

ETH ZÜRICH /
D-GESS

CHAIR OF MODERN GLOBAL
HISTORY
FALL TERM 2014

UE: Introduction to the History of Modern India (c.1800 - 2000): Themes and Debates



En route to modernity? — Indian Postcard (1906)

TIME: Wednesday, 15:15-16:45
LOCATION: HG D 3.3
INSTRUCTOR OF RECORDS: Prof. Dr. Harald Fischer-Tiné

Course description

This course explores various controversial issues of modern South Asian history that have been in the focus of historical debates in recent years. Topics range from the controversy over the beginning of modernity on the subcontinent, the colonial and postcolonial construction of caste, religious and gender identities to the role of 'Bollywood', and the effects of the most recent wave of economic globalisation on India and Pakistan.

In this seminar, the participants are not primarily confronted with "the facts" of history, but rather guided towards an analytical approach towards historical problems. The reading skills of complex historiographical texts are being trained, while at the same time students are introduced to the analysis of various kinds of source material.

Course requirements Presence in 80% of the sessions (an attendance sheet will be circulated), participation in the discussions and group work as well as either

- A **presentation of c. 20 mins** based on at least three of the listed readings

or

- An **essay of 3,000 words** based on at least four of the listed readings; it has to be submitted until 10 January 2015.

Link to online reader: <http://gruppe.elba2.ch/12143/ABgEphBFrc>

Contact to the teaching assistant: cornelia.rueegg@gmw.ethz.ch

SESSION OUTLINE & LITERATURE

(☼ = mandatory readings in the course package)

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Session 1 (17. 9. 2014) | Introduction to the course; Cultural and Geographical Background <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ BATES, Crispin, <i>Subalterns and the Raj: South Asia since 1600</i>, London-New York 2007, pp. 1-21. |
| Session 2 (24. 09. 2014) | <i>Bhārat</i>, India, South Asia: Historical Background, 1700-2000 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ METCALF, Barbara D./ METCALF, Thomas R., <i>A Concise History of India</i>, Cambridge, 32012.▪ BOSE, Sugata/JALAL, Ayesha, <i>Modern South Asia. History, Culture, Political Economy</i>, London-New York 32011. |

Session 3 (01. 10. 2014)

'Age of disruption or age of transition? — State, economy and power in the 18th century

- BAYLY, C. A., "The Pre-history of Communalism?' Religious Conflict in India, 1700-1860', in: Idem (ed.), *Origins of Nationality in South Asia. Patriotism and ethical government in the making of Modern India*, Delhi 1998, pp. 210-237.
- MARSHALL, P. J., 'Introduction', in Idem (ed.), *The Eighteenth Century in Indian History*, New Delhi 2003, pp. 1-49. ★
- SEN, Sudipta, 'Liberal empire and illiberal trade: The political economy of "responsible government" in colonial India', in: WILSON, Kathleen, *A New Imperial History. Culture, identity and modernity in Britain and the Empire, 1660-1840*, Cambridge 2004, pp. 136-154.
- RAY, Rajat Kanta, 'Indian society and the establishment of British supremacy 1765-1818', in: MARSHALL (ed.), *OHBE*, Vol. II., pp. 508-529.
- TRAVERS, Robert, 'Ideology and British Expansion in Bengal, 1757-72', in: *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, 33 (1), 2005, pp. 7-27.
- WASHBROOK; David, 'South India 1770-1840: The Colonial Transition', *Modern Asian Studies*, 38(4), 2004, pp. 479-516.

