

Department of Sociology
Faculty of Social Sciences
South Asian University

Sociology of South Asia
(Compulsory Course for M.A.)

Total Credits: 04

Objectives of the Course

This course has three objectives.

- 1) To provide a survey understanding of the modern and contemporary history of the region, and the countries that comprise it, with a focus on social, cultural, political and economic dynamics, and the complex global, regional and local conjunctures through which such histories have emerged.
- 2) To understand the historical, and contemporary construction of 'South Asia' as a region, and area of study.
- 3) To locate the study of South Asia, within unfolding historical developments and as contemporarily structured, particularly in relation to the disciplines of sociology and social anthropology.

Unit 1: South Asia as an object of study: colonial imaginations and area studies.

This module will focus on two critical aspects to understanding the study of South Asia firstly colonial and orientalist knowledge production about South Asia and its postcolonial legacies, and secondly, the geopolitical context in which South Asia has emerged as a region within the globe, and as a bounded area of inquiry in the post-World War 2 period.

References

a) Colonial knowledge production and its postcolonial legacies

Asad, T (ed.) 1973. *Anthropology and the Colonial Encounter*, New York: Humanities Press.

Caplan, Lionel. 1991. 'Bravest of the Brave': Representations of 'The Gurkha' in British Military Writings,' *Modern Asian Studies*, vol. 25, no 3: 571-597.

Chatterjee, Partha.1993. *The Nation and its Fragments: Colonial and postcolonial histories*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Cohn, B. 1987. *An Anthropologist among Historians*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

- Des Chene, Mary. 2007. 'Is Nepal in South Asia? The condition of non-postcoloniality,' *Studies in Nepali History and Society*, vol. 12, no. 2: 207-223.
- Dirks, Nicholas. 2001. *Castes of Mind: Colonialism and the Making of Modern India*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Guha, R. 1988. 'On Some Aspects of the Historiography of Colonial India,' in Ranajit Guha and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (eds) *Selected Subaltern Studies*, Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- Inden, R. 1988. 'Orientalist Constructions of India,' *Modern Asian Studies*. vol. 20, no. 3: 401-446.
- Jodhka, S. 2002. 'Nation and Village: Images of Rural India in Gandhi, Nehru and Ambedkar', *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. 27, no 32: 3343-3353.
- Mani, L. 1987. 'Contentious Traditions: the Debate on Sati in Colonial India', *Cultural Critique*, vol. 7: 119-56.
- Morrison, Charles. 1984. 'Three Styles of Imperial Ethnography: British Officials as Anthropologists in India', *Knowledge & Society: Studies in the Sociology of Culture Past & Present*, vol. 5: 141-169
- Rogers, John D. 2004. 'Early British rule and social classification in Lanka,' *Modern Asian Studies*, vol. 38, no. 3: 625-647.
- Said, Edward. 1978. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage Books.
- Spivak, Gayatri. 1998. 'Can the Subaltern Speak?' in Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg (eds) *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, pp. 271-313.
- Vatuk, Sylvia. 1999. 'Shurreef, Herklots, Crooke, and *Qanoon-e-Islam*: Constructing an Ethnography of Moosulmans of India,' *South Asia Research*, vol. 19, no 1: 5-28.

b) Area Studies and Transnational Knowledge Production

- Dirks, N. 2003. 'South Asian Studies: Futures Past' in David Szanton (ed), *The Politics of Knowledge: Area Studies and the Disciplines*. Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 341-66.
- Singh, Amardeep. 2007. "'Names Can Wait': The Misnaming of the South Asian Diaspora in Theory and Practice,' *South Asian Review*, vol. 28, no. 1.
- Szanton, David (ed). 2003. *The Politics of Knowledge: Area Studies and the Disciplines*. Berkeley: University of California Press

Unit 2: Modern and Contemporary South Asia: A Historical Survey

This module is designed as a survey of modern and contemporary South Asia by country, with a focus of the following 1) nationalism, politics and political economy, 2) political and social movements 3) forms of political, economic and

social exclusion. The countries covered are India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Afghanistan.

References

General histories

Bose, Sugata, and Ayesha Jalal. 1998. *Modern South Asia: History, Culture, Political Economy*. New York: Routledge.

Guneratne A and Weiss, A. 2014. *Pathways to Power: The Domestic Politics of South Asia*. Delhi: Orient Blackswan.

Ludden, David. 2002. *India and South Asia: A Short History*. Oxford.

Metcalf, Barbara Daly, and Thomas R. Metcalf. 2006. *A Concise History of Modern India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Visweswaran, Kamala, (ed.) 2011. *Perspectives on Modern South Asia: A Reader in Culture, History, and Representation*. John Wiley & Sons.

Colonial India

Amin, Shahid. 1988. 'Gandhi as Mahatma: Gorakhpur district, eastern UP, 1921-2.' in Guha, Ranajit, and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, (eds.) *Selected Subaltern Studies*. Oxford University Press.

