

South Asia Anthropologists Group conference, 5-6 September 2018

“Struggles for autonomy”

University of Oxford

Venue: St John’s College, New Seminar Room, Canterbury Quad

Convenors:

Dalel Benbabaali, Oxford School for Global and Area Studies, St John’s College

Ina Zharkevich, School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, Wolfson College

Wednesday 5 September

9.30-10: Welcome tea/coffee

10-12 Dalit and anti-caste movements

10-10.40 “We are Dalit, but we are also Pakistani: The Dalit movement in Pakistan”, Mustafa Ahmad Khan (SOAS), discussant: Ammara Maqsood (UCL)

10.40-11.20 “We are Indians, firstly and lastly: Autonomy and Nationalism among a Dalit Buddhist Community in Mumbai”, Jon Galton (SOAS), discussant: Sondra Hausner (Oxford)

11.20-12 “Between isolation and autonomy: A study of the anti-caste struggle in University of Hyderabad”, Munna Sannaki (HCU), discussant: Nicolas Jaoul (CNRS)

12.15-13.30 Lunch in St John’s Hall

13.30-15.30 Class and identity politics

13.30-14.10 “What Went Wrong with the *Kisan Tehreek* in West Punjab? Autonomy Capture by the Landed Elites”, Mazhar Abbas (Shanghai), discussant: Pritam Singh (Oxford Brookes)

14.10-14.50 “Notes on the reconfiguration of subaltern political consciousness in rural Nepal”, Matjaz Pinter (Maynooth), discussant: David Gellner (Oxford)

14.50-15.30 “The *Khwaja Sara* Politics of Identity, Legibility and Dispossession in Pakistan”, Salman Hussain (Max Planck), discussant: Sneha Krishnan (Oxford)

15.30-16 Tea/coffee

16-18.30 Film *Sangharsh* (2018) and discussion with its author (St John’s auditorium)

Shot between 1997 and 2001 by Nicolas Jaoul (CNRS), *Sangharsh* (Strife) takes us deep into the lifeworld of Dalit Panther activists in the late 1990s Northern India. By following three activists, one is taken on a rough trip in the slums and villages of Kanpur region, where these characters are spreading the revolutionary messages of the historical Dalit leader, Ambedkar. It is an emotional journey into the urge to struggle in order to assert one's humanity, when humiliation, exploitation and violence remain always around the corner.

Thursday 6 September

9-11 Muslim socio-religious movements

9-9.40 “Autonomy without Exclusion: The Emergence of Shi’ism in Sri Lanka”, Arun Rasiah (Holy Names), discussant: Rajesh Venugopal (LSE)

9.40-10.20 “Tea Plantation Labour: A Socio-Historical Profile of Mappila Muslims in North Wayanad, Kerala”, Najeeb VR (JNU), discussant: Judith Heyer (Oxford)

10.20-11 “Between Autonomy and Criminality. An Ethnography of a Muslim Social Movement in the Periphery of Kolkata”, Chiara Arnavas (LSE), discussant: Thom Chambers (Oxford Brookes)

11-11.20 Tea/coffee

11.20-12.40 Oppressed nationalities and struggles for self-determination

11.20-12 “*Hartal*: Traders and forms of political activism in Kashmir”, Aditi Saraf (Munich), discussant: Ed Simpson (SOAS)

12-12.40 “Seven decades of statelessness, self-governance and struggles to become part of a nation-state: A case study of Dashiarchora enclave”, Hosna Shewly (VU Amsterdam), discussant: Delwar Hussain (Edinburgh)

12.45-14: Lunch in St John’s Hall

14-16 Adivasis, ecology and tribal autonomy

14-14.40 “Laws of the Jungle: Ethics, Politics and Ecology in the Sundarbans Delta of West Bengal”, Megnaa Mehtta (LSE), discussant: Nayanika Mathur (Oxford)

14.40-15.20 “Tribal Autonomy, Self-exoticization and Salvage Anthropology: Koya adivasi cultural identity in Andhra Pradesh”, Thom Herzmark (LSE), discussant: Felix Padel (Oxford)

15.20-16 “The conflictual governments of forests in Jharkhand and Uttarakhand. A historical framing of claims for autonomy”, Mauve Létang (Sorbonne) and Arthur Cessou (EHESS), discussant: Ben Campbell (Durham)

16-16.30 Tea/coffee

16.30-17 General discussions, plans for SAAG next year

If you would like to attend one or several sessions, please register by sending an email to:

dalel.benbabaali@sjc.ox.ac.uk

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