

# KHABAR

VOLUME 18, NO. 1 FALL 2007

## ONE HUNDRED AND ONE YEARS OF SANSKRIT AT BERKELEY

In the millennia old history of Sanskrit, a hundred years is but a fleeting moment. For Berkeley it is an epoch. The ancient, classical language of Sanskrit is alive and thriving in Berkeley. This year marks 101 years since the launch of Sanskrit studies at UC Berkeley.

The early beginnings of Sanskrit at UC Berkeley can be traced as far back as the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when Professor Benjamin Ide Wheeler arrived on the scene to serve as the Chancellor of the young University. Wheeler, a linguist and student of the Classics, had undoubtedly studied Sanskrit at Heidelberg during his student days and, as far as one can tell, began to offer instruction in it informally as early as 1897. However, the official history of Sanskrit in the Berkeley curriculum must be dated to January of 1906 when Arthur W. Ryder was appointed Professor of Classics and began to teach Sanskrit along with his other duties. He taught here until his death in 1938.

Though Sanskrit had been offered since 1897, with Ryder's arrival the courses were expanded into a full program for Sanskrit language and literature. Ryder was a pioneering and dynamic promoter of Sanskrit studies not only in

Berkeley but in the U.S. as well. Ryder translated many Sanskrit works including "Little Clay Cart," "Shakuntala," and the "Cloud Messenger." In describing Arthur Ryder, one Italian Sanskritist said "Ten men like him would make a civilization." "The Little Clay Cart" (*Mrcchakatika*) was anything but little. Attributed to King Shudraka of India, this ten-act Hindu epic

was first staged around the year 600 in its original Sanskrit. Thirteen hundred years later, the play finally found its way to the California coast and UC Berkeley's



Arthur W. Ryder,  
Professor of Classics from  
1906-1938



Shakuntala (r) and King Dushantya (l) from the 1914 UC Berkeley production of *Shakuntala*.  
Courtesy of University Archives, The Bancroft Library, University of California, Berkeley

Greek Theater. There, in 1907 it became the first major production of a Sanskrit or indeed any Indian drama on U.S. soil. The text for the performance came from Ryder's own 1905 translation for the Harvard Oriental Series.

Photographs show off the production's sumptuous costumes, which reflect the era's Orientalist fascination with the cultural exotica of Asia. The elaborate sets displayed the interiors and exteriors of buildings simultaneously, an avant-garde innovation to American audiences still accustomed to the realist conventions of Victorian drama. In the final act, throngs of revelers, a troupe of dancing girls, a Brahmin priest, and an executioner were all upstaged by the appearance of two live zebras and two live elephants!

The next Sanskrit epic appeared at the Greek in 1914. Ryder's translation of *Shakuntala* was the text for a performance that included bear cubs, a fawn, peacocks, and an onstage lotus pool with two real waterfalls. This show was anticipated throughout the state, as evidenced by a preview in the Los Angeles Times.

Ryder translated *Shakuntala* into English from Kalidasa's Sanskrit original and then created an "acting version" in collaboration with Garnet Holme. The production was staged at the Greek Theater in Berkeley in 1914.

Perhaps Ryder's best known student was the famous Physicist and "Father of the Atom Bomb" J. Robert Oppenheimer. Already as an undergraduate at Harvard, Oppenheimer was conversant with classical Sanskrit literature. In 1933 Oppenheimer began taking lessons from Professor Ryder, who had translated the *Gita*, and studied the *Gita* with him. He later called the *Gita* the most beautiful philosophical song existing in any known tongue and quoted from it at singular, extraordinary moments. Thus, as is well known, upon witnessing the Trinity fireball in August 1945, Oppenheimer later claimed that the line from the *Gita* "I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds" burst in his consciousness. Undoubtedly, Oppenheimer's affinity to the *Gita* and its philosophy played a role in shaping his views and actions.

(cont'd p. 3)

## A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

by Raka Ray

**D**ear Colleagues and Friends,  
I write as the Fall semester is in full swing, on a bright and beautiful Berkeley November afternoon.

Spring 2007 saw us celebrating 101 years of Sanskrit at Berkeley with a panel discussion that showcased both the depth and breadth of Sanskrit teaching at Berkeley over the past century. From Arthur Ryder's first classes in 1906 to Robert Goldman's classes today, the Sanskrit program in Berkeley remains one of the best in the US, if not the world.

CSAS has entered into a new era of community partnerships. This spring, we worked with the Foundation for Democratic Reforms in India to create a highly successful and acclaimed conference on Governance and Empowerment in India. The conference was attended by the Union Minister of Panchayat Affairs, Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar, and several other politicians, journalists, NGO activists and scholars. With this conference we inaugurate an annual series on Indian Democracy at Berkeley.

Other major events include the third annual Tamil Conference, a film series featuring some of India's finest women documentary film makers, and the Amrit Kaur Ahluwalia Memorial Grant Program celebration where student recipients of the grant presented their work to both the academic and the Sikh community of Berkeley and the Bay Area. In the summer, we welcomed R. Gopalakrishnan of Tata as well as Rajeev Lochan, Director of the National Gallery of Modern Art in Delhi. The fall began with a film retrospective (with the Pacific Film Archives) of Shyam Benegal films and talks by Sudha Murty, Chairperson of Infosys Foundation, poet, scholar and archivist, Khwaja Ahmed Salim, and Siddharth Vardarajan, Associate Editor of *The Hindu*.

This fall, we are particularly pleased to be able to launch two new classes. The Indian Diaspora in Silicon Valley, taught by popular instructor Darren Zook, turns a sociological eye on the Indian entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley. This innovative course, which will result in a documentary and the beginning of an archive of this particular generation of Indian immigrants, has been made possible by the generosity of Narpat and Chandra Bhandari. We have also launched our first Telugu course which has been made possible by the enthusiasm and generosity of the Telugu community. As of today, we are proud to offer on an annual basis, Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Bengali, and a total of 38 South Asia related courses this semester alone.

CSAS is proud to announce the establishment of two new scholarship funds, the Hart Family Graduate Student Support Fund for Tamil Studies and the Padmanabh S. Jaini Graduate Student Award in Buddhist Studies. Both were established with the generous contributions of eminent UCB faculty, George and Kausalya Hart and Padmanabh S. Jaini. We, and especially our graduate students, are indeed grateful for their support.

We also launched the CSAS Faculty & Student Colloquia in which students and faculty will get together once a month to discuss work in progress, thus providing a regular opportunity for intellectual exchange.

Some goodbyes: The legendary teacher of Hindi, Usha Jain retired in the Spring. It is hard for us to fully grasp the impact Ushaji's dedication to teaching Hindi has had. Because of her there are new generations of Hindi speakers, some of whom have gone on to become scholars of Hindi, or PhD scholars in various fields; others who have gone on to become NGO activists or non-profit workers in India, and others are simply able to communicate with their grandparents for the first time. Thank you Usha-ji, from all of us at Berkeley.

We also bid Program Director, Mark Elson a fond farewell. He worked at the Center for over four years—starting as a Program Representative and then becoming the Director of Programs. We will miss his warmth, engagement and generosity of spirit. Mark leaves UC Berkeley to join a healthcare consulting company in San Francisco as a Proposal Manager. In his new position he will coordinate the production of proposals for large government contracts and other new business. We wish him all the best in his new career.

We begin this fall with a whole new staff. I am delighted to welcome our Vice-Chair, Sanchita Saxena; Program Representative, Puneeta Kala; Finance Assistant, Max Jacobs; and Program Assistant, Veena Hampapur.

As always, we look forward to seeing you at our events and in the Center. Please check our new website: [ias.berkeley.edu/southasia/](http://ias.berkeley.edu/southasia/) for lists of events, conferences and other South Asia related activities.

