

Royal Asiatic Society
Anniversary General Meeting

Thursday 16th of May 2024

at 5.30pm

AGENDA

1. To confirm the Minutes of the last Anniversary General Meeting (18 May 2023)
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Report of the Council and Accounts for 2023 (copies will be available to download from the website in advance of the meeting)
4. Appointment of Auditors: Under review
5. Address by the President
6. Election of Officers and Council Members. The Standing orders relating to this reads as follows:
 19. *No later than the 1st day of March, the same such notice in Standing Order 19 shall be sent to all Fellows of the Society having an address in Great Britain or Ireland; together with a notice that every such member, subject to Byelaws 9, 10 and 11 is entitled to nominate any other Fellow for election to any position on the Council; such nomination to take the form of a written communication, signed by the nominator and by a seconder who is a duly qualified member of the Society, and accompanied by a short curriculum vitae and a statement signed by the nominee expressing the willingness to act if elected, which must reach the Society not later than the 21st of March.*
 20. *At its Ordinary Meeting in April, having received any representations from members, the Council shall agree and recommend a list of candidates for election by the Anniversary General Meeting to serve as officers and Council members for the ensuing year.*
 21. *A copy of the list shall be sent with each notice of the Anniversary General Meeting to every Fellow of the Society having a postal address in Great Britain or Ireland or an email address; together with a notice showing separately any valid nominations received which are not incorporated in the proposals made by the Council.*
 22. *The Council's recommended list as a whole shall first be put to the meeting. If the recommended list be not carried it shall be in the discretion of the Chair to put the recommendations of the Council and any alternative nominations permitted by standing orders in several parts and in such order as to the Chair shall seem appropriate; and if no candidate or candidates shall have been nominated in excess of the number required for the particular office or offices to be filled the candidate or candidates nominated to such office or offices shall be deemed elected; otherwise the election to such office or offices and of ordinary members of the Council shall be determined by ballot, each Fellow present at the meeting to be entitled to one vote in respect of each office to be filled.*

The Council proposes the following list:

Election of Officers

President

Dr Norbert Peabody

Proposer: Dr Gordon Johnson

Secunder: Professor Deborah Swallow

Elected fellow 13/10/2011

Norbert Peabody is the editor of the new edition of James Tod's *Annals and Antiquities of Rajast'han* and the author of the accompanying *Companion Volume* (Royal Asiatic Society and Yale University Press, 2023). His first book, *Hindu Kingship and Polity in Precolonial India* (Cambridge University Press, 2002) was awarded the Gladstone History Book Prize from the Royal Historical Society. He has contributed articles and book chapters to such publications as *Comparative Studies and Society and History*, *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, *Modern Asian Studies*, *American Ethnologist*, and the *Oxford History of the British Empire Companion Series*. From 2019 through 2023, he was the editor of the Cambridge University Press Journal *Modern Asian Studies* and was a Member of Council at the Royal Asiatic Society during the same period. He received his Ph.D from Harvard University, where he also taught before moving to the United Kingdom, holding academic posts at both the University of Cambridge and the London School of Economics. In 2020, he received the James Tod Award for academic service to Rajasthan from the Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation. He is currently working on a translation of Kisna Arha's early nineteenth-century poetic history of Mewar – the *Bhimvilas*.

Election of Ordinary Members

Professor Sarah Ansari

Proposer: Dr Sanjoy Bhattacharya

Secunder: Dr Liz Driver

Elected fellow 2000

Sarah Ansari is Professor of History at Royal Holloway, University of London, where she has worked since the 1990s, and twice been head of department. She has also been an academic member of its governing body for six years. Her research focuses on South Asia during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with a particular emphasis on places that today are in Pakistan. She has been Hon Editor of the JRAS since the turn of the millennium, and so a member of Council for over twenty years. In 2021 she became the first female President of the RAS.