Banerjee, Sumanta. 1990. 'Marginalization of women's popular culture in nineteenth century Bengal,' in Vaid and Sangari (eds) *Recasting Women: Essays in colonial history*. Rutgers University Press, pp: 127-179

Chatterjee, Partha. 1990. 'The Nationalist Resolution of the Women's Question' in Vaid and Sangari (eds.) *Recasting Women: Essays in colonial history* Rutgers University Press, pp. 233-53.

Freitag, Sandria B. 1980. 'Sacred symbol as mobilizing ideology: The North Indian search for a "Hindu" community.' *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 22, no 4, pp 597-625.

India

Brass, Paul R. 2011. *The Production of Hindu-Muslim violence in Contemporary India*. University of Washington Press.

Corbridge, S and Hariss, J. 2001. *Reinventing India: Liberalization, Hindu Nationalism and Popular Democracy*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Dickey, S. 2000. Permeable Homes: Domestic Service, Household Space, and the Vulnerability of Class Boundaries in Urban India, *American Ethnologist*, vol. 27: 462-489.

Gupta, A. 1997. 'Agrarian Populism in the Development of a Modern Nation (India)', in Cooper, Frederick, and Randall M. Packard, (eds.) *International*

development and the social sciences: Essays on the history and politics of knowledge. University of California Press, pp.320-345

Fernandes, Leela. 2006. *India's New Middle Class: Democratic Politics in an era of Economic Reform.* University of Minnesota Press.

Frankel, F. 2005. *India's Political Economy 1947-2004:* Oxford University Press.

Forbes, G. 1996. *Women in Modern India.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Jaffrelot, Christophe. 1999. *The Hindu Nationalist Movement and Indian politics: 1925 to the 1990s.* Penguin Books India.

Jaffrelot, Christophe. 2000. 'The rise of the Other Backward Classes in the Hindi belt'; *The Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 59, no 1: 86-108.

Khilnani, S. 1998. *The Idea of India,* Farrar, New York: Farrar Straus Giroux.

Kumar, Radha. 1993. *The History of Doing: An Illustrated Account of Movements for Women's Rights and Feminism in India 1800-1990.* London: Verso.

Nagaraj, D. R. 1993. *The Flaming Feet: a study of the Dalit Movement in India.* South Forum Press.

Rudolph, L. I., and S. H. Rudolph. 1987. *In Pursuit of Lakshmi : the Political Economy of the Indian state.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Pakistan

Alavi, Hamza. 1972. 'The state in post-colonial societies: Pakistan and Bangladesh.' *New Left Review* vol. 74, no. 1: 59-81

Alavi, Hamza. 2011. 'Politics of ethnicity in India and Pakistan' in Visweswaran, K (ed) *Perspectives on Modern South Asia: A Reader in Culture, History, and Representation,* John Wiley & Sons, pp 95-99.

Verkaaik, Peter. 2004. *Migrants and Militants: Fun and Urban violence in Pakistan.* Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Khan, Naveeda. 2006. 'Of Children and Jinn: an Inquiry into an Unexpected Friendship during Uncertain Times.' *Cultural Anthropology*, vol. 21, no 2: 234-264.

Khan, Tariq Amin. 2000. 'Economy, society and the state in Pakistan.' *Contemporary South Asia*, vol. 9, no. 2: 181-195.

Marsden, Magnus. 'Mullahs, Migrants and Murids: New Developments in the Study of Pakistan A Review Article.' *Modern Asian Studies*, vol. 39, no. 4: 981-1000

Nasr, Vali R. 2000. 'International Politics, Domestic Imperatives, and Identity Mobilization: Sectarianism in Pakistan, 1979-1998.' *Comparative Politics*, vol. 32, no 2: 171-190.

Rouse, Shahnaz. 2011. 'Women's Movement in Pakistan: State, Class, Gender in Visweswaran, K (ed) *Perspectives on Modern South Asia: A Reader in Culture, History, and Representation,* John Wiley & Sons.

Siddiqi, A. *Military Inc: Inside Pakistan's Military Economy.* London: Pluto, 2007.

Zaidi, S. Akbar. 'An emerging civil society?' *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 19, no 4: 38-40.

Bangladesh

Gardner, Katy. 1988. Women and Islamic Revivalism in a Bangladeshi Community in Jeffery, Patricia and Basu, Amrita (eds.), *Appropriating Gender: Women's Activism and Politicized Religion in South Asia*: London: Routledge.

Kabeer, Naila. 1991. The Quest for National Identity: women, Islam and the state in Bangladesh. *Feminist Review*, vol. 37, no. 1: 38-58.

Karim, L. 2004. 'Democratizing Bangladesh: State, NGOs and Militant Islam', in Angana Chatterji and Lubna Chaudhry (eds.) *Gendered Violence in South Asia: Special Issue of Cultural Dynamics*, vol. 16, no 2/3.

