



EDITORIAL

In this issue of the journal we are excited to present the first of two special issues on a sector of the Anglo-Indian community that has not received adequate scholarly attention: the Anglo-Indians of small towns of India, that is, those not living in the major metropolitan cities of the subcontinent which have received a fair amount of scholarly attention. The articles in this issue (and most of those in the next special issue) had their origin as conference papers at a two-day Anglo-Indian Studies workshop held in India on the 28th and 29th of December, 2014, as part of the collaborative project “Ethnographic profiling of Anglo-Indians in ‘Small Towns’ of India”. Robyn Andrews of Massey University New Zealand, the Principal Investigator, and Anjali Gera Roy, IIT Kharagpur, the Co-Investigator of the project, jointly coordinated the two day workshop.

The first day of the workshop was an ‘Arts day’ held at IIT Kharagpur, where artistic endeavours from the community were presented. Included in this was Dehradun-based Anglo-Indian author Allan Sealy ‘in conversation with’ New Zealand-based Anglo-Indian author Keith Butler. Butler’s article was written from this conversation.

The other two papers in this issue were presented at Calcutta University during a full day of presented academic papers. One paper is by Afrinul Haque Khan, and is based on her research on the small community of Anglo-Indians in Ranchi. Unlike both larger towns and many of the smaller towns such as railway colonies and military cantonments, the Anglo-Indians of Ranchi had historically been employed chiefly in teaching and Christian mission schools. Through her interviews with three generations of Anglo-Indians she traces the changes in how Anglo-Indians in Ranchi have marked their identity in the course of intense urbanization and political changes within the region.

Upamanyu Sengupta's paper is the product of research on Anglo-Indians in a small town – Secunderabad – and their community's approach to change, in light of urban encroachment from nearby Hyderabad, the information technology (IT) boom, and the genesis of Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) as an avenue of employment over the past twenty years. His research shows that while BPO work provided much needed economic opportunities, its limits are also evident. In addition to falling short in producing economic prosperity, it has also challenged the stability of Anglo-Indian identity by drawing Anglo-Indians into this increasingly cosmopolitan urban economy.

Dr. Robyn Andrews holds a Ph.D. in social anthropology from Massey University in New Zealand, where she is now a senior lecturer there. Her Ph.D. thesis was on the *Anglo-Indian Community (2005)*, about which she continues to research and write extensively in collaboration with other scholars in Anglo-Indian Studies who belong to various disciplines. Robyn has published articles in a number of academic journals and *Christmas in Calcutta: Anglo-Indian Stories and Essays (2014)* is her recent book.

Brent Howitt Otto is currently a retreat director at Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center in Atlanta, U.S.A. He is soon to commence a Ph.D. in South Asian History at the University of California, Berkeley. He holds double master's degrees in history (M.A./M.Sc.) from Columbia University and the London School of Economics where he studied modern India and British Empire. His research was about the impact of World War II on Anglo-Indian decisions to migrate or to remain in India. Brent's maternal ancestry is Anglo-Indian, though he was born in the U.S.A. As a member of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), Brent is a Roman Catholic priest.