

SOUTH ASIAN ANTHROPOLOGISTS' GROUP

7 - 9 September 2022
Edinburgh, UK

CALL FOR PAPERS

R E T H I N K I N G

T H E

E V E R Y D A Y

Relations of Power, Resistance and Change

INTERESTED SCHOLARS MAY SUBMIT
A TITLE AND ABSTRACT (UP TO 250 WORDS)
WITH FULL NAME AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFILIATION
TO **SAAG22@ED.AC.UK** BY **8 MAY 2022**



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Theme: **Rethinking the Everyday Relations of Power, Resistance and Change**

The everyday, as a distinctive lens in anthropology, emerged from the need to understand life, meaning-making and power in diverse societies. As concept and method, it has proliferated across social science disciplines and pushed the mandate of what and how to research. The consequent metamorphoses have brought a variety of meanings and practices within the ambit of the everyday. A rethinking of the concept and its itinerant binaries of routine and rupture, continuity and change, private and public, historical and contemporary, micro and macro, is essential to its reflexive application and interpretation. What constitutes the everyday? What are its limits? What does it mean to study the everyday? How is the everyday differentiated along the lines of identity and status, development levels and agroecological conditions? Rethinking the everyday calls for both the introspection of everyday practices, power relations and change within the academe as well as a reflection on the politics of research and researchers in knowledge generation. In the backdrop of a global pandemic, the investigation of the everyday acquires new dimensions altogether, when the extraordinary *is* the new everyday.

We invite papers that investigate:

- The everyday transactions of power relations in intimate, social, spatial, cultural, economic, ecological, and political landscapes
- The (counter) articulation and mobilisation for visions of change and reform.
- The reproduction of and/or resistance against inequalities, injustices and misrepresentations, be they in the realms of caste, class, religion, gender or sexuality, or its intersections.
- The rituals, beliefs and dynamics within and between households, movements, and institutions.
- The repertoires of politics and governmentality in democratising or blockading access to schemes, offices and/or resources.
- The transnational trajectories, memories, communities and identities of South Asians.
- Narratives of the intimate and (inter)personal, of conflict and peace, of media and representation, of climate and justice.
- Reflections on the risks and dilemmas, affect and toil, ethics and positionality in doing fieldwork and pursuing ethnographic research.
- We are also open to papers that may be outside the scope of the above-mentioned subjects, but draw from immersive field research and qualitative data.

Interested scholars may submit a title and abstract, no longer than 250 words, along with your full name and institutional affiliation in the UK to SAAG22@ed.ac.uk by 8th May 2022.

SAAG is Back!

South Asianists in the UK, look no further. Yes, you heard it right, SAAG is back on track. We last met in 2019. And this time, it's happening in scenic Edinburgh. The pandemic has foiled many plans yet we are striving to organise an in-person conference (fingers crossed). In the event that this is no longer possible, we shall move (begrudgingly) to the online mode. Having begun in the mid-1970s, the SAAG annual conference is reputed for its exceptional format and in-depth feedback. This is *not your usual* conference. For those of you who don't know, let us tell you more.

SAAG is an intimate gathering of scholars engaged in ethnographic research on/in South Asia. Fewer than 20 papers are accepted to this conference, which runs in single stream. Scholars do not present their own papers in this conference, instead appropriate discussants are identified to comment on each paper. Discussants will include established academics engaged in ethnographic research on the subcontinent. Thus, the challenge before every paper is to be so lucid and detailed such as to enable the discussant to discuss it as if it were their own paper. Following the discussants' comments, other participants will contribute comments themselves. The paper presenter will then be invited to engage with the comments. Each accepted paper will, thus, receive in-depth feedback as *all* participants are expected to have read *all* accepted papers.

If this hasn't already terrified/excited you, we don't know what will. So all doctoral and early career researchers on the prowl for feedback and scholarly engagement, seize this opportunity! On offer are engrossing discussions, meaningful interactions with leading scholars, and exciting afterhours.

We will be accepting abstracts (no more than 250 words) until Saturday, 23 April 2022. If your abstract is selected, we shall invite you to submit a full-length paper (no more than 8,000 words). Additionally, you may consider submitting an accompanying statement (no longer than one page) of how this paper fits into your wider research project (such as a PhD thesis). Papers will have to be submitted no later than 15 July 2022. All deadlines and word limits are non-negotiable given the nature of participation in SAAG and out of respect for everyone's time.

Lastly, despite the title, attendance is not restricted to anthropologists but open to all who use an ethnographic mode of research.

Feel free to throw suggestions and queries at us on SAAG22@ed.ac.uk.

