





A "SOUTH ASIA WITHOUT BORDERS" SYMPOSIUM  
**THE IDEA OF ASIA  
IN TAGORE AND HIS TIMES**



A world-historical transformation is under way in the early twenty-first century as Asia recovers the global position it had lost in the late eighteenth century. Yet the idea of Asia and a spirit of Asian universalism were alive and articulated in a variety of registers during the period of European imperial domination. One of the most creative exponents of an Asia-sense was Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941) who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913. The symposium will explore the intellectual, cultural and political conversations across Asia conducted by Tagore and his interlocutors. The aim is to make a significant contribution to the modern intellectual history of Asia as well as theories of universalism, cosmopolitanism and internationalism.

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6-7, 2009**

**THOMPSON ROOM, BARKER CENTER, HARVARD UNIVERSITY, 12 QUINCY STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MA**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2009**

**2:30-4:15 PM: ACADEMIC SESSION I**

Chaired by **Sugata Bose**, Gardiner Professor of History & **Homi Bhabha**, Rothenberg Professor of English

**HISTORY, HERMENEUTICS AND THE PAINTINGS OF ABANINDRANATH TAGORE**

Saranindranath Tagore,  
National University of Singapore

**ASIAN RELATIONS AND TAGOREAN DIPLOMACY: THE JOURNEYS OF KALIDAS NAG**

Kris Manjapra, Tufts University

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2009**

**9:30 am-11:00 am: ACADEMIC SESSION II**

Chaired by **Wang Bangwei**, Peking University

**CHINA IN TAGORE'S ONE-NEST WORLD**

Tan Chung, Independent Scholar, Chicago

**JAPAN, TAGORE AND THE IDEA OF VISVA-BHARATI**

Nilanjan Banerjee, Visva-Bharati

**CHINESE PERCEPTIONS OF INDIA DURING THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY**

Tansen Sen and Zhang Xing,  
Nalanda-Sriwijaya Center, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Singapore

**11:15 am-12:45 pm:**

**ACADEMIC SESSION III**

Chaired by **Tansen Sen**,  
Nalanda-Sriwijaya Center

**THE CHINESE RESPONSE TO TAGORE'S IDEAS REEXAMINED**

Wang Bangwei, Peking University

**TAGORE'S UNDERSTANDING OF CHINA**

Wei Liming, Peking University

**TAGORE, XU ZHIMO AND THE NATIONAL CULTURE SCHOOL**

Zeng Qiong, Beijing Normal University