

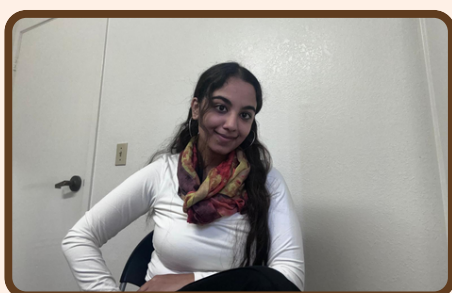


## Meet our South Asia Initiative Undergraduate Coordinators!



Hi! I'm Krithika Karthik, a senior majoring in Molecular and Cell Biology at ERC. As an international student, the South Asia Initiative was an important resource for me to learn about the representation and advocacy of South Asian culture on campus. I also love to bake and binge-watch sitcoms! Whether you're navigating the new environment or are interested in SAI, don't hesitate to reach out!

Hi! I'm Tavishaa Vanjani, a junior majoring in Human Biology and minoring in South Asian Studies from Marshall College. I was born and raised in New Delhi, India. After I graduate, I hope to attend medical school and eventually go into pediatrics. In my free time, I love to sing, shop, and do yoga. Feel free to reach out anytime!



Hi! I'm Bhavika Ailawadi, a sophomore majoring in Math-Econ and minoring in South Asian Studies. I was born and brought up in New Delhi, India. Always up for chats about anything from development economics to Bollywood plot twists—just don't ask me to choose between biryani and policy debates!

# Fall Calendar

## *Patient Capital:*



## A SEVEN-CENTURY HISTORY OF AN INDIAN BUSINESS DYNASTY

A TALK WITH SUDEV SHETH,  
SENIOR LECTURER, HISTORY  
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



**Abstract:** This talk explores the central questions of my new research project: a seven-century history of this single family's unbroken relationship with their home city. The project investigates how Ahmedabad's merchant elites continuously shaped the city's civic life and urban form through a unique model of business-led governance. By tracing this family's trajectory from imperial finance to urban formation, this research uncovers a powerful model of merchant-driven urbanism with urgent relevance for understanding the relationship between capital and public life today.

**OCT 02, 2025  
AT 4:30 PM**

**RANGLAS ROOM (RWAC 935)**



CO-SPONSORED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

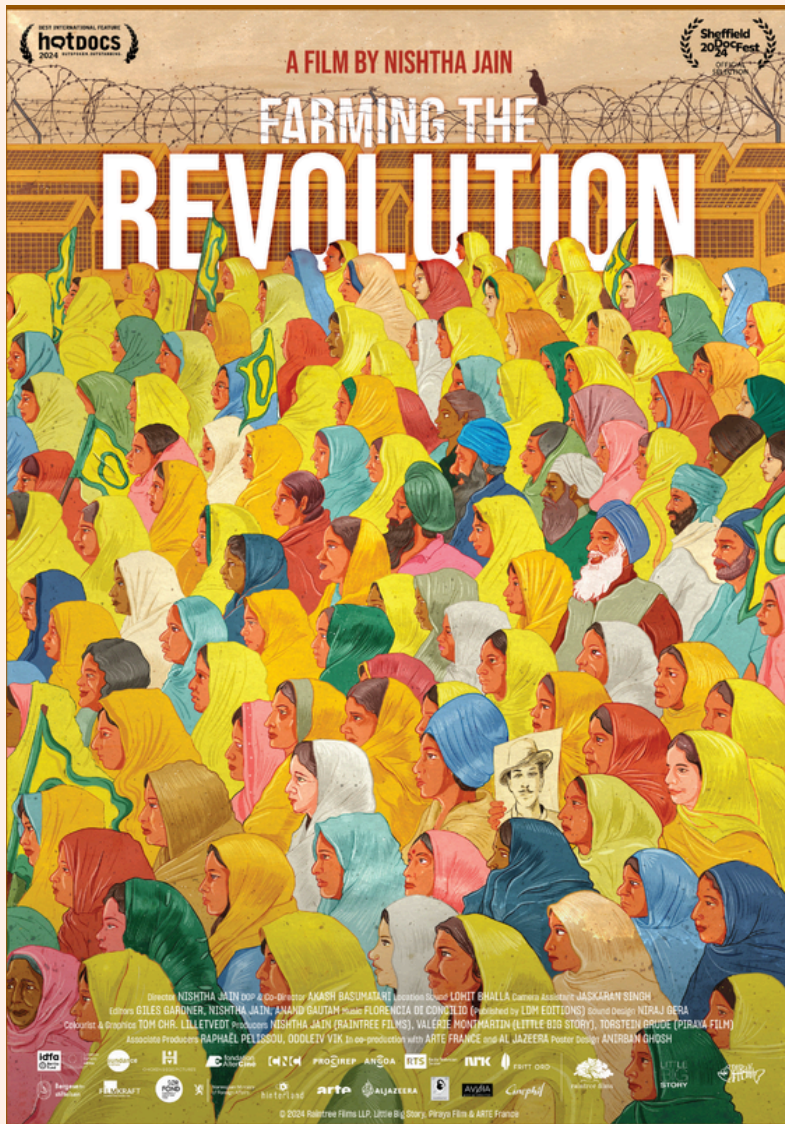
**When: October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 at 4:30 PM**

