

# **EDU-C Proposal: Centre for South Asian Civilizations (CSAC)**

Effective Date: July 1, 2013

## **1. Overview of Proposed Centre**

The University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) is home to a vibrant conversation on global and local South Asian studies. It boasts a diverse contingent of scholars studying many facets of South Asian culture and society, students with strong connections to and interest in South Asia, and it has well-established ties to the vibrant South Asian community within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and internationally. South Asia's global profile has grown along with its political, economic, and cultural influence, making a comprehensive knowledge of this region an important tool for those who wish to lead and excel in a dynamic global community.

In order to capitalize on this potential, a focused, well-resourced approach is needed. In this document, we outline an interdisciplinary proposal for building on existing strengths and very substantially enhancing UTM's range and depth in South Asian studies. We propose the creation of a Centre for South Asian Civilizations at the University of Toronto Mississauga. The seed funding for this venture is made possible by an endowment of \$2 million from Mr. Vasdev Chanchlani, over 10 years, and a commitment of \$60,000 per year for five years from the University of Toronto Mississauga.

The Centre is proposed as an EDU-C. It will not offer its own programs, nor hire its own teaching staff. Instead, it will support research and teaching missions connected to South Asia by bringing together faculty in our diverse academic units, and supporting their development of new courses, experiential learning opportunities, and programming through our participating Departments (Historical Studies, Language Studies, and Political Science, along with our partners, including Visual Studies and others). Several contributing Departments have received approval to hire new faculty specializing in various subjects related to South Asia, and we envision an increase in relevant course offerings in the Department of Language Studies as well as courses in South Asian Culture in the Department of Historical Studies through a joint appointment in South Asian Languages and Cultures.

## 2. Description of Purpose

The proposed Centre is part of a multi-disciplinary effort that responds to the demand for greater engagement and study of South Asia. While there are varying classifications of the countries that constitute this region, this proposal follows the United Nations Geoscheme, devised by the United Nations Statistics Division, in identifying the following countries as part of South Asia: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Led by the Departments of Historical Studies, Language Studies and Political Science, and housed within the Department of Historical Studies, which will provide administrative support, the CSAC will support research, teaching, and co-curricular engagement in South Asian history, religion, languages, cultures and civilizations.

### **Research**

In the area of research, the CSAC will create a space where faculty from the Departments involved can interact, participate together in events hosted by the Centre, and envision research partnerships focused on South Asia from a transdisciplinary perspective. Student bursaries funded through the endowment and administered through the CSAC will prioritize interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaborations. Existing interdisciplinary faculty research initiatives already include the connection of literature and culture with the digital humanities; religion and women's health in South Asia; and a collaboration in literature and computer science to propose a rare South Asian script for inclusion among scripts supported by the Unicode Consortium, thus making it possible for scholars and native speakers to use computer resources to work with the script. In addition, the proposed Centre has already been included as a potential "Partner Organization" in a Connaught Global Challenge Grant application to study chronic inflammatory diseases, such as diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease and, multiple sclerosis, particularly among first generation South Asian Canadians. The project has already received \$100,000, and is currently being considered for a million dollar grant. Several of the endeavors outlined above would be particularly attractive to the business community. For example, the interaction of communications and culture, and the importance of this understanding for business development, is a growing area of academic interest. Currently, active advancement initiatives in the South Asian business community are underway to further add to our existing endowment.

### **Teaching**

The CSAC will not mount its own courses, but will offer support for a new Minor program in South Asian Studies, which will be housed in the Department of Historical Studies at UTM. Courses with South Asia content in several UTM departments may be taken for credit under the new program. This program complements the existing Minor program in South Asian Studies based at the Centre for South Asian Studies (CSAS) in the Munk School for Global Affairs at the

University of Toronto St. George (UTSG). That program is complementary and unique in its own right, and of course serves a different group of students. The UTSG program's offerings centre around the study of governance, economy, and culture in contemporary South Asia, while the UTM program will take a more civilizational approach, paying particular attention to literary, linguistic and cultural heritage across history and geographical boundaries. Viewed together, these undergraduate programs will offer a rich and varied group of courses at each campus. Undergraduate students will benefit from this variety and from the opportunities for cross-campus collaboration that could arise.

