

## Conference Participants

**Aman Sethi** is a Delhi-based reporter with the fortnightly newsmagazine *Frontline*.

**Avinash Jha** is Librarian, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi. He has a deep interest in the politics and ethics of knowledge production.

**Babak Afrassiabi** is an artist working in Rotterdam and Teheran. With Nasrin Tabatabai, he is co-initiator and co-editor of *Pages* ([www.pagesmagazine.net](http://www.pagesmagazine.net)), a bilingual Farsi/English magazine that develops collaborative projects with practitioners in the fields of art, culture, urbanism and social issues.

**Chandak Sengoopta** is currently senior lecturer on the history of modern medicine and science at the University of London. He is the author of numerous publications, including *Imprint of the Raj: How Fingerprinting was Born in Colonial India* (2003), and *Otto Weininger: Sex, Science, and Self in Imperial Vienna* (2000).

**Charles Merewether** is Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Cross-Cultural Research, Australian National University, Canberra. He was artistic director and curator for the 2006 Sydney Biennale. He has taught in Spain, Mexico and the US. His writings have been widely anthologised and published. He is currently researching recent art in China, writing a book on the cultural history of looting, and preparing an exhibition on post-war Japanese art for the Getty Center in Los Angeles.

**Deep Kanta Lahiri-Choudhury** is a social and economic historian whose research interests include the history of science, technology and medicine. His publications include "Beyond the Reach of Monkeys and Men: O'Shaughnessy and the First Telegraph System in India, circa 1836-1856", *Indian Economic and Social History Review* (2000); "India's First Virtual Community and the Telegraph General Strike of 1908", *International Review of Social History* (2003); and "Sinews of Panic and the Nerves of Empire: India's Entanglement with Information Panic, circa 1880-1912", *Modern Asian Studies* (2004). He is a contributor to *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Transnational History*.

**Ewen Chardonnet** is a media artist and journalist who lives and works in France. Widely published, he has collaborated for several years with different initiatives such as Makrolab, MIR, Spectral Investigations Collective and World-Information.Org. In 2003, together with the Acoustic Space Lab Network he received the Leonardo New Horizons Award.

**Felix Stalder** teaches media economy at the Academy of Art and Design (Zurich), and is a managing partner of Openflows, a Toronto-centred open source research and development company. He is one of the long-term moderators of nettime, an international mailing list for critical theories and practices of networked cultures. His recent publications include *Open Cultures and the Nature of Networks* (2005) and *Manuel Castells: Theory of the Network Society* (2006).

**Florian Schneider** is a writer, documentary filmmaker and net activist. He focuses on how new communication and migration regimes are being attacked and undermined by critics of borders and networks. He is one of the initiators of the No One Is Illegal campaign, and one of the founders of the noborder network and the internet platform D-A-S-H.

**Jaanu Naagar** completed his secondary education in Fatehpur (Uttar Pradesh) and his first year of undergraduate study from Delhi University. Deeply interested in writing in Hindi, he taught for a year in Janhitkari Saraswati Vidya Mandir in Fatehpur, and completed a one-year computer course in Delhi. In 2005 he joined the Cybermohalla Lab in Nangla Maanchi, the colony where he lived. By the time the settlement was demolished in 2006, he had created an archive of audio recordings about Nangla. Post-eviction he has

continued to work with Cybermohalla. He is a co-author of *Bahurupiya Shehr* (The Dissembler City, Rajkamal Prakashan, 2007), a compilation of writings on the city by Cybermohalla practitioners.

**Jane Caplan** is Professor of Modern European History at the University of Oxford. Her research has focused on the history of Nazi Germany, and she is currently researching the early history of Nazi concentration camps. She is equally interested in the documentation of individual identity in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Europe, especially the written and visual marks of identity on and off the body, and their status in political and legal discourse. Her many publications include "Political Detention and the Origin of the Concentration Camps in Nazi Germany, 1933-35", in *Nazism, War and Genocide: Essays in Honour of Jeremy Noakes*, ed. Neil Gregor (2005); and "One of the Strangest Relics of a Former State: Tattoos and the Discourse of Criminality in Europe, 1880-1920", in *Criminals and their Scientists: The History of Criminology in International Perspective*, eds. P. Becker and R. Wetzell (2006). She has co-authored *Documenting Individual Identity: State Practices in the Modern World* (2001), and edited *The Women's Camp in Moringen: A Memoir of Imprisonment in Germany, 1936-1937* (2006).

**Kirstie Ball** is senior lecturer in Organisation Studies at the Open University Business School. Her research has focused on surveillance in organisations, and she is currently co-investigator on a project titled 'The Globalisation of Personal Data'. She is co-editor of *The Intensification of Surveillance: Crime Terrorism and Warfare in the Information Age* (2003). She co-founded and co-edits the journal *Surveillance and Society*, and is currently setting up a new academic association, The Surveillance Studies Network, with her editorial colleagues from the journal.