**Where: Ranglas Room (RWAC 935)**





# Fall Calendar



**This immersive documentary captures one of the largest protests in recent world history: when 12 million Indian farmers successfully challenged the Indian government between 2020 and 2021**



**Film screening followed by Q&A with the director, Nishita Jain**

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup>



**5 PM**

**Mosaic 113**

**5:00-6:40 pm: Screening**  
**6:40-7:15 pm: Filmmaker Q&A**

**Co-sponsors: Suraj Israni Center for Cinematic Arts; Climate Epidemiology Lab, SIO; Professor Steve M. Parish**

In 2020, 12 million farmers marched to New Delhi to protest unjust farm laws seeking to privatize India's agricultural sector. They occupied the outskirts of New Delhi for 13 months, setting up a makeshift tent-city. In *Farming the Revolution*, Nishtha Jain examines this exceptional moment in Indian history. Characters slip in and out of this quietly compelling film as the farmers and their families endure the brutal summer, cold winter and the pandemic to advocate for justice. Ultimately gesturing towards hope, this monumental documentary achievement took out the top prize at Hot Docs 2024.

# New Affiliate Faculty



**Professor Meera Mahadevan is an Assistant Professor at the School of Global Policy and Strategy, as well as an affiliate faculty at the Center for Effective Global Action. She has a B.A. in Economics from Delhi University, an M.Sc. on the Economics of Development from Oxford University, and a Ph.D in Economics from the University of Michigan. Her research encompasses environmental and energy economics, development, and political economy. Her work has been published in the American Economic Review and Journal of Public Economics, among other prestigious journals.**



# SAI Faculty in the News

**"Fewer international students are enrolling in American universities":**

**Prof. Gaurav Khanna**

*find the full article [here](#)!*

Professor Gaurav Khanna is an associate professor of economics at the School of Global Policy and Strategy. He is also a nonresident fellow at the Center for Global Development and an editor at the Journal of Labor Economics, whose research is primarily focused on development and labor economics.



Silpa Mukherjee is an Assistant Professor of Film and Media, Global South, and Cultural Studies. Her research explores the feminist historiography, informal media industries, media beyond legality, South Asian cinema, South Asian media culture in diaspora, and South by South networks.

