

CHAPTER 24

HISTORY

Doctoral Theses

268. ABDUL RASHID LONE
Semthan and the Historical Archaeology of Kashmir.
Supervisor : Prof. Nayanjot Lahiri
Th 22194

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Early historic settlements in Kashmir- An overview 3. Semthan: Geography, field work and antiquities 4. Semthan - A site catchment analysis 5. Semthan: Analysis of pottery 6. Satellite settlements around semthan 7. Conclusion.

269. ARSHI (Nida)
Indo-Muslim Aristocracy Under Siege: Colonial Expansion and the Muslim 'Elite' in Delhi, C. 1800-1860.
Supervisor : Prof. S. Z. H. Jafri
Th 22190

Abstract

The political upheavals in Delhi during 1800-1860 have shaken the very structure of the entire social setup of the city, affecting the fortunes of the established families and institutions. Some of the markers of the Mughal urban life vanished without leaving a trace. The study attempted to understand some of the major features in the life of the city, in relation to a class; including the Mughal officials as well as the non officials, nobles as well as civilians, ideologues and intellectuals, service providers and hangers-on. The study does not go into the rebellion of 1857 and its larger administrative and political implications. But the British response to the ruling elite of the Mughal empire, before and after has been delved into through the examination of the Residency system, techniques of 'suppressions' like resumption of maa'fi grants, working of the prize agents in Delhi and its effects on the indigenous institutions. We have also discussed the policies of the British towards the waqf grants in the city. Also an attempt has been made to study the interaction, contradictions and process of adjustment between the Muslim and the Colonial society and how we witness the emergence of a new group of 'elite' in the society.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Mughal emperors, the residency system and the agencies 3. The colonial administrative policies and the muslim elite in the city of Delhi: Land grants, pensions and waaf 4. Pulls, convulsions and collaborators: concerns of the ashrafia in the city of Delhi 5. New emerging elite and search for identity: Ameer khan and

the making of a nawab 6. The British expansion and the changing urban space. Summary and conclusion. Bibliography.

270. BAGCHI (Debrati)
Many Spaces of Sylhet Making of a 'Regional Identity', 1870s- 1940s.
Supervisors : Dr. Prabhu Mohapatra and Dr. Bodhisattva Kar
Th 22186

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Omitted: The curious case in Ilam lands 3. Recorded: Writing the rights 4. Shuttled: A brief history of a mobile state space 5. Plotted: The anxieties of history writing 6. Distanced: The literary and linguistic landscapes. Conclusion. Glossary. Bibliography.

271. BORDOLOI (Anisha)
Culture and Identity in Assam : Historicising Tea Plantations.
Supervisor : Prof. Amar Farooqui
Th 22546

Contents

1. Introduction : Assam, tea plantations and history writing. 2. Defining Assam : Colonialism, plantations and transformation of a landscape. 3. Culture : A yardstick of the civilized 4. Constructing the contours of identity. 5. Discovering the self while describing the other. Bibliography.

272. BOSE (Shibani)
Mega Fauna in Early North India: A Cultural and Ecological Enquiry (From the Mesolithic UPTO C. 300 A.D.).
Supervisor : Prof. Nayanjot Lahiri
Th 22191

Contents

1. Introduction 2. On the trail of the unicornis 3. Beyond the glittering eye: Tiger tales from ancient India 4. Trunk calls in antiquity-I: Traces in archaeology and art 5. Trunk calls in antiquity-II: The elephant in textual traditions 6. Conclusion. References.

273. DEY (Gitanjali)
Agrarian Life in Bengal Under Three Regimes : Mughal, Nizamat and the Early Colonial From 1580 to 1789 A.D.
Supervisor : Prof. S. Z. H. Jafri
Th 22545

Contents

1. Introduction. 2. Historical geography of Bengal. 3. Agrarian life of Bengal under the Mughals. 3. Agrarian life of Bengal in the Nizamat period. 4. Revenue administration in Bengal on the eve of the grant of Diwani. 5. Grant of Diwani to EIC: Altered texture of regime and shift towards permanent settlement. Summary, conclusion, bibliography and appendices.

274. EMI ALKAWA
Historical and Anthropological Study of Sati in Indian Culture.
Supervisor : Dr. Anshu Malhotra
Th 22547

Contents

1. Introduction. 2. Idea of Sati in dharma sastra. 3. Contemporary Sati worship : A case study of Sati temples in Shekhawati. 4. Rani Sati temple : Focus of myth of Rani Sati. 5. Rani Sati temple: Current Rani Sati worship. 6. Rani Sati temple and the court case. Conclusion.

275. JHA (Pankaj Kumar)
Reading Vidyapati: Language, Literature and Cultural Values in Fifteenth Century North Bihar.
Supervisor : Prof. Sunil Kumar
Th 22195

Abstract

Reading Vidyapati: Language, Literature and Cultural Values in the 15th Century North Bihar Pankaj Kumar Jha Vidyapati was a poet and a scholar who lived in the fifteenth century north Bihar and composed more than a dozen texts on varied themes in three different languages. The dissertation focuses chiefly on three of Vidyapati's texts: Likhanāvalī, a Sanskrit treatise on the craft of writing letters and documents; Puruṣaparīkṣā that was styled as a text on masculinity but followed the story format of the nīti/naya tradition of Sanskrit; and Kīrtilatā that is a political biography in Apabhraṃśa of a prince of Mithila composed in the ākhyāyikā style. Together, these compositions provide an exciting entry point into the knowledge formations of the fifteenth century north India. As such, the thesis is an audacious attempt to write a political history of the literatures of a time that is marked by a notorious absence of any 'imperial' formation. It does so by excavating the deep diachronic histories and widespread near-synchronic multilingual debts of apparently monolingual texts. The evidently multiple forms of multilingual literary cultures in fifteenth century – lexical, generic, idiomatic, thematic, authorial, et al –at one level is interesting in itself. But it is important to ask as to what kinds of future political enterprises this kind of literary culture could prepare the ground for. To put the question in a simplistic and linear sequence, if literatures created/disseminated 'knowledge', and if knowledge formations are bedrocks on which fields of power are laid and exploited, then what could all this mean politically beyond the actual existing polities?

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Vidyapati and mithila 3. Empty time: The literary and the political in the fifteenth century 4. Writing state and order: Past, politics and problematic 5. Political ethics or the art being a man 6. Entangled vines of glory: Kirttilata and its many worlds. Conclusion. Bibliography.

276. JOHN (Maya)
Development of Indian Labour Law (1923-1948) : Repercussions on the Trade Union Movement and Workers Responses.
Supervisor : Dr. Prabhu Mohapatra
Th 22196

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Exploring the break with nineteenth - century regulation of labour relations and the birth of new contractualism 3. Making of ILO and impact of international labour legislation on India: Further exposition of the break with nineteenth-century legal regime. 4. Women and child labour: Aspects of regulation and deregulation in the colonial labour market. 5. The trade union registration act, 1926: Promoting a new contractual regime and genuine trade unionsim. 6. Constitution of a legal space of resistance: Investigating the discourse on labour unrest, the emergence of concomitant forms of state intervention, and workers responses 7. Trade disputes legislation post 1937 and workers responses to the law 8. Conclusion. Appendices. Bibliography.

277. KISHORE (Kanika)
Religious Landscape of Mathura, c.600 BCE - c. 1000 CE : Change and Diversity.
Supervisor : Prof. Upinder Singh
Th 22661

Abstract

Mathura is venerated first and foremost as the birth-place of Vāsudeva–Kṛṣṇa. However, the inscriptions also reveal the presence of Buddhist, Jaina, nāga and yakṣa traditions here. This thesis entails an epigraphic analysis of this religious landscape from the early historical till the early medieval period. The main focus is to understand the connotations attached with the kind of gifts, namely, temples, āyāgapaṭas, śilāpaṭas, tanks, toraṇas, and images of Jina, Buddha, Bodhisattva, yakṣa, nāga and Hindu deities. The various aspects of the profiles of the donors, in context of each religious tradition are also analysed. The issue about the origin of the Jina image and prevalence of stūpa worship in Jainism is also discussed. The issue about the lack of early Vāsudeva–Kṛṣṇa sculptures and the limited patronage available to this god in the Mathura area is also analysed. The content of the epigraphs dedicated in honor of Hindu deities, also suggests that some of these gods and goddesses held a place of prominence. This study also establishes that yakṣas and nāgas cannot be considered as mere folk and minor cults. Finally, the story behind the establishment of the Mathura Museum with the help of archival sources is also examined. The analysis reveals that the religious landscape of Mathura was perceived differently by diverse religious traditions. The donative inscriptions establish the change and diversity within this religious landscape. The change is noticeable in the kind of gifts donated and in the vocabulary of inscriptions. The fact that Mathura’s religious landscape had a multi-religious character for this long period raises many interesting issues, which are not only relevant for specific religious traditions but also for understanding the threads of interaction between them.