Dr Gai Jorayev

Proposer: Professor Susan Whitfield

Secunder: Dr Annabel T. Gallop

Elected fellow 15/04/2010

Dr Gai Jorayev has a background in archaeology, heritage management, digital heritage, tourism planning, and he has been involved in complex and transformational development and research projects since 2001. His experience spans leading and managing interdisciplinary teams, collaborating with indigenous communities, and conducting field research in challenging environments. Recent projects have taken him to Asia, Africa, and Europe, working closely with international organisations and multilateral development banks. While his current focus is on heritage preservation, tourism, and capacity building, his past work includes development projects with the EU and UN, with a focus on economic and rural development, and public health.

In the Digital Heritage/Digital Humanities area, he developed a specific postgraduate course at UCL and manages a dedicated laboratory. His academic research primarily involves multi-modal digitisation and on-field digital documentation techniques, aiming to create scalable and open-access heritage inventory systems for all stakeholders and monitor change over time. In the realm of Cultural Tourism, his focus is on strategies for culture-based development and adaptive reuse. He collaborates with international and national organisations to shape national-level heritage tourism approaches.

He has extensively worked with World Heritage nominations and site management plans, and in addition to his interests in AeroSpace Heritage and the Silk Roads, he works with industrial heritage, rural and cultural landscapes, and intangible heritage. He engages internationally in ongoing debates on decolonisation, ethics, and representation in heritage/archaeology.

Professor Javed Majeed

Proposer: Dr Gordon Johnson

Secunder: Lionel Knight

Elected fellow 31/12/2022

Field/Area of specialisation

South Asian Studies, intellectual and literary history of colonial and postcolonial South Asia. Specifically: language politics; politics and literature in colonial India; Islam and colonialism in India.

Education and Degrees: 1988, DPhil English Literature, University of Oxford; 1984, MA English Language and Literature, University of Oxford.

Current and Previous Position(s)

2012-present Professor Comparative Literature and English, King's College London; 2007-2011 Professor of Postcolonial Studies, Queen Mary Univ. of London; 1999-2006 Senior Lecturer in Postcolonial Studies, QM, Univ. of London; 1992-1999 Lecturer in Urdu and Comparative Literature, SOAS, Univ. of London; 1989-1992 Smuts Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Centre of South Asian Studies, Univ. of Cambridge.

Academic/Research Leadership, Public Service, Recognition, Honours and Awards

Recognition and Research Awards: Sept 2021 Elected Fellow of RHS; July 2021 Elected Fellow of British Academy;

2016-17 Leverhulme Research Fellowship; July-Sept 2011 & 2012 Distinguished Mellon Fellow, University of Witwatersrand; 2006-08 British Academy Research Leave Fellowship; 2003 Arts and Humanities Research Board funded Research Leave.

Academic Leadership: 2012-15 Head of Comparative Literature King's College London; 2006-07 Secretary of the Society for South Asian Studies; 2003-07 Member of Council of Society for South Asian Studies.

PhD examining: 27 PhD theses in History & South Asian literature.

Principal Publications

Books

2019 *Colonialism and Knowledge in Grierson's Linguistic Survey of India*. Abingdon Oxon, New York, New Delhi: Routledge.

2019 *Nation and Region in Grierson's Linguistic Survey of India*. Abingdon Oxon, New York, New Delhi: Routledge.

2016 & I. Hofmeyr (eds.). *India and South Africa*. Abingdon Oxon, New York: Routledge. 2009 Muhammad Iqbal: *Islam, Aesthetics and Postcolonialism*. Abingdon Oxon, New York, New Delhi: Routledge.

2007 *Autobiography, Travel and Postnational Identity: Gandhi, Nehru and Iqbal*. Basingstoke UK & New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

1997 & C. Shackle (eds). *Hali's Musaddas: The Flow and Ebb of Islam*. Delhi: Oxford University Press.

1992 *Ungoverned Imaginings: James Mill's The History of British India and Orientalism*. Oxford: Clarendon Press.

A full list of 36 published articles & essays available on request

Dr Jochen Sokoly

Proposer: Dr Sunil Sharma

Secunder: Ms Deborah Freeman Fahid

Elected fellow 1992

Jochen Sokoly is Associate Professor of Art History of the Islamic World at Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts in Qatar. He was an elected board member of the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society, London from 2018-22. As Gallery Director at VCUarts Qatar from 2004-11 he curated exhibitions on contemporary art of the Middle East and a lecture series on the art of the Islamic world. He was instrumental in planning and realizing the establishment of the Department of Art History at VCUarts Qatar, with an undergraduate curriculum focusing on Islamic Art in a global context, and has twice been co-chair of the Hamad bin Khalifa Symposium on Islamic Art and co-editor of the resulting publications. Sokoly has been a research fellow at Harvard, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, and worked as a UNESCO curatorial consultant for the Al-Sabah Collection, Kuwait National Museum. His main research interest focuses on the culture of the Early Islamic caliphates, in particular the field of inscribed textiles within the context of court, administration and manufacture. In 2022 he delivered the annual Norma Jean Calderwood Lecture at Harvard Art Museums on *Clothing the Caliphate: Dress Cultures of the Early Islamic Period*.

Sokoly has also worked on 18th century British India, particularly a collection of botanical paintings by the Indian painter Zayn al-Din from the collection of Sanskrit scholar Sir William Jones at the Royal Asiatic Society, and plans a study of

the drawings of travelers Thomas and William Daniell. Sokoly received his DPhil from the University of Oxford and holds degrees from the School of Oriental and African Studies, London.

Professor Surya Subedi

Proposer: Professor Susan Whitfield

Secunder: Dr Gordon Johnson

Elected fellow 30/09/2022

Professor Surya P. Subedi, OBE, KC is an international jurist. He is Professor of International Law at the University of Leeds, a member of the Institut de Droit International, and a Barrister in London. He was elected an Honorary Fellow of Exeter College of the University of Oxford in 2023 and has been a visiting faculty member on the international human rights law programme of Oxford since 2016. From 2009 to 2015, Professor Subedi served as the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Cambodia. He also served for five years, starting in 2010, on an advisory group on human rights to the British Foreign Secretary, and as Legal Procedural Adviser to the World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature held in Marseille, France, in 2021. Professor Subedi has published 12 books and more than 60 scholarly articles in all major areas of international law in leading international law journals. Among his published books include *Human Rights in Eastern Civilizations* (Edward Elgar, 2021); *Dynamics of Foreign Policy and Law: A Study of Indo-Nepal Relations* (Oxford University Press, 2005), and *International Watercourses Law for the 21st Century: The Case of the River Ganges Basin* (Ashgate/Routledge, 2005).

Professor Subedi was involved in the establishment of the Asian Society of International Law with its head office at the Faculty of Law of the National University of Singapore and served as the founding executive editor for the first five years and then the next seven years as Chairman of the Board of Editors of the flagship publication of the Society – the *Asian Journal of International Law* – published by Cambridge University Press. Prior to this, he was chief editor of the *Asian Yearbook of International Law* between 1999 and 2006 published by Martinus Nijhoff in The Hague. In addition, he is editor of a series of monographs on 'human rights and international law' published by Routledge (London/New York).

Professor Subedi was appointed a Queen's Counsel (QC) (Hon) in 2017. Prior to this, he had been made an honorary OBE for his services to international law and to Britain-Nepal relations in 2004. He obtained an LLM with Distinction from the University of Hull in 1988 and a DPhil (PhD) in law with a prize from the University of Oxford in 1993. He was awarded Oxford's highest accolade – the degree of Doctor of Civil Law (DCL) – in 2019 in recognition of his contribution to international law and human rights. In 2020, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws (LLD) *honoris causa* by the University of Hull.

Royal Asiatic Society
Anniversary General Meeting
Thursday 18th of May 2023
at 5.30pm

1. The Minutes of the last Anniversary General Meeting held on 12th May 2022 were confirmed.
2. The Treasurer presented his Report
3. Report of the Council and Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2022 were approved and adopted.
4. Appointment of Auditors: UHY Hacker Young were appointed auditors for the Society until the Anniversary General Meeting 2024
5. Address by the President, Professor Sarah Ansari. The President thanked the Director, staff, and all those who have dedicated their time to the society.
6. Election of Officers and Council Members. The following Council Members were elected:

Council Members Dr Weipin Tsai (Until AGM 2027)

Dr Susan Whitfield (Until AGM 2027)