Session 4 (08. 10. 2014)

Liberal experiments: 'Colonial humanitarianism' and indigenous involvement (1819-1856)

- ROY, Parama, 'Discovering India, Imagining Thuggee', in: Idem, *Indian Traffic. Identities in question in colonial and postcolonial India*, Berkeley 1999, pp. 41-70.
- WAGNER, Kim, 'The Deconstructed Stranglers. Thuggee Reconsidered', in: *Modern Asian Studies*, 38 (4), 2004, pp. 931-963.
- MANI, Lata, 'Contentious Traditions: The Debate on Sati in Colonial India', in: SANGARI, Kumkum/VAID, Sudesh, (eds.), *Recasting Women: Essays in Colonial History*, New Delhi 1989, pp. 88-126.
- MAJOR, Andrea, 'Contested Sacrifice: Sati, Sovereignty and Social Reform in Colonial India', in: CHARU Gupta (ed.), *Gendering Colonial India: Reforms, Print, Caste and Communalism*, New Delhi 2012, pp. 57-81. ★
- MAJOR, Andrew J., 'Ritual and Symbolism in the Anti-infanticide Campaign in Early Colonial Punjab', in: *Journal of Punjab Studies*, 11 (2), 2005, pp. 95-110.
- SARKAR, Tanika, 'Something like rights? -Faith, law and widow immolation debates in colonial Bengal', in: *Indian Economic & Social History Review*, 49 (3) 2012, pp. 295-320.

Session 5 (15. 10. 2014)

Who speaks for the nation? — From Elite to Mass nationalism (c. 1880-1930)

- AMIN, Shahid, 'Gandhi as Mahatma: Gorakhpur District Eastern UP', in: *Subaltern Studies III*, Delhi 1984, pp. 1-61.
- BANDYOPADHYAY, Sekhar, *From Plassey to Partition: A History of Modern India*, rev. ed. New Delhi 2009, pp. 184-191.
- BAYLY, Susan, 'Hindu Modernisers and the Public Arena: Indigenous Critiques of Caste in Colonial India', in: RADICE, W. (ed.), *Swami Vivekananda and the Modernisation of Hinduism*, (Repr.) New Delhi 1999, pp. 93-137.
- GUHA, Ranajit, 'Discipline and Mobilize: Hegemony and Elite control in Nationalist Campaigns', in: Idem, *Dominance without Hegemony. History and Colonial Power in India*, Delhi 1998, pp. 100-151. ★
- MAC LANE, John, 'The Early Congress, Hindu Populism and the Wider Society', in: SISSON R. /WOLPERT S., (eds.), *Congress and Indian Nationalism: The Pre-Independence Phase*, Berkeley 1988, pp. 47-61.
- SETH, Sanjay, 'Rewriting Histories of Nationalism: The Politics of "Moderate Nationalism" in India, 1870-1905', in: *American Historical Review*, 104 (1), 1999, pp. 95-116.



Nationalism as performance: A demonstration in Delhi during Gandhi's Non-co-operation campaign (1922)

Session 6 (22. 10. 2014)

Resistance beyond Nationalism: Subaltern 'Mutinies', Revolts and Rebellions in South Asia

- ANSARI, M. T., 'Refiguring the Fanatic: Malabar, 1836-1922', in: *Subaltern Studies XII* (2005), pp. 36-77. ✪
- ARNOLD, David, 'Looting, Grain Riots and Government Policy in South India 1918', in: *Past & Present*, 84 (1979), pp. 165-228.
- BHADRA, Gautam, 'Four Rebels of 1857', in: GUHA Ranajit /SPIVAK Gayatri Chakravorty (eds.), *Selected Subaltern Studies*, Oxford 1988, pp. 129-175.
- SARKAR, Tanika, 'Rebellion as modern self-fashioning: A Santal Movement in Colonial Bengal', in: DASGUPTA, Sangeeta and RYCROFT, Daniel J., *The Politics of Belonging in India: Becoming Adivasi*, Abingdon 2011, pp. 65-81.
- FREY, James W., 'The Sepoy speaks: Discerning the Significance of the Vellore Mutiny', in: BATES, Crispin /RAND, Gavin (eds.), *Mutiny at the Margins: New Perspectives on the Indian Uprising of 1857*, Vol. IV, New Delhi etc. 2014, pp. 1-28.
- DESHPANDE, Anirudh, 'Sailors and the crowd: popular protest in Karachi, 1946', in: *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 26 (1), 1989, pp. 1-28.

