



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge
Interfaith
Programme

Online symposium

Images of interfaith in South Asia

Friday 29 August

11:00–15:15 BST
15:30–19:45 IST
06:00–10:15 EST

Convened by: **Dr Ankur Barua** Faculty of Divinity,
Cambridge & **Dr Anindya Purakayastha** ILSR Kolkata &
2025 Visiting Global South Scholar

This online symposium brings together seven scholars working on aspects of the religious history of South Asia to explore the writings of thinkers who operated “in between” Indic and European idioms across the 18th to 20th centuries.

This free event is supported by the Cambridge Interfaith Research Forum. Attendance is free.
Please register in advance for livestream access.

Register to attend



Featured image: AI-generated mosaic prepared by Anurag Mazumder, a student of Dr Purakayastha, Kolkata 2025

www.interfaith.cam.ac.uk/events

Schedule

Opening remarks

Dr Anindya Purakayastha

Invited lectures

11:05 The Purāṇas in
seventeenth-century
England

—Will Sweetman, University of
Otago

11:35 The philosophy and
science of transcendence
and limits in JC Bose's
instrumentality

—Sukanya Sarbadhikary,
Presidency University

12:05 The Medicus
Malabaricus of 1712

—Holger Zaunstöck,
Franckesche Stiftungen and
Martin Luther University, Halle
Wittenberg

Breaktime 12:35–13:30

13:30 The other face of
Orientalism: the Hindu
lives of Sister Nivedita
and CF Andrews

—Ankur Barua, University
of Cambridge

14:00 An elusive patriot:
Brahmabandhab
Upadhyay's faith and the
making of Indian
nationalism

—Mou Banerjee, University
of Wisconsin-Madison

14:30 Relocating
authority: Orientalist
texts in Urdu's print
economy

—Sumaira Nawaz, McGill
University

Concluding remarks

Visit the Cambridge Interfaith
website for further details
including speaker abstracts.

About this event

This symposium extends the interdisciplinary exploration of inter-religious lives and histories in South Asia, led by Dr Ankur Barua with a range of partners. Co-convenor Dr Anandya Purakayastha is one of three recipients of a 2025 CRASSH Global South Fellowship award, offered in collaboration with the Faculty of Divinity and Cambridge Interfaith Research Forum. All are welcome to attend.