

**PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION (PIRE)**  
**Florida International University – Biscayne Campus Bldg. Academic I Room 229**  
**Saturdays 9 – 12 Noon, February 28, March 7 and 28, and April 4, 11, and 18, 2009**

Sponsor: PIRE Program and Facilitator: FIU Office of Education Abroad

**INDIA: GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, POLITICS, ECONOMICS AND CULTURE**

Dr. Michael J. Lenaghan

External Adjudicator, Avinashilingam Deemed University, Bharathiar University  
(Coimbatore) and Madras University (Chennai), Tamil Nadu, India

Rotary International University Teaching Grant Fellow-INDIA

Workshop Presenter/Facilitator

**Workshop Topics**

- Session I  
MARCH 7 Cultural, Religious and Social Dimensions  
Creating an awareness and openness to the complex, rich and perplexing dimensions of the world's largest democracy, second largest country and geographically challenging and economically dynamic state will be done simply with obvious examples of convenient and inconvenient intersections between the country of origin of the scholars and the country of destination hosts for the PIRE program  
A self-disclosing and self-discovery exercise anticipates a DVD journey. Some reflections, projections and anticipations of the immersion ahead  
How may each PIRE scholar, researcher, sojourner anticipate optimum adaptation?
- Session II  
MARCH 28 Geographic and Historical Dimensions  
A geographic research and drawing assignment and some historical homework will anticipate comparing and contrasting host country history with the histories of original countries of the participants.  
What does the national, regional and global geography of India tell us?  
How do water, salt, cattle, pigs, rice, cotton, tea and vegetables define?  
Indian disintegration from colonial parameters to India integration and relationships with Bangladesh, Pakistan and the Kashmir Issue.  
How may each PIRE scholar, researcher, sojourner absorb, integrate and articulate facts, nuances and implications of history and geography in India to help optimize daily encounters and engagements?
- Session III  
APRIL 4 Economic Dimensions  
From pathways between major civilizations East and West through pathways within all parts of India, artifacts, commerce, trades, and technologies have been profuse at different times and places in the home of Sanskrit, mathematical genius and natural phenomenological discoveries. Commoditizing, commercializing, monetarizing, internationalizing and globalizing economics has been the accumulation of

externally imposed methods and modes until recent discovery of internal genius with major economic implications, including technologies. From civilization through various dominant external governments and the Independence Movement of Non-violent Mahatma Gandhi India has survived impositions to be rediscovering its inherent genius through addressing the fact that the future will depend on inclusion of the previous marginal in the creation of desirable futures for India. Vishnu Murtee, Sonia Gandhi, Mohini Giri, Rajammal Devedas and others address the internal inadequacies of Indian past practices for anticipating an inclusive, successful present and future.

How may each PIRE scholar, researcher and sojourner absorb, appreciate, apply and reflect upon these lessons from India's economic experience?

Session IV  
APRIL 11

Political Dimensions

Civilization to colony to independent state through World Wars, Cold War and Post Communist, Post-Soviet, Post Toastie worlds, how has India related to the political framework of the globe from within its precious paradigm of multiple religions, multiple languages and multiple political beliefs? How has India dealt with the world and how have world powers related to India?

How may each PIRE scholar, researcher and sojourner explore, discuss and grasp the meaning of modern Indian politics as these relate to the PIRE purpose?

Session V  
APRIL 18

Intellectual and International Perspectives, Global Dimensions

Thomas Friedman suggests that with 2 million green cards dispersed in India, the USA could expand its middle class, solve the housing mortgage crisis and build a stable future (Letter to the President NYT January 2009). Some India intellectuals and policymakers believe that with the a solution to food security, water security, military security, the biggest challenge is economic security and expansion. Development is Freedom says Mr. Seng Mr. Tharor and Ms Roy take novel and impressive views on the integrative model India offers the world and the disintegrative perspective caused by India's nuclear ambitions. Irreverent Salmon Rushdie manages to unnerve many parties to the Indian development dialectic by his provocative novels that reflect and reignite other dimensions of history and contemporary India. Indians are spiritual, intellectual, cultural and social people, even before ethical, technical, political and skillful people. Being bright is not an embarrassment but an enrichment – even contrariness.

How may each PIRE scholar, researcher and sojourner contribute to discussions – not just be witnesses or students – from at least their own perspectives, perhaps informed by an orientation to different Indian perspectives as their time in India pursues the PIRE goals and objectives – one of which is intellectual ambassador.

## **PIRE SCHOLAR, RESEARCH and SOJOURNER EXPECTATIONS**

Invest full attention in each session.

Be prepared, punctual, participatory, reflective and productive at each gathering.

Complete reading, research, writing, drawing and fieldwork prior to each session.

Complete Scholar Data sheet at first meeting.

Leave other commitments, workloads, distractions at the session commencement:  
Feel free to resume worries, pre-occupations and commitments after class.

Enjoy, invest, and exhaust in pursuit of our shared learning goals.

Exceed expectations, add a few additional ones, and celebrate your competencies and confidence.

## **MEDIA: Print, Music, Video, Internet and Data Base Related Resources**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Thomas Friedman   | <u>The World is Flat and Small Hot and Dry</u>        |
| Samuel Huntington | <u>Clash of Civilizations and The New World Order</u> |
| Suketu Mehta      | <u>Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found</u>            |
| Anantha Roy       | <u>God of Small Things</u>                            |
| Salmon Rushdie    | <u>Enchantress of Venice</u>                          |
| Amatyr Seng       | <u>Development is Freedom</u>                         |
| Vikram Seth       | <u>A Suitable Boy</u>                                 |
| Sashi Tharor      | <u>INDIA: From Midnight to the Millennium</u>         |
| Swami Vivekanadra | <u>Readings, Volume 1 – 9.</u>                        |

### **VIDEOS:**

OUTSOURCED  
SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE  
TYPHOON WEDDING

### **DAILY NEWS:**

India Software site

[www.indiatoday.com](http://www.indiatoday.com)

[www.infosys.com](http://www.infosys.com)

## **Faculty Biosketch**

2009 c Michael J. Lenaghan