ARCHAEOLOGY OF EARLY SOUTH ASIA

Monsoon 2018

M A Course: M 21431  (Four Credits)  MPhil Course:  P 21229
(Two credits)

Mode of Evaluation for MA:  2 Tutorials (2 credits) + End Semester Exam (2 credits)
Mode of Evaluation for MPhil:  2 Tutorials (1 credit) + End Semester Exam (1 credit)

Course Instructor: Supriya Varma

This is an introductory course on the archaeology of early South Asia. This course has been
organized thematically rather than chronologically and the themes selected substantially reflect
the recent archaeological research undertaken in South Asia. The themes covered include the
beginnings of agriculture and pastoralism in South Asia, in particular the domestication of rice
and bovids. The discipline of archaeology is ideally suited for investigating settlements, regions
and landscapes and this is evident from the large number of excavated sites as well as regional
surveys that have been carried out. As compared to the rural settlements or pastoral camps,
much more work has been done on large urban centres, and more recently on some coastal sites
in order to better understand the Indian Ocean trade. Within sites the evidence collected (in the
form of artefacts, production facilities, debitage and work areas) at a more micro scale provides
useful clues for reconstructing craft production and technologies. The themes of gender,
childhood, and household, too are now beginning to be investigated in South Asian archaeology.
What is also apparent is that most of the archaeological research in South Asia has focused on
deep histories, but refreshingly an interest in the medieval and even contemporary periods is
slowly emerging. As far as investigations of different regions are concerned, areas that had so far
remained neglected, like the North East, or Ladakh, are also drawing attention from archaeologists.

GENERAL READINGS

Chakrabarti, D K, 2006, The Oxford Companion to Indian Archaeology: The Archaeological
Foundations of Ancient India, Stone Age to AD 13th century, New Delhi: Oxford University
Press.
Coningham R and R Young, 2015, The Archaeology of South Asia: From the Indus to Asoka,
c.6500 BCE-200 CE, New York: Cambridge University Press.
Jamir, T and M Hazarika, 2014, eds, Fifty years after Daojali-Hading: Emerging Perspectives
in the Archaeology of Northeast India, New Delhi: Research India Press.
AGRICULTURE AND PASTORALISM


REGIONS AND LANDSCAPES


**Suvrathan, U**, 2014, Regional Centres and Local Elites: Studying Peripheral Cores in Peninsular India (c. First to Eighteenth Century CE), *Indian History* 1: 89-142.


RITUAL, RELIGION AND SACRED LANDSCAPES


**URBANISM AND CITISCAPES**


TRADE AND THE INDIAN OCEAN


CRAFT PRODUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY


**GENDER, CHILDHOOD AND HOUSEHOLDS**

Clark, S R, 2003, Representing the Indus Body: Sex, Gender, Sexuality, and the Anthropomorphic Terracotta Figurines from Harappa, Asian Perspectives 42(2).