*I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you over the last year, and hope to continue to work with all of you in the years to come. You are all an important part of the CSAS community, and it is your continued support that has made the Center flourish. If you have any ideas for programs or would like to chat about giving opportunities, please do drop by the Center or give me a call. Wish you all a very happy, healthy, and productive 2008!"*



Clockwise from left: Center Staffers Kishan Barot, Puneeta Kala, Veena Hampapur, Max Jacobs, Sanchita Saxena, and Raka Ray

**SANCHITA SAXENA** received her Ph.D. in Political Science (focus on Comparative Political Economy) from UCLA. Sanchita has taught courses in Comparative Politics and on the Politics of Developing Countries at UCLA, UC Davis, and the University of San Francisco. Prior to joining CSAS, Sanchita was the Assistant Director of Economic Programs at the Asia Foundation, where she was responsible for designing and implementing programs to stimulate private sector growth in 18 countries throughout Asia. Sanchita's current research focuses on the effects of trade liberalization in garments and textiles on smaller South Asian countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

**PUNEETA KALA** joined as Program Representative. She is an East Asianist who specialized in Japanese studies. She holds one M.Phil and three M.A. degrees with the most recent from Harvard University. She has taught courses on comparative religion at Harvard, the University of Vermont and the University of San Francisco and has been involved in a number of programming and fundraising initiatives at Harvard and elsewhere.

**MAX JACOBS** joined the Center as the Finance Assistant. He completed his B.A. in Political Science at UC Berkeley this past May. Max looks forward to working with the Center community.

**VEENA HAMPAPUR** returned to the Center as the Program Assistant. She received a B.A. in Anthropology from UC Berkeley in 2006 and spent the last year teaching at an under-resourced school in New Mexico. Veena is excited about our upcoming events and looks forward to seeing you there.

**KISHAN BAROT** is the Center's Technical Assistant. He received his B.A. in History and South Asia Studies in May 2007. Lately, he has been involved in creating a new website for the Center.

Regards,  
Sanchita Saxena, Vice Chair

## SANSKRIT AT BERKELEY

(from p. 1)

The somewhat eccentric Professor Ryder figured in fictional form in Anthony Boucher's 1937 mystery, *The Case of the Seven of Calvary*, featuring International House residents and a professor-turned gumshoe Professor Ashwin (Sanskrit for Horseman i.e. Rider).

With the death of Ryder, and after a gap of two years, Professor Murray Barnson Emeneau was hired in the Department of Classics at Berkeley, where he arrived in 1940 as an assistant professor of Sanskrit and general linguistics. Emeneau wrote some 21 books in all, over 100 articles, and nearly 100 reviews. He contributed to many areas of linguistics and allied disciplines, but it seems right

to single out two fields he helped create: the study of the minority Dravidian languages of India and the study of what he called "language areas".

Professor Emeneau trained many students, the best known of whom is Dr. R.K. Sharma, the founder and first Vice Chancellor of

the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, an organ of the Government of India.

The 1960's and 1970's brought a period of great development of Sanskrit Studies at Berkeley. In 1973 under the leadership of J. Frits Staal, Professor of Sanskrit and Philosophy, the Department of South and Southeast Asian Languages and Literatures (later changed to the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies) was founded. In it were housed the Sanskrit epic scholar and linguist, Professor B.A. van Nooten, Professor of Buddhist Studies, P. S. Jaini, and Professor of Sanskrit and India Studies, Robert P. Goldman. The latter with his wife and colleague, Dr. Sally J. Sutherland Goldman and Professor of Buddhist Studies, Alexander von Rospatt now constitute the core of the program which, we hope will continue to develop and keep knowledge of this precious linguistic heritage of India alive at Berkeley into the new century.

[Report written with the help of Professor Robert Goldman and Dr. Kristi Wiley, South and Southeast Asian Studies, UC Berkeley]

## THE RAMAYANA AT BERKELEY

Valmiki's Ramayana, one of the most popular and influential works of poetic and religious literature ever composed, has been the subject of a quarter-century-long translation project at UC Berkeley. The project, titled the Valmiki Ramayana Translation Project, was started at Berkeley in the mid 1970's and is being carried out by an international consortium of Sanskrit scholars under the direction of Professors Robert and Sally Goldman. The Project has as its goal the production of a complete, accurate and readable English translation of the critical edition of the Valmiki Ramayana. The critical edition, prepared over a period of fifteen years by scholars at the Oriental Institute of Baroda, represents a scientifically reconstructed text of the great epic based on dozens of manuscripts in all scripts and from all regions of the Indian subcontinent. It has thus been a major contribution to scholarship in all fields concerned with early Indian literature, art, religion and society.

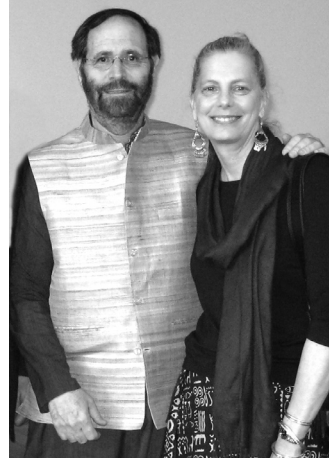
The project took as its mission not only a translation of the critically reconstructed text of the epic but a copious scholarly introduction and a dense annotation of

so-called "vulgate" versions of the poem, which are widely known and important to its traditional audiences, as well as a running commentary on more than half a dozen earlier translations of the various recensions of the work in European languages.

The design of the Project called for the serial publication of the translation as each of the seven *kandas*, or books, of the poem was completed. The project was taken up by the Princeton University Press as the flagship work in its series, the Princeton Library of Asian Translations.

The first volume, the *Balakanda*, translated by Robert Goldman, appeared in print in 1984 and was followed in 1986 by the *Ayodhyakanda* (Sheldon Pollock), in 1991 by the *Aranjakanda* (Sheldon Pollock), in 1994 by the *Kishkindhakanda* (Rosalind Lefebvre), and in 1996 by the *Sundarakanda* (Robert and Sally Goldman).

The sixth and by far the largest book of the epic, the *Yuddhakanda*, translated and annotated by Robert and Sally Goldman and B.A. van Nooten, and running to more than 2,600 pages in manuscript, is shortly to go into proofs and is expected



Professors Robert P. Goldman and Sally J. Sutherland-Goldman

*Sanskrit is not the dead and obsolete language of a glorious Indian past that has long vanished and is of no contemporary relevance. By contrast, Sanskrit continues to be of crucial importance for engaging with aspects of Indian culture and civilization that continue to matter also today. To give an example, Sanskrit is, together with closely related forms of early Middle Indic languages, such as Pali, the principle language of Indian Buddhist literature. As such, it is of key importance in our attempts to engage with this world religion, which is not only home to large parts of Asia, but which is – often without being properly understood – becoming ever more present also in the west.*

*Alexander von Rospatt  
Chair, Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies*

each of the poem's seven books. One innovation concerning the annotation is that it is informed by a close reading of the extensive and highly influential medieval body of Sanskrit language commentary on the text produced from the 12th to the 19th century. No previous translation has brought forth the indigenous scholarship on the poem which has had a major impact on the theological and literary reception of the work. In addition, the annotation, while dealing with every narrative, textual and interpretive problem presented by the critically established text also provides a translation and annotation of the numerous passages in the

to appear in 2008. The translation and annotation of the epic's seventh and final book, the *Uttarakanda*, has already been begun by Robert and Sally Goldman.

The series has received a very cordial reception on the part of scholarly and general audiences alike. *The Sundarakanda* was named as one of the one hundred best books of the year by the Los Angeles Times Book Review in 1997 and the series has been taken up for reprinting by the Clay Sanskrit Library (New York University Press) and Messrs. Motilal Banarsidas, New Delhi each of which have republished the first five volumes to date.

## CONFERENCE ON DEMOCRACY IN INDIA

The first in a series of annual seminars on Indian democracy was held at Berkeley on May 24-25, attended by a host of Indian dignitaries, including Union ministers, Mani Shankar Aiyar, Jaipal Reddy; former Chief Minister of MP, Digvijay Singh; Kerala finance minister, Thomas Isaac; Infosys CEO, Kris Gopalakrishnan; well-known media personalities Chandan Mitra and Kalpana Sharma; NGO activists Arvind Kejriwal, Ramesh Ramanathan and Jayaprakash Narayan; constitutional lawyer, Rajeev Dhavan; as well as prominent Berkeley academics. The seminar titled "Indian Democracy: Local Governance and Empowerment" was hosted by the Center for South Asia Studies at UC Berkeley and the Foundation for Democratic Reform in India (FDRI), a Silicon Valley based non-

profit organization dedicated to the study of the democratic and constitutional institutions of India.