### ***Distinctiveness***

While the CSAC shares some similarities with CSAS-UTSG, the proposed new Centre will differ in a number of ways. The proposed new Centre will capitalize on the research strengths of faculty and graduate students based at UTM. For example, Historical Studies is one of only two Departments in the English speaking world to have a permanent position in Zoroastrianism (the other being at the University of London), and is the only Department in the English speaking world where students can study both Sikhism and Zoroastrianism. Similarly, UTM is the only university in Canada with a permanent faculty member teaching and researching South Asian Archaeology. Although some UTM faculty members are also involved with CSAS, it is important to create opportunities for South Asian intellectual engagement at UTM itself. In adopting the definition of "South Asia" promulgated by United Nations Statistics Division, the CSAC-UTM also emphasizes South Asia's Persianate connection, thus taking advantage of some of our faculty member's unique research interests. The CSAC will allow UTM faculty to explore new research partnerships, develop connections with colleagues, and interact with the broader South Asian community. The new Centre will also be distinguished by its emphasis on University-Community partnerships—the reciprocal relationship of faculty and students working with local communities along with institutions, scholars and communities in South Asia. This initiative will strengthen the research community at UTM and will be of benefit to undergraduate students and the broader community. The CSAC also differs from the recently launched India Innovation Institute (a joint project of the Munk School of Global Affairs and the Rotman School of Management) in that the Institute is focused on India and on innovation, broadly conceived to include economic and social innovations, while the CSAC is focused on South Asia more broadly defined, with an emphasis on understanding South Asian cultures and civilizations

This proposal has been shared with Ritu Birla, Director of the Centre for South Asian Studies, UTSG, and Daniel Bender, Chair of the Department of Historical and Cultural Studies, UTSC. Both have expressed their enthusiasm and support, and look forward to synergies and collaborations of the proposed Centre with their units.

### 3. Participating units

#### ***Department of Historical Studies***

A thorough grounding in the historical context of a society is essential to any attempt at addressing the needs of the present or contemplation of the possibilities of the future. Historical Studies offers its students not only knowledge of the people and events that have shaped a society, but also the intellectual judgment and sharp analytical skills essential to a true understanding of and engagement with that society.

The Department of Historical Studies has seven tenure-stream faculty members who work on various aspects of South Asia, and will be hiring an eighth faculty member in this field in the coming year. The Department offers courses on varied topics that address the South Asian historical experience. These include courses at the 200, 300, and 400 levels on the history of South Asia and its religions, politics and culture. Focused courses in the history of South Asian religious traditions address Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and Zoroastrianism, while courses in Women and Gender studies apply gender and critical race theory to the experience of women in non-Western cultures. The interdisciplinary and comparative Diaspora and Transnational Studies program encourages students to think about movements of people and the diasporic communities and issues of identity that result from these movements.

#### ***Department of Language Studies***

Proficiency in South Asian languages is not only advantageous for international careers, but is also essential for understanding the cultural, religious, historical and linguistic properties of language. Studying languages like Hindi and Urdu in conjunction with historical or religious studies results in broader understanding of culture. The classical language of Sanskrit has also had a profound influence on religion, philosophy, literature, and science throughout Asia and around the world. Similarly, for hundreds of years, Persian language and literature has flourished throughout South Asia, not only in Iran and Afghanistan, but also in the Subcontinent. The increasing presence of multinational corporations and their ability to conduct business abroad can also experience the positive impact of student instruction in South Asian languages. Students entering financial professions with a South Asian focus will understand the language the business operates in. Similarly, companies expanding into South Asia will benefit from graduates fully equipped to implement and lead business opportunities. An ability to read Sanskrit and work with source materials in the original is necessary for knowledge of poetry, drama, philosophy, law, grammar, architecture, astronomy, and medicine in South Asia. The joint appointment of a lecturer in Hindi-Urdu and South Asian Culture would make possible the offering of these South Asian language courses in the Department of Language Studies as well as courses on aspects of South Asian Culture in the Department of Historical Studies.

### **Department of Political Science**

As a complement to teachings in Historical Studies and Language Studies, the political aspects of the South Asian experience and the public policies that shape that experience are crucially important to a thorough academic understanding of South Asia and the South Asian diaspora. For individuals engaged in the creation and implementation of policies affecting South Asian nations and peoples of South Asia abroad, political science paired with languages, history and religion becomes critical to defining a robust policy that will positively impact the community it is meant to serve.

