

CASI Seminar Series Fall 2024

Vāyu Śāstra, Varṣā Jñān: Arranging a Science of Wind or Rain in Twentieth-Century India

October 10 (12 pm)

Sarah Carson (University of King's College)

*In partnership with the South Asia Center,
South Asia Studies Dept & Dept of History
and Sociology of Science*

Sarah Carson is a historian of modern South Asia who studies the intersections of weather and climate, predictive sciences, and imperialism. She is currently working on her first book *Weathering Prediction*, which identifies the “scientific forecast” as a crucial but controversial modern technology that played a pivotal role in colonial and postcolonial debates about scientific authority and authenticity in South Asia. In the book, she tracks the dynamic interplay between multiple traditions of weather prediction and explanation across the region from the 1860s to the 1960s. She has previously published on the politics of the long-term monsoon forecast and climate history in South Asia. Her related research interests include jyotiṣa śāstra (astral science), Bengali and Rajasthani weather proverbs, global environmental science, and climate politics.

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Light refreshments will be served