



*South Asia Studies students, faculty, alumni and visiting scholars enjoying a crisp fall day at the home of Dr. Walter Andersen at the annual South Asia Studies Program retreat (September 2015).*

## SOUTH ASIA STUDIES



JOHNS HOPKINS  
SCHOOL of ADVANCED  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

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## Fall 2015 South Asia Studies Recap

### September | 2015

The 2015-2016 academic year began with our annual South Asia Studies retreat at the home of program director, Walter Andersen in Great Falls, Virginia. Students had the ability to meet their fellow classmates, professors and alumni of the program. The day began with games of cricket and soccer, and continued with a discussion on the PhD dissertations of Khalid Nadiri and Constantino Xavier, our South Asia Studies PhD candidates, who both plan on defending their dissertation in the spring of 2016.

In September we relaunched our career speaker series with a presentation from SAIS alum, **Zaid Safdar**, a Senior Officer at the World Bank who spoke to our students about how to navigate the Bank and other multilaterals. The following day we were joined by **Rajesh Jain**, an Indian tech entrepreneur, and economist, **Atanu Dey**, who spoke about re-envisioning a modern Indian constitution. Later that week **Hu Zhiyong**, a researcher at the Shanghai Institute of Social Sciences, spoke about Chinese Maritime Security in the Indo-Pacific. September concluded with a talk by nuclear experts **Vijay Sazawal** and **Paul Murphy** on the US-India Nuclear Deal.



### October | 2015

A busy October followed with a talk from South Asia Studies visiting scholar, and associate professor from Tongji University, Dr. **Zhenming Zhong** who presented on the asymmetrical relationship between China and India. Later in the month we welcomed a delegation from the National Defense University (NDU) in Islamabad. SAIS has an academic cooperation agreement with NDU and will be working closely on joint programming in the coming years. **Pervaiz Iqbal Cheema**, head of the delegation, presented a talk on the Kashmir dispute from the Pakistani perspective. Later that week, we welcomed **Christophe Jaffrelot**, Professor at Sciences Po, and good friend of the South Asia Program, who spoke to a full room about the Patels of Gujarat, and challenges to the Indian quota system. October concluded with an informative presentation for students on rising in government by Assistant Secretary of State **Puneet Talwar** (*off the record*).

### November | 2015

In November **Poulami Roychowdhury**, a professor at McGill University, presented a talk on the politics of sexual violence in India. Later in the month our career lecture series concluded with a presentation from **Joshua White** (SAS SAIS PhD '12), Senior Advisor and Director for South Asian Affairs at the

National Security Council, who spoke to our students about how to orient one's time at SAIS toward a career in government (*off-the-record*). Our semester concluded with a presentation on economic reforms in India in the Narendra Modi era by Carlton University professor **Vivek Dehejia**.

### Intersession | 2015-2016

**Dr. Andersen** spent the intersession teaching a course on international relations to a group of graduate students at Tongji University in Shanghai where he is a visiting member of the faculty. In January, **Rebecca Aman**, South Asia Studies Program manager, and **Gregory Knight**, SAIS adjunct professor, led a group of SAIS students to Johannesburg and Cape Town to study Chinese and Indian economic and political engagement with South Africa. Keep up to date on the students' journey by visiting their trip blog:

<http://saissouthafrica.blogspot.com>

### VIDEOS LINKS TO OUR EVENTS

Did you miss out on one of our talks? To be added to our general list serve please email [southasia@jhu.edu](mailto:southasia@jhu.edu) and provide your contact information and affiliation. Most of our lectures are recorded and available on our website. To see one of our lectures simply click on the presenter's name on this newsletter.

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO SAIS SAS



Chief Minister Lal of Haryana meets with representatives of Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health, September 2015 (left). Tino conducting thesis research in Myanmar (below).



## Annual Alumni Happy Hour

The Annual South Asia and Middle East Studies Happy Hour (mid-May) is a great occasion to network and connect with students, alumni and friends of the program. Your attendance, commitment and time are great ways to contribute to the program.

## Have an idea for a lecture?

We are always looking for organizations and individuals to host at our program talks. If you have an idea for a great lecture topic please email us at [southasia@jhu.edu](mailto:southasia@jhu.edu).

## Fellowship or Program Donations

Donations from Alumni and Friends are always appreciated, and help fund many of the programs we are highlighting in this newsletter.