**Konrad Becker** is a hypermedia researcher/developer and interdisciplinary event and content designer. He is chairman of the Institute for New Culture Technologies and Director of Public Netbase/ t0, a culture- and youth-oriented center for new communication technologies, as well as of World-Information.Org, a cultural intelligence provider. He is active in electronic media as an artist, curator, organiser and producer.

**Lawrence Liang** works with the Alternative Law Forum, Bangalore. His key areas of interest are law, technology and culture, and the politics of copyright. He has collaborated closely with Sarai on a joint research project, 'Intellectual Property and the Knowledge/Culture Commons'. A keen follower of the open source movement in software, he has been working on ways of translating open source ideas into the cultural domain.

**Leo Lucassen** is currently Associate Professor at the History Department of the University of Amsterdam and director of the pioneering research project 'The Determinants of Settlement Process of Immigrants in the Netherlands, 1860-1960'. He has published extensively on the history of Gypsies, especially the policy of authorities towards this marginalised group. His interests focus on the history of migration and social integration, focusing both on the analysis of 'alien'-related state policies and the processes of immigrant adaptation.

**Mahmood Farooqui** studied history at the University of Cambridge, and is now a Delhi-based writer and performer. He has acted in *Mango Soufflé*, an Indian-English feature film. He works as a researcher and translator at Sarai.

**Mansour Jacobi** is a Beirut-based media practitioner who works with a number of new media, art and research initiatives. He was co-director of the online video platform for Freespeech TV, a founder member of the Indymedia network, and a board member of Working Films. His recent projects include developing a collaborative community website for Palestinian refugees, as well as an online edition of *Zawaya*, a pan-Arab magazine for culture, politics and the arts. He is also currently a fellow in the Waag-Sarai exchange, working towards establishing a networked centre for new media and urban practices in Beirut.

**Monica Bhasin** is a graduate of the Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia (Delhi), and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and has worked as a documentary film editor in Delhi for

several years. Her first non-fiction film, *Temporary Loss of Consciousness* (2005), which has been widely screened at national and international venues, explores displacement and the futility of borders in the conditions created by the Partition of India during and after 1947.

**Priya Sen** is a media practitioner with a background in film and media studies. She works with Sarai's Cybermohalla project, creating practices around sound and images with the locality media labs. She is deeply interested in photography and experimental media forms.

**Radhika Singha** is Associate Professor of Social Science at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She is the author of *A Despotism of Law: Crime and Justice in Early Colonial India* (1998). She has worked as a historian with Aligarh Muslim University, and contributed to the UK-based Gender, Sexuality and Law Exchange.

**Sadan Jha** has a disciplinary background in history. His research interests are in the intersection of visual cultures, memory and violence, urban realities, nationalism and the politics of representation. He is currently pursuing his doctorate in history from Delhi University.

**Sam de Silva** is a media maker/facilitator interested in the history and use of digital technologies for cultural communication. He has been a lecturer at the Department of Media and Communications at the University of Melbourne. He is currently living in Sri Lanka, working on a documentary film.

**Sebastian Leutgert** is co-moderator of nettime, and a member of mikro and bootlab. He has worked on the projects rolux.org, textz.com and project Gutenberg, and Last Tuesday, where people can "exchange mp3 files, beta-test new viruses from Asia or vote for the most stupid new dot-com brand". He is the author of "2 x 5 Years of German Internet" and other texts on the contradictions of the network society.

**Shahid Amin** is Professor of History at Delhi University, and the author of *Event, Metaphor, Memory: Chauri Chaura, 1922-1992* (1995). He has co-edited "*Peripheral*" *Labour? Studies in the History of Partial Proletarianisation* (1997). He is a founding editor of the theoretical journal *Subaltern Studies*.

**Shaina Anand** is a Mumbai-based media practitioner and filmmaker, and producer/director of Chitra Karkhana, an independent production unit for public intervention through media and art. Her recent projects include, among others, *KhirkeeYaan*, a multi-screen neighbourhood project using CCTV, developed at Khoj, New Delhi; *Anahat Nad/The Freedom to Sing*, a performance about the oral tradition of Kabir, developed at the Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore; and a faux-documentary on the mythical landscape of Kashmir and Ladakh, with Japanese voiceover.

**Shuddhabrata Sengupta** is a media practitioner, artist, filmmaker and writer with Raqs Media Collective, and one of the initiators of Sarai. He coordinates the Distributed Research Network and the Information and Society projects at Sarai. He is currently working on a series of inter-media and digital culture projects at the Sarai Media Lab.

**Shveta Sarda** works as a process chronicler in the Cybermohalla locality labs, keeping the diverse lab content in circulation among English-speaking publics through blogs, essays and postings on discussion lists. She seeks to critically engage with debates in pedagogy, translation, technology and inequality.