Topics in political science of relevance to students of South Asian society include: the prospects for conflict and conflict resolution among the nation states of South Asia; the role and effectiveness of politicians of South Asian heritage in municipal, provincial and national governments in Canada; the mechanisms for the political and social integration of South Asians into mainstream Canadian politics; the experience of various South Asian countries in dealing with deep cultural and religious diversity; the influence of immigration, human rights, multiculturalism and other policies on Canada's South Asian communities.

In its current academic plan, the Department of Political Science proposes the hiring of a cluster of faculty positions whose academic expertise could be brought to bear on political and policy questions of direct relevance to the South Asian experience. The department is eager to attract faculty with teaching and research interests in the politics of the subcontinent, the policy and politics of multiculturalism (with special emphasis on the South Asian experience in Canada), and urban politics (with special emphasis on Mississauga and the western GTA). The department is also considering the development of a course on non-Western political thought, in which political philosophies originating in South Asia would figure prominently. The department is currently searching for a tenure stream position with specialization in South Asia.

#### **4. University and faculty strategic goals**

The proposed Centre responds directly to the University's priorities for future development as expressed in the *Towards 2030* plan.<sup>1</sup> President Naylor has spoken on numerous occasions of his desire to foster collaborations with universities in India.<sup>2</sup> The Centre will therefore promote interdisciplinary and interdepartmental collaborations that link education and scholarship thereby contributing to the University's global reputation for excellence and its commitment to be among the world's best public universities.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.towards2030.utoronto.ca/files/2030\\_REDUXv7.pdf](http://www.towards2030.utoronto.ca/files/2030_REDUXv7.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> See, for example,

[http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/Assets/Provost+Digital+Assets/62\\_2009\\_10.pdf](http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/Assets/Provost+Digital+Assets/62_2009_10.pdf)

In regard to the study of South Asia, the University of Toronto Mississauga is uniquely positioned to develop internationally recognized excellence in teaching, research and co-curricular engagement. Our faculty members who specialize or work closely with issues related to South Asia span the disciplines of Modern and Medieval History, The Study of Religion, Women and Gender Studies, Diaspora and Transnational Studies, Archaeology, Visual Studies, Geography, Cultural Anthropology, and Languages, Linguistics and Literatures. Over three dozen courses on a variety of issues related to South Asia are regularly taught at UTM. Enrolments in courses that focus on South Asia within the Department of Historical Studies alone are close to 1500. To meet increasing undergraduate student demand, and the growing need for scholarship on the area, further tenure stream hires in the field of South Asian Studies have been approved in the Departments of Historical Studies and Political Science and a minor program in South Asian Studies is currently under review. Our students share the faculty's interest in South Asia. They participate in study abroad and exchange opportunities in South Asia; on campus, student societies and clubs with a focus on South Asia are flourishing (See Appendix for further information)

The tremendous interest in South Asia at UTM is due not only to the fact that the region is home to a quarter of humanity, is rich in culture and history, and is of increasing political and economic significance, but also because of the demographics of our geographic location in Mississauga and the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). South Asians now comprise the largest visible minority in the GTA and particularly in the western suburbs: even back in to 2006, according to the census, almost 22% of all people residing in Mississauga and 36% of those residing in Brampton were of South Asian descent. These numbers have increased significantly in recent years. Statistics Canada estimates that South Asians will comprise approximately one-quarter of the GTA's population by 2013. This percentage will likely be even higher in the western suburbs. By working with South Asian communities and cultural organizations, the Centre will strengthen UTM's connections, and ultimately provide valuable knowledge on how the regional South Asian diaspora fits within the broader, global presence and impact of South Asia.

## 5. PARTICIPANTS

### Faculty

#### ***Department of Historical Studies***

*Dr. Christoph Emmrich*, Assistant Professor of Buddhist Studies. Dr. Emmrich studies Newar Buddhism, Pali and Burmese literature, and Tamil Jainism. His recent work concerns Newar girls and young women in the Kathmandu Valley (Nepal), studying their involvement in Buddhist practices related to marriage, image consecration, temporary ordination and female education. His work addresses the literary representation of Buddhist monastic networks, lineage and travel between Nepal,

Yangon and Mawlamyine (Burma) as well as the historiography of Tamil Digambara Jain temple ritual in North and South Arcot (Tamil Nadu, India) addressing questions of assimilation and resistance.