## Donation by Check

Please make checks payable to:  
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## Donation by Credit Card

Contributions via credit card can be made through the SAIS website ([www.sais-jhu.edu](http://www.sais-jhu.edu)), and click on "GIVING" on the top right. Then click on "Make a Gift". There you will be directed to a form where you can fill in the necessary information. In the "Gift Information" section, please choose "Other" and note "South Asia Studies" in the comment section. If you would like your donation to be used toward a specific program or fellowship, please note that information as well.

## SOUTH ASIA CHANNEL

The South Asia Channel is a special project between SAIS South Asia, New America and Foreign Policy Magazine. Each year two SAIS students are chosen as fellows and author the India section of the Channel's *Daily Brief* which has a readership of over 250,000 individuals.

## 2015-2016 Fellows

Udit Banerjea and Shuja Malik

To contribute a piece to the South Asia Channel please email David Sterman at [sterman@newamerica.org](mailto:sterman@newamerica.org).

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CHANNEL VISIT:  
<http://foreignpolicy.com/channel/south-asia-2/>

## SAIS South Asia in the News

In September, SAIS and the Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health welcomed the Chief Minister of Haryana to Baltimore for discussions on ways to collaborate on the planning of a university of public health to be built in Haryana.

'The RSS has become far more political over the last two decades' noted Dr. Andersen in his interview with Scroll India. Dr. Andersen, the co-author of the landmark work 'Brotherhood in Saffron' discussed the Babri demolition, and recent developments of the RSS and BJP. Read the interview [here](#). Dr. Andersen will be spending the next year writing a new book on the RSS and has been conducting interviews with senior RSS leadership. In October, Dr. Andersen participated in a panel at the Madison Wisconsin India Conference discussing the 2014 parliamentary elections in India. He has submitted a chapter on religion and politics in India for a book on the subject to be edited by Professor Charles Doran.

## Meet our SAS Doctoral Candidates

**Khalid Nadiri** is finishing up his PhD with the South Asia Studies Program at SAIS. His dissertation (to be defended next spring) examines the institutional impact of the last 15 years of war on Afghanistan's economy, development and political order. Khalid also teaches Econometrics at SAIS. Prior to joining SAIS, Nadiri held research positions at the RAND Corporation and the Council on Foreign Relations, and worked in investment banking. Read Khalid Nadiri's recent work and follow him on Twitter [here](#).

Explaining Pakistan's self-defeating Afghanistan policyAfghan-Pakistani Reconciliation: A Brief Thaw, or Something More?

**Constantino 'Tino' Xavier** is a doctoral candidate with the South Asia Studies Program. His dissertation (to be defended in the spring) examines India's neighborhood policy from the 1950s to the 2000s with case studies on involvement during crises in Nepal, Sri Lanka and Burma/Myanmar. He spent several months of 2014 and 2015 doing research on newly declassified government files at the National Archives of India, and

then interviewing more than one hundred decision-makers in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. Tino also finds time to write extensively on India in Africa, including his latest piece in *Foreign Policy* and his chapter for the book *The Oxford Handbook on Indian Foreign Policy* edited by Raja Mohan, David Malone and Srinath Raghavan. In October Tino participated in the Asian Forum on Global Governance in New Delhi, hosted by ORF and Germany's Zeit Foundation. Follow Tino on Twitter [here](#).

**In Memoriam** Granville Austin (1927-2014) was an American historian and the leading expert on the Indian constitution. The Indian government honored him with the



Padma Shri for his work in 2011. Before his passing, Austin gifted the South Asia Studies Program his extensive book collection.

The program plans to honor his legacy with a discussion on his work to take place in the spring of 2017. Susanne Rudolph (1930-2015), one of the leading experts on Indian politics (and one of Walter Andersen's dissertation advisors) passed away in December of 2015. Sadly just a month later



her husband, Lloyd Rudolph also passed away. In 2014 both were honored with the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian award given by the Government of India. Read Walter Andersen's tribute to his longtime mentor and advisor [here](#).

## Spring 2016 SAS Classes

**In Search of Security: South Asia Today**  
Ambassador Rick Inderfurth  
Thursdays, 6:00pm-8:30pm, Rome 533

**Pakistan: In the Eye of the Geo-Strategic Storm**  
Ambassador Touqir Hussain  
Thursdays, 2:00pm-4:30pm, Rome 202

**Comparative Economic and Political Development in South Asia**  
Walter Andersen  
Mondays, 2:00pm-4:30pm, Rome 535

## ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni, we want to hear from you! Update us on promotions, new publications, family events and we will include it in the next newsletter.