Contents

1. Introduction. 2. Jainism : Some basic issue. 3. Kankali Tila and Stupa worship in Jainism. 4. Dana in Jainism : Temples, ayagapatas and images. 5. Buddhism : Some basic issues and discoveries . 6. Dana in Buddhism : Images, stupas and pillar bases. 7. Worship of Vasudeva - Krsna at Mathura. 8. Patronage of Hindu deities and brahmanas. 9. Worship of yakshas and nagas at Mathura. 10 Conclusion, appendices and bibliography.

278. MADHWI

Health, Medicine and Migration : Colonial Mauritius and Natal, c. 1834 - c. 1920.

Supervisor : Dr. Prabhu P. Mohapatra

Th 22543

Contents

1. Health, medicine and migration in plantation economy. 2. Regulating the indentured system : Mauritius and natal, 1834-1920. 3. Making suitable indentured labour : On the depot of Calcutta and Madras. 3. Transporting bodies : Shipping indentured labour to mauritius and natal. 4. Fit body, fit labour : Hospitals, doctors and resistance. 5. Disease, sanitation and discipline : Matter of medical policing in the plantation. Conclusion, appendix and bibliography.

279. NISHA P R

History of Circus and Circus Performances in Twentieth Century Kerala.

Supervisor : Dr. Biswamoy Pati

Th 22188

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Circus acrobatics in malabar 3. Animals, circus and the state 4. Tenting the circus 5. Circus workers and trade unions. Epilogue. Bibliography. Appendix-I. Appendix-II.

280. OJHA (Shubhankita)

Labouring Lives Between Land and the Sea : A Social History of the Bombay Port and Its Workers (1860-1960).

Supervisor : Dr. Prabhu P. Mohapatra

Th 22541

Abstract

The thesis studies the lives of dock workers at Bombay and how these workers as a significant part of Bombay's working class have determined the social, political and economic dynamics of the Bombay city. In doing so, the work engages with the unique topography of the port located between the city and the sea and the workers working here. The thesis explores the formation and functioning of the labour market, migration patterns and nature of work at the Bombay docks. Prior to the arrival of steam ships, port traffic was subject to wide fluctuations which were not just seasonal or otherwise cyclic, and occurred daily depending upon the number of ships entering or leaving the port on any day. Quite obviously then, the volume of demand for dock workers was subject to wide fluctuations. Most of the workers who worked here were

casual and recruited not directly by employers but through intermediaries called 'toliwalas', 'serangs' or 'maistries'. The thesis discusses the casual labour problem especially prevalent at the docks and the arrival of steam ships that intensified work at the ports worldwide and demanded regularity of work for the quick turnover of ships from a port. Hence, it also examines the decasualisation of dock labour at Bombay and the politics of its implementation which lies at the heart of industrial relations at the ports in India till today. Also central to the thesis is the idea of 'neighbourhoods'. Apart from dock neighbourhoods, these workers also lived in mixed neighbourhoods which facilitated different sets of networks and interconnections with workers of the city. The thesis engages with the formal and informal modes in which the workers organised themselves and helps in disentangling the various kinds of networks and linkages forged by them within the workplace, city and beyond.

Contents

1. Introduction. 2. Bombay port : Making of the urbs prima in Indis. 3. Working with the casual : Bombay dock labour market, recruitment patterns & employment structure before decasualisation. 4. Neighbourhoods, mohallas and the new social spaces. 4. Tides of organised conflicts at the docks and the concern with the casual. 5. Decasualisation and industrial relations, 1948-1960s. Conclusion and bibliography.

