted to SAMAJ-EASAS by 31 August 2014. ***For a pre-selection, SAMAJ-EASAS invites you to submit a one-page concept note, with a list of potential contributors and abstracts for their papers by 31 March 2014.***

### 2) 23<sup>rd</sup> European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS) 23-26 July 2014 – Update

On 15 June 2013, the Steering Committee at the University of Zurich in Switzerland selected 51 panels (out of 95 proposals), focusing on a wide range of topics. As usual, the committee attempted to include panels from the full range of disciplines covered by EASAS, as well as some cross-disciplinary panels; to ensure that all countries from South Asia are represented; and to give opportunities to early career scholars as well as those with more established positions based in Europe. The full list can be found <http://www.nomadit.co.uk/easas/ecsas2014/panels.php5>.



Figure 1: Zurich University Campus

ECSAS is a convenors' conference: all papers have to be part of an approved panel. All decisions about paper proposals are in the hands of the panel convenors. The deadline for submission of paper proposals to panel convenors was 15 October 2013 and 585 paper proposals were submitted, 477 papers were accepted by the panel convenors, 60 rejected and 48 papers were marked for transfer. All in all, 137 sessions are planned i.e. 11-12 parallel sessions.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> ECSAS is hosted by the Department of Geography and the University Research Priority Program (URPP) Asia and Europe, both at the University of Zurich. Conference convenors are Prof. Dr. Ulrike Müller-Böker, Department of Geography, and Prof. Dr. Angelika Malinar, Department of Indology. Conference registration is now open, with details of the timetable: Full information about the 2014 EASAS conference is at <http://www.nomadit.co.uk/easas/ecsas2014/>.

### 3) 24<sup>th</sup> ECSAS (2016) in Warsaw

Planning is well under way for the 24<sup>th</sup> conference, to be held in July 2016. As soon as dates are finalised they will be put up on the EASAS web-page.



Figure 2: Warsaw University

### 4) Call for Conference Organisation of the 25<sup>th</sup> ECSAS (2018)

Now is your chance to bid to host ECSAS 2018. Please submit your bids to the EASAS contact by 31 March 2014. For more information, or to discuss your bid in advance, please contact the office-bearers via the EASAS contact link at <http://www.easas.org/contact>.

### 5) News from EASAS

*Implementation of the new administrative arrangement for membership of EASAS:* Since March, NomadIT has been responsible for maintaining the membership lists and sending out invoices on behalf of EASAS. After some teething troubles had been resolved, the system went live in June, and reminder invoices have been sent out to members who had allowed their membership for 2013 to lapse. Please note that panel convenors and paper presenters at the 23rd ECSAS must be members of EASAS through 2013 and 2014. Non-members cannot attend the conference. It is easy to join EASAS through the following link: [www.easas.org/Becomeamember](http://www.easas.org/Becomeamember).

*Changes in office-bearers:* In April, the Council accepted the resignation of Prof. Dr. Ulrike Müller-Böker as Treasurer. Following the procedures laid down in the Constitution, the Council then requested its own members to consider being interim Treasurer until the 2014 General Meeting, when a new Treasurer must be elected by the full membership. Dr Heinz Werner Wessler is EASAS' new Treasurer.

In July, the Tax and Revenue Office *renewed EASAS' charitable status*.

## 6) European South Asia PhD workshop: Amsterdam 26-27 September 2013



*Figure 3: Participants in EASAS PhD workshop*

The 7th European South Asia Workshop was organized successfully by the University of Amsterdam and held at the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam with financial support from EASAS. 15 PhD students and 6 staff members from five institutes in Europe travelled to Amsterdam to participate in the workshop: CEIAS (Paris, France), University of Heidelberg (Germany), Lund University (Sweden), University of Edinburgh (Scotland, UK) and University of Amsterdam (Netherlands).

Each PhD student was assigned someone else's paper to present and discuss, and each of the staff participants discussed two to three papers, resulting in high quality and lively discussions. The common themes were issues of state and class, the environment, civil society/state relationships, agency and governance. The participants of the workshop came from a wide variety of disciplinary fields, including human geography, anthropology, sociology and economics. The research projects discussed included work on North and South India, and on Pakistan, Sri Lanka and diasporic communities in the U.K.

Feedback on the workshop from the participants was very positive. Participants liked the variety of topics, the time for discussion, and the requirement to summarize the work of someone else and having one's own paper summarized by someone else. The papers presented were in different stages of development, which made for a greater variety of feedback. In addition to the intellectual benefits, the workshop helped to overcome the isolated nature in which PhD students often write their dissertation, and it provided opportunities for networking. Participants gained much energy and inspiration from the workshop and everybody agreed that the event is very beneficial to the writing process. The participants were strongly in favour of a further meeting in 2014.