In addition to noting the sheer magnitude of what India had managed to achieve and sustain regarding development of democratic institutions, local governance and empowerment, the conference highlighted the obstacles that stood in the way of achieving higher levels of accountability, lower levels of corruption and more effective governance, as well as broader challenges facing Indian democracy. In particular, the role of Centre-state relations and fiscal constraints on devolution, as well as the strains brought about by increasing inequality were noted by participants.

The panel on rural governance raised the issue of the sheer numbers of elected officials in local government in India, compared the effectiveness of local governance structures across Indian states as well as the different experiences of male and female panchayat members, and members of scheduled castes and tribes.

The panel on urban governance discussed the limitations of the present structure of urban governance, the need for another tier of professional governance in cities, the relationship between the bureaucracy and local self-government institutions, and expressed a concern that new forms of urban politics

based on consumer-citizens not exclude the poor.

The panel on empowerment catalysts debated the role of the rising importance of the vernacular press in ensuring local accountability. It also discussed the role of legal and cultural institutions in ensuring democratic and just outcomes for individuals and communities.

In closing, panelists debated the relationship between political participation and good governance, improvement of program design to ensure the best possible outcomes involving the largest possible numbers of people, the transfer of knowledge about best practices from other parts of the world and finally, how to rank the states on an index of good governance.

[Graduate students Vasundhara Sirmate and Adnan Naseemullah of the Dept. of Political Science contributed to this report.]



Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Mani Shankar Aiyar  
Photo: Kishan Barot, CSAS  
Technical Assistant



### Support the Center for South Asia Studies

The Friends of CSAS Fund strengthens CSAS by supporting events and research not covered by our federal National Resource Center Award. The Fund provides the faculty director with resources to support various Center priorities, such as:

- Fund student summer research projects in South Asia
- Provide scholarships to students from South Asia to attend graduate programs at UC Berkeley
- Support visiting scholars from South Asia to give talks at UC Berkeley and interact with faculty and students
- Host performances and speakers of interest to the wider Bay Area community
- Develop web based South Asian language materials for instruction

We welcome major gifts that permanently endow student summer research grants or annual lectures, as well as those that focus on a specific CSAS program or initiative, including:

#### • Berkeley India Initiative

The BII provides opportunities to support research and programmatic development, and collaboration with major Indian institutions under the broad themes of Contemporary India (focusing on India's democracy and emerging economy) and Arts and Culture of India (focusing on the fine arts, music, and theater)

#### • Support for South Asian Language Instruction

##### 1) Berkeley Bengali Studies Initiative:

The Bengali Studies Initiative helps to support the cultivation and development of Bengali literature, humanities, performance

and social science outside of India. This initiative seeks to teach the Bengali language at all levels, create new and innovative materials to enhance the study of Bengali, and create a forum for intellectual and cultural exchanges with West Bengal and Bangladesh.

##### 2) Berkeley Telugu Initiative:

This Initiative will support instruction in Telugu language and literature at Berkeley on a permanent basis. The object is to ensure that the Telugu language and its rich heritage are studied by future generations of scholars from all backgrounds, improve business relationships with Andhra Pradesh, and create new and innovative materials to enhance the study of Telugu.

##### • Pakistan Studies at UC Berkeley

CSAS will initiate a campaign to broaden and deepen Pakistan Studies at Berkeley. Our first priorities will be to financially strengthen the Urdu program, raise funds for graduate fellowships (and thereby training the next generation of scholars of Pakistan), and initiate an annual lecture series by prominent scholars working on Pakistan. We also wish to extend our Pakistan-specific programming to engage growing academic and community-based interest in the study of culture, religion, and politics.

Donors will be listed in our newsletter and on our website.

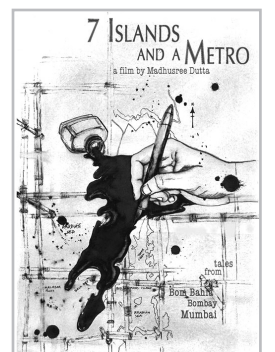
For more information please contact CSAS Vice Chair, Sanchita Saxena at [sanchitas@berkeley.edu](mailto:sanchitas@berkeley.edu)

## IMAGINING THE CITY: 3 FILMS ON MUMBAI

Three award winning documentary film-makers presented their films in Berkeley, this year. Directors Anjali Monteiro and K.P. Jayasankar screened *Saacha* (The Loom) and *Naata* (The Bond) and Madhusree Dutta screened her non-fiction feature, *Seven Islands and a Metro*. All three films explored the strategies adopted and the dilemmas faced by the filmmakers in representing the complexities of Mumbai.

K.P. Jayasankar and UC Berkeley Fulbright visiting lecturer, Anjali Monteiro are professors at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai. They are involved in media production, teaching, and research. Their films

have been screened in film festivals worldwide, and they have won thirteen national and international awards for their work. Madhusree Dutta is an alumnus of the National School of Drama, India and has been making non-fiction films since 1993. Her work focuses on issues of gender, identity and marginalization. Dutta is the executive director of Majlis, a center involved with initiating multicultural projects in Mumbai, campaigning for youth cultural literacy, mobilizing artists around contemporary issues and producing plays, films and multidisciplinary art works. Dutta has received several citizens' honors including the Salaam Mumbai award, Bharat Nirman award and Stree Shakti Sanman.



## AN AFTERNOON WITH RAJEEV LOCHAN



The Arts component of the UC Berkeley India initiative was launched this summer with a talk by Rajeev Lochan, Director of the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi, at the Aicon Gallery in Palo Alto. Professor Lochan described the diversity in Modern and Contemporary Indian art. Supplementing his discussion with slides, he led the audience through a 150-year long visual journey of the evolution of the Indian pictorial language and its transposition to contemporary art practices. The audience included a wide range of deeply interested connoisseurs of Indian art including eminent art historian of U.C. Berkeley, Prof. Joanna Williams and collector, Mr. Sridar Iyengar just to name a few.

## “PALAM” (“BRIDGES”): THIRD ANNUAL U.C. BERKELEY TAMIL CONFERENCE

On April 21 and 22, 2007, CSAS and the U.C. Berkeley Tamil Chair, along with the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, hosted the third annual U.C. Berkeley Tamil Conference on “Palam” or “Bridges”. This conference brought together scholars from various disciplines to look at the relationships of history, language, literature, politics and religion between Tamil Nadu and other regions in order to understand Tamil culture not as an isolated phenomenon, but in relation to other cultures, from Andhra Pradesh to ancient Rome. The conference began with a roundtable discussion on translating classical Tamil poetry, with graduate students from around the country sharing their original translations (see back page). The next day, faculty and graduate students from over ten universities participated in a day of panels that drew a diverse audience from both the university and the Bay Area Tamil community. A close reading of a Malayalam ritual text revealed points of contact between not only Tamil and Kerala-based cultural/religious groups, but also between high-caste and low-caste practitioners, while a comparison of depictions of Vishnu’s conch in Tamil, Sanskrit and Telugu bhakti poetry pointed out interesting differences in literary cultural attitudes towards the representation of the divine. Evidence for cross-cultural influence lay not only in literary texts, but also in Kerala temple architecture, and in inscriptions recording donations throughout South India. The bridging of cultural production presented by this conference also extended temporally, with papers that looked at the relationship between different Tamil literary periods and the manner in which classical idioms, literary genres and structures of patronage have been interpreted and/or appropriated in both the medieval and the modern period. In looking at the bridges between Tamil Nadu and other regions, the papers in this conference explored the diversity of Tamil culture itself, drawing from lit-

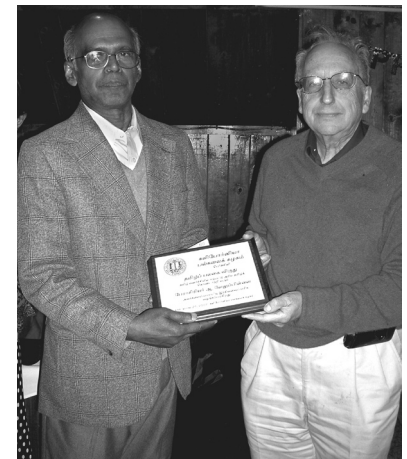
erary, archaeological, art historical and archival sources and providing an important step forward in the kind of comparative approach needed in the study of South Asia.