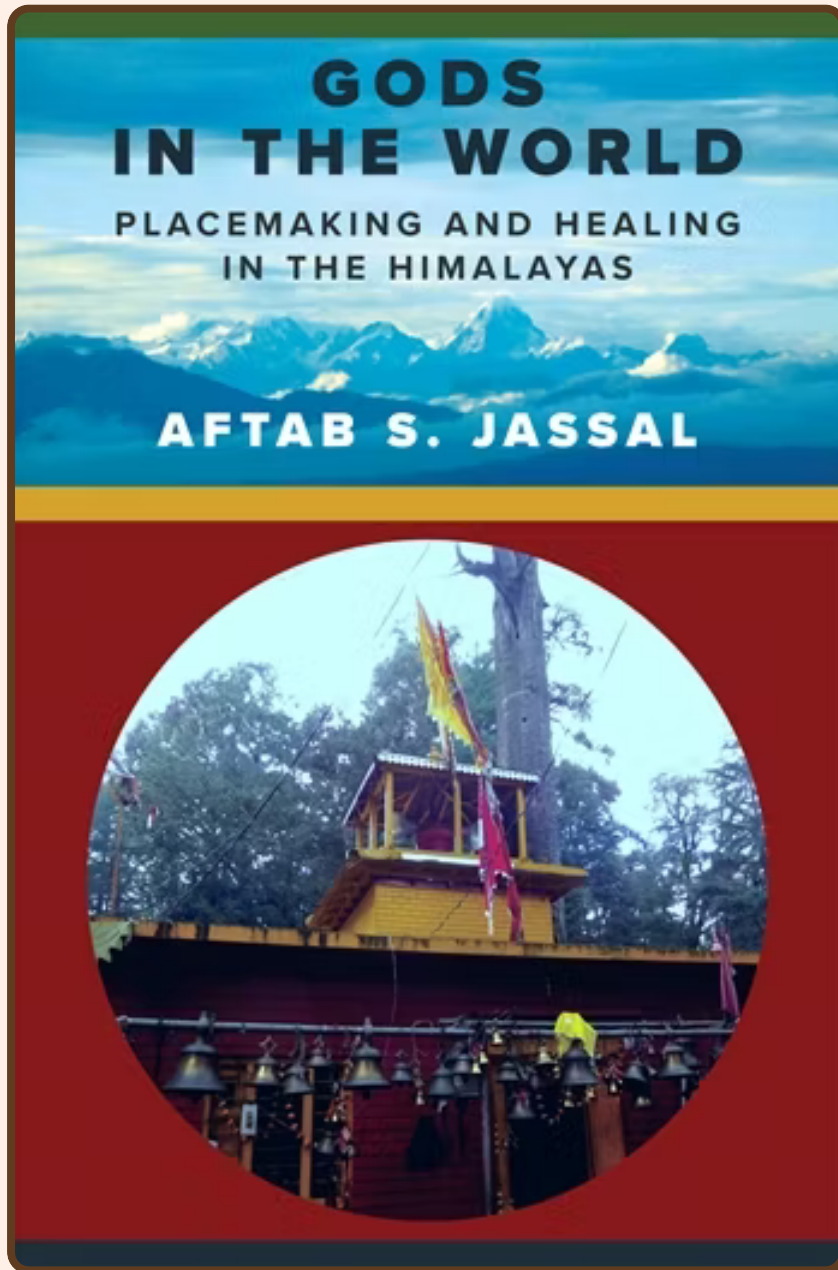
**Congratulations to Silpa Mukherjee for winning a National Endowment of Humanities fellowship for her research on the inter-relation between crime and Bombay cinema in the late 1970s-80s!**

**Congratulations to Prof. Kazim Ali for winning the 2025 Pegasus Award for Poetry Criticism on his work in his book: 'Black Buffalo Woman: An Introduction to Poetry and Poetics of Lucille Clifton'**

Kazim Ali is a Professor and author of over 20 books. His work spans Creative Writing and Literary Arts, Indigenous Studies, Global Anglophone Literature, Palestine and Palestinian Diaspora Studies, and Translation and Translation Studies. He is also the founder of the press Nighboat Books.

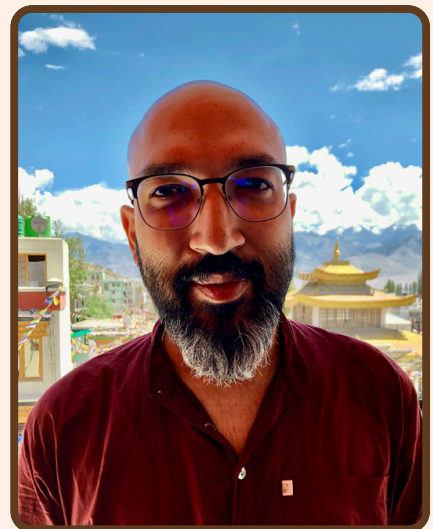


# New Book Alert



## Gods in the World: Placemaking and Healing in the Himalayas

By Dr. Aftab Jassal



Dr. Jassal is an Associate Professor of Anthropology as well as affiliate faculty in the Program for the Study of Religion and the Global Health Program at UCSD.