Session 7 (29. 10. 2014)

The Reconfiguration of Religion in (Post-) Colonial Times

- FROERER, Peggy, *Religious Division and Social Conflict: The Emergence of Hindu Nationalism in Rural India*, New Delhi 2007, pp. 40-76.
- HATCHER, Brian, *Eclecticism and Modern Hindu Discourse*, Oxford 1999, pp. 47-70.
- JAFFRELOT, Christophe /THERWARTH, Ingrid, 'The Global Sangh Parivar: A Study of Contemporary International Hinduism', in: GREEN, A. /VIAENE, V. (eds.), *Religious Internationals in the Modern World: Globalization and Faith Communities since 1750*, Houndmills 2012, pp. 344-364.
- MADAN, T. N., 'The Double-edged Sword: Fundamentalism and the Sikh Religious Tradition', in: MARTY, M. /APPLEBY, R. S. (eds.), *Fundamentalisms Observed*, Chicago 1991, pp. 594-627.
- PERNAU, Margrit, *Ashraf into Middle Classes: Muslims in Nineteenth-Century Delhi*, New Delhi 2013, pp. 269-295.
- ROBINSON, Francis, 'Islamic Reform and Modernities in South Asia', in: OSELLA, F. /OSELLA, C. (eds.), *Islamic Reform in South Asia*, Cambridge 2013, pp. 26-50.
- VISWANATHAN, Gauri, 'Colonialism and the construction of Hinduism', in: FLOOD, Gavin (ed.), *The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*, Malden, MA 2003, pp. 23-44. ✪

Session 8 (05. 11. 2014)

Gender Trouble: Contestations over Masculinity, Femininity and Sexuality

- ANAGOL, Padma, 'Agency, periodisation and change in the gender and women's history of colonial India', in: *Gender and History*, 20 (3), 2008, pp. 603-627.
- ALTER, Joseph, *Gandhi's Body: Sex Diet and the Politics of Nationalism*, Philadelphia 2000, pp. 3-27.
- CHATTERJEE, Partha: *The Nation and its Fragments. Colonial and Postcolonial Histories*, Princeton 1993, pp. 116-157.
- GUPTA, Charu, *Sexuality, Obscenity, Community: Women, Muslims and the Hindu Public in Colonial India*, Delhi 2001, pp. 123-195. ★
- MRINALINI, Sinha, 'Giving Masculinity a History: Some Contributions from the Historiography of Colonial India', in: *Gender & History*, 11 (3), 1999, pp. 445-460.
- PRESTON, Laurence W. (1987). 'A Right to Exist: Eunuchs and the State in Nineteenth-Century India', in: *Modern Asian Studies*, 21 (2), pp. 371-387.



Gendered appropriation of Modernity? A Bengali married couple (c. 1920)

Session 9 (12. 11. 2014)

Categorical Inequality and Change: 'Caste' and 'Tribe' in Modern South Asia, 1800-2000

- BAYLY, Susan, 'Caste and Race in the Colonial Ethnography of India', in: Robb, P., *The Concept of Race in South Asia*, Delhi 1995, pp. 165-218.
- DAMODARAN, Vinita, 'Colonial Constructions of the Tribe in India: The Case of Chota Nagpur', in: PATI, Biswamoy, *Adivasis in Colonial India: Survival Resistance and Negotiation*, New Delhi 2011, pp. 55-87.
- DIRKS, Nicholas, *Castes of Mind. Colonialism and the Making of Modern India*, Princeton 2001, pp. 275-296.
- JAFFRELOT, Christophe, 'Analysing and Ethnicising Caste to Eradicate it more Effectively', in: SARKAR, Sumit /SARKAR, Tanika (eds.), *Caste in Modern India*, Vol. 2, Ranikhet 2014, pp. 315-329.
- RAO, Anupama, *The Caste Question: Dalits and the Politics of Modern India*, Berkeley etc. 2009, pp. 39-80. 🌟
- SAMARENDRA, Padhmanabh, 'Classifying Caste: Census Surveys in India in the Late nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries', in: *South Asia*, 26 (2), 2003, pp. 141-



164.