Participants included Professors E. Annamalai (Yale), Bernard Bate (Yale), Sascha Ebeling (U of Chicago), Richardson Freeman (U of Michigan), Indira Peterson (Mt. Holyoke), Sumathi Ramaswamy (U of Michigan), Martha Selby (UT Austin), Archana Venkatesan (Lawrence), and graduate students Jennifer Clare (UC Berkeley), Michael Linderman (UPenn), Harshita Mruthinti (Emory), and Srini Reddy (UC Berkeley). Panel moderators were Lawrence Cohen (UC Berkeley), George Hart (UC Berkeley), Eugene Irschick (UC Berkeley), Vijaya Nagarajan (USF), and Radhakrishnan (UT Austin).

During the Tamil Conference, Professor A. Veluppillai was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to Tamil studies. Prof. Veluppillai is well-known in the field of Tamil studies for his extensive knowledge of medieval Tamil literature, religion, linguistics, and epigraphy in South India and Sri Lanka.

For more detailed information on the panelists and the individual papers, please see: [tamil.berkeley.edu](http://tamil.berkeley.edu).

[Report by Jennifer Clare, Ph.D. candidate, South & Southeast Asian Studies, UC Berkeley]



Professor A. Veluppillai accepts a Lifetime Achievement Award from Professor George Hart for his contribution to Tamil studies

## FILM DIRECTOR SHYAM BENEAL VISITS UC BERKELEY

Celebrated film director and recipient of this year’s Dadasaheb Phalke Award, Shyam Benegal was recently invited by the Center for South Asia Studies and the Pacific Film Archive as it screened three of his films, “Ankur,” “Bhumika” and “Zubeida” as part of a film festival titled “Fearless Females: Three Films by Shyam Benegal.” A few Cal students caught up with the famous film-maker while he was at Berkeley. He shared with them his views on a wide variety of themes ranging from

the state of India’s cinema to the plight of India’s women.



Director Shyam Benegal (center) with Sneha Desai, David Farris, Anupama Kapse, Vasundhara Sirnate, & Rupali Jain

Anupama Kapse, a doctoral candidate in Film Studies, interviewed the great film-maker. Below is an excerpt from her interview “A Conversation with Shyam Benegal.”

AK. How should one think of art cinema today?

SB. We have a greater range now. Multiplexes allow

for a greater choice. For twenty years, we had no choice at all. But Vishal Bharadwaj could make Omkara. Nagesh Kukunoor could make Dor.

AK. Do you think audiences have become smaller?

SB. When you think of financial success, you look for a magic ingredient. You want to put it in your film. Karan Johar is making big, sweet films. That’s the cinema business. Why should that change? It won’t. We are simply not concerned with it. What we are concerned about is whether the multiplex allows the space for other filmmakers, filmmakers of different persuasions, to make films. It does!

AK. What advice do you have for young filmmakers?

SB. Those who are convinced will continue to make films. It’s like any other profession – you have to be fully committed.

[NB: A complete transcript of the interview may be viewed at: [southasia.berkeley.edu/flyers/Shyam-Benegal-Interview.pdf](http://southasia.berkeley.edu/flyers/Shyam-Benegal-Interview.pdf)]

## THE BHANDARI PROGRAM ON INDIAN ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE SILICON VALLEY

The Center for South Asia Studies, University of California, Berkeley is delighted to announce the launching of the Bhandari Program on Indian Entrepreneurship in the Silicon Valley with a new, yearlong course titled "The Indian Diaspora in the Silicon Valley." Indian entrepreneurs have contributed significantly to the rise of the Silicon Valley, helping to establish the region as a critical node in the global economy. Their accomplishments in purely business terms have been staggering and well documented. Now, for the first time, with the establishment of this program, the largely neglected sociological side of this revolutionary history will be examined.

The Bhandari Program, an oral history project about the life and experience of pioneering entrepreneurs, will promote research on the professional and personal trajectories of pioneering Indian entrepreneurs in the Silicon Valley. "The research will identify salient patterns in the personal backgrounds, education, intellectual orientations, social networks, organizational struggles, and achievements of those Indian pioneers of the Silicon Valley," said Mr. Narpat Bhandari. He hopes that through pursuing such an agenda, the Bhandari Program will cast the economic success of Indian entrepreneurs in a much more nuanced and compelling light than do the simplistic stereotypes about Indian technologists that are dominant in the media today.

The instructor for this course is Darren Zook. Dr. Zook has a long tradition of teaching South Asia related courses to both graduate and undergraduate students. He is a very popular teacher and was recently awarded UC Berkeley's "Outstanding Teacher Award" - the only award given by the students of the university.

Student enrollment for this inaugural course has been capped at eleven so that each student is able to experience individualized attention and one-on-one tutoring. The first semester of the course will consist of research and training in social science research methodology, possibly with some initial interviews. The second semester will consist of multiple interviews, analysis of the interviews, and the creation of the final product, which we envision as a set of short documentary

films and supporting written and multimedia materials.

This program has been established with generous support from the Bhandari Foundation, a charitable trust founded



Darren Zook & Narpat Bhandari with students  
Photo: Max Jacobs, CSAS Finance Assistant

in 1994 by Narpat and Chandra Bhandari of Los Gatos, California. The Bhandari Foundation has supported a number of projects in the fields of education and medicine, most

notably the establishment of a school near Jodhpur, India and the Dr Willard Fee Lectureship Chair in Medical Research on Cancer at Stanford University. Chandra Bhandari is an educator with a long-standing interest in the study of peace and nonviolence as well as art, history, politics, and the culture of India. Narpat Bhandari is a private venture capitalist and a founding member of The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE).

## BERKELEY IN BOLLYWOOD

### NEW MUMBAI-BASED STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

The Center for South Asia Studies in partnership with the India Study Abroad Center (ISAC) has started a four-week long film and media internship program titled, "Creativity, Craft and Chaos in Filmmaking" in Mumbai, India. Designed to introduce students to the film world in Mumbai, the program blends academic lectures, practical work experience and cultural immersion to give program participants a unique view of Indian culture through the medium of film and media. The program incorporates meetings with film professionals, visits to film shoots and post-production facilities and thereby draws on the vast resources of the Mumbai film industry to create an extraordinary training ground. Students learn the craft, nuances and intricacies of the industry in a spirited environment that combines professional training with real-life work experience. More information may be found at [www.indiastudyabroad.org/](http://www.indiastudyabroad.org/)

## COVERING INDIA

India offers a challenging, sometimes daunting, reporting experience for a journalist. Here is a country with 5,000 years of recorded history, a living past that underpins most aspects of its contemporary experience. Over a billion Indians speaking 18 official languages and hundreds of minor languages and dialects live in 28 states and seven union territories spread across a subcontinent of exceptional geographical and regional diversity. Adults in India vote every five years in what is the largest electoral exercise in the world. Every shade of political opinion finds a place in its political firmament. The country has a vibrant and pluralistic media environment. Indeed, diversity is a key element of the Indian experience, reflected in the spheres of politics, the economy, society, culture, the arts and literature. Today, it is the image of the young call center worker sitting hunched before her computer and speaker phone that has become the metaphor for the new India, seen, particularly in western journalistic writing, primarily as an emerging IT power and the outsourcing destination for the developed world. Journalist Thomas Friedman, for example, applauds the economic success story of how India has become the back office of the world. Reporting that focuses on the growth of the middle class rarely mentions the failures of India's post 1991 economic reform, failures that have resulted in a significant decline in the standards of living and well being of a majority of its people. Economic liberalization has resulted in skewed economic growth, a serious agricultural and farming crisis that has caused the suicides of thousands of debt-ridden farmers, and growing deprivation for a majority of Indians. As the distinguished Indian agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan never fails to remind us, 232 million people in India go to bed hungry and fully 50 percent of its children are stunted or underweight due to malnutrition.

