

CALL FOR PAPERS

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SOUTH ASIA GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE

March 8-9, 2019  THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

south asia:

the POLITICAL, the PUBLIC, the POPULAR

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

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The organizing committee of the **South Asia Graduate Student Conference** at the University of Chicago is delighted to announce the sixteenth annual conference, to be held on **March 8-9, 2019**, on the theme, “South Asia: The Political, the Public, the Popular.” We invite papers from graduate students at all levels to explore these categories in contemporary and historical South Asia.

In tracing the development of the political, the public, and the popular, we wish to interrogate both their mutually constitutive character and the limitations of their intersection. As these concepts have become increasingly widespread in scholarship on South Asia, we ask whether they require a distinct theorization that accounts for their application in the region. This year’s conference will take place a month before the general election in India and in the wake of major elections in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan, posing the timely question of how democratic processes engage in and shape political life, the public sphere, and popular culture. At the same time, we welcome an understanding of the political that extends beyond governance and institutions as we consider its construction in and through the arts, mass culture, media, and entertainment.

We invite papers on topics such as:

- Institutions, elections, and political representation
- Politics of public space in everyday life
- Censorship and regulation of popular culture
- Mass communication and political mobilization
- Religion and the politics of populism
- Mass culture and art forms in the public sphere
- Cinema, politics, and movie-going publics
- Gender, caste, minorities, and subaltern counterpublics
- Environmentalism in popular culture
- South Asia and the global public sphere
- Theorizations of “the political” in South Asia

Graduate students at any level and any stage of research are encouraged to apply. Past conferences have accepted papers from such diverse fields as cinema and media studies, history, political science, literature, environmental studies, religious studies, art history, science studies, philosophy, anthropology, and sound and visual studies, but we welcome all disciplinary approaches and methodologies.

SEND INDIVIDUAL PAPER ABSTRACTS OF 250-WORDS TO:

SAGSC2019@GMAIL.COM BY **JANUARY 4TH, 2019**

PAPERS SHOULD BE 15-20 MINUTES LONG.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS WILL ASSIST WITH TRAVEL AND LODGING FOR SELECTED PARTICIPANTS.

Organizing Committee:

ANDREW HALLADAY, South Asian Languages and Civilizations

TITAS DE SARKAR, South Asian Languages and Civilizations

ZOYA SAMEEN, Department of History

Faculty Advisor: LAURA LETINSKY, Professor, Department of Visual Arts

Please write to us at SAGSC2019@GMAIL.COM with any questions.

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