*Dr. Malavika Kasturi*, Associate Professor of South Asian History. Dr. Kasturi's research interests include women in South Asia; Hindu, colonial, and post-colonial law; and popular religion and the public sphere under colonialism. She has published a book is entitled *Embattled Identities: Rajput Lineages and the Colonial State in Nineteenth Century North India* (2002).

*Dr. Enrico Raffaelli*, Assistant Professor of Zoroastrian Studies. Dr. Raffaelli's monograph *L'oroscopo del mondo* (The Horoscope of the World) published in 2001, deals with astrology in Zoroastrianism, its relation with Mesopotamian, Classical and Indian astrology, and its influence on Islamic astrology. His main research projects include the study of some astrological Zoroastrian texts, and a comparative study of Zoroastrian, Mesopotamian, Hebrew and Islamic Wisdom literature.

*Dr. Ajay Rao*, Assistant Professor of South Asian Religions. Dr. Rao's interests are in the academic studies of South Asian religions; Sanskrit intellectual history; Sanskrit literature and poetics; and religion and aesthetics. His book, *Theologization of the Ramayana in South India, 1250-1600*, has been accepted for publication.

*Dr. Karen Ruffle*, Assistant Professor of Religion and Women and Gender Studies. Dr. Ruffle's research and teaching interests focus on various aspects of Islam, including Muslim devotional texts, ritual practice, and gendered constructions of holiness in Shi'ism, particularly in a South Asian context. She has conducted field research in India, Pakistan, Iran, and Syria. Her monograph, *Gender, Sainthood, and Everyday Practice in South Asian Shi'ism* focuses on the dynamic role of hagiography in constructing the memory, piety, and social sensibilities of the Shi'a of Hyderabad, India.

*Dr. Mohamad Tavakoli-Targhi*, Professor of History and Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations. Dr. Tavakoli-Targhi is the editor of *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*. His areas of specialization encompass History, Modernity, Nationalism, Gender Studies, Orientalism, and Occidentalism. He is the author of numerous articles and two books. He is the owner of one of the premier collections of early edition books in Urdu and Persian.

*Dr. Shafique N. Virani*, Chair of the Department of Historical Studies and University of Toronto Distinguished Professor. Dr. Virani's research and publications focus on Islamic history, philosophy, Sufism, Bhakti literature, Shi'ism (both Twelver and Ismaili), and Islamic literatures in Arabic, Persian and South Asian languages.

A tenure stream search in Comparative Religious Literatures of South Asia is currently ongoing in the Department of Historical Studies.

### **Department of Language Studies**

Dr. Azita Taleghani, Senior Lecturer of Persian. Dr. Taleghani teaches Persian language and literature, as well as linguistic studies, at the Department of Language Studies at UTM and the Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at UTSG. She is the Chief Book Review Editor for the journal *Irannameh* and serves as Program Coordinator for the Language Section of the Department of Language Studies.

### **Department of Political Science**

A tenure stream search in South Asian Politics is underway.

### **Department of Visual Studies**

Dr. Kajri Jain, Associate Professor. Dr. Jain is the author of *Gods in the Bazaar: The Economies of Indian 'Calendar Art'*. Her areas of academic interest include South Asian visual culture, cinema and contemporary art; postcolonial modernities and mass cultures; religion, media and art; globalization and vernacular business cultures; transcultural exchange; gender, sexuality and corporeality; ethics and aesthetics.

### **Department of Anthropology**

Dr. Heather M.-L. Miller, Associate Professor specializing in South Asian archaeology, pre-modern complex societies, and ancient technology. Dr. Miller is an expert in social, political and technological aspects of the Indus Civilization (third millennium BCE). She also co-directs the Caravanserai Networks Project, focused on travel routes and amenities in northern Pakistan and India during the Late Historic period (second millennium CE/AD), with a focus on the Mughal empire. Recent and current PhD students additionally engage in archaeological, historical, and anthropological research on Harappan city organization; architecture of Sikh governance in Peshawar, Pakistan; and historical Hindu pilgrimage at Vijayanagara, South India.

