

**Panel 11:** Interbellum internationalisms and India: towards a social history

**Convener:** Dr. Benjamin Zachariah

**Abstract:** The panel proposes to examine and invite papers on relations between India and a wider world in the inter-war period. This includes people as well as ideas on the move. The travels, writings, and political activities of large numbers of Indians and Indian exiles, elite as well as non-elite, had an impact on the political social and mental horizons of Indian public opinion.

This internationalist milieu emerged in the 1920s in the aftermath of and in reaction to the First World War and the Bolshevik Revolution. The 1920s and 30s saw an unprecedented array of social movements whose framework of engagement was not limited by geographical boundaries. The main protagonists were not states but a wide variety of social actors whose range of interests included Aryanism, pacifism, national sovereignty, pan-Asianism, pan-Islamic solidarity, anti-imperialism, feminism, socialism, communism, eugenics, fascism, civil liberties, romanticism, youth. Their divergent ends and objectives were held together, if temporarily, by a euphoria for the vastness and integratedness of the world and the desire and optimism to remake it and shape the future of humanity.

These experiments in political and social mobilization have not been adequately historicised. Histories of South Asia in the 1920s and 1930s have largely focused on local, community, and national narratives, while this panel encourages scholars to expand the frames of analysis to incorporate international, transnational, and global dimensions as well. Frameworks for understanding the world and one's place in it included not only the local or national, but also relatively distant elements as diverse as the work of Sigmund Freud in Vienna and fascist economics in Italy. These became part of the everyday. 'Europe' or 'America', Berlin, London, Paris, Tokyo or Moscow, were part of the worlds and world views of people not necessarily involved only in elitist discussions and cosmopolitan solidarities.

**Deadline:** for abstracts 15<sup>th</sup> November 2009

**Contact:** [b.m.zachariah@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:b.m.zachariah@sheffield.ac.uk), [benjamin\\_zachariah@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:benjamin_zachariah@yahoo.co.uk)