HIMALAYAN MYTHS AND REALITY: HISTORICAL & ANTHROPOLOGICAL ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT, INDIA

Course ID: TBA (to be posted by December 15, 2017)

July 15-August 15, 2018

FIELD SCHOOL DIRECTORS:

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INTRODUCTION

Historical archaeology studies material culture with the aid of historical records. Written records contextualize materiality but may or may not corroborate archaeological evidence. Kullu valley lies in the heart of the Himalayas in the hill state of Himachal Pradesh and is rich in archaeological sites and historical records relating to the sites. The valley is a focal point for many ancient myths in the Himalayas. As texts were frequently revised and chronologically problematic, an assessment of myths and their reality cannot be done on the basis of textual sources alone. There is an absence of early historic excavated sites in the valley, therefore, a historical archaeology and applied anthropological approach is useful for the study of religious art, architecture, oral traditions within the context of the landscape. Such an approach aids in evaluating the manifestation of myths and their reality in the Kullu valley.

The research goals aim at understanding the role of myths in the Kullu valley and how they influence architecture, rituals and use of space. The project will also help understand the interaction of contemporary people with sacred sites in the Himalayas where such myths are depicted and form a part of their daily life.

Little archaeological work has been conducted in the area to date. The 2018 field season, the first of this program, promises therefore to hold great potential for future exploration and research. We will employ non-invasive archaeological and applied anthropological techniques including film making for the current project. There will not be a survey or excavation in the field school

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The project aims to train students with various methods used in historical archaeology and applied anthropology

- Students will closely examine architecture, decorative motifs, compositions, inscriptions and sculptures at the site to aid in understanding the representations of myths and their metaphors derived from textual resources. They will use photogrammetry to document the details of the architecture
  How? Reading of translated texts and visit to sites to focus on details which will allow a deeper understanding of each segment of inquiry. Wood carving will also be offered for understanding ethnoarchaeological approaches (applied anthropology)
- Students will digitally analyze the layout of both archaeological and secular sites within the surrounding landscape using google earth and a DJI- Mavic Pro Quadcopter and present findings on a digital platform such as GIS or open access platforms.
  How? Site visits to get detailed spatial data of archaeological sites of individual choice.
- Students will learn anthropological methods to answer archaeological questions using interviews and documentation of rituals and customs associated with archaeological temples and sanctuaries.
  How? Observation of rituals and customs at temples and religious sanctuaries and interviews using video footage and voice recorders using ethnographic methods.
- Students will learn how to interpret archaeological material using relevant standards of proof. Students will engage in field work at sites and practical work during lecture hours where they will learn analysis, data management, archaeological photography, wood work and use of statistics in archaeology. Qualitative video footage will be coded and converted to quantitative data to find common denominators using *@anvil*, a free online software and SPSS for statistics.

ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS

Credit Units: Attending students will be awarded 8 semester credit units (equivalent to 12 quarter credit units) through our academic partner, Connecticut College. Connecticut College is a private, highly ranked liberal arts institution with a deep commitment to undergraduate education. Students will receive a letter grade for attending this field school (see grading assessment and matrix). This field school provides a minimum of 160 direct instructional hours. Students are encouraged to discuss the transferability of credit units with faculty and registrars at their home institutions prior to attending this field school.

Transcripts: An official copy of transcripts will be mailed to the permanent address listed by students on their online application. One additional transcript may be sent to the student's home institution at no additional cost. Additional transcripts may be ordered at any time through the National Student Clearinghouse: http://bit.ly/2hvurkl.

PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for participation in this field school. This is hands-on, experiential learning and students will study on-site how to conduct archaeological research. Archaeology involves physical work and exposure to the elements and thus, requires a measure of acceptance that this will not be the typical university learning environment. You will get sweaty, tired and have to work in the outdoors. Students are required to come equipped with sufficient excitement and adequate understanding that the archaeological endeavor requires real, hard work – in the sun, and on your feet.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Knowledge of translated Sanskrit texts and myths used for the purposes of the project.
- Field Archaeology theory
- Post excavation practical on certain processes such as data management, analysis, photography and report writing
- Anthropological field methods & Ethnographic & Ethnoarchaeological methods in particular.
- Fieldwork to understand the archaeological manifestation of texts with archaeological areas and material culture.
- Understanding of the principles of sacred architecture and sacred sanctuaries.
- Interpretation of archaeological material using relevant standards of proof.
- Engraving of ancient motifs found in wood using tools used by ancient craftspeople.
- Using statistics (SPSS) for purposes of archaeological analysis by converting qualitative data into quantitative data by coding (discerning common denominators through interviews, gestures and movements of people)
- Digital analysis using google earth and mapping of archaeological sites relating to the myths using DJI- Mavic Pro drone
- Editing video footage to make a short film using basic editing software such as windows moviemaker or imovie.
- An understanding of heritage management and community interaction with ancient sites in semi-urban areas
- Theories forming the basis of historical, landscape and anthropological archaeology.
- Basic Hindi conversation and writing

GRADING MATRIX

Field work participation	30 points
Short film & interviews	30 points
Paper	15 points
Digital analysis	10 points
Statistical analysis	10 points
Wood engraving	5 points
Total points	**100**

TRAVEL & MEETING POINT

Please arrive to the Kullu-Manali airport (KUU) on July 15. You will be picked by project staff members at the airport and be driven to the housing facilities located at Jong Village, Katrain, approximately a 45-minute drive.

Note: If you missed your connection or your flight is delayed, please call, text or email project director immediately. A local emergency cell phone number will be provided to all enrolled students.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

U.S. citizens need a valid passport for at least six months past the last day of the field school and entry visa to India. Students should enter India on a tourist visa. U.S. citizens seeking to enter India solely for tourist purposes, and who plan to stay no longer than 60 days, may apply for an electronic travel

authorization at least four days prior to their arrival in lieu of applying for a tourist visa at an Indian embassy or consulate. Visit the Indian government's website for electronic travel authorization for additional information and online application (https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html).

U.S. citizens of Pakistani descent are subject to administrative processing and should expect additional delays when applying for Indian visas.

When applying for an entry visa, please list the following address of the field school location: Rajiv Upadhyaya Cottages, Jong Village, P.O - Katrain, Kullu District, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh 175129, India. Phone number: +91 98106027318.

Citizens of other countries are asked to check the Embassy website page at their home country for specific visa requirement.

ACCOMMODATIONS

The housing facilities are rustic but comfortable. The location is nestled on a sprawling green hill filled with Himalayan pine, fir and fruit trees. The students will be housed in cottages where each room can accommodate two individuals who will share a bathroom. Each cottage has internet connectivity, television, a common kitchen with refrigerators, hot solar powered water 24x7 and beautiful views. Bedding will be provided. Students are free to stroll within the perimeter of the property. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served in the common dining area at designated hours. The cooks are equipped to cook a variety of food options both vegetarian and non-vegetarian, local and International cuisine and can easily accommodate vegans or lactose intolerant meals. The cooks would need to know dietary restrictions and preferences beforehand to accommodate diets. Beef is the only item which will not be provided.

DISCLAIMER – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Archaeological field work involves physical work in the outdoors. You should be aware that conditions in the field are different than those you experience in your home, dorms or college town. This program operates at a typical Himalayan environment in India. The location of the Project is about 2900 meters above sea level. During the day, temperatures are between 50°-78°. Usually it rains in these parts during the night, but it is advisable to have a raincoat. It is advisable to bring insect/mosquito repellent for the evenings. It is advisable not to visit the field sites in shorts or tank tops and be modestly dressed. Students may not enter temple precincts with material made of leather or wool. It is advisable that students do not go near or swim in the Beas river due to its strong currents.

Please consult with your doctor for any concern. For all other concerns, please consult with the project director – as appropriate.