Dr. Francis Cody, Assistant Professor specializing in Sociocultural and Linguistic Anthropology with a focus on Southern India. Dr. Cody's research focuses on written language and the social dynamics of collective political action in southern India. His book, *The Light of Knowledge: Activism and Writing in India*, explores literacy activism, citizenship, and social movement politics in rural Tamilnadu. His second project is centered on the daily newspaper market, tracing the emergence of populist politics through print-mediated publicity in Tamil cities and small towns. His work contributes to the transdisciplinary project of elaborating a critical social theory of communication in the postcolonial world.

## **6. DESCRIPTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

Upon establishment of the CSAC, a Director will be appointed for a fixed term by the Vice-Principal and Dean Academic, UTM. The Dean will review the Director's



performance at regular intervals, as well as the CSAC as a whole, and will make decisions regarding the performance of the Director and the success of the CSAC. A lecturer with responsibilities to teach in both South Asian Languages and Civilizations will be hired on a limited term basis (jointly within the Department of Historical Studies and the Department of Language Studies). It is currently planned that this faculty member would have a non-budgetary cross-appointment to the Centre and would provide support to its activities.

An Advisory Committee will also be created by the Dean to oversee the establishment of the Centre and provide ongoing advice to the Director. The Panel will consist of UTM faculty, students, and community members.

The Director will be responsible for financial operations to the Dean. The Director will prepare and oversee an annual operating budget for the CSAC. The Director will be responsible for overseeing the activities of the CSAC.

## **7. PROPOSED ALLOCATION OF FUNDS**

The Centre currently has a stable allocation of funds. This includes a total of \$300,000 from UTM's operating funds to be spread over a period of at least five years, and Mr. Vasdev Chanchlani will be contributing \$200,000 per annum toward his final endowment of \$2 million. The endowment is directed to the following purposes: To provide support for the activities of the Centre including, but not limited to, salary support, curriculum development, research support, faculty and student exchanges, student support, translation, lectures and symposia. A detailed budget for planning purposes is provided below. Funding commitments from the Chanchlani donation and central UTM budget will include support for hiring, on a three-year pilot basis, the lecturer position described above. The lecturer will have a non-budgetary cross-appointment to the CSAC and will devote a considerable portion of his or her service responsibilities to the CSAC. Should enrolments warrant, a continuing position in this area would be contemplated. Efforts are currently underway to attract more donations, with which the additional activities outlined below would eventually commence and be funded. For example, as of this writing, we have received a commitment from a donor to fund a program in Sikh Studies for a period of five years at a cost of \$75,000. Details of the commitment are currently being finalized. Additional related sources of income in the Department of Historical Studies are outlined below.

Centre for South Asian Civilizations EDU-C											
Proposed Budget - Draft											
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	
<b>Revenue</b>											
Endowment Revenue	\$ 8,972	\$ 17,943	\$ 26,915	\$ 35,887	\$ 44,858	\$ 53,830	\$ 62,802	\$ 71,774	\$ 80,745	\$ 89,717	
VP Acad. & Dean OTO Support	23,603	49,227	43,511	38,037	31,136	25,068	17,819	10,640	3,532		
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 32,575</b>	<b>\$ 67,170</b>	<b>\$ 70,426</b>	<b>\$ 73,924</b>	<b>\$ 75,994</b>	<b>\$ 78,898</b>	<b>\$ 80,621</b>	<b>\$ 82,414</b>	<b>\$ 84,277</b>	<b>\$ 89,717</b>	
<b>Expense</b>											
Director Stipend	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000
Lecturer (South Asian Lang)		75,000	79,500	84,270							
Admin Support (Pay Band 10, 60% FTE)					33,202	34,530	35,911	37,347	38,841	40,395	
Benefits	2,475	21,038	22,151	23,332	10,692	11,269	11,610	11,966	12,336	12,720	
Sessional Salary Savings (3.0 FCE)		(47,268)	(49,159)	(51,125)							
*Sessional Benefit Savings		(11,699)	(12,167)	(12,653)							
Gifts/Goodwill	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Hospitality	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Supplies General	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Talent on Campus	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
Student Research & Bursaries	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 32,575</b>	<b>\$ 67,171</b>	<b>\$ 70,426</b>	<b>\$ 73,923</b>	<b>\$ 75,994</b>	<b>\$ 78,898</b>	<b>\$ 80,621</b>	<b>\$ 82,413</b>	<b>\$ 84,277</b>	<b>\$ 86,215</b>	
Annual Surplus/Shortfall	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,502
*Reduced load due to administrative service. 3.0 FCE sessional savings											