Saikia, Y. 2004. 'Beyond the Archive of Silence: Narratives of Violence of the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh,' *History Workshop Journal*, No. 58, pp. 274-286.

Van Schendel, Willem. 2009. *A History of Bangladesh*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Nepal

Gellner, David N. 'Caste, ethnicity and inequality in Nepal.' *Economic and Political Weekly*: 1823-1828.

Gellner, David N., Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka, and John Whelpton, (eds). 1997. *Nationalism and Ethnicity in a Hindu Kingdom: The Politics of Culture in Contemporary Nepal*. Routledge.

Lawoti, Mahendra, and Anup Kumar Pahari, (eds.). 2009. *The Maoist insurgency in Nepal: revolution in the twenty-first century*. Routledge.

Lecomte-Tilouine, Marie, (ed.). 2013 *Revolution in Nepal: An Anthropological and Historical Approach to the People's War*. Oxford University Press.

Levine, N. 1987. 'Caste, State, and Ethnic Boundaries in Nepal,' *The Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 46, no. 1:71-88.

Seddon, David, Jagannath Adhikari, and Ganesh Gurung. 2002. Foreign Labor Migration and the Remittance Economy of Nepal, *Critical Asian Studies*, vol. 34, no. 1:19-40.

Sharma, P.R. 1977. 'Caste, Social Mobility and Sanskritization: A Study of Nepal's Old Legal Code.' *Kailash* 4:277-299

Whelpton, John. 2005. *A History of Nepal*. Cambridge University Press.

Sri Lanka

Hewamanne, S. 2007. *Stitching Identities in a Free Trade Zone: Gender and Politics in Sri Lanka*. University of Pennsylvania Press.

Spencer, Jonathan, ed. *Sri Lanka: History and the Roots of Conflict*. Routledge, 2002.

Tambiah, Stanley Jeyaraja. 1996. *Leveling crowds: Ethnonationalist conflicts and Collective Violence in South Asia*. University of California Press.

Thiranagama, Sharika. 2011. *In My Mother's House: Civil War in Sri Lanka*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011.

Afghanistan

Barfield, Thomas. 2010. *Afghanistan: a Cultural and Political history*. Princeton University Press.

Hyman, A. 2002. 'Nationalism in Afghanistan' *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, vol. 34, no. 2, pp 299-315.

Riphenburg, C. 2005. 'Ethnicity and Civil Society in Contemporary Afghanistan', *Middle East Journal*, vol. 59, no 1: 31-51.

Roy, O. 1989. 'Afghanistan: Back to Tribalism or on to Lebanon', *Third World Quarterly*, vol. 11, no. 4, pp. 70-82.

Unit 3: Doing sociology in South Asia: academic traditions and contemporary situations

This module examines firstly, the expansion, professionalization, and nationalization of different traditions of sociological research in various parts of postcolonial South Asia. Secondly, it examines contemporary critiques of the production of sociological knowledge in some areas, as well as, an examination of the politics surrounding knowledge production, in others.

References

Das, Veena. 1995 *The Anthropological Discourse on India: Reason and its Other*, in *Critical Events*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

Fuller, C, and Spencer, J. 1990. 'South Asian Anthropology in the 1980s', *South Asia Research*, vol. 10, no. 2: 85-105.

Hachhetthu, K. 2002. 'Social Science Research in Nepal', *Economic and Political Weekly*, August 31, 2002.

Mishra, C. 2005. 'Sociology in Nepal: Underdevelopment Amidst Growth', *Contributions to Nepalese Studies*, vol. 32, no, 1: 93-128.

- Monsutti, A. 2013. 'Anthropologizing Afghanistan: Colonial and Postcolonial Encounters', *Annual Review of Anthropology*, vol. 42: 269-285.
- Nissan, Elizabeth. 1987. 'The Works of Anthropologists from Sri Lanka: A Review', *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, vol. 21 no. 1: 1-25.
- Perera, Sasanka. 1996. 'In Search of a Sri Lankan Sociological and Anthropological Tradition', in *Lanka Guardian*, vol.19, # 2 (May 15, 1996) and vol. 19 # 3 (June 1, 1996). Colombo: Guardian Publications.
- Rao, M.S.A. 1974. 'Introduction', in *Indian Council of Social Science Research, Review of Research in Sociology and Social Anthropology*, vol. I. Bombay: Popular Prakashan.
- Srinivas, M.N. and M.N. Panini. 1973. 'The Development of Sociology and Social Anthropology in India', *Sociological Bulletin*, vol. 22, no. 2: 179-215.
- Thapar R. 1989. 'Imagined religious communities? Ancient history and the modern search for a Hindu identity', *Modern Asian Studies*, vol. 23:209-31.
- Zaidi, Akbar S. 2003. 'The Social Sciences in Pakistan: An Evaluation, Social Sciences in Pakistan in the 1990s', Islamabad: Council of Social Sciences, Pakistan.