



European Association for South Asian Studies

www.easas.eu

EASAS Newsletter Winter 2018

1. New Membership Administration

From 1 January 2019 onwards membership related issues will be handled by Christoph Blumert at the Bonn office of EASAS.

2. Changes in the EASAS Constitution (esp. concerning membership fee and duration of membership)

In order to avoid redundancies and ambiguities, a few minor changes were made in the Constitution. These were passed by the General Meeting of EASAS that took place on 25 and 27 July, 2018, in Paris on the occasion of ECSAS 2018. In particular, it has been specified in § 3, 2 b (Membership) that members can be expelled after non-payment for more than a year without just cause "in spite of reminders, or if the member's address is not known".

3. Report 25th ECSAS 2018 (by Ines G. Županov - CEIAS)

The 25th ECSAS 2018 took place from 24 to 27 July, 2018 at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales [EHESS] in Paris. The conference was organized by the Centre d'études de l'Inde et de l'Asie du Sud [CEIAS], 54 Boulevard Raspail, 75006, Paris.

The people involved in the organization of the ECSAS 2018:

ECSAS 2018 STEERING COMMITTEE

Ines G. Županov (Convenor, CEIAS, Paris)

Marie Fourcade (Co-convenor CEIAS, Paris)

Zoe Headley (Co-convenor, CEIAS, Paris)

Corinne Lefèvre (Co-convenor, CEIAS, Paris)

Tiziana Leucci (Co-convenor, CEIAS, Paris)

Raphael Voix (Co-convenor, CEIAS, Paris)

ECSAS 2018 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Naziha Attia, CEIAS, CNRS, Paris

Francie Crebs, CEIAS, EHESS, Paris

Amelle Generoso, CEIAS, CNRS, Paris

Nadia Guerguadj, CEIAS, CNRS, Paris

Marielle Morin, CEIAS, CNRS, Paris

Clément Pitorre, CEIAS, EHESS, Paris

ECSAS 2018 ACADEMIC COMMITTEE

Daniela Berti, CNRS, Paris

Alessandra Consolaro, EASAS (Vice President)

Rémy Delage, CEIAS, CNRS, Paris

Margret Frenz, University of Stuttgart

Martin Gaenszle, EASAS (President)

Christophe Guilmoto, CEPED (IRD), Paris

Christophe Jaffrelot, CNRS/SciencePo, Paris

Marie Caroline Saglio-Yatzimirsky, INALCO, Paris

Charlotte Schmid, EFEO, Paris

Aurélié Varrel, CEIAS, CNRS, Paris

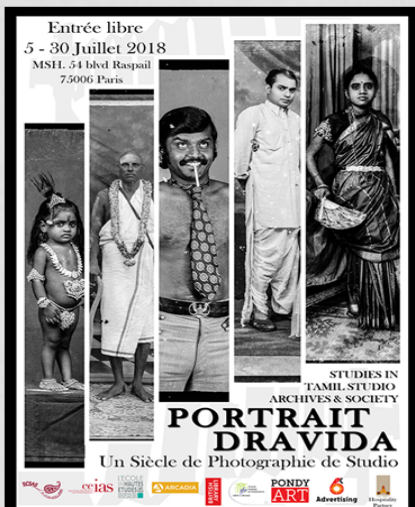
The organizers would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to EHESS President Christophe Prochasson who gave his stalwart support to the project from start to finish, as well as to the EHESS logistics staff who did their utmost to ensure that the event ran smoothly.

Thanks are also due to INSHS President François-Joseph Ruggiu. His institution was one of the events main patrons, and Mr. Ruggiu personally participated in the conference's opening ceremony.

The venue:

The panels took place at 105 Boulevard Raspail (75006) in 13 conference rooms of varying sizes and an amphitheatre. The registration/reception desk was open during the entire duration of the conference at 54 Boulevard Raspail (75006).

The cocktail party for the participants and the exhibit—"Portrait Dravida. A Century of Studio Photography"—were also held at 54 Boulevard Raspail (75006). The conference also featured a screening of the film *Sangharsh (Strife)* by Nicolas Jaoul. Book Sales and the publishers present at the conference were located at 105 Boulevard Raspail (2018) on the 6th floor.