In addition to the funds directly associated with the centre, the Department of Historical Studies is home to several related endowments and initiatives that will provide opportunities for cooperation:

- The Yehan Numata Programme in Buddhist Studies, an endowment of approximately \$500,000, funds one of the world's most prestigious international academic lecture and conference programmes for the study of Buddhism.
- The Toronto Initiative for Iranian Studies (TIIS) funds conferences and workshops focused on the study of Iran, broadly construed. Much of South Asia's history is written in Persian, which was the language of governance for centuries and was widely spoken in the country until recently, particularly among the elite classes.
- Historical Studies has recently benefitted from a donation in the form of a bequest in the amount of \$70,000 from the Bagli Family, which will support programs in Zoroastrian and related studies. The largest community of the world's Zoroastrians lives in Gujarat, India, while Toronto is the city with the largest number of Zoroastrians outside of India.
- We have a five year commitment for a total of \$75,000 (currently being finalized) to fund a program in Sikh Studies in the Department of Historical Studies, commencing in the 2013-14 academic year.

#### ***Centre for South Asian Civilizations Directorship***

As the public face of CSAC, the Director would be responsible for articulating a vision for the Centre, establishing ties with relevant GTA community and South Asian organizations, and fundraising on behalf of the Centre.

#### ***Lecturer in South Asian Languages and Cultures***

The incumbent limited term lecturer would teach Hindi-Urdu in the Department of Language Studies, aspects of South Asian Culture in the Department of Historical Studies, and hold a non-budgetary cross-appointment to the CSAC. Service responsibilities would include support for the CSAC. Funds would be available to support this hire on a pilot basis. If enrolments are robust, UTM would explore making a continuing position in this area.

#### ***Talent on Campus***

Attracting world-class talent with new and innovative ideas about South Asia to our campus benefits students, faculty and our outreach efforts to the community at large. The Talent on Campus program will bring talented people knowledgeable about South Asia from across the world to UTM. These may include visiting faculty, scholars, artists, public intellectuals, business, health, political or religious leaders, or other figures who will enhance our intellectual community. The programs may include cultural performances, public lectures, workshops or other fora for active engagement.

### ***Undergraduate Student Research and Research Assistant Bursaries***

It is a thrilling experience for students to be involved with the cutting-edge research of world-class professors. UTM has one of the most vibrant for-credit research programs for students anywhere in Canada. UTM student researchers are already involved with projects related to the preservation, study and analysis of Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu, Sindhi, and Persian texts from South Asia. Other students are engaged in active learning, digitally gathering the oral histories of the South Asian diasporic community in Mississauga. Should we be successful in fundraising, amounts available for bursaries would increase. These bursaries will fund student research projects related to South Asia.

### **Proposed Allocation of Future Funds**

In addition to enhancing and expanding the activities outlined above, with anticipated expansion in the future, the Centre has ambitions to engage in the following activities:

#### ***Knowledge Dissemination and Translation***

As the world grows ever smaller, it has become increasingly important that knowledge reach beyond national borders and linguistic barriers. For the knowledge generated by our faculty to have the greatest impact and dissemination among the communities being studied, translation is essential. Should we be successful in fundraising, these funds would be used to support translations of relevant faculty research into the languages of South Asia and to support the translation and dissemination of primary sources and research written in South Asian languages into English in order to foster greater understanding of South Asia's vibrant cultural legacy. Publications arising out of this fund could be disseminated through scholarly journals, web-based publishing options including T-Space, and through the CSAC's own website.

#### ***Faculty and Student Exchanges***

University of Toronto President David Naylor's recent invited editorial in *India Abroad* was titled, "India is Where the World is Going."<sup>3</sup> Increasingly, India and its neighbours in South Asia are making a global impact, and it is incumbent on our faculty and students to spend time in South Asia, learn from their experiences there, share their own knowledge, and then enrich our campus when they return. Equally, we need to invite students and faculty from South Asia to join us at UTM so that a vibrant intellectual exchange is fostered.