**Suraj Rai** completed his secondary education from Open School. He had joined Ankur at a very young age. Having taught himself the basics of the Linux/GNU operating system, he is determined to perfect his skills and knowledge with regard to it. He has been with the Cybermohalla Lab at LNJP since the lab's inception. He is a co-author of *Bahurupiya Shehr* (The Dissembler City, Rajkamal Prakashan, 2007), a compilation of writings on the city by Cybermohalla practitioners.

**Taha Mehmood** is a filmmaker by training. He currently works as a researcher with the Information and Society project at Sarai, focusing on the theory, history and culture of surveillance and identification processes.

**Tapio Mäkelä** is a researcher and media artist based in Helsinki. He develops projects for the Finnish Arts Council and for m-cult, the Finnish Centre for New Media Culture. His work focuses on the critical contextualisation of location-based media in urban environments, and new media arts and cultural policy. He was the programme chair of ISEA 2004, and has also been involved in Finnish open source and IT development, as well as the Helsinki electronic music scene.

**Uma Maheshwari Kalpagam** is Professor at the G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad. Her multiple and shifting identities enable her to be an anthropologist most of the time, with occasional lapses into being an economist. She is, however, steadfast in relation to her interest in gender studies.

**Vazira Fazila Yacoobali Zamindar** is Assistant Professor of History at Brown University. Her book *The Long Partition: Making New Nations in Divided South Asia*, based on her research with north Indian Muslim families displaced between Delhi and Karachi as a result of Partition, is forthcoming from Columbia University Press. She is involved in a project to bring together scholars from Pakistan and Bangladesh to examine shared histories of the 1971 India-Pakistan war/liberation of Bangladesh, as well as a heritage project on a Gandharan Buddhist site in northern Pakistan.

**Wendy Chun** is Associate Professor of Modern Culture and Media at Brown University. She has studied both systems design engineering and English literature, which she combines and mutates in her current work on digital media. She is author of *Control and Freedom: Power and Paranoia in the Age of Fiber Optics* (MIT, 2006), and co-editor (with Thomas Keenan) of *New Media, Old Media: A History and Theory Reader* (Routledge, 2005). She is currently working on a monograph titled *Programmed Visions: Software, DNA, Race* (MIT, forthcoming).

## **Towards A Culture Of Open Networks**

<http://www.opencultures.net>

Towards A Culture Of Open Networks is a collaborative initiative of Sarai-CSDS, Delhi ([www.sarai.net](http://www.sarai.net)); Waag Society, Amsterdam ([website address](#)); and t0, Vienna ([website address](#)). The initiative is supported by the EU-India Economic and Cross-Cultural Programme under its Media, Communication and Culture Dimension.

The initiative recognises the emergence of an 'Information Society' in Europe and India, and interprets the term to mean a web of social, cultural, economic and political relationships that give primacy to the production, assimilation and distribution of information. Looking at contemporary Europe and India, particularly at the rapid developments in recent years in computer- and telecommunications-based 'info economies' in both spaces, it is evident that 'Information Society' is a theme carrying many possibilities for the inauguration of a timely, engaging and mutually beneficial process of collaboration, exchange and dialogue. The initiative's activities and processes attempt to transcend the binaries of India/Europe, culture/technology, theory/practice and research/production, in order to give rise to more agile categories, concepts and modes – those more commensurate to the complexity of our times, the imperatives of our local realities, and the fissured pathways that we navigate to points of convergence where knowledge systems intersect in the contemporary moment.

Previous activities of this project have included meetings of Indo-European working groups in Delhi and Amsterdam on different aspects of the interface between culture and the information economy; the production of publications, art and media works; and the organising of 'World Information City', a week-long programme held in Bangalore in 2005, with events addressing global issues of intellectual property and technology in conjunction with changing urban landscapes.

## **Information and Society in South Asia**

New Research Cluster at Sarai-CSDS

This colloquium is an effort to focus attention on the themes that animate a new research cluster at Sarai-CSDS, focusing on the relationship between information and society.

The Information and Society Research Cluster at Sarai inaugurates a body of research, reflection and investigation on the different ways in which practices of information gathering, management and circulation have an impact on society in South Asia. Here, information is seen in its broadest sense as forms of knowledge and knowing as they play out in interaction with social, economic and political processes, within realms defined by state as well as non-state actors.

The research cluster's scope will include inquiries about surveys, census records and their production, instruments and documents of identification such as identity cards, passports, fingerprints and other biometric identifiers, different forms of electronic and analog surveillance, the social and political deployment of statistical information, censorship and the protocols of governance, disclosure, secrecy, privacy and public claims that grow around different bodies and practices of information.

The project will explore the history and current life of information in South Asia, and reflect on how practices of information intersect with ideas of citizenship and governance, the formation of political subjectivities, public welfare, property, and the objectives of state security. The project's holdings consist of a growing set of texts and research notes from two years of field ethnography around information, security and surveillance in Delhi, as well as links to relevant print and online resources. We are also interested in developing teaching modules, bibliographies and cross-media rendering processes relevant to the themes and questions of the research cluster.

For project holdings online, see [www.sarai.net](http://www.sarai.net)

