



ASA12

Arts and Aesthetics
in a Globalising World

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Arts and aesthetics in globalising world

Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth

Annual Conference

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

Conference programme

Convenors: Prof Susan Visvanathan & Prof Parul Dave Mukherji, JNU

NomadIT: Rohan Jackson, Megan Caine, Darren Hatherley, Eli Bugler,
Triinu Mets

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“A country of hearsay and rumor”: the aesthetic politics of rumor publics in urban Nepal

Dr Sepideh Bajracharya (University of Michigan)

The historical and anthropological literature tends to posit rumor as a sociological phenomenon effective of predicated acts of popular violence—the unconscious medium for violence already enacted. In this article, I discuss a case where rumor becomes “the referent of its own expression”: the thing people heed, discuss, and trace as capable of inciting violence as an imminent, but as-yet unformed condition of rumor’s possibility. I argue that this way of engaging rumor and violence leads to a realm and method of public interaction where events of political consequence are anticipated beyond, despite, and in excess of the publics associated with political events “proper.”

The Ayodhya dispute: demolition, damage and the emergency imaginary

Dr Deepak Mehta (Delhi School Of Economics)

The paper examines the legal judgments that deal with the demolition of the Babri mosque in December 1992. It shows that the demolition is informed by a circuitry of damage that is at once part of the imagination of emergency and part of a political ethic that constitutes notions of friend and foe.

Memorizing home: art as place making

Dr Thamocharampillai Sanathanan (University of Jaffna)

In social calamities aesthetic gain a new political and functional meaning. Based on my three art projects; ‘History of Histories’, ‘Imag(e)in home’ and ‘The incomplete Thombu’, this paper foreground the changing role of an art as an eye witness and facilitator. It also talks about how the anthropological tools and museum techniques are employed in making individual pain aesthetically appealing.

Intense proximity: the spatial grammar of social conflict

Dr Chris Barry (University of Melbourne)

In the township of Alice Springs (Central Australia) the ‘intense proximity’ of Aboriginal residents and their counter-hegemonic cultural life-worlds, creates spaces of contestation and social conflict. This paper will posit an everyday