### **Staff Support for Centre Activities**

Establishing a Centre with such a wide-ranging field of study and such a unique community-focused approach is an ambitious undertaking. Even though we would expect to start with a modest organization (see section 6), successful fundraising would allow us to make an earlier hire of a staff person to coordinate activities and

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.president.utoronto.ca/speeches/india-is-where-the-world-is-going>

develop internships, exchanges and the like, the translation project, as well as exchanges, costs of visiting speakers and community events, and so on. A 60% FTE administrative hire is currently budgeted in year 5 and following. In the interim, there will be temporary administrative support offered by the Department of Historical Studies. A limited term lecturer will devote a portion of his or her service to the CSAC as described on pages 8 & 11. Given that the central funding is currently spread over a period of longer than 6 years in the current budget model, there would also be the possibility of using some of that funding earlier if it is found necessary to hire administrative staff earlier to support CSAC activities. Fortunately, UTM is already well served with staff and offices with expertise in, for example, experiential learning, conference organizing and international student exchanges, so a part-time or full-time staff member to support the CSAC would have significant resources to draw upon in developing activities. Planned hires in participating departments will also increase the number faculty who are able to participate in supporting the Centre's activities.

## 8. CONCLUSION

By enhancing our existing research and teaching activities connected with South Asia as well as existing ties to local and South Asian organizations and institutions, the creation of the Centre for South Asian Civilizations as outlined in this proposal would mark a crucial step towards developing one of the premier sites for South Asian studies in North America. Our plan contributes to a global vision of the humanities and responds to the needs of Canada, for in depth understanding of South Asian Culture and Civilizations, in the twenty-first century.

## **Appendix: Curricular and Co-curricular Student Opportunities**

### ***Existing Student Societies/Clubs with a South Asia Focus across the Three Campuses***

- Afghan Students Association: Dedicated to celebrating Afghanistan's rich culture, and to uniting the Afghan population within the UofT community.
- Association for India's Development: A non-political, non-profit organization whose mission is to raise awareness about poverty and related issues, raise funds, and to make charitable contributions for the development and welfare of the poor people and poor communities of India.
- Bangladeshi Students' Association: Works to promote the Bengali culture both on and off campus, and to raise money to send to the global South in hopes of increasing social development.
- Hindu Student Council at UTM: Spreads the idea of unity through diversity and the feeling of oneness among UTM students in general, and in particular within the South Asian community of the UTM campus.
- Hindu Students' Council: Provides opportunities to learn about Hindu heritage through various activities, events and projects.
- Indian Alumni Society: A platform to help generate ties between UofT Indo-Canadian students, recent grads, alumni and staff members that share a similar background, culture and origin.
- Indian Students Society at UTM: Aims to integrate the Indian population that exists at UTM and introduce students to the rich cultural diversity that is present in India.
- Indian Students' Society: founded with the purpose of introducing the UofT community to the true nature of India; initiating and building Indian-Canadian relationships; and involving the Indian students at UofT in global matters such as Climate Action and the Environment.
- Pakistan Students Federation: A platform whereby students with common background and interest in Pakistani culture and heritage can meet and interact with each other.
- Pakistan Youth Alliance at UTM: Aims to foster positive relationships between Pakistanis and non-Pakistanis in the UTM community.
- Project Ichcha: An umbrella group to help along the economic development of Bangladesh and various other impoverished countries by focusing on their lack of health care and education.
- South Asian Development Council: Focuses on raising awareness about issues of South Asian politics and development at the University of Toronto.
- South Asian Studies Students' Union: A course union made up of all students at UofT who are in a South Asian Studies program or course.
- Tamil Student's Association at UTM: Formed to promote and restore the vibrant Tamil culture among UTM students, and to reach out to the less fortunate in the Tamil Diaspora.

- Tamil Students' Association: Promotes Tamil cultural events at UofT, and serves as a forum where Tamil students, and students affiliated with the Tamil language, culture or people can come together to organize and participate in various different types of events and projects.
- Tibetan Renaissance Association: Open to any UofT students with an opportunity to learn about Tibet's culture, land, language, and history.