Permanent Exhibit

Portrait Dravida
A Century of Studio Photography

Entrée libre
5 - 30 Juillet 2018
MS11, 54 blvd Raspail
75006 Paris

STUDIES IN
TAMIL STUDIO
ARCHIVES & SOCIETY
**PORTRAIT
DRAVIDA**
Un Siècle de Photographie de Studio

Book Sales Events
Room 13, 105 blvd Raspail

BRILL OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS xasia ePublishing TSCHANN Libraire

International Quarterly for Asian Studies

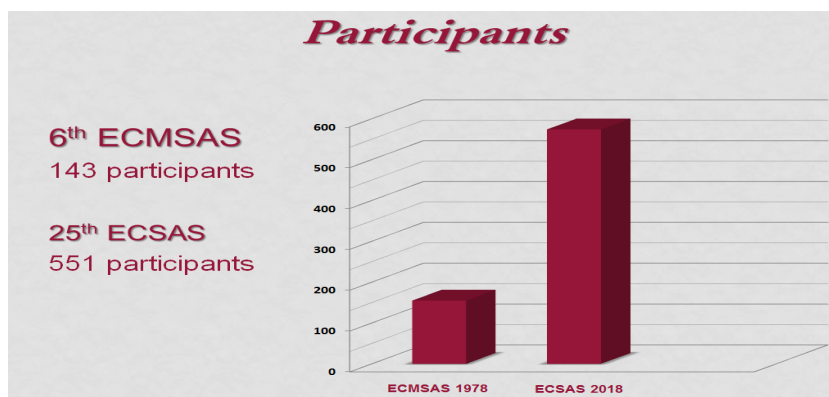
Delegates, Panel Convenors and Conference Calendar:

The conference was attended by 551 delegates participating in 56 panels. The papers and panels covered a large spectrum of disciplines from philology, history, anthropology, literary studies to

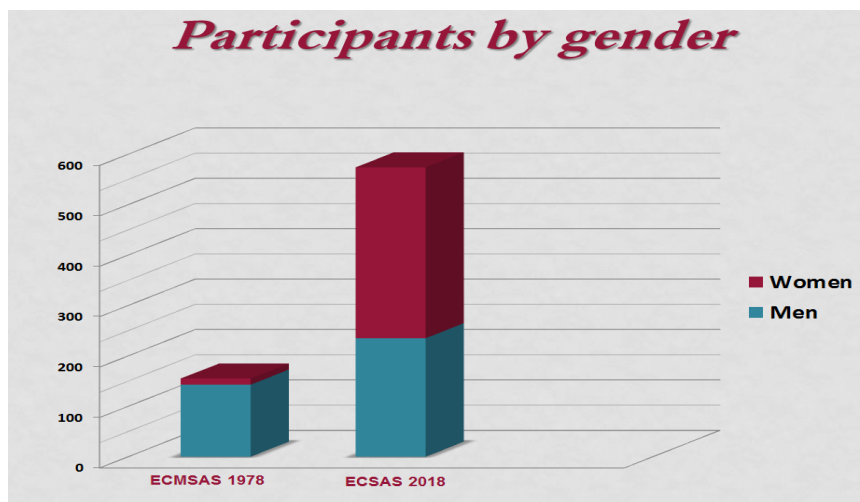
political science, sociology, in addition to various cross- and transdisciplinary panels. The conference was organized by the members of the CEIAS, a joint multidisciplinary, area studies department of the CNRS and EHESS.

The Call for Panels took place between February and May 2017. The Academic Committee selected the panels: 56 out of 113 proposals during a meeting in Paris in late May. The call for papers took place between 1 September 2017 and 20 November 2017 and the ECSAS received 926 abstract proposals. Decisions regarding the papers were left entirely up to the individual panel convenors. The allocation of time slots was subsequently decided upon/negotiated between the Steering Committee, the Academic Committee and panel convenors. One of the rules imposed by the WITAGO/Smart Abstract registration computer program was that there should be a fixed number—up to four—of presentations per time slot. This requirement elicited a number of complaints from the panel convenors who desired more flexibility in organizing their panels. In addition to selecting papers of high academic quality, the Committees ensured a well-balanced composition of panel convenors and panelists (according to gender, nationality, age).