# South Asian Studies Minor News

## ♦ SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES MINOR ♦ Fall 2025 Course Offerings

### Core Courses

ANSC 152: Social Justice in South Asia  
ANTH 87: India & The US Freshman Seminar  
CGS 134: Gender and Climate Justice  
HISA 110: Modern India and South Asia  
HISA 122: History and Literature in South Asia  
MUS 95W: World Music Ensemble – Indian Classical  
TDMV 144: Asian Dance – Odissi

### Elective Courses

ANSC 148: Global Health and Cultural Diversity  
ANTH 1: Introduction to Culture  
INTL 102: Economics, Politics & International Change  
INTL 190: Topics in International Studies Seminars  
POLI 126: Political Economy of Development

## New Courses

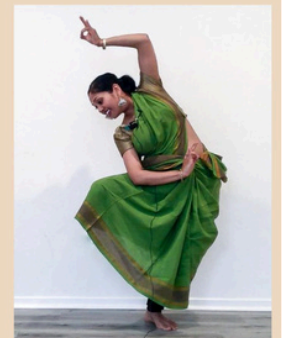


Instructor  
Shibani Patnaik

Join this class to cultivate an understanding of Odissi, an India classical dance form. Emphasis is on learning the basic movements and expressions of Odissi. This class includes exploring historical context and examining how dance movements serve as a medium for cultural and artistic expression.

### ODISSI DANCE CLASS TDMV 144

Fall Quarter 2025  
Mon / Wed 10–11:50 AM  
Wagner Dance Studios, Studio 1



**BRAND NEW FIRST YEAR SEMINAR  
ANTH 87**

**INDIA AND THE US:  
FROM DEMOCRACY TO  
AUTHORITARIANISM?**

**FALL QUARTER  
THURSDAYS 12-12:50 pm**

**NEW SOUTH ASIAN  
STUDIES MINOR CORE  
COURSE &  
ERC REGIONAL  
REQUIREMENT**

**ANTH 152:  
SOCIAL  
JUSTICE IN  
SOUTH ASIA**

**TU/TH 3:30-4:50 PM  
MANDEVILLE B-104**

\*ADDITIONAL COURSES FOR THE SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES MINOR CAN BE PETITIONED\*

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES MINOR, PLEASE EMAIL:  
LYDIA RAMIREZ - LPRAMIREZ@UCSD.EDU  
OR SAIBA VARMA - S2VARMA@UCSD.EDU

# Fellowship Opportunities

## Motwani Jadeja Fellowship Program at OP Jindal Global University

### Vision of Motwani Jadeja Fellowship Program

The Fellowship is anchored in the conviction that U.S.-India ties must be built on two-way intellectual exchange. While hundreds of thousands of Indian students study in the United States each year, only a small number of Americans have the chance to live and study in India. This imbalance has created a missed opportunity to nurture future U.S. leaders who understand India from within. Contemporary India offers a rare vantage point—where fellows can engage with both ancient wisdom and cutting-edge innovation, from Gandhian thought to generative AI, within the same campus.

The Motwani Jadeja Fellowship Program aspires to:

Foster two-way intellectual flows between India and the United States.

Cultivate cross-cultural leadership and global problem-solvers.

Position India as a top academic destination for American students.

Reinforce democratic values and freedom through education.

A fully funded residency on JGU's campus, supporting 5-10 fellows (doctoral students, junior faculty, journalists, and policy thinkers) exploring the interrelationship between the US and India.



**When: Dec 15, 2025 – Jan 31, 2026**  
**Deadline: Oct 15, 2025**



# SAI's 2025-2026 Steering Committee

Shermin de Silva (EBE)

Teevrat Garg (GPS)

Gaurav Khanna (GPS)

Aftab Jassal (Anthropology)

Rishika Mehrishi (Theatre & Dance) - on leave 25-26

Silpa Mukherjee (Literature)

Gareth Nellis (Political Science) - on leave Fall 2025

Saiba Varma (Anthropology)

## Have news to share?

Email us: [southasiaucsd@gmail.com](mailto:southasiaucsd@gmail.com) &  
Follow us on Instagram: [@southasiaucsd](https://www.instagram.com/southasiaucsd)!

