RETHINKING
the
BUSINESS HISTORY
of
SOUTH ASIA
27-29 May 2023

Venue
Room 104, Dartmouth Hall

Acknowledgements
The History Department,
The Asian Societies, Cultures and Languages Program,
and the
Bodas Family Endowment for
South Asian Studies
At Dartmouth College
27 May, Saturday

8:45 am
Breakfast

9:15-10:45 am
Opening Session
Welcome by Edward Miller (Incoming Chair, Asian Societies, Cultures, and Languages) Remarks by Douglas Haynes, David Rudner, Tiraana Bains, & Abigail McGowan

Break

11 am-12:30 pm
Panel 1 – Creating Connected Histories
Divya Cherian, Banjaras and Badarans: Writing Slavery into the Business History of India
Claude Markovits, Indian Business History as Connected History: A Modest Proposal

12:30 pm
Lunch

1:45-3:15 pm
Panel 2 – Everyday Financial Systems and the Changing Character of Indian Capitalism
Michael O’Sullivan, Dalal Street: Western India’s Share Bazaars beyond Histories of Speculation, 1864-1929
Sebastian Schwecke, Banking on Reputation: The Messiness of Modernization in India’s Mid- twentieth Century Credit Markets

Break

3:30-4:15 pm
Discussion Session 1
Comments by Aparna Kapadia, Tirthankar Roy & Elizabeth Lhost

Break

4:30-6 pm
Panel 3 – Rethinking the Social History of Business Communities
Aparna Kapadia, Becoming a Business Community: The Bhatias of Early Twentieth Century Bombay
Ghulam Nadri, Community and Business: The Parsis in India in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

Dinner

28 May, Sunday

9 AM
Breakfast

9:30-11 am
Panel 4 - Family Businesses and Managerial Classes
Tirthankar Roy, Family Businesses in India: 1850 to the Present

Douglas Haynes, The Making of India’s Managerial Class: Understanding Year

Break

11:15 am-12:15 pm Discussion Session 2

Comments by David Rudner, Utathya Chattopadhyaya & Michael O’Sullivan

12:15 pm Lunch

1:30-3 pm Panel 5 - The Cultural Imaginaries and Social Dynamics of Advertising Insurance

Tiraana Bains, Advertising and Everyday Economic Life in British Settlements, 1750-1800

Elizabeth Lhost, Assurance against Insecurity: Selling Life Insurance in Late-Colonial South Asia

Break

3:15-4:45 pm Panel 6 – Retailers and Consumers

Utathya Chattopadhyaya, The Vendor and the State: Petty Sellers in British India’s Cannabis Economy


Break

5-5:45 pm Discussion Session 3

Comments by Ghulam Nadri and Douglas Haynes

Dinner

29 May, Monday

8:30 AM Breakfast

9:15-10:45 am Closing Discussion

Comments by Sebastian Schwecke, Divya Cherian, Tirthankar Roy & Claude Markovits