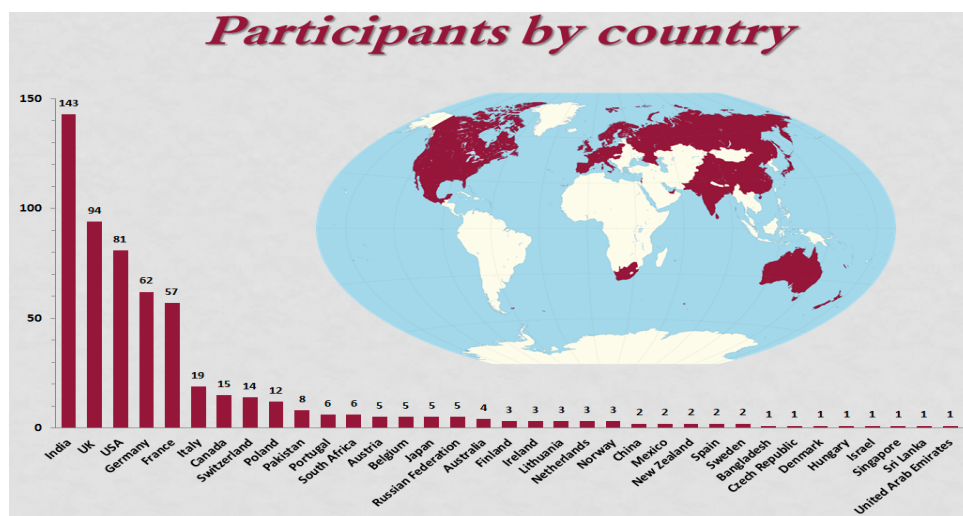
For comparative purposes we include in the following table on the 6th European Conference on Modern Asian Studies (as it was called at the time), which took place in Sèvres—a suburb of Paris—on 13 July 1978, and was organized by Marc Gaborieau and Alice Thorner, both distinguished members of our Center for South Asian Studies. Not only is it clear that interest in the conference has substantially increased since 1978, but this trend has also continued (see the graph below). For example, the number of paper proposals received by ECSAS2018 was more than 900. The next conferences will have to deal with this demographic fact.



It is also important to underline that the blatant gender imbalance in the 1978 conference has been neutralized in the 2018 edition.



The ECSAS 2018 has also been “internationalized” compared to the 1978 edition. The majority of participants today come from South Asia.



Early registration took place from 5 February 2018 to 4 May 2018 and the price was set at 150 €. Standard registration took place from 5 May 2018 to 3 July 2018 with a slightly higher rate—180 €. Late registration was from 4 July 2018 to 27 July 2018 at 200 €. The student registration rate regardless of the date was 100 €.

Sponsors:

We were able to help our participants with financial assistance thanks to our sponsors. We distributed 12 tuition fee waivers (mostly to PhD students) and gave 48 travel grants to panelists. Our sponsors, in addition to funds allocated by the CEIAS directly, were:



Keynote speakers:

It was an honour and pleasure to hear our two keynote speakers Sumathi Ramaswamy (Duke University, USA) and Christophe Jaffrelot (CERI, Paris) who accepted our invitation to share their new research with the large ECSAS 2018 audience.

Sumathi Ramaswamy's talk was entitled: *Gandhi in the Gallery: The Art of Disobedience*.
 Christophe Jaffrelot's talk was entitled: *Is India Becoming an Ethnic Democracy?*

Keynotes

Sumathi Ramaswamy

(Duke University)

24 July, 2018

Amphitheater 4:15pm - 5:45pm



Christophe Jaffrelot

(CERI/CNRS, Paris)

26 July, 2018

Amphitheater 1:15pm - 2:45pm



Panels:

