

ARI ASIA TRENDS and ISEAS-NSC ANNUAL LECTURE jointly present

China and the Making of Modern India:

A Story of Fantasy, Abuse and Recovered Memory

The effects of opium on 18th and 19th century China have been extensively studied and it is now widely acknowledged that the drug trade had momentous consequences, for China and for the world at large. That this trade also had a powerful impact on India, which was the world's leading opium-producing country under the British Raj, has been largely overlooked (or deliberately ignored). This talk attempts to explore some aspects of this subject, including Chinese influences on Indian arts, crafts, tastes and styles.



SPEAKER

AMITAV GHOSH

27 November 2012 | Tuesday 7:00 - 8:30 PM |

Asian Civilisations Museum | Ngee Ann Auditorium, Basement 1

1 Empress Place | Singapore 179555 | [MAP]

DR AMITAV GHOSH

One of India's best-known writers, Amitav Ghosh is the author of *The Calcutta Chromosome*, *The Glass Palace*, *The Hungry Tide* and *The Ibis Trilogy*

DISCUSSANTS

PROF PRASENJIT DUARA

Office of Research, Humanities and Social Sciences & Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore

ASSOC PROF TANSEN SEN

Baruch College, The City University of New York, USA

CHAIRPERSON

ASSOC PROF CHITRA SANKARAN

Department of English Language and Literature, National University of Singapore

REGISTRATION: Admission is free, however, registration is required. Kindly register early as seats are available on a first come, first served basis. We would greatly appreciate it if you register with Ms Valerie Yeo via email at valerie.yeo@nus.edu.sg by providing your name, email, organisation/affiliation and contact number.

ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

AMITAV GHOSH is one of India's best-known writers. His books include *The Circle of Reason*, *The Shadow Lines*, *In an Antique Land*, *Dancing in Cambodia*, *The Calcutta Chromosome*, *The Glass Palace*, *Incendiary Circumstances*, *The Hungry Tide*. His most recent novel, *Sea of Poppies*, is the first volume of The Ibis Trilogy. Amitav Ghosh was born in Calcutta in 1956. He studied in Dehra Dun, New Delhi, Alexandria and Oxford and his first job was at the Indian Express newspaper in New Delhi. He earned a doctorate at Oxford before he wrote his first novel, which was published in 1986. *The Circle of Reason* won the Prix Medicis Etranger, one of France's top literary awards, and *The Shadow Lines* won the Sahitya Akademi Award & the Ananda Puraskar. *The Calcutta Chromosome* won the Arthur C. Clarke Award for 1997 and *The Glass Palace* won the Grand Prize for Fiction at the Frankfurt International e-Book Awards in 2001. *The Hungry Tide* won the Hutch Crossword Book Prize in 2006. In 2007 Amitav Ghosh was awarded the Grinzane Cavour Prize in Turin, Italy. Amitav Ghosh has written for many publications, including *The Hindu*, *The New Yorker* and *Granta*, and he has served on the juries of several international film festivals, including Locarno and Venice. He has taught at many universities in India and the USA, including Delhi University, Columbia, the City University of New York and Harvard. He no longer teaches and is currently writing the next volume of The Ibis Trilogy.



PRASENJIT DUARA is Raffles Professor of Humanities and Director of Asia Research Institute and of Humanities and Social Sciences Research at National University of Singapore. He is Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Chicago. Author of *Culture, Power and the State: Rural North China, 1900-1942*, winner of the Fairbank Prize of the AHA and the Levenson Prize of the AAS. Duara also wrote *Rescuing History from the Nation: Questioning Narratives of Modern China* (1995) and *Sovereignty and Authenticity: Manchukuo and the East Asian Modern* (2003). He has edited a volume on Decolonization (Routledge, 2004) as well as a selection of his writings, *The Global and Regional in China's Nation Formation* (Routledge, 2009). Duara has also contributed to volumes on historiography and historical thought. His work has been widely translated into Chinese, Korean and Japanese.



TANSEN SEN is Associate Professor of Asian history and religions at Baruch College, The City University of New York. He specializes in India-China relations, Indian Ocean connections, and the history of Buddhism. He is the author of *Buddhism, Diplomacy, and Trade: The Realignment of Sino-Indian Relations, 600-1400* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2003) and co-author (with Victor H. Mair) of *Traditional China in Asian and World History* (Association for Asian Studies, 2012). He has edited *Buddhism across Asia: Networks of Material, Cultural and Intellectual Exchange* (forthcoming) and guest-edited special issues of *China Report: A Journal of East Asian Studies* ("Kolkata and China" and "Studies on India-China Interactions Dedicated to Ji Xianlin"). He is currently working on a book titled *India, China, and the World: Networks of Exchange and Interactions*. He serves on the Governing Board of the Nalanda University, India.



CHITRA SANKARAN is an Associate Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature, National University of Singapore. Her areas of research interest are in South and South East Asian Fiction, Feminist Pedagogy and Comparative Literature. Earlier this year (2012) she edited and published with SUNY the first international volume of essays on Ghosh entitled *History, Narrative and Testimony in Amitav Ghosh's Fiction* with contributions by scholars from around the world. Sankaran publications include monographs, edited volumes and chapters in books. She has also published research articles in several IRJs such as *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, *ARIEL*, *Theatre Research International* and elsewhere. Most recently, she has added a murder mystery novel published in the UK to her repertoire.