Activism and Civil Society in South Asia, with special reference to Nepal and Sri Lanka

June 26th-28th 2005

Maison Française,
Norham Road, Oxford OX2 6SE
Activism and Civil Society in South Asia, 
with special reference to Nepal and Sri Lanka 
June 26\textsuperscript{th} - 28\textsuperscript{th} 2005 
Pauling Human Sciences Centre, lecture room, 
58 Banbury Road

**Sunday, June 26\textsuperscript{th} 2005**

09.00  
Welcome and introduction (David Gellner)

**Ethnic and Dalit activism**

09.30 – 11.00 (Chair Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka)


Hugo Gorringe (Edinburgh) ‘Becoming a Dalit Panther: Caste-Based Activism in south India’ Discussant: Peggy Froerer

David Mosse (SOAS) ‘Dalit Christians, Catholic Priests, and Dalit Activism in Contemporary Tamil Nadu’ Discussant: Dilip Menon

11.25 – 12.45 (Chair Siri Hettige)

Eva Gerharz (Bielefeld) ‘Re-constructing Jaffna: Tamils’ Transnational Activism at Interfaces’ Discussant: Nick Van Hear


Lunch

14.15 – 16.15 (Chair Nirmal Tuladhar)

Gisèle Krauskopff (CNRS) ‘Intellectuals and Ethnic Activism’  
Discussant: Chris McDonaugh

Discussant: Marie Lecomte-Tilouine

Uma Nath Baral (Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara) ‘Magar Activism in Kaski, Nepal’ Discussant: Mark Turin

16.45 – 18.05 (Chair Keshav Lall Maharjan)

Mukta S. Tamang (Cornell) ‘Urban Activism and the Homeland Connection: Four Decades of the Tamang Movement in Nepal’ Discussant: Ben Campbell

Sara Shneiderman (Cornell) ‘Ethnic (P)reservations: Comparing Thangmi Ethnic Activism in Nepal and India’ Discussant: William F. Fisher
18.30 Dinner

19.45 Film ‘No More Tears Sister’ by Helene Klodawsky

Monday, June 27th 2005

Ethnic, Political, and other activisms

09.00-11.00 (Chair Arjun Gunaratne)
Marie Lecomte-Tilouine (CNRS) ‘To Rule the Social Groups, from Species to Nations: Some Reflections on Ethnicity in Nepal’
Discussant: Krishna Hachhethu
David Gellner (Oxford) and Mrigendra Karki (CNAS, Kathmandu) ‘Surveying Activists in Nepal’
Discussant: Siri Hettige
Peggy Froerer (Brunel) ‘Activists and Adivasis: Hindu Nationalist Militants in Chhattisgarh, Central India’
Discussant: DD Nampoothiri

Political activism

11.25-12.45 (Chair Malathi de Alwis)
Siri Hettige (Colombo) ‘Youth and Political Engagement in Sri Lanka’
Discussant: Judith Pettigrew
Ananda Abeysekara (Virginia Tech) ‘Desecularizing Secularism: Post-Secular History, Non-Juridical Justice, and Active Forgetting’
Discussant: Jonathan Spencer

Lunch

14.15 – 16.15 (Chair Chris McDonough)
Stefanie Strulik (Bielefeld, Germany) ‘Mobilizing Women for Local Politics in India?’ Discussant: Ravni Rai Thakur
Krishna Hachhethu (CNAS, Kathmandu) ‘Political Leadership in Nepal: Image, Environment, and Composition’
Discussant: Saubhagya Shah
Anne de Sales (CNRS/Maison Française, Oxford) ‘The Biography of a Magar Communist’
Discussant: Mukta Lama

Social activism/NGOs

16.40-18.00 (Chair David Mosse)
Arjun Guneratne (Macalester) ‘From Big Game to Bio-Diversity: Middle-Class Environmental Activists and Wildlife Conservation in Sri Lanka’
Discussant: Malathi de Alwis
Celayne Heaton Shrestha (Kingston/Sussex) ‘Activists and Development in Nepal’
Discussant: Ian Harper

18.00-18.45 Panel Discussion by Activists (Chair Siri Hettige)

19.00 Dinner

Tuesday June 28th 2005

Concluding Session

09.00 – 10.20 (Chair Anne de Sales)

Malathi de Alwis (ICES, Colombo) ‘Rethinking the “Political”: Feminist Peace Activism in Sri Lanka’
Discussant: Laurie Vasily
David Lewis (LSE) ‘Disciplined Activists, Unruly Brokers? Exploring the Boundaries between Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Donors and State in Bangladesh’
Discussant: David Mosse

10.45 – 12.45 (Chair David Gellner)

William F. Fisher (Clark) ‘Civil Society and its Fragments’
Discussant: Arjun Guneratne
Jonathan Spencer (Edinburgh) ‘A Certain Gesture: Reflections on the Murder of Sivaram’
Discussant: Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka

Final thoughts: David Lewis, Bill Fisher, Malathi de Alwis, Arjun Guneratne, Saubhagya Shah, Minoru Mio, Bela Bhatia

Lunch and departure

Thanks for financial support to:

EU Asialink
British Academy
Leverhulme Trust
Oxford University Sub-Faculty of South and Inner Asian Studies
British Embassy, Kathmandu