South ASiAn StudieS

• South Asia Institute: SAI is a university-wide research institute at Harvard that engages faculty members, students, and in-region institutions through interdisciplinary programs to disseminate knowledge, build capacity, inform policy, and engage in advocacy on issues that are shaping South Asia today.

• Harvard University Asia Center: a university-wide inter-faculty initiative with an underlying mission to project Harvard in Asia and Asia at Harvard. The Asia Center engages in a variety of scholarly and practical activities both at Harvard and in Asia to help strengthen the significance and understanding of East, Southeast, and South Asia including research and teaching, public seminars and conferences, focused workshops, publication of journals and monographs, internships, travel fellowships, film series, art exhibits, and more.

Sunil Amrith:
• Research: trans-regional movement of people, ideas, and institutions, and has focused most recently on the Bay of Bengal as a region connecting South and Southeast Asia. Amrith’s areas of particular interest include the history of migration, environmental history, and the history of public health.
• Publication: “Crossing the Bay of Bengal: The Furies of Nature and the Fortunes of Migrants”

Ali Asani:
• Research: Muslim literatures of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh Shiism, Sufism and popular or folk forms of Muslim devotional life, and Muslim communities in the West.
• Publication: Celebrating Muhammad: Images of the Prophet in Muslim Devotional Poetry (co-author)

Richard K. Wolf:
• Publication: The Voice in the Drum: Music, Language, and Emotion in Islamicate South Asia

Diana Eck:
• Publication: “India: A Sacred Geography.”

Sample Department
Research Opportunities

• SAS 225: South Asia as Understood Through Its Regions
• SAS 193: Class and the City in Indian Cinema
• SAS 179: South Asia - Connected Histories, Interdisciplinary Frames
• SAS 178: Literature as History in South Asia
• SAS 196: Capitalism and Cosmology in Modern India

Sample Faculty
Research and/or Publications

Sample Thesis Titles

• Reflections on Reality: The Buddhist Philosopher Srigupta and His Place in Indian Intellectual History
• Demystifying Indian Opposition to the US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement
• The Violence of Normal Times
• The Map-Maker’s Colors: Mukulabhatta’s Taxonomy of Figurative Meaning and its Promise for Literary and Everyday Life
• Royalty in Transition
• Conflict, Coexistence and Love: Bollywood Cinema and Hindu-Muslim Relations 1995-2015