"Covering India," a new year-long course being offered by UC Berkeley's School of Journalism, will provide UC students with a framework for addressing the complexities of reporting on India and the contemporary Indian experience. For the first time, future journalists at UC Berkeley will be introduced to the major developments that have shaped modern India and be trained in reporting on specific issues that form the news agenda. A special focus of the course will be understanding the manner in which a multicultural society like India attempts to address the legacy of caste- and religion-based inequalities. The aim of the course is to prepare the student for a reporting trip to India in Spring semester of 2008.

The course is led by Siddharth Varadarajan, Associate Editor of *The Hindu* newspaper in New Delhi. In the more than 10 years he has worked as a journalist, he has reported on the crisis in *(cont'd next page)*



Siddharth Varadarajan, Associate Editor of *The Hindu*

## ACADEMIC NEWS AT BERKELEY

### VISIONARY GIFTS FROM UCB FACULTY IN SUPPORT OF TAMIL & BUDDHIST STUDIES

CSAS is proud to announce the establishment of two new scholarship funds, the Hart Family Graduate Student Support Fund for Tamil Studies and the Padmanabh S. Jaini Graduate Student Award in Buddhist Studies. Both were established with the generous contributions of eminent UCB faculty, George and Kausalya Hart and Padmanabh S. Jaini.

The Hart Family Graduate Student Support Fund for Tamil Studies was established with the generous contribution of George and Kausalya Hart, corner-



George and Kausalya Hart

stones of Tamil Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. George Hart currently holds the Chair for Tamil

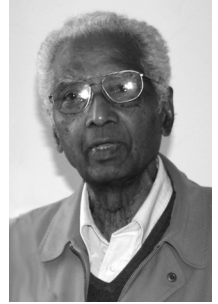
Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. George Hart currently holds the Chair for Tamil

Studies at UC Berkeley. He has taught courses on Tamil literature and Indian civilization, literature, and religion. His

scholarship on premodern Tamil and its relationship to classical Sanskrit as well as on South Indian religion and culture is renowned. He has also translated several important works from Tamil, and his work was nominated for The American Book Award. Kausalya Hart has written *Tamil for Beginners*, which is used at many universities, as well as several Tamil plays that have been performed by UC Berkeley students. She has written about Tamil literature, including papers on the Tamil Ramayana and early Christian literature.

The Padmanabh S. Jaini Graduate Student Award in Buddhist Studies was established with a generous gift from Padmanabh S. Jaini. Professor Jaini is Professor emeritus of Buddhist Studies and co-founder of the Group in Buddhist Studies. Before joining UC Berkeley in 1972, he taught at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London and at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He is the author of numerous monographs and articles on both Buddhism and Jainism. In the field of Buddhist Studies he is particularly well known for his work

on Abhidharma and for his critical editions of the *Abhidharmadīpa* (a *Vaiḥṣika* treatise), the *Saratama* (a commentary on the *Astasahasrika Prajnaparamita*), and a collection of apocryphal *Jatakas*, the *Pannasa-Jataka*, that appeared in four volumes (text and translation). His collected essays have appeared in two volumes, and, recently, he has been honored by a *Festschrift* (2003) with contributions on early Buddhism and Jainism.



Padmanabh S. Jaini

Both awards will support high-achieving graduate students in Tamil and Buddhist Studies at UC Berkeley. You can make an on-line contribution to the Jaini fund at <https://egiving.berkeley.edu/egiving/mainform.asp>. Gifts made by active or retired UC faculty and staff or current students will be matched by the Chancellor's Challenge Matching Gift program through June 2012.

[Report written with the help of Veena Hampapur, CSAS Program Assistant]

### FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

**JENNIFER CLARE** (Graduate Student, South & Southeast Asian Studies) has received a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship. She is currently in Chennai working on her dissertation, "Interpreting the Flawless Story: The Tamil Commentarial Tradition."

**NEIL JOECK** (CSAS Research Associate) published "The US-India 'Global Partnership': The Impact on Non-proliferation" in *Nuclear Cooperation with India: New Challenges, New Opportunities*, Eds. Wade L. Huntley and Karthika Sasikumar (Vancouver: Simons Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Research, 2006) and "Nuclear World Order and Non-proliferation" in *Strategic Insights*, Center for Contemporary Conflict On-line Journal, Naval Postgraduate School, May 2007. Over the past several months he was invited to speak, inter alia, on Indo-Pakistani issues on Forum with Michael Krasny, KQED Radio, at the UCLA Burkle Center

(from previous page)

Kashmir, the Nato war against Yugoslavia and the situation in Afghanistan during the Taliban years. In November 2005, the United Nations Correspondents Association awarded him the Elizabeth Neuffer Memorial Prize Silver Medal for Print Journalism for a series of articles on Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Varadarajan studied economics at the London School of Economics and Columbia University and taught at New York University for several years before returning to India to work as a journalist. Currently, he is a visiting professor at UC Berkeley's School of Journalism.

Conference on "Nuclear Weapons in a New Century," and at the Santa Rosa World Affairs Council. In November, he conducted research at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy on Pakistani physicist Abdus Salam; he was a member of a US Government delegation to Pakistan in February that held discussions with Foreign Minister Khalid Kasuri at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Inter-Services Intelligence Division, the Strategic Plans Division, and the National Defense University; and in April he presented a paper on "Kargil and Nuclear Deterrence: A Pessimistic View" at a Washington DC conference on deterrence in South Asia hosted by the Department of State and the CIA.

**MIKE LEVIEN** (Graduate Student, Sociology) published his paper, "India's Double Movement: Polanyi and the National Alliance of People's Movements" in the 2007 Berkeley Journal of Sociology this fall.

**THOMAS METCALF** (Professor Emeritus, History). His book "Imperial Connections: India In The Indian Ocean Arena" was published by University of California Press last April. The Mellon Foundation has renewed his emeritus fellowship to enable him to begin research on a new project, entitled "From Empire to Empire: the Americans in the Philippines, 1898-1912." He plans November research in the Bancroft Library and a January 2008 trip to Manila.

**ADNAN NASEEMULLAH** (Graduate Student, Political Science) was awarded a Fulbright-Hays fellowship and a Simpson

Fellowship to pursue research on industrial classes in India for 2007-2008.

**SUNITA PURI** (UCSF-UC Berkeley Joint MD/MS Program) received the UCSF School of Medicine's Dean's Prize for Outstanding Medical Student Research for her thesis, "There is Such A Thing As Too Many Daughters, but Not Too Many Sons": The Intersection of Son Preference, New Reproductive Technologies, and Sex Selection Among South Asian Immigrants in the United States and Canada." She also received a PACCTR Clinical and Translational Research Fellowship for this year to take a year off from medical school and continue her thesis research full time. She will be presenting this work at the Indian National Bioethics Conference in Bangalore in December.

**SUDEV J. SHETH**, who received his B.A. in Political Science and SSEAS in 2007, has been hired by the Archives and Research Center for Ethnomusicology of the American Institute of Indian Studies just outside of Delhi, India. In addition to working as an archivist, he will also assist Dr. Shubha Chaudhuri on a Ford Foundation sponsored project that focuses on the music of Goa and Rajasthan. Sudev is also working with Underscore Records, a grassroots Indian music label, on a video production entitled "From Fusion Music to Confluence Music."

**MICHAEL SLOUBER** (Graduate Student, South & Southeast Asian Studies) finished his MA Thesis, "The Cult of Khadgaravana," and published an article, "The Manuscripts of the Kriyakalagunottara," in the Newsletter of the Nepalese-German Manuscript Cataloguing Project, October 2007.

## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

### PHD STUDENT RESEARCHES KOLKATA'S ELDERLY

Ruprekha Chowdhury, a PhD student in the Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, was interviewed just after she returned from a year of fieldwork in Kolkata, the city where she was born and raised. Her research focuses on elderly women housed in old age homes in and around Kolkata – their religious habits, the society they create, and their interactions with one another. This is an excerpt from the interview about her experience.

#### What was it like working with these women who were the subject of your research?

I had to walk this fine line between being a researcher and an activist. I hope that my dissertation is a starting point, not just a record about the (women's) pain and suffering, but also (something that) makes these people aware of rights that they don't know about.



Ruprekha Chowdhury

#### What are their rights?

Hygiene, good food, good nutrition. They are supposed to be given certain types of food, but they don't get this.

