

Panel 41: Religious Reform Movements in South Asia from the Nineteenth Century to the Present

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Abstract: The panel aims to bring together specialists from a range of disciplines within the humanities and social sciences to explore the development of South Asian religious reform movements from the nineteenth century to the present. The majority of papers presented to previous meetings of the panel have covered movements within Hinduism and Islam, and, while continuing to encourage papers on these traditions, the panel would particularly welcome submissions relating to other South Asian religious traditions. Papers relating to transformations of South Asian religious reform movements outside South Asia will be considered as long as relevant connections are established and maintained to the South Asian context.

As the panel is already constituted to focus on a specific category of movement that is a recognised sub-field of South Asian research, the panel does not wish to prescribe a specific theme or topic relating to the study of religious reform movements. Papers presented at recent meetings of the panel have examined problems in the representation of religious reform movements and their study, and religious reform movements in relationship to (among other things) historical personalities and texts, institutions and organisations, nationalism and the relations between religions, gender, philanthropy, education, and membership and proselytism. It is to be hoped that papers for the forthcoming conference might promote some discussion of the basis for distinctions between 'religious' and 'social' reform in the recent history of South Asia, but it is not a requirement that all submissions should address this issue explicitly. The panel continues to encourage papers on a wide range of movements, regions, and topics.

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