

History 175 Calcutta and Dacca: Exploration in South Asian Urban History

Professor Kris Manjapra

East Hall 03

Office Hours, Wednesday 2pm-4pm, or by appointment

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Course Summary

Explore the changing social and cultural geographies of South Asia's major cities, especially Calcutta, Dacca, but also Bombay, Lahore and Karachi, in the 19th and 20th centuries. Themes include the history of colonial and post-colonial architecture and public works and the shifting relationship between Hindu and Muslim cultural identity and urban geography. We also consider gender, class and caste in terms of slums, *bastis* and red-light districts and the connections between urban and suburban areas. Students will receive training at the Tufts Geo-Information Systems (GIS) lab and use GIS to visualize urban geographies for class research. Students will also get involved in helping to develop informative content on South Asian urban history for the general internet public on a new website <http://bengaloralhistory.tufts.edu>. For the main research project, students will have the opportunity to focus on an Asian metropolis of their choice, in consultation with the instructor.

Required books

Swati Chattopadhyay, *Representing Calcutta: Modernity, Nationalism and the Colonial Uncanny* (2006)

Bapsi Sidhwa, *City of Sin and Splendour: Writings on Lahore* (2006)

Suketu Mehta, *Maximum City: Bombay* (2004)

Excerpts will be assigned from the texts listed in each week. Full texts are only assigned from the 'required books' list.

Unit I

Weeks 1-4 History of Colonial Capital Cities and 'Second Cities'

Week 1

Introduction

Sukanta Chaudhury, *Calcutta: The Living City* vol. I

Week 2

Richards, John, "Calcutta and Dhaka: A tale of two cities". *Inroads* (2002)

Sumanta Banerjee, *The Parlor and the Street* (1998)

Week 3

Swati Chattopadhyay, *Representing Calcutta: Modernity, Nationalism and the Colonial Uncanny* (2006)

M. Atiqullah and F. Karim Khan, *Growth of Dacca City: Population and Area, 1608–1981*. (1965).

Week 4

Chakrabarty, Dipesh, “Of Garbage, Modernity and the Citizen’s Gaze,” in *Habitations of Modernity: Essays in the Wake of Subaltern Studies* (2002)

Kaviraj, Sudipta, “Filth and the Public Sphere: Concepts and Practices about Space in Calcutta,” *Public Culture* vol.10, no.1 (1997) pp.83-113.

Sharif Uddin Ahmed, *Dacca: A Study in Urban History and Development* (1986)

Week 5

“A Tale of Two Cities: Shifting the Paradigm of Anti-Trafficking Programmes”, *Gender and Development*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (2002), 69-79

Alan Mayne. “A Barefoot Childhood: So What? Imagining Slums and Reading Neighbourhoods,” *Urban History*, 22 (Dec., 1995), 380-89.

Jeremy Seabrook, Chap. 3 “Migrants to the City”, Chap. 10 “Slums and Settlements”, *In the Cities of the South: Scenes from a Developing World* (1996)

Unit II Regimes of Urban and Suburban Space

Week 6

Willem van Schendel, *The Bengal Borderland: Beyond State and Nation in South Asia*

Stephen Legg, *Spaces of Colonialism : Delhi’s Urban Governmentalities* (2007)

Week 7

John Archer, "Colonial Suburbs in South Asia, 1750-1850, and the Spaces of Modernity." In *Visions of Suburbia*, edited by Roger Silverstone, 26-54. New York: Routledge, 1997.

Meera Kosambi, *Bombay in Transition: The Growth and Social Ecology of a Colonial City, 1880-1980*. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International, 1986

Week 8

Hazareesingh, Sandip. *The Colonial City and the Challenge of Modernity: Urban Hegemonies and Civic Contestations in Bombay City 1900-1925* (2007)

Sujata Patel and Jim Masselos, eds (2003). "Bombay and Mumbai: Identities, Politics and Populism". *Bombay and Mumbai. The City in Transition*.

Week 9

Bapsi Sidhwa, *City of Sin and Splendour: Writings on Lahore* (2006)

Celik, Zeynep, "Le Corbusier, Orientalism, Colonialism," *Assemblage* No. 17 (April 1992), 58-77

Week 10

Behram Rustomji, *Karachi during the British Era: Two Histories of a Modern City* (2007)

William Foot Whyte, "Social Structure, The Gang and the Individual" (chapter 15) from James F. Short, Jr., ed. *The Social Fabric of the Metropolis: Contributions of the Chicago School of Urban Sociology*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press (1971)

Unit III The Experience of the Postcolonial City

Week 11

Ernesto Capello, *The Postcolonial City as Universal Nostalgia* (2006)

Aidan Southall, *The City in Time and Space* (1998)

Week 12

Suketu Mehta, *Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found*

Week 13

Alev Çinar and Thomas Bender, eds., *Urban Imaginaries: Locating the Modern City* (2007)

Michael Smith and Thomas Bender, *City and Nation: Rethinking Place and Identity* (2001)

Week 14

James Epstein. "Spatial practices/democratic vistas," *Social History* (October 1999): 294-310.

David Harvey. *Consciousness and The Urban Experience: Studies in the History and Theory of Capitalist Urbanisation* (1984)