#### But to play devil's advocate, isn't this better than nothing?

Just because they are destitute doesn't mean that they have to eat this sloppy food. They need to know that they deserve a cleaner bathroom, a cleaner toilet. The bathrooms were so unclean, and these women are prone to catching infections, diseases.

You have a right to ask for things. The women are given sedatives after lunch. I would go in the evenings at 6 or 6:30 when the women woke up. I would ask them why they needed to sleep for four or five hours and they would say that they didn't know. After some questioning

they would tell me "I am being given this pill at lunch, maybe it is a vitamin, whatever, I'm sure it helps." Later on when I asked one of the supervisors about it, she said casually –that's what got me, she wasn't hesitating or being secretive – "it's a sleeping pill. She talks a lot, so that's the best way to keep her quiet." Every day? Everyday for 20 years, now she can't sleep without it. She doesn't have to take the pills, but she doesn't know this. They don't have to attend the Sai baba bhajans either, but they don't know this. The administrator reprimands them if they don't. It makes the institute look good to have these women attend these bhajans.

#### Has this experience changed your attitude towards research?

I have become protective and possessive of the women and their stories. If I told these stories to someone over coffee, they would say "that's interesting" and then when I walked out of the coffee-house, I would think that I had been so unfair to these women. I've spent fifteen minutes talking about a life that would be a masala story, an attractive story—for everything that is destitute can be attractively packaged. But for the women, this is their life. In the dissertation, I'll end up giving out some of these stories, but I will be careful to give them out in the right places and in the right ways.

Also, while people look for interesting events, incidents that give them shivers, ways to express frustration, grief, I learned that apparently uninteresting things can be very interesting. The fact that these women have lived their lives in such institutions for the last 30 -35 years simply doing the same thing over and over again – I think it's fascinating.

Interviewed by Jennifer Clare, Ph.D Candidate, South & Southeast Asian Studies

### UCB'S PROFESSOR CHIBBER CONDUCTS SUMMER WORKSHOP IN INDIA

In July 2007, a two-week Summer School on "Research Methods in Political Science" was organized by Lokniti – the research branch of the Center for Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) and the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) in Shimla, India. Several leading political science scholars from India and the US, including UC Berkeley's own Pradeep Chibber, collaborated to design this workshop.

India lacks in a qualitative political data methodology. For that reason, research training for any student of Political Science in India remains one of the weakest aspects of the learning. The mission of this workshop, therefore, was to bring together a group of young and mid-career Indian political scientists and train them in empirical analysis and qualitative political data methodology. The goal of the workshop was not just to produce world class political scientists capable of engaging in international debates but also

to create a dialogue on capacity-building in India.

Twenty-four political scientists from all over the country participated in the 15 day program. They analyzed data provided by Lokniti. Lokniti has been conducting large elections surveys since 1996 to study voting patterns and political values. Questions raised ranged from the role of gender in voting, support for economic reform, to politics of economic reform. "It was a blast," reflected Chibber. "We were teaching nine, ten-hour days, and the students were very motivated." Workshop participants will write papers and submit them to Chibber who will review them and provide guidance in getting them published. "We hope to train Indian political scientists to be adept users of the world class data they have collected and therefore be able to engage in debates," stated Chibber. The workshop is projected to last through the summer of 2009.

### CSAS EVENTS 2006-2007

#### February 1

*From the Land of the Rajas: Creativity in Rajasthan*  
Phoebe Hearst Museum of Anthropology

#### February 16-17

Conference: 22nd Annual South Asia Conference

#### March 12

*Natural Inequality: Conceptualising Justice in Brahmanical Discourses*  
Kunal Chakrabarti, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU

#### March 15

*Imagining the City: Two Films on Mumbai*  
Directors: Anjali Monteiro and K.P. Jayasankar

#### March 26

*What are the Lessons of South Asian Secularism?*  
Rajeev Bhargava, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi

#### April 4

Film Screening: *Seven Islands and a Metro*  
Director: Madhusree Dutta

#### April 14

Amrit Kaur Ahluwalia Memorial Grant Program Celebration

#### April 21 & 22

"Palam" Bridges: Third Annual Berkeley Tamil Conference

#### April 28

A Celebration of 101 Years of Sanskrit at Berkeley

#### May 24 & 25

FDRI/Berkeley Seminar on Indian Democracy: *Governance and Empowerment*

#### June 13

*Mega-Trends in India and Perspectives on What Exactly is Going on in India*  
R. Gopalakrishnan, Executive Director of Tata Sons, Chairman of Rallis India, and Vice-Chairman of Tata Chemicals

#### June 14

*Yusuf Arakkal: The Street*  
Aicon Gallery, Palo Alto, CA

#### July 9-13

*The Making of Cities*  
2007 ORIAS Summer Teacher's Institute



## CSAS EVENTS 2006-2007, CONT'D

July 29

*Trends in Contemporary Indian Art*  
Rajeev Lochan, Director, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi  
Aicon Gallery, Palo Alto, CA

September 4, 5, 6

*Fearless Females: 3 Films by Shyam Benegal*  
PFA Theater

September 20

CSAS Annual Reception

October 15

*A Philanthropist Speaks: Lessons from Life*  
Sudha Murthy, Chairperson of Infosys Foundation

October 16

*Preservation & Promotion of Archives in Pakistan*  
Ahmed Salim, poet, scholar, archivist

November 1

*Taking Stock of the Indo-US Nuclear Delhi*  
Siddhartha Varadarajan, Visiting Professor, UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism

November 6

*Classical Raag and Ghazal Concert*  
Pandit Binay Pathak, Singer of classical raag, thumri, gazal, and bhajan

November 27

*Melancholia of Freedom*  
Thomas Hansen, Professor of Anthropology, University of Amsterdam, Senior Research Scientist at Yale University

November 28

*Subaltern Modernisms: The Transnational Poetics of Banality and Boredom*  
Saikat Majumdar, Assistant Professor of English, Stanford University

November 30

*Reproductive Anxiety and the 11<sup>th</sup>-century Turkic Conquest of North India*  
Shahid Amin, Professor of History, Delhi University

December 6

*Is India Arriving?*  
Rafiq Dossani, Senior Research Scholar, Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center and Executive Director, South Asia programs, Stanford University

## QAYUM FAMILY FOUNDATION AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Center for South Asia Studies would like to congratulate the students awarded the 2007-2008 Qayum Family Foundation Grants.

**Gabriel Hetland (Sociology)** received a \$1,000 Research Grant to support exploratory fieldwork in West Bengal, India. His research, "A Comparison of Popular Participation and State Economic Development Policy in West Bengal and Bolivia," seeks to examine the tensions between democracy, efficiency, and equality in the contemporary state-civil society interaction in West Bengal, India, and Bolivia.

**Barbara Haya (Energy and Resources Group)** received a \$1,000 Research Grant to support exploratory fieldwork. Her research, entitled "The Design of International Institutions to Support Climate Change Mitigation in the South: Insights from Wind and Biomass Power Development in India," seeks to examine the nature and cause of the problems with current climate aid institutions,

and to explore how these institutions can be restructured, or possibly replaced, to effectively support transitions to low-carbon economies (or "decarbonization") in developing countries.

**Clair Null (Agricultural & Resource Economics)** received a \$1,000 Research Grant to support exploratory fieldwork in Hyderabad, India for her research entitled "Agricultural Marketing in



From L to R: Renu Desai, Clair Null, Shalini Ayyagari, Riyad Koya & Gita Pai

## A VETERAN HINDI TEACHER RETIRES

After four decades of teaching generations of Berkeley students both the grammar and the culture of the Hindi language, Usha Jain, the backbone of Cal's Hindi program, announced her retirement last spring.



Mrs. Usha Jain

She has taught Hindi at Berkeley for forty years, and is acknowledged as the leading South Asian language instructor in the United States. In 2001 she received Cal's distinguished teaching award, which is rarely given to lecturers. Her books *Introduction to Hindi Grammar* (1995), *Intermediate Hindi Reader* (1999), *Intermediate Hindi Multimedia Reader*, an interactive computer courseware CD-ROM (2000), *Advanced Hindi Grammar* (2007), and *Basic Vocabulary for Hindi and Urdu* (1983) that she co-authored with K. Schomer and G. Reinhard, are used extensively in the U.S., Canada, and Australia. She is also the author of *The Gujaratis of San Francisco* (1989).