281. RAMMATHOT KHONGREIWO
Archaeologies of Landscapes: A Social and Religious History of the Nagas of Nagaland and Manipur.
Supervisor : Prof. Nayanjot Lahiri
Th 22192

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Situating the nagas and their history in the history of India 3. Archaeologies of landscapes: Field surveys of landscapes in a few selected naga villages in Nagaland and Manipur - Ukhrul district 4. Archaeologies of landscapes: Field surveys of landscapes in few selected naga villages in Nagaland and Manipur - Senapati district of Manipur and Kohima and Mokokchung districts of Nagaland 5. Chronology, characteristics and historical significance of the landscapes - Part I: 'Natural landscapes' 6. Chronology, characteristics and historical significance of the landscapes Part II: 'Man-made landscapes' 7. Understanding the rationale and nature of traditional naga warfare 8. Landscapes of patriarchy: Understanding the status of women in naga society - from precolonial period to postcolonial period 9. Conclusion. Appendices. Glossary. References. Interviewees.

282. SABINA KAZMI
Women, Law and Custom in a Regional Shi'a Kingdom: A Study of the Gegums of Awadh up to 1860's.
Supervisor : Prof. S. Z. H. Jafri
Th 22189

Abstract

Our study of the Begums of Awadh moves away from the rigid categorisation and methodology of 'public/private' and 'authority/power' to study the unique role played by these royal women in the political, religious and social life of the 18th c.kingdom. Awadh during the period of our study was witnessing a gradual transformation. The Nawabs of Awadh had been successful in carving out an autonomous political space and a distinct culture for their kingdom, when the English East India Company arrived on the scene. The English defeated the Nawabs at Buxar in 1764, thus initiating a process of subjugation and resistance. As the English intervention in the nawabi regime escalated, the Nawabs had to operate in an increasingly shrinking sphere. They devised new ways to deal with this interference and looked towards cultural expressions of their authority and finding new legitimising means to bolster their status. The Nawabi court and the city of Lucknow were developed as cultural centres and the symbol of Nawabi rule. The rulers of Awadh also patronised the Shi'a clerical class and establishment, who in turn developed a theoretical framework which strengthen the Nawabi rule. Our study attempts to look at the unique space occupied by the royal women of Awadh in such a scenario. An important entry point in our study is the divergence between the Sunnis and Shi'a legal systems on the issues of women's inheritance and the right to property as we try to understand the Begums' influential position in the kingdom. On the basis of archival and records and other primary sources, an attempt has been made to look at how the Begums owned and managed enormous jagiris, influenced dynastic and political changes, led rebellions and alliances, and influenced forms and rituals of devotion in Awadh.

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Women, law and custom in muslim societies 3. The emergence of Awadh as a 'shia' kingdom 4. Bahu begum of Awadh 5. Begums of Awadh - political agency, property and patronage 6. Begum hazrat mahal and the revolt of 1857. Summary and conclusions. Bibliography.

283. SENGUPTA (Suparna)
Convict Colonization of the Andamans, c.1850-c.1920.
 Supervisor : Dr. Biswamoy Pati
Th 22542

Contents

1. Introduction. 2. A search for sovereignty : Debating convict colonization of Andamans. 3. Transportation in Indian legal parlance : Administering Andamans as penal colony. 4. Sedition and criminalising the public : Transportation as a remedial measure. 5. Negotiating the political offenders in Andamans : Treatment of perceptions. 6. Transition of voluntary transportation and free colonisation of Andamans. Bibliography and appendix.

284. SHARMA (Ravikant)
Words in Motion Pictures : A Social History of Language of Hindi Cinema (C.1931 till the Presnet).
 Supervisors : Dr. Charu Gupta, Prof. Shahid Amin and
 Prof. Ravi S. Vasudevan

Abstract

This is an inter-media thesis choosing to highlight language as a site in Hindi cinema. Using a wide range of sources, it takes the story beyond the screen, since cinema was relayed, reviewed and debated in Hindi-Urdu film journalism as well as via film-driven radio broadcasting in South Asia. It seeks to highlight the affective bond between the film stars, aural stars, listeners and broadcasters. Examining the contrast between media for pedagogic and entertainment purposes, it proposes an occasionally tense but generally cordial relationship in these popular domains. These media forms have been constantly changing since the talkies, but they have also worked as extensions of each other; the mutual interdependence is even more marked in South Asia, as cinema emerged as an encyclopedic form for musical genres as well. The Internet is a convergence media for all existing media forms and its content is available on app-driven platforms, so we can see that films are now being watched on touch-screen tablets and radio, in its FM avatar, is being listened to on mobiles. The thesis engages with the rich historiography of broadcasting, film studies, and listening and film viewing practices, to argue that geographical cartographies, censorial fiats and ideological campaigns, although crucial in shaping the contours of the film culture, had limited impact in the ultimate analysis. Similarly the so-called Hindi-Urdu divide did impinge on Hindi cinema, but the desire for pleasurable consumption, no doubt vetted by commercial agencies, triumphed over narrow linguistic concerns. The change in nomenclature for language – Hindustani to Hindi to Hinglish, and for the film industry itself suggests shifts in landscapes of production, exhibition and consumption, but the thesis focuses on the depth and richness of film appreciation as evidenced in the bhasha archives.