EQUIPMENT LIST

Laptops and smartphone are important equipment for this field school. However, if you do not have one or both, please contact the field school directors so we can work out a solution. Lack of ownership of these items is not an hindrance for your participation in this field school.

1. Laptop with iMovie (for mac users) or MovieMaker (for window users)
2. Smartphones for voice recordings and video footage
3. Digital camera
4. SD card
5. Sunscreen
6. Non-leather shoes

7. Hat
8. Sun glasses
9. Insect repellent
10. Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS software) (cost $35)

COURSE SCHEDULE*

**Course schedule is subject to change*

Week	**8:00**	**9:00-2:30**	**2:30-**	**3:15**	**4:00**	**6:00**	**6:30**	**7:00**	**7:45-**
Week 1 **Sun** **Half day** **15th July**	B Pick Ups from airport	Rest	L	Rest	Orientation	-	Orientation	Questions	D
Mon **Holiday** **16th July**		-		-	-		-	-	
Tues **17th July**	B	Field work	L	Rest	Lecture: The origins of writing	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	Study/work	D
Wed **18TH July**	B	Field work	L	Rest	Lecture: Material culture and text	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	L*ocal visit to religious sanctuary for observation of rituals & customs (date subject to change)*	D
Thurs **19th July**	B	Field work	L	Rest	Lecture: Material culture and text & anthropological archaeology field methods (Ethnography & Ethnoarchaeology)	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	Study/work	D
Fri **20th July**	B	Field work	L	Rest	Lecture: Evidence of Literature, Art and Archaeology & Research Design	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	Study/work	D

Sat 21st July	B	*Museum Visit: Manali*	L	Rest	Lecture: continued	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	Study/work	D
Week 2 Sun Half day 22nd July	B	Field work	L	Rest					D
Mon Holiday 23rd July									
Tues 24th July	B	Field work	L	Rest	Lecture: Research Design & Translated texts:	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	Study/work	D
Wed 25th July	B	Field work	L	Rest	Lecture: Ramayana	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	*Local visit to religious sanctuary for observation of rituals & customs (date subject to change)*	D
Thurs 26th July	B	Field work/Drone application	L	Rest	Lecture: Digital Mapping *Practical:* Digital analysis	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	Guest Lecture Dr. Shibal/Dr. Rewant *Evolution of myths*	D
Fri 27th July	B	Field work/Drone application	L	Rest	Lecture: continued *Practical: Digital analysis*	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	**Guest Lecture** Dr. Shibal /Dr. Rewant *Evolution of myths*	D
Sat 28th July	B	*Visit to Nicholas Roerich's trust: Naggar*	L	Rest	Lecture: Anthropological Archaeology field methods: Ethnography, handling of video camera and ethnoarchaeology	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	**Guest Lecture** Dr. Shibal/Dr. Rewant *Evolution of myths*	D
Week 3 Sun Half day 29th July	B	Field work	L	Rest					D

Mon Holiday 30th July									
Tues 31st July	B	Field work	L	Rest	Lecture: Himalayan Sacred Architecture	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	Study/work	D
Wed 1st Aug	B	Field work	L	Rest	Lecture: Himalayan Secular Architecture & Geology of the Himalayas	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	**Guest Lecture** (online/in person): Erstwhile Royalty from a Himalayan state: Rupendra Pal on *Myths as a connection with the past in Royal families*	D
Thurs 2nd Aug	B	*Site visit to see natural formations*	L	Rest	Lecture: Landscape Archaeology & Geology of the Himalayas	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	Study/work	D
Fri 3rd Aug	B	Field work	L	Rest	Lecture: continued	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	*Local visit to religious sanctuary for observation of rituals & customs (date subject to change)*	D
Sat 4th Aug	B	Visit to Rohtang pass	L	Rest	Lecture: History of Indian Archaeology	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	Study/work & Guest Craftsperson	D
Week 4 Sun Half day 5th Aug	B	*Field work & wood carving with Guest Craftsperson*	L	Rest					D
Mon Holiday 6TH Aug									

