

Panel 15: Modern languages in South Asia: their cultural history, their present position and their future

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Abstract: Scholars are invited to present their views on interconnections between the status, functions and future perspectives of different languages in contemporary South Asia on the one hand and, on the other hand, the social, political and cultural circumstances in which these languages evolved and exist.

Three lines of inquiry are suggested:

- Historical-cultural context elucidating circumstances under which the language(s) evolved as media of expression of certain communities
- Synchronous study of social, political and cultural functions of the language(s) and assessment of its/their future perspectives
- Linguistic analysis exemplifying influences of extralinguistic phenomena on the language(s): hybridity, structural and lexical borrowings, etc.

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