



*Talk:*  
**Cannabis and South Asia**

MAR  
**9**  
TUE

4:00 – 6:00 PM

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Historical scholarship now conceives empire as a webbed uneven field of power relations and a multispecies enterprise. In other words, the anxious and breathless struggle of European imperialism to sustain itself subjected human, plant, animal, and insect bodies to its ambition to govern through logics of colonial difference. This paper argues that the cannabis plant in South Asia, in the nineteenth century, while being a subject of British revenue systems transformed into a race-d and gendered mode of explaining anticolonial insurgency.

*Cosponsored by the IHC's Asian/American Studies Collective Research Focus Group and the Department of Asian American Studies*

## UTATHYA CHATTOPADHYAYA

UC Santa Barbara

Utathya Chattopadhyaya is Assistant Professor of History at the UC Santa Barbara. He holds a PhD from the University of Illinois and studies the history of modern South Asia, British imperialism, and agrarian commodities. His work has appeared in the *South African Historical Journal*, *Historical Reflections*, and *Animalia: An Anti-Imperial Bestiary for our Times*. He is currently writing a monograph on cannabis and empire in British India.

