

**Panel 42:** Indian Satire in the Period of First Modernity

**Conveners:** Monika Boehm-Tettelbach, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University  
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**Abstract:** During the long period under review, which in principle excludes the colonial and post-colonial period, South Asia has produced satirical literature, though to date this has not been particularly highlighted. One of the reasons for this may be that the genre is not identical with the genres established by classical Indian poetology, but cuts across several genres. Also, the continuities or discontinuities between classical and vernacular satirical writing has not been much in the focus.

It seems that the satire of the period indicated is particularly part of religious and philosophical criticism. However, to sort out if this assumption stands to test is part of the project of this panel.

As satire has a moral and/or political edge also indicative of social faultlines, contributors should in their individual case studies make an attempt to address the socio-historical context in which that literature was produced.

Satire is articulated in literature and visual art alike. Accordingly contributions covering either or both fields are called for.

Satire is characterized both by clichée and innovation. It would be interesting to see under what conditions and in which way innovation took the genre forward.

Satire is a pervasive genre, popular in court culture and outside of it, in written and oral literature. This calls for Indic-language as well as Persian-language satire of South Asia and elite as well as popular articulations to be taken stock of.

Contributors should bear in mind points listed below, that list being inconclusive.

How is satire distinguished from other genres or how does it overlap, for example by the very fact that it also parodies other genres?

In what literary genres do we find it (numerous satires are couched in larger texts)?

What function do the satirical texts fulfill and whom do they address?

How did indigenous theorists of literature theorize about the genre and its function?

What were or are the conditions of performance of satire?

What is the function of satire in intellectual debate?

**Deadlines:** for abstracts: 15 October 2009  
for papers: 30 June 2010

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