

„To Each One Her/His/Their Own Bubble": Towards a Historical Atlas of Changing Time-Use Patterns to Teach *South Asian Studies*

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Abstract:

Teaching an introductory course on South Asia poses the challenge of miniaturizing millennia of history into just 10–12 sessions of 90 minutes. The key question is how to curate the available knowledge of the subcontinent to deal with the permanent tension between *narrating time* (the structured course schedule) and *narrated time* (narratives and metanarratives of South Asia). The aim of the course should be to enable students to juggle through multiplicity of "lifeworlds" or "bubbles" of South Asia within these time constraints.

To address this, the *Sirchan 2.0* method was developed and an international workshop was also organized (Winter Semester 2022/23; See Attachment). This interactive approach allows students to enter and exit various historical "bubbles" ranging from important figures and historical events to autobiographies and voices from different social strata while reconstructing or projecting possible pasts and futures within a single day's timeline. The method employs, at least, eight core questions that probe both the internal and external worlds of historical figures, fostering a more immersive and dynamic engagement with history (see sample questionnaire attached).

As evident from the questionnaire, the method expands the notion of "lifeworlds" or "bubbles" to include not only human actors, but also non-human living beings, various forms of collectivities (such as constructions of "we" versus "them"), as well as everyday objects, things, and technologies.

Though originally developed for South Asian Studies, *Sirchan 2.0* might be applied for other Area Studies programs, too. A central goal is to document the flow of events at micro, meso, and macro levels, capturing individual and community moments in its most immediate form: as (possible) future diary entries, alongside other literary and non-literary ways of expression.

Sirchan 2.0 emerged from a broader enquiry on reconstructing the History of Daily Life in South Asia.