Tues 7th Aug	B	*Field work & wood carving with Guest craftsperson*	L	Rest	Lecture: Symbolism in Historic archaeology	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	Study/work	D
Wed 8th Aug	B	Field work	L	Rest	Lecture: Field methods in Archaeology: Survey	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	*Study/work & wood carving*	D
Thurs 9th Aug	B	Field work	L	Rest	Lecture: continued	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	Study/work	D
Fri 10th Aug	B	Field work	L	Rest	Lecture: Field methods in Archaeology: Excavation *Practical:* Statistics	Basic Hindi conversation & writing	Meeting	Study/work	D
Sat 11th Aug	B	Visit to Jana village & Kullu to see traditional secular architecture	L	Rest	Lecture: -continued- *Practical:* Artifact Photography	Study/work	Meeting	Study/work	D
Week 5 Sun Half day 12th Aug	B	Report writing	L	Rest					D
Mon Holiday 13th Aug									
Tuesday 14th Aug		Study/work		Rest	Film Presentations	Film Presentations	Meeting	Film Presentations & submission of 1.Digital map 2. Wood carving 3. Paper	D

Wednesday 15th Aug **Last day**	Drop off to airport								

MANDATORY READINGS

Chakrabarti, Dilip 2001
India-An Archaeological History: Paleolithic beginnings to Early Historic Foundations. Oxford University Press, New Delhi

Hall, Martin and Stephen W. Silliman 2006
Historical archaeology. Blackwell. Malden. MA.
(chapters 1, 3, 4)

Handa, O.C 2015
Kullu, Its early History, Archaeology and Architecture. Pentagon Press, New Delhi

Lal, B.B 2013
Historicity of the Mahabharata: Evidence of Literature, Art and Archaeology. Aryan Books International

Wheeler, M 1954
Archaeology From the Earth Classic exposition of stratigraphic excavation.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

The readings listed below will be posted on-line for students to access in advance of the project, likely using Dropbox shared folder.

Berger, P 2012
Theory and ethnography in the modern anthropology of India. *Journal of Ethnographic theory 2(2):* 325-57

Bourdieu, P 1977
Outline of a Theory of Practice. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Donger, Wendy 2010
The Hindus: An Alternative History. Oxford University Press.

Freund, Richard 2009
Searching for Jesus in Galilee and Babylonia in *Digging through the Bible*. pp. 147-182. Rowman and Littlefield, Lanham MD.

Ganguli, K.M 1893
Mahaprasthanika Parva. *The Mahabharata*, Translation

Gupta, S. P. 1996
If only the court had examined the evidence". In Dasgupta, Swapan. *The Ayodhya Reference: Supreme Court Judgement and Commentaries*. Voice of India.

Handa, O.C 2009
Himalayan Traditional Architecture. Rupa & Co, New Delhi

Handa, O.C 2015
Kullu, Its early History, Archaeology and Architecture. Pentagon Press, New Delhi

Hodder, Ian
The Archaeological Process-Postmodern analysis of excavation.

Kersel, Morag and Austin Hill 2015
Landscapes of the Dead: Mapping, Survey, and Site Monitoring at Fifa, Jordan. tDAR id: 395035

Lal, B.B 2013
Historicity of the Mahabharata: Evidence of Literature, Art and Archaeology. Aryan Books International

Lal B.B 2008.
Rama, His *Historicity*, *Mandir* and *Setu*: Evidence of Literature, Archaeology, and other Sciences. Aryan Books.

Patton, Laurie and Wendy Doniger 1996
Myth and Method. University of Virginia Press, 1996

Sinha, Amita 2011
Landscapes in India: Forms and Meanings. Asian Educational Services Press, New Delhi

Wheeler, M 1954
Archaeology from the Earth Classic exposition of stratigraphic excavation.