

Panel 26: Educating Ideals: values and morals nurtured in religious and secular educational regimes in South Asia

Conveners: Dr Aya Ikegame
Professor Patricia Jeffery, Centre for South Asian Studies, School of Social and Political Science, The University of Edinburgh

Abstract: South Asian youth acquire and embody values and morals within various educational regimes, ranging from schools run by religious organisations to government-run 'secular' schools. Since the late nineteenth century, a variety of educational regimes have served to produce new values which have become crucial to understanding modern South Asian identity and selfhood. Schools have been used as a mechanism through which nationalist elites can effectively spread certain new ideas; national identity, secularism, patriotism, etc. amongst large population. The schools themselves have also re-interpreted old and new values, and have created new identities both consciously and unconsciously. For example, Christian missionary schools have not entirely been successful in spreading Christianity amongst the majority of South Asian population, but the idea of being 'convent-educated' has gained a considerable status and market value. Strict bodily disciplines promoted within single-sex public schools or military schools have similarly contributed towards the re-formulation of manliness in modern South Asia.

This panel invites papers examining the values, morals, and ideals which various educational regimes have innovated and nurtured in colonial and postcolonial South Asia.

Contact: Dr Aya Ikegame: ayaikegame@mac.com
Professor Patricia Jeffery: P.Jeffery@ed.ac.uk