Usha Jain will teach a course in the coming year and plans to continue in that lighter capacity, teaching one course a semester, for a while.

Currently she is working on a reader for teaching advanced Hindi and is refining her previously published texts to make teaching the language even easier and more natural.

India's Semi-Arid Tropics: Who Gets the Cash from the Cash Crops." She plans to augment an already existing and very rich dataset collected by the Institute for Crop Research in the Semi-Arid Tropics (based in Hyderabad) with new survey data from farmers, wholesalers, and retailers in order to better understand who profits from the recent switch to cash crops in this region.

**Gita V. Pai (South and Southeast Asian Studies)** received a \$500 Conference Grant to present her paper "Penwork, Production and Patronage: Re-examining the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Kalamkari Textiles of the Coromandel Coast" at the College Art Association Annual Conference in Dallas in spring 2008.

The following students received a \$500 Conference Grant to present their papers at the 36th Annual Conference on South Asia in the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in October this year.

**Shalini Ayyagari (Music)** presented her paper "Shifting Sands of Patronage: The Reorganization of Institutional Practices among the Mangniyar Musician Community of Western Rajasthan, India."

**Renu Desai (Architecture)** presented her paper "Urban Visions and the Urban Protest in a Globalizing Indian City: Interrogating Struggles over the River/Riverfront in Ahmedabad, India."

**Riyad Koya (History)** presented his paper "Imperial Citizenship and the Recuperation of Indian Customary Marriage: A Politics of Jurisdiction."

**Sonal Khullar (Art History)** chaired a panel titled "Space, Identity and Power in Contemporary Art from India," and presented her paper "Sites of Secularism."

## SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGES AT UC BERKELEY

Berkeley provides comprehensive language instruction in eight of the major literary and spoken languages of five countries in South Asia: Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Bengali, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tibetan and the recently added Telugu. Enrollments in South Asian languages are substantial and have been steadily

### SOUTH ASIAN LANGUAGES AT UCB TEACHING LEVELS

HINDI	INTRODUCTORY HINDI INTERMEDIATE HINDI READINGS IN MODERN HINDI
BENGALI	INTRODUCTORY BENGALI INTERMEDIATE BENGALI
PUNJABI	INTRODUCTORY PUNJABI INTERMEDIATE PUNJABI
TAMIL	INTRODUCTORY TAMIL READINGS IN TAMIL
SANSKRIT	ELEMENTARY SANSKRIT INTERMEDIATE SANSKRIT SANSKRIT LITERATURE
URDU	INTRODUCTORY URDU INTERMEDIATE URDU ADVANCED URDU
TELUGU	INTRODUCTORY TELUGU
TIBETAN	ELEMENTARY TIBETAN INTERMEDIATE TIBETAN ADVANCED TIBETAN

growing in recent years. We have been able to offer Hindi, Urdu, Sanskrit, Tamil, Punjabi, Bengali and Telugu language instruction because of demand from the student body and overwhelming support from the Bengali, Punjabi and Telugu speaking communities.

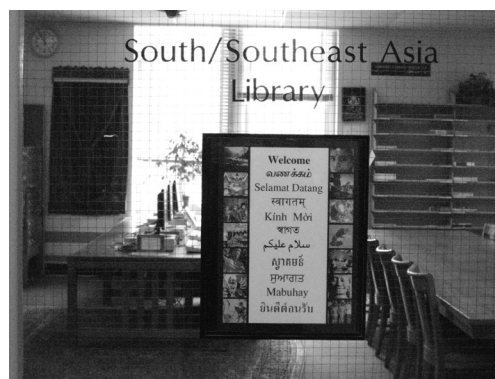
Berkeley also runs an intensive summer Hindi program that is open to students from all universities and that provides a full year's elementary language instruction in eight weeks. In addition to its regular on-campus instructional program, for the last 30 years, CSAS has maintained the Berkeley Urdu Language Fellowship Program (BULFP), a highly regarded in-country program originally located in Lahore, Pakistan, but now temporarily shifted to Lucknow, India due to US State Department imposed travel warnings. [More details on BULFP may be found on page 11.]

#### Language Publications

One measure of the quality of the language program is certainly the fact that the three lecturers in Hindi (U. Jain),

Tamil (K. Hart) and Sanskrit (S. Goldman with R. Goldman) have written the definitive textbooks for the teaching of their respective languages in North America. CSAS' publishing program publishes all these books.

**Library Holdings**  
Berkeley's South Asia collection ranks among the four leading South Asia collections in the nation. The South Asia Library

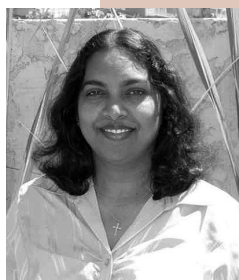


UCB's South/Southeast Asia Library

boasts the following holdings: subscriptions for about 5,300 serials, 1,750 of which are published in regional languages; 25 journals and newspapers from the South Asia diasporic community; 25 South Asia daily newspapers; more than 450,000 monographs, with around 10,000 new volumes added annually; 3,700 maps; 600 videos and DVDs; numerous special collections thematically or linguistically arranged; extensive special format holdings, such as films, prints, sound recordings, slides and a number of palm leaf manuscripts in Tamil, Sanskrit and Sinhala.

### తెలుగు AT BERKELEY

For the first time, Telugu is now being taught at the University of California Berkeley with Dr Hephzibah (Hepsi) Sunkari as the first Telugu lecturer. The new post of a Telugu lecturer was instituted at the university after a campaign by the Telugu community of the SF Bay Area, spearheaded by



Berkeley's first Telugu lecturer, Dr. Hephzibah (Hepsi) Sunkari

Dr Rao Vemuri of UC Davis. Dr Vemuri and community members rallied to raise over \$200,000, which was the threshold amount required to initiate the Telugu language program at the university. Dr Sunkari has taught

Telugu to graduate students in the University of Madras, India and translated books and articles from English to Telugu. She did her Ph.D from the University of Madras in Telugu language (1995) following an M.Phil (1991) and M.A (1990). Besides English, Dr Sunkari is proficient in Hindi, Sanskrit, Hebrew and Greek.

### NEW CSAS PUBLICATION

The Center for South Asia Studies, is pleased to announce a new publication, *Advanced Hindi Grammar* by Usha Jain. This is the third book in Usha Jain's renowned series of Hindi textbooks, following her *Introduction to Hindi Grammar* and *Intermediate Hindi Reader*. It is recommended for second- and third-year Hindi students. Usha Jain's text, divided into twenty-five distinct lessons or chapters, combines detailed explanations of advanced Hindi grammar points with accompanying drills and exercises. The text is written using non-technical language, making it accessible to students of all disciplines.

All our publications are distributed through the Institute for East Asian Studies publications office:

#### IEAS Publications

University of California, Berkeley  
2223 Fulton Street / 6th Floor #2318  
Berkeley, CA 94720-2318

**Mail to:** [easia@berkeley.edu](mailto:easia@berkeley.edu)  
510.643.6325 (phone)  
510.643.7062 (fax)

**Website:** <http://ieas.berkeley.edu/publications/ordering.html>

### NEW HINDI TEACHER

We are very excited to welcome Lila Huettemann to our faculty. She joins us this fall as the new lecturer in Hindi. Lila specializes in Foreign Language Teaching and comes to us with more than ten years of teaching Hindi and German at the presti-



Lila Huettemann with her Introductory Hindi class

gious South Asia Institute at the University of Heidelberg. She has also taught at the University of Bamberg and the Banaras Hindu University. Currently she is working on a textbook in German for teaching Hindi.

