

**Centre of South Asian Studies in collaboration with the British
Association of South Asian Studies (BASAS) invite you to the
BASAS Annual Lecture 2023**

**Professor Kama Maclean,
South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg**

**'If you don't stop that noise, I can't talk to you': Public
Meetings and Mass Politics in Interwar India**

Date: 12 May 2023

Time: 5pm

Venue: SG1, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DT

Abstract: Historians of anticolonialism have long drawn on speeches of leaders as an index of nationalist discourse, policy and temper. Yet photographs of such speeches delivered to massive crowds, alongside other forms of evidence of the difficulties speakers had in making themselves heard, prompts us to ask: how were nationalist messages audible to the assembled and often restless crowd? This talk focuses on the struggles of leaders to be heard in the late 1920s, at a time when public address systems were beginning to be taken up in South Asia.

Biography: Kama Maclean is Professor of History at the South Asia Institute at the University of Heidelberg, in Germany. She is the author of *Pilgrimage and Power* (2008), *A Revolutionary History of Interwar India* (2015), and *British India, White Australia: Overseas Indians, Intercolonial Relations and the Empire, 1901-1947* (2020), and editor of *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* (2010-2023).

Everyone is welcome.