



