[Report & photo by Veena Hampapur, CSAS Program Assistant]

**DR. CHRISTOPHER  
SHACKLE NAMED AS  
AHLUWALIA LECTURER  
FOR 2008**

The CSAS is pleased to announce that Christopher Shackle has been chosen as the lecturer for the 2008 Amrit Kaur Ahluwalia Memorial Lectures on Sikhism to be held on April 19, 2008. Shackle is Professor of Modern Languages of South Asia in the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and Member, Centre of South Asian Studies. He is the author of many books and articles on Punjabi literature and the Sikh religion, most recently a co-edited volume, *Teachings of the Sikh Gurus* (2005, with Arvind Mandair). In addition to studies on various aspects of Sikhism, he has published widely on various aspects of Punjabi and Urdu languages and Literature, comparative literature of the Islamic world, and regional languages of Pakistan and North-West India. He is also an expert on Sufism and Islam in South Asia.

In 2000, CSAS established the Amrit Kaur Ahluwalia Memorial Lectures on Sikhism with the generous support of Dr. Joginder Singh Ahluwalia and family. This annual lecture series is designed to bring a well-known scholar to Berkeley to deliver a public address on some aspect of Sikhism: Sikh history, language and literature, religion, culture, art or music. Past speakers have included Dr. Jasbir Singh Ahluwalia (Vice Chancellor, Punjabi University, Patiala), Bhai Baldeep Singh (13th-generation singer of the Sikh Kirtan Marayada), and Dr. Avtar Brah (Birkbeck College, University of London). For more information on the Amrit Kaur Ahluwalia Memorial Program please visit <http://ias.berkeley.edu/southasia/ahluwaliagrnt.html>

**23rd Annual South Asia Conference**

University of California, Berkeley  
Friday & Saturday, February 15 & 16, 2008  
International House  
2299 Piedmont Avenue

**Friday, February 15, 2008**

9:00 – 10:30 am

Panel 1: India and the West- From the Second World War to the 1970's  
Panel 2: [Dis]continuity in musical practices of South Asia

10:45 – 12:15 pm: Author Meets Critics Panel

Sheldon Pollock (Columbia University) discusses his most recent book "The Language of the Gods in the World of Men: Sanskrit, Culture, and Power in Premodern India" with Robert Goldman (UC Berkeley), Vasudha Dalmia (UC Berkeley), and Prithvi Shobhi (San Francisco State University).

12:15 – 1:30 pm Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Panel 1: Information and Communications Technologies for Development  
Panel 2: The Politics of Emergent Socialities in South Asia

3:15 – 4:45 pm:

Performing the Universal as Local: Imperial Histories, Performance Pedagogies, and the Global Passages of the Bengali Theater

5:00 – 6:15 pm

Reception

6:30 pm

Keynote - Rajendranath Das Lecture by Sugata Bose, Director of the South Asia Initiative at Harvard & Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs.  
Talk Title: 'Different Universalisms, Vernacular Cosmopolitanisms: The Global Imagination of the Colonized'.

**Saturday, February 16, 2008**

9:00 – 10:30 am

The Genre in Perspective

10:45 – 12:15 pm

(Re)shaping the Indian Middle Class: Gender, Work and the "New" Nation

**UC BERKELEY URDU LANGUAGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (BULFP)**

To support the intensive study of the Urdu language, the Center for South Asia Studies has, for over 30 years, run an Urdu language program in Lahore, Pakistan. However, due to recent US Department of State imposed travel warnings which have restricted travel to Pakistan, the program has been temporarily shifted to Lucknow, India and is being run in conjunction with the American Institute of Indian Studies' (AIIS) Language Center located there.

BULFP is designed for graduate students and undergraduates at the junior or senior levels and teachers in area studies and is an intensive language program that provides four hours of classroom instruc-

tion five days a week. Classes are small and individual tutorials are provided. There is a special emphasis on connecting with the local speech community and self-management of learning. Participants take part in program events, such as attending films, plays and other cultural activities, and they are also encouraged to stay with local host families. The fellowship awards tuition, roundtrip airfare, and a maintenance allowance.

The 2008-09 program will begin in September of 2008. For more information about the Berkeley Urdu Language Fellowship Program, visit <http://www.ias.berkeley.edu/southasia/bulpip.html>. For information about AIIS language

programs, visit <http://www.indiastudies.org/AIIS.html>.

Six students were awarded the fellowship for the academic year 2007-08.

- Zehra Asghar, Sweet Briar College
- Gregory Bruce, American Institute of Indian Studies
- Aimee Hamilton, Indiana University-Bloomington
- Justin Smolin, University of Chicago
- Stephanie Wavle, University of California-Berkeley
- Brian Wolfe, Indiana University-Bloomington

### கலித்தொகை

எறித்தரு கதிர்தாங்கி ஏந்திய குடைநீழல்  
உறித்தாழ்ந்த கரகமு முரைசான்ற முக்கோலும்  
நெறிப்படச் சவலசைஇ வேறோரா நெஞ்சத்துக்  
குறிப்பேவல் செயன்மாலைக் கொளைநடை யந்தணீர்  
வெவ்விடைச் செலன்மாலை யொழுக்கத்தீ ரிவ்விடை  
என்மக ளொருத்தியும் பிறண்மக ளொருவனுந்  
தம்முளே யுணர்ந்த தாமறி புணர்ச்சிய  
ரன்னா ரிருவரைக் காணீரோ பெரும  
காணே மல்லேங் கண்டனங் கடத்திடை  
யானெழி லண்ணலோ டருஞ்சர முன்னிய  
மாணியை மடவர றாயிரநீர் போறீர்

பலவறு நறுஞ்சாந்தம் படுப்பவர்க் கல்லதை  
மலையுளே பிறப்பினு மலைக்கவைதா மென்செய்யும்  
நினையுங்கால் நும்மகள் நமக்குமாங் கனையளே

சீர்கெழு வெண்முத்த மணிபவர்க் கல்லதை  
நீருளே பிறப்பினும் நீர்க்கவைதா மென்செய்யும்  
தேருங்கால் நும்மகள் நமக்குமாங் கனையளே

ஏழ்புண ரின்னிசை முரல்பவர்க் கல்லதை  
யாழுளே பிறப்பினும் யாழ்க்கவைதா மென்செய்யும்  
குழுங்கால் நும்மகள் நமக்குமாங் கனையளே.

எனவாங்கு  
இறந்த கற்பினாட் கெவ்வம் படரன்மின்  
சிறந்தானை வழிபடஇச் சென்றனள்  
அறந்தலை பிரியா வாறுமற் றதுவே.

### Kalittokai

“Shaded by an umbrella from the fierce heat of the sun,  
you walk quickly, your water jug hanging from a rope, and your holy trident  
resting against your shoulder.  
Your mind is unwavering, Oh Brahmin, you who perform evening rituals  
according to custom!  
You often tread this burning path in the evening – on your way,  
have you seen my daughter, who is only a young girl, with another’s son,  
the love they share known only to each other?”

“Oh, respected mother, we can’t say that we haven’t seen them, for we have,  
here in the dry shrublands. Lady, your daughter exceeds in modesty, decorated  
with beautiful ornaments, as she thinks of the harsh land all around her, with  
her noble lover who is handsome beyond compare! So let it be--  
Although born on the mountain,  
what good is the well-mixed fragrant sandalwood to a mountain,  
if no one smears it on his body?

If you look closely, is it not the same between your daughter and you?  
Although born in water, what good is the fine white pearl to water,  
if no one adorns himself with it?

If you reflect on this, is it not the same between your daughter and you?  
Although born in the yaazh, what good are the seven notes to the yaazh,  
if no one plays this sweet music?  
If you consider all these things, is it not the same between your daughter and  
you?

Therefore,  
Do not grieve for your daughter whose chastity is unmarked,  
for she joins an excellent man on this path,  
and this way also leads to virtue.

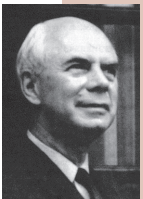
-Palai Patiya Perunkatunko  
translated by Jennifer Clare, Ph.D candidate  
South & Southeast Asian Studies, UC Berkeley



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
CENTER FOR SOUTH ASIA STUDIES  
10 STEPHENS HALL  
BERKELEY, CA 94720-2310

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

### What's Inside



Sanskrit at Berkeley  
A View from the Chair  
Ramayana Translation Project



Democracy in India  
Shyam Benegal  
The Indian Diaspora in Silicon Valley



Gifts to Tamil & Buddhist Studies  
Usha Jain Retires  
South Asian Languages at UCB