Contents

1. Introduction. 2. Hindi Cinema debates language. 3. Print for Cinema : Hindi-Urdu film journalism, C.1930-1950. 4. Urdu-Hindi film journalism, 1950-85. 5. Visualising listening : Radio in Hindi cinema. 6. Broadcasting cinema. Conclusion and bibliography.

285. SHIRAZ AHMAD DAR

Working Class and the Struggle for Freedom in Kashmir (1846-1947)

Supervisor : Dr. Biswamoy Pati

Th 22187

Contents

1. Introduction 2. The political economy of the Kashmir valley 3. Voice for economic equality: Early working people's uprisings and protests 3. Kisan mazdoor movement in Kashmir 4. Kabamarag congress (11th to 13th May, 1946) 5. The 'Transfer of Power' and the princely state of Kashmir 6. The endgame of the dogra raj and kisan mazdoor conference. Epilogue. Bibliography. Tables. Appendixes.

286. SINGH (Akanksha Narayan)
Forms of Labour Servitude in Colonial North India, c. 1800 - 1920s.
Supervisor : Dr. Prabhu P. Mohapatra
Th 22193

Contents

1. Setting the context: Studies in history of servitude 2. Of slaves, slave trade and slavery 3. Bonded through debt 4. Beyond slavery and bondage 5. Free versus unfree: Wrapping-up the debate. Bibliography.

287. SINGH (Niti)
State, Society and Jati in the Pre-Colonial Jaipur Kingdom.
Supervisors : Prof. R. C. Thakran and Prof. R. P. Rana
Th 22185

Contents

1. Introduction 2. Jaipur state: Origin and organisation 3. Caste-wise settlement pattern and economic stratification 4. Controlling crime and castes 5. Jaipur darbar and jati order 6. State and jati panchayat 7. Caste rivalries and role of the state. Conclusion. Annexures and bibliography.

288. SUMAN (Amit Kumar)
Indigenous Education in Institutions of Higher Learning in Bengal Presidency and the North-West Provinces : 1760's-1880's.
Supervisor : Dr. Raziuddin Aquil
Th 22548

Abstract

The thesis focuses on the colonial policies regarding the centres of indigenous education—for instance, the shift in such policies and the ideologies driving them, the sources of patronage, curricula, syllabi, evaluation patterns, resources available including teachers, books and other infrastructural facilities—it also places special attention to the experience of the persons concerned. The focus of this work is also on the educational history of Bengal presidency and the North-Western provinces, specifically of the occupational groups of pundits, maulvis and associated leaders of the indigenous society, the challenges to their educational systems and their responses to such challenges and threats, all interwoven in the period of late 18th and 19th centuries. The present thesis is premised on how historical actors, drawing from the diversity of resources available to them, strove for constructing an authoritative sight of knowledge production. In this way, groups of pundits and maulvis, for example, can be seen as engaging with the presentation of Western knowledge as a part of the process of producing specific version of 'Indian knowledge', while constantly redefining their own roles in cultural production, social interaction, education, religious practice and governance. The institutional apparatus within which such actors were located—for instance, the Sanskrit college at Banaras and Calcutta as well as Calcutta Madrasa and Hooghly Madrasa—are presented as not only always instrumental in the processes of such self-fashioning, but also as being always remade in these interactions. Thus, groups of individuals and the institutions are not stagnant

in historical processes but are understood as constantly playing a role in their own becoming.

Contents

1. Introduction. 2. Historiographical literature : A review. 3. Colonial policies and institutionalization of indigenous education. 4. Colonial state and centres of Islamic learning. 5. Colonial state and centres of sanskrit learning. Conclusion, appendices and bibliography.