Gradual empowerment? — an open air school for 'untouchable' children (1926)

Session 10 (19. 11. 2014) Dangerous Mobilities: Circulation, Migration, and Diaspora

- AMRITH, Sunil S., 'Indians Overseas? Governing Tamil Migration to Malaya 1870–1941', in: *Past and Present*, 208 (1), 2010, pp. 231-261.
- ANDERSON, Clare: *Subaltern Lives: Biographies of Colonialism in the Indian Ocean World 1790-1920*, Cambridge 2012, pp. 23-55. ★
- HARPER, Marjory /CONSTANTINE, Stephen, *Migration and Empire*, Oxford and New York 2010, pp. 148-179.
- LAHIRI, Shompa, *Indian Mobilities in the West, 1900-1947: Gender, Performance, Embodiment*, Basingstoke 2010, pp. 59-81.
- MEYER, Eric, 'Labour circulation between Sri Lanka and South India in historical perspective', in: MARKOVITS, C. /POUCHEPADASS, J. /SUBRAHMANYAM, S. (eds.), *Society and Circulation. Mobile People and Itinerant Cultures in South Asia, 1750-1950*, New Delhi 2003, pp. 55-88.
- TATLA, Darshan Singh, 'Cry for an endangered Homeland? The contours of Sikh Diasporic Nationalism since 1984', in: GAL, A. /LEOUSSI, A. S. / SMITH, A. D. (eds.), *The Call of the Homeland: Diaspora Nationalisms, Past and Present*, Leiden and Boston 2010, pp. 241-288.

Session 11 (26. 11. 2014) The cataclysms of Modernity? - Industrialisation, Urbanisation and Labour (c. 1850-1950)

- CHANDAVARKAR, Rajnarayan, 'Industrialization in India before 1947: Conventional Approaches and Alternative Perspectives', in: *Modern Asian Studies*, 19 (3), 1985, pp. 623-668.
- BASU, Subho, 'Strikes and "Communal" Riots in Calcutta in the 1890s: Industrial Workers, Bhadrakol Nationalist Leadership and the Colonial State', in: *Modern Asian Studies*, 32 (4), 1998, pp. 949-983.
- HAYNES, Douglas E /RAO, Nikhil, 'Beyond the Colonial City: Re-Evaluating the Urban History of India, ca. 1920–1970', in: *South Asia*, 36 (3), 2013, pp. 317-335.
- RAY, Indrajit, 'Struggling against Dundee: Bengal jute industry during the nineteenth century', in: *Indian Economic & Social History Review*, 49 (1), 2012, pp. 105-146.
- AHUJA, Aditya, 'The City, its Streets and Its workers: The Plague Crisis, 1896-1898', in: AHUJA, Ravi (ed.), *Working Lives and Worker Militancy: The Politics of Labour in Colonial India*, New Delhi 2013, pp. 1-46. ★
- SEN, Samita, 'Gender and Class: Women in Indian Industry, 1890–1990', in: *Modern Asian Studies*, 42 (1), 2008, pp. 75-116.

Session 12 (03. 12. 2014) Benchmarks of Civilisation? - Science, Technology and Knowledge on the Indian subcontinent

- ARNOLD, David, *Everyday Technology: Machines and the Making of India's Modernity*, Chicago and London, 2012, S. 95-120.
- HABIB, S. I. /RAINA, Dhruv, 'Copernicus, Columbus, Colonialism and the Role of Science in Nineteenth Century India', in: Idem (eds.), *Social History of Science in Colonial India*, New Delhi 2007, pp. 229-251. ★
- KUMAR, Prakash, 'Plantation Science: Improving natural Indigo in Colonial India', in: *British Journal for the History of Science*, 40 (4), 2007, pp. 537-565.
- PRAKASH, Gyan, 'Science between the Lines', in: AMIN S. /CHAKRABARTY, D. (eds.), *Subaltern Studies IX*, Delhi 1996, pp. 59-82.
- PHALKEY, Jahnavi, *Atomic State: Big Science in Twentieth Century India*, Ranikhet 2013, pp. 11-51.
- ROY, Srirupa, *Beyond Belief: India and the Politics of Postcolonial Nationalism*, Durham 2007, pp.105-132.
- SAVARY, Luzia (2014): 'Vernacular Eugenics? *Santati-Śāstra* in Popular Hindi Advisory Literature (1900–1940)', in: *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, DOI: [10.1080/00856401.2014.933947](https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2014.933947)

Session 13 (10. 12. 2014) Media, Modernity and Politics: Indian Film as Mirror and Subject of History (1900-2000)

- DICKEY, Sara, 'The Politics of Adulation: Cinema and the Production of Politicians in South India', in: *Journal of Asian Studies*, 52 (2), 1993, pp. 340-372.
- DWYER, Rachel, 'Bollywood's India: Hindi Cinema as a Guide to modern India', in: *Asian Affairs*, 41 (3), 2010, pp. 381-98.
- LAL, Vinay, *Deewaar: The Footpath, the City and the Angry Young Man*, New Delhi 2011, pp. 1-37.
- SCHULZE, Brigitte, 'The Cinematic Discovery of India: Mehboob's Re-Invention of the Nation in *Mother India*', in: *Social Scientist*, 9-10 (2002), pp. 72-87. ★
- SINHA, Babli, *Cinema, Transnationalism, and Colonial India. Entertaining the Raj*, Abingdon 2013, pp. 35-65.
- DWYER, Ravi, 'The Meanings of Bollywood', in: DWYER, R. /PINTO J. (eds.), *Beyond the Boundaries of Bollywood*, New Delhi 2011, pp. 4-29.

Session 14 (17. 12. 2014) Brave new world? – Social and cultural transformations in the Age of Globalisation (1990-2010)

- BROSIUS, Christiane, *India's Middle Class: New Forms of Urban Leisure, Consumption and Prosperity*, New Delhi and London 2010, pp. 65-90.
- CARSWELL, Grace /DE NEVE, Geert, 'T-Shirts and Tumblers: Caste, Dependency and Work under Neo-liberalisation in India', in: *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 48 (1), 2014, pp. 103-131.
- CROSS, Jamie, 'From dreams to discontent: Educated young men and the politics of work at a Special Economic Zone in Andhra Pradesh', in: *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 43 (3), 2009, pp. 103-131.
- DESHPANDE, Sudhanva, 'The Consumable Hero of Globalised India', in: KAUR, Raminder /SINHA, Ajay J., *Bollyworld: Popular Indian Cinema through a Transnational Lens*, New Delhi etc. 2005, pp. 186-203.
- HARINDRANATH, R. /KHORANA, S., 'Civil Society Movements and the 'Twittering Classes' in the Postcolony: An Indian Case Study, in: *South Asia*, 37 (1), 2014, pp. 60-71. 🌟
- MAZZARELLA, William, 'Close Distance: Constructing the Indian Consumer', in: RAJAGOPAL, Arvind, *The Indian Public Sphere: Readings in Media History*, New Delhi 2009, pp. 247-259.
- MUNSHI, Shoma, A Perfect 10 — "Modern and Indian": Representations of the Body in Beauty Pageants and the Visual Media in Contemporary India, in: MILLS, J. /SEN, S. (eds.), *Confronting the Body: The Politics of Physicality in Colonial and Post-Colonial India*, London 2004, pp. 183-198.



Representing the 'twittering classes'? Protesters against Kentucky Fried Chicken in New Delhi (2010)