Writing the History of the Built Environments of Asia: Materiality, Translations, and Colonialism

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Subject Fields: Architecture and Architectural History, Asian History / Studies, South Asian History / Studies, Southeast Asian History / Studies, Urban History / Studies

The History of Architecture and Urbanism Society invites graduate students to participate in its annual research symposium, April 22, 2022.

- **Application deadline:** March 7, 2022
- **Selection Notification:** March 11, 2022
- **Full Draft Submission:** April 11, 2022
- **Eligibility:** Open to all graduate students

**Keynote Speaker:** Nida Rehman, Lucian & Rita Caste Assistant Professor, School of Architecture, Carnegie Mellon University

Organized by the doctoral students of Cornell University's History of Architecture and Urban Development program, Writing the History of the Built Environments of Asia: Materiality, Translations, and Colonialism seeks to discuss new approaches that prioritize material cultures in studying the colonial built environments of Asia. We invite graduate students to rethink together the previously established disciplinary and geographical boundaries of the large continent by focusing on cross-border connections, extractive economies, global and local translations, and multispecies entanglements.

The term "Asia" has been used to refer to vast and different lands including those in West Asia, Central Asia, South Asia, and South East Asia. In our reimagination, knowledge on "Asia" acknowledges the multiplicities of these different lands, as well as connections, monetary exchanges, and translations within, into, and from it. Part of our intention in broadening the scope of our understanding of Asia and the built environment, both conceptually and methodologically, is to extend beyond the previously limited frameworks consisting of architecture and landscape. We call for studies of the environment that include previously understudied material aspects and agents of the built environment. This material ecology includes but is not limited to, fluid or abject materialities, living and dead organisms, and apparatuses that complicate the constructed categories, which would unsettle established official narratives, colonial efforts, and human-centric ontologies.

Please submit your paper title and abstract (250-300 words) with your name and affiliation by **March 7, 2022**. Authors of accepted papers will be notified by **March 11, 2022** via email, and will be asked to submit a full draft (3,000-3,200 words) by **April 11, 2022**. The symposium will be held online.

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Submission Form: https://aap.cornell.edu/forms/writing-history-built-environments-asia-materiality-translations-and-colonialism

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