- P01 Reconsidering Islamic Legal Traditions in South Asia: Politics, History, Ethnography
- P02 Son Preference and Gender Bias in South Asia: Shifts and Continuities
- P03 Colonialisms Compared: Practices of Power in the Portuguese, French, and British Empires in India
- P04 Vernaculars, Memory Construction and Emotion: Giant Jinas and Warrior Epics in Gwalior
- P05 Childbirth in South Asia: Multiple Perspectives on Continuing Paradoxes
- P06 Rethinking Regions: Cultural Formations and Circulation through and across Regional Boundaries
- P07 Modi and Religious Minorities: The BJP in Power since 2014
- P08 Political Representation in India: New Discourses, New Practices?
- P09 Documenting Mathematical Practices in South Asia: What Sources for What History?
- P10 Literary Sentiments: Gender and the Vernacular in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia
- P11 An Imagined www.globalsindhiyat.com: The Making of the Virtual (Indian) Sindhi Identity in the 21st Century
- P12 Arabic in South Asia: A Language in/of the Margins?
- P13 Juristic Personalities and the 'Rights of Non-humans': Gods, Animals and Natural Resources as Legal Persons in South Asia
- P14 Banglascapes in Southern Europe: Comparative Perspectives
- P15 Levels of Culture in the Early Modern European Study of South Asian Languages
- P16 Pakistan Desires: Queer Futurities of the Urban
- P17 Women and Public Spaces: Questions of Sexuality, Visibility and Freedom
- P18 Religious Networks, Religious Communities
- P19 Gauging Comics and Graphic Narrative in South Asia
- P20 Textoclasm, Profanation, and Desacralization in South Asia
- P21 Caste and the Outcaste: Subaltern Histories of Jati Formation
- P22 Producing and Consuming Photography in South Asia (1840-1980)
- P23 The Sayyids in South Asia: The Social and Political Role of a Muslim Elite
- P24 The Institutionalisation of Heritage in South Asia: The Possibilities of a Trans-Disciplinary Approach
- P25 Who Speaks for the Village? Representations of the "Rural" in India from the Colonial to the Post-Colonial Era
- P26 Genres and the Cultural Ecology of Early Modern South India (16-18th Century)
- P27 Economic Corridors, Development and Regional Cooperation in South Asia and Beyond

- P28 Living on the Edge: Highland Societies and Lowland Polities
- P29 Multiple Worlds of the Adivasis
- P30 'Muslim Woman'/Muslim Women
- P31 Gender and Health in Colonial South Asia
- P32 Writing—Grammar—Power: Language Issues in South Asia
- P33 The (Un)Partitioned Sindh: Sindhi Devotional Practices and the Social Hierarchy in Pakistan Post 1947
- P34 Mainstreaming the Margins: Northeast India and Hindutva's Cultural Project
- P35 Goa: Encounter, Complexity, Division, Cosmopolitanism
- P36 Non-European and European Grammatical Tradition: Invention, Organization and Designation of Linguistic Structures
- P37 Majoritarian Politics and Vigilante Justice in India
- P38 Education and Transformation in Contemporary India
- P39 Coded Citizenship: Biometrics, Identity and De-socializing Technologies in South Asia
- P40 Self in Performance II: Life Narratives in South Asia
- P41 Religion and Socio-Political Violence in South Asia
- P42 The Ethics and Practice of Remembering in India
- P43 New Realms of the Fantastic: Interdisciplinary Investigation of the Fantastic in South Asian Literature and Film
- P44 Body Politics, Female Subjectivities and Reproductive Health Rights in South Asia
- P45 Landscapes, Agriculture, Tourism and Ethnicity in the Himalayas: An India-Nepal Comparison
- P46 Major Patrons in Minor Courts: Rethinking Early Modern Cultural Production
- P47 Studying Up: Power, Politics, and Practice in Elite Education
- P48 Infrastructures: Labour and Nature in South Asia
- P49 Visual Anthropology of Performance: Roles, Forms and Limits of Audio-Visual Analysis in the South Asian Performing Arts
- P50 Religious Flows and Ruptures in South Asia
- P51 Mediating South Asian Diasporic Experience in the 21st Century: Narratives across Borders
- P52 Maritime Crossroads: Social Histories of South Indian Port Cities
- P53 Oral-Written-Performed. The Rāmāyaṇa in Indian Literature and Arts
- P54 Political Systems and Their Influence on Foreign Policy Making in South Asia
- P55 Dalit and Adivasi Narratives and the Contestation of Space
- P56 Bouquets of Poetry and Garlands of Poets: The Anthology in South Asia

The 56 panels of the 25th ECSAS 2018 focused on a range of innovative topics. Studies centred on particular regions/locations/populations—Sindh, Goa, Himalaya, Pakistan, Bangladeshis in Italy, lowlands vs. highlands, the diaspora, villages, ecology approached through different disciplinary (geography, anthropology, history) and transdisciplinary tools—were the largest group of panels (12). Literary topics crossing over into visual and performing arts and history was the next most popular category (10). Panels dealing with contemporary politics and economy were also very popular (9) and attracted large audiences. Among the most attractive panels were those on Dalit and Adivasi studies (3), which also intersected with panels on caste and contemporary Indian politics. Important and most welcome were (4) panels on gender and, especially, women's health. Questions of religion were addressed directly in 6 panels, three of which were on Islam in South Asia. The rest of the panels also addressed various topics, such as history of mathematics, linguistic questions, history and historiography and, interestingly, there was only one panel on comparative colonialism.

In spite of a heat wave that had hit Paris precisely during the conference and the fact that the EHESS classrooms were not equipped with air conditioning, the atmosphere at the conference was excellent. The final afternoon boat trip cum dinner on the River Seine made all those present understand why it is important for scholars to meet in person at these kinds of events.

4. New Executive Board

The new Executive Board was elected at the General Meeting of EASAS that took place on 25 and 27 July, 2018, in Paris during ECSAS 2018.

The elected members are as follows:

Executive Board:

President: DANUTA STASIK, University of Warsaw, Poland

Vice-President: MARTIN FUCHS, Max-Weber-Kolleg, University of Erfurt, Germany

Treasurer: PETER B. ANDERSEN, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Advisory Committee:

GUNNEL CEDERLÖF, Linnaeus University, Sweden

ALESSANDRA CONSOLARO, University of Turin, Italy

SANJUKTA DAS GUPTA, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

LARS EKLUND, University of Lund, Sweden

MARTIN GAENSZLE, University of Vienna, Austria

JOSE MAPRIL, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal

ALEKSANDRA TUREK, University of Warsaw, Poland

RAPHAEL VOIX, CEIAS, Paris, France

INES G. ŽUPANOV, CEIAS, Paris, France

5. EASAS Research Student Awards

One of the stated aims of the European Association for South Asian Studies is to encourage and support young scholars working in the field of South Asian Studies. In pursuit of this aim, at the ECSAS 2018 in Paris, awards were made for the most outstanding papers by currently registered research students presenting at the conference.

Awardees EASAS Research Student Award 2018 (in alphabetical order):

Madiah Akhter: *A Wholly Unsuitable Heir: The Bhopal Succession Case, 1924-26*

Madiah Akhter is a fifth year PhD candidate specializing in modern South Asian history at the Department of History, Stanford University, USA. She received her master's degree in history from Tufts University and a Bachelor's degree in history from UCLA. Her research and teaching interests include modern South Asia, gender, queer and transhistory, and global history. Her doctoral dissertation, titled "In Her Own Right: Sovereignty and Gender in Princely Bhopal, 1901-1926", explores the mutual dependencies and contestations of sovereignty between princely rulers and imperial administrators in the twentieth century. Specifically, she excavates the possibilities of princely sovereignty in Bhopal under the direction of its ruler, Sultan Jahan Begum (r. 1901–1926). Bhopal, located in central India, was the only princely state under female rule in the twentieth century and was the second largest Muslim princely state in India. In this project, she investigates the conceptual and practical articulations of "in her own right" through gendered space, history writing, anticolonialism, symbolism and succession. Her dissertation engages with political theory on early modern and modern sovereignty in South Asia, feminist analysis of performance and embodied sovereignties, and postcolonial scholarship on anticolonialism and nationalism.

Sara Kazmi: *Gender, Vernacular Tradition and the Politics of Voice in Punjabi Poetry: Radical Retellings of Hir by Amrita Pritam and Nasreen Anjum Bhatti*

Sara Kazmi is a doctoral student at the University of Cambridge. Her project explores literary radicalism

in postcolonial Punjab, focusing on poets and playwrights whose work addresses the relationship between emancipatory politics in the contemporary period and vernacular genealogies of critique. Her research examines the reworking of folk forms by contemporary writers to address issues of gender, caste and class in the making of region and nation.

6. 5th EASAS Academic Workshop on *Price of Belonging*

The fifth EASAS Academic Workshop on *Price of Belonging*, convened by Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka and Éva Rozália Hölzle, took place at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Bielefeld University, Germany, from 12 to 13 July 2018.

Belonging, as an everyday experience of being in the world, commonly evokes positive associations, yet collective belonging is an ambiguous social practice. Be it on biological, ethnic, economic or political grounds, belonging comes with a price. "Social contracts" rewarding a person with entitlements and safety simultaneously confront her with claims of loyalty, lifelong commitments, and limitations on personal freedoms. Incorporation may lead to collisions of social expectations, conflicts between individual will and the "collective good", and tensions between personal autonomy and social bonding. Due to the "symbolic power" (Bourdieu) of belonging, such tensions frequently remain concealed, and personal obligations are rarely acknowledged as sacrifices or submissive.

The two-day focused discussion group was intended as an opportunity to jointly work through and deepen the understanding of human sacrifice that belonging implies by focusing upon specific case studies in different South Asian countries. The aim of the workshop was to look into the interior of human bonds that are less about a relationship between the self and a different "Other"—an already established approach to investigate belonging and more of a relationship between the self and a distinct "Same", a perspective that will guide us to the hidden yet scarcely understood spheres of belonging. The following questions were addressed: How do collectives make claims upon individual persons? How do individuals gain and secure their membership? How are individual and collective commitments (re)negotiated in everyday situations? What makes some people stay in a formation while others opt to exit? What happens to those who are unable or unwilling to bear the costs? Themes of interest include: consequences of class, caste, ethnic and gendered belonging and membership; inter-marriage; individual navigation through collective constellations.

7. SAMAJ-EASAS special issues 2019 and 2020

EASAS and SAMAJ—the South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal—work together to publish a SAMAJ-EASAS special issue once a year, selecting panels from the last ECSAS conference. The proposal by panel no. 25 of the 25th ECSAS conference entitled "Who Speaks for the Village? Representations and practices of the 'Rural' in India from the Colonial to the Post-Colonial," convened by Joël Cabalion (Université François Rabelais, Tours - France) and Delphine Thivet (Université de Bordeaux, Bordeaux - France), was selected for the Samaj/EASAS joint issue 7, 2019.

The proposal for the publication of panel no. 39 of the 25th ECSAS conference entitled "Coded citizenship. Biometrics, identity and de-socializing technologies in South Asia," convened by Pier Giorgio Solinas (Università di Siena, Italy), was selected for the Samaj/EASAS joint issue 8, 2020.

8. Call for proposals for EASAS PhD Workshop 2019

The Call to Universities and Higher Education Institutions to host the 2019 EASAS Doctoral Workshop is now open and will be circulated among the members.

The workshop will give PhD students an opportunity to receive feedback on their theses from senior scholars and fellow PhD candidates who are also working on South Asian topics. In addition, it will create networks between young students of South Asia and help them develop contacts with others.

The doctoral workshop is envisaged as a two-day event for a maximum of 16 PhD candidates and 6 faculty members from European universities, to be held at a host European university.

The host university will organize the workshop and arrange board and lodging for students as well as the invited faculty members. The selection of the host university will be made by the EASAS board. The EASAS board will assist with accommodation and board for students and staff at the workshop with a sum dependent on the financial situation of the university, but not exceeding 2500 €. Participants will have to make their own travel arrangements.

Proposals must include:

- Willingness to hold the workshop in 2019, specifying the period.
- Brief description of the institution.
- Brief description of the local steering committee for the doctoral workshop, whose members must be specialists in South Asia and members of EASAS. The workshop steering committee will plan and manage the workshop, select the student participants and the invited faculty members.
- Brief budget, listing costs for venue, accommodation, and board of participants.

Please send your proposals to office@easas.eu by 31 January 2019.

Last, but not least, the EASAS Board and Council wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

On behalf of the Council,
Danuta Stasik, President
Martin Fuchs, Vice-President
Peter B. Andersen, Treasurer

We would like to especially thank Alessandra Consolaro, a past Vice-President and a member of the EASAS Council, for her help in putting this Newsletter together.