

EDITORIAL

FELICITY HAND

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Volume 8 of *Indialogs* is dedicated to the figure of one of India's most illustrious citizens, Mohandas Gandhi, known worldwide as the *Mahatma*. In 2019 the Spanish Association of Interdisciplinary India Studies hosted a conference at the University of Valladolid with the theme "Gandhi and/in Contemporary India: Seeking Peace amid Disorders" and some of the papers presented in this event are included in the present issue. We have called this volume "Gandhi Revisited" as many of the articles seek to do just that: to explore the relevance of the figure of Gandhi in the 21st century. The first four articles in this volume respond to this rereading of Gandhi. Pilar Somacarrera analyses the hidden role of Gandhi in Deepa Mehta's 2005 film *Water* in her article "Is Gandhi the hero?: A Reappraisal of Gandhi's Views about Women in Deepa Mehta's *Water*" and queries whether his doctrines about the liberation of women were as effective as has been generally considered. Although he only appears at the very end of the film, Somacarrera argues that different and conflicting versions of Gandhi actually undermine his idealism. Taz Mazinder Barua focuses on the Mahatma's economic policies in "The Influence of Gandhi's Economic Thoughts on the Indian Economy" and suggests that the liberalized rapid economic growth model in India has actually exacerbated societal inequalities rather than spread the wealth of the nation among the less privileged classes. In their article "Revisiting Gandhi's Idea of Trusteeship in the Context of Globalization and Inequality" Stefy V Joseph and Mucheli Rishvanth Reddy explore Gandhi's notion of trusteeship as a pragmatic model of development that aims to attain economic equality. They claim that his idea of transforming self-interested individuals in order to work for group interest gains relevance in our current society. Finally, Víctor Vélez's article "*Gandhi: The Beast Within*. An Anthropological Perspective of the Comic Book View of the Symbolic Figure of Gandhi" examines images of the historical figure where he is parodied and caricaturized so as to go beyond the historical and social identification of the man with non-violence.

The remaining five articles deal with a variety of controversial and topical issues. Dolors Ortega Arévalo revisits the Partition narratives in her article "The Silence of the Subaltern in the Partition of India: Bengali Gendered Trauma Narratives in Shobha Rao's 'The Lost Ribbon' and Ramapada Chaudhuri's 'Embrace'". Through a careful reading of two short stories, Ortega Arévalo questions the silences surrounding the violence suffered by women and throws light on the invisible traumas suffered by abducted women. Oriol Batalla discusses the fate of the Maldives Archipelago in his article "Desynchronization in the Necrocene Age: The Case of the Maldives and Future Speculations". Basing

his work on theories of climate change, Batalla analyses the current sociopolitical and ecological crisis of the islands as a symptom of what is to come on a planetary scale. Isabel Beltrán's article, "Voicing the Subaltern in African-American and Dalit Women's Autobiographies" is based on her BA dissertation and the winner of the AEEII award. She argues that despite the great temporal and geographical distance between the two writers she focuses on - a contemporary dalit woman and a 19th century former slave - both transmit their own experiences and denounce the gender, race and caste oppression endured. Teresa Segura-García's article "Local Roots, Imperial Meridians, Global Connections: The History of Colonial India from a Global Perspective in the Works of C. A. Bayly" pays homage to the renowned historian by making his work accessible to Spanish-speaking readers. She highlights the links he established between colonial India, the British Empire, and the rest of the world. The last article by Stella Chitralekha Biswas, "'Sons of Bengal' and the Absent Daughters: Gender, Performativity and Nationalism in Bengali Juvenile Literature" shows how the genre of Bengali adventure thrillers aimed to venerate a cult of hypermasculinity among the readership. She notes how the role of women within these portrayals is liminal or conspicuously absent, which points to a deliberate effacement of women's agency despite the momentum of the woman question in Bengal in an era of fervent nationalism.

In the miscellanea section, the first piece by Soniya Amritlal Patel recreates a creative arts workshop that was part of the Valladolid conference. Patel describes the experience of encouraging academics to paint their version of Gandhi. The photographs that are included highlight the event. The last two pieces in miscellanea are book reviews. Himadri Lahiri reviews Somdatta Mandal's edited work *Indian Travel Narratives: New Perspectives* and Antonia Navarro Tejero discusses *Spiritual and Corporeal Selves in India: Approaches in a Global World*, edited by Carmen Escobedo de Tapia and Alejandra Moreno Álvarez.

As always, the editor wishes to thank all the people who make *Indialogs* possible, the authors themselves, the reviewers and the copyeditors. That we are able to produce a new volume regularly every year is a tribute to their patience and generosity.