

Animal Subjects in South Asia

Full day symposium 52nd Annual Conference on South Asia
Wed. Oct. 30



The beauty of pigeons lies in their beaks, brows, and eyes—details only an enthusiast can truly appreciate. / Muhammad Kavesh

Animals are intricately woven into the histories, ideologies, images, and texts of South Asia. Likewise, human lives in South Asia have perennially existed alongside non-human animals within shared ecologies. Recent decades have been marked by the “animal turn” across the scholarly landscape, and the introduction of animal studies into South Asian studies is already well underway. This symposium radically centers animals in our study of South Asia without decentering humans, exploring human understandings of specific animals throughout the historical period, from deep history to the present day.

The symposium dedicates more than half of our attention to one very exceptional animal—the elephant—with the rest reserved for other animals in South Asia. Our research concerns animals as beings of their own; at the same time, focusing on animals aids our understanding of human histories, stories, archaeologies, ethnographies, and geographies.

Co-organizers : Andrea Gutiérrez (UT Austin) & Thomas Trautmann (U Michigan)

Presenters

Anu Karippal
Muhammad Kavesh
Sagnik Saha
Chiara Policardi
Charlotte Gorant
Thomas Trautmann
Andrea Gutiérrez
Ali Anooshahr
Lisa Brooks
Jahnabi Chanchani

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