

Religion and Non-religion in South Asia

Belief and Practice during Post-Secularism

Centre for South Asian Studies Research-Practice Thematic Workshop in collaboration with the School of Divinity

Venue – G.05, [50 George Square](#), University of Edinburgh EH8 9JU

Day 1 – 16 May 2024, Thursday

10.30 to 11 am	Tea/Coffee	
11 am to 12.30 pm	Panel 1 – Atheism & Rationality	Moderator – Dr Arkotong Longkumer Senior Lecturer in Modern Asia, School of Divinity
	<i>Dr Jacob Copeman, Oportunius Research Professor, University of Santiago de Compostela</i>	‘Silence or your life: Fear, creativity, and the muted atheist subject in Indian Punjab’
	<i>Neelabh Gupta, PhD candidate, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh</i>	‘Saying ‘No’: Refusal as an exercise in freedom for atheists in India’
	<i>Meera Gopakumar, PhD candidate, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh</i>	‘Conjuring and Disenchantment? Magicians and Yukthivadam in Kerala’
12.30 to 1.30 pm	Lunch	
1.30 to 3 pm	Panel 2 – Political Religion	Moderator - Dr Sneha Roy, British Academy (BA) Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Divinity
	<i>Dr Anupama Ranawana-Collie, Thematic Research Specialist, Christian Aid</i>	‘The Making of Political Religion in the Crucible of State Violence: Exploring Christianity and Buddhism in post-conflict Sri Lanka’
	<i>Dr Upali Sraman, Lecturer in Buddhist Languages and Cultures, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh</i>	‘Buddhist Monks Feeding Fasting Muslims in Ramadan: The Rhetoric of Communal Harmony in Bangladesh’
	<i>Zafar Ullah, PhD candidate, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh</i>	‘The infrastructure of hate: Religion, state, and people in Quetta, Pakistan’
3 to 4 pm	Panel 3 – Highland South Asia	Moderator - Ishita Mahajan, PhD candidate, School of Divinity
	<i>Dr Martin Mills, Senior Lecturer in Anthropology, University of Aberdeen</i>	TBA
	<i>Prof. Will Tuladhar-Douglas, Applied Anthropologist and Research Fellow, University of Hamburg</i>	‘Indigenous Buddhisms: Evidence from Nepal and elsewhere’
4 to 4.30 pm	Tea/Coffee break	
4.30 pm onwards	Keynote Lecture - ‘Religion and Modernity in the subcontinent: A critical-emancipatory perspective’	
	Gnana Aloysius, Independent Researcher, Author, Editor and Co-founder of Critical Quest, New Delhi	
	Moderator – Dr Arkotong Longkumer, Senior Lecturer in Modern Asia, School of Divinity	

Day 2 – 17 May 2024, Friday

9.30 to 11 am	Panel 4 – Identity formations	Moderator – Dr Rahul Sambaraju, Lecturer in Psychology, School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences
	<i>Dr Sherin Basheer Saheera, Associate Professor, The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad</i>	‘Gender and Religious Conversion in India’
	<i>Sinan Siyech, PhD candidate, Centre for Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Edinburgh</i>	‘Salafism and Secularism in India’
	<i>Sambhavi Ganesh, PhD candidate, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh</i>	‘Madi and Satsangam: Ritual purity and its alternatives in making Tamil Brahmin spatiality’
11 to 11.30 am	Tea/Coffee break	
11.30 to 12.30 pm	Roundtable - ‘Tropes in South Asian scriptural research: De-canonising mainstream religious texts’	
	Led by Dr Saad Quasem, Lecturer in Anthropology, SOAS, University of London, and	
	Tèa Nicolae, PhD candidate, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh	
12.30 to 1.30 pm	Lunch	
1.30 to 2.30 pm	Talk - ‘Modern application of organic blueprints enveloped in the multiple traditions of India’	
	Dr Sumit Kesarkar, Āyurveda Vaidya, Founder of the National Library of Āyurveda Medicine	
	Moderator – Tèa Nicolae, PhD candidate, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh	