

# **Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellows**





## ● Faculty Research



**Rina Agarwala**

- ▶ Specialization:  
**Sociology**
- ▶ Home Institution in US:  
**John Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland**
- ▶ Host Institution in India:  
**Institute of Human Development  
New Delhi**
- ▶ Start Date/Month in India:  
**May 2010**
- ▶ Duration of grant:  
**9 months**

### **Brief Bio:**

Dr. Rina Agarwala is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Johns Hopkins University. She is the co-editor (with Ronal Herring) of *Recovering Class: Reflections from the Subcontinent* (Routledge, 2008), which explores the utility of class analyses in examinations of informal and formal labor, agricultural work, and middle classes in South Asia. Currently, she is writing a series of articles and a book on the political economy of informal workers in India. Dr. Agarwala holds a Doctor in Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Sociology and Demography from Princeton University, a Master in Public Policy (M.P.P.) in Political and Economic Development from Harvard University, and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Economics and Government from Cornell University. Dr. Agarwala has also worked at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in China, the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India, and Women's World Banking (WWB) in New York.

In India, 93 percent of the labor force works in the informal economy. Although these workers are economically central, they are socially marginalized and unprotected by labor rights. Dr. Agarwala's Fulbright-Hays study will examine women workers' political reactions to these circumstances. She will examine (1) how gender and informal employment shape workers' collective action strategies, and (2) under what political conditions these strategies succeed or fail. Her field research will build on her earlier findings from 300 interviews she conducted from 2002 to 2004 with government officials and informal workers. Ultimately, this work will expose the alternative institutions that women workers are launching to advance their humanity.



## ● Faculty Research



**Christopher R. Lee**

- ▶ Specialization:  
**Anthropology**
- ▶ Home Institution in US:  
**Canisius College  
Buffalo, New York**
- ▶ Host Institution in India:  
**Banaras Hindu University  
Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**
- ▶ Start Date/Month in India:  
**July 18, 2009**
- ▶ Duration of grant:  
**5 months**

### **Brief Bio:**

Dr. Christopher R. Lee is an Anthropologist (Ph.D. Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, 2002) who teaches in the Religious Studies department of Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. He has written extensively on practice and performance of Urdu poetry by contemporary working class urban Urdu poets in Banaras. His recent publications include 'In a Single House: Fluid Boundaries in Performed Urdu poetry,' in *Religious Synergies: Fluid Religion in South Asia*, Syracuse University Press; 'Music Moves the Mushaira,' presented at the Music Moves Religion: Performance Networks in Indian Ocean Cultures Conference. Religions and Cultures Cluster of the Central New York Humanities Corridor at Syracuse University, April 18-20 2008; and 'Adab and Banarsipan: Local Ways of Being among Muslim Artisans in Varanasi, India,' in *Comparative Islamic Studies* 1.2 2006: 55-74.

Dr. Lee's Fulbright-Hays research project is an study of the impact of globalization on Banarsi artisans and their culture. In particular, he will consider how the downturn in the Banarsi handloom sari industry has affected Banarsi silk weavers' cultures of work and leisure, as many artisans move from *karobari*, artisanal self-employment, to *naukri*, wage-employment for others.



## ● Faculty Research



**Timothy Lubin**

- ▶ Specialization:  
**Religious Studies**
- ▶ Home Institution in US:  
**Washington and Lee University  
Lexington, Virginia**
- ▶ Host Institution in India:  
**French Institute  
Puducherry**
- ▶ Start Date/Month in India:  
**July 09, 2009**
- ▶ Duration of grant:  
**12 months**

### **Brief Bio:**

Dr. Timothy Lubin is a Professor in the Department of Religion, and a Lecturer in Law and Religion in the School of Law, Washington and Lee University, having taught earlier at Harvard University and the University of Virginia. He holds degrees from Columbia (B.A., Ph.D. in the study of religion, with a dissertation on initiation into Veda study) and Harvard (M.T.S.). He is currently co-chair of the Hinduism Group of the American Academy of Religion. He teaches courses on the religions of South Asia, the comparative study of religion, religion and law (including Hindu law), and the Sanskrit language. His research deals broadly with the development of Hindu ritual practices, textual transmission, and religious institutions. He has edited and translated two Shaiva upanishads, the *Atharvashiras* and the *Nilarudra* with Narayana's commentary, and he has published numerous articles on Sanskrit religious literature and ritual practice, both ancient and modern, in major journals and in edited volumes. He is lead editor of *Hinduism and Law: An Introduction* (forthcoming from Cambridge University Press), and he is at work on a two-part study of the development and spread of classical Hindu piety in its "interior" and "exterior" dimensions--that is, the emergence of rules of ritual self-discipline as a model for personal ethical training; and the related emergence of codes of social, political, and legal principles and their significance for Indic legal thought and practice.

Dr. Lubin's Fulbright-Hays project in India compares evidence from Sanskrit rule books and treatises of jurisprudence and politics, inscriptions on stone or copper, and legal and administrative documents and formulas to propose a more comprehensive description and analysis of the nature of legal institutions in pre modern India. The focus is on the interplay between the authority of the state, the influence of learned theorists, jurisprudents, and officials, and the observance of customary rules. Dr. Lubin draws on legal and political theory to insert the Indic evidence into comparative discourse on authority and legitimacy at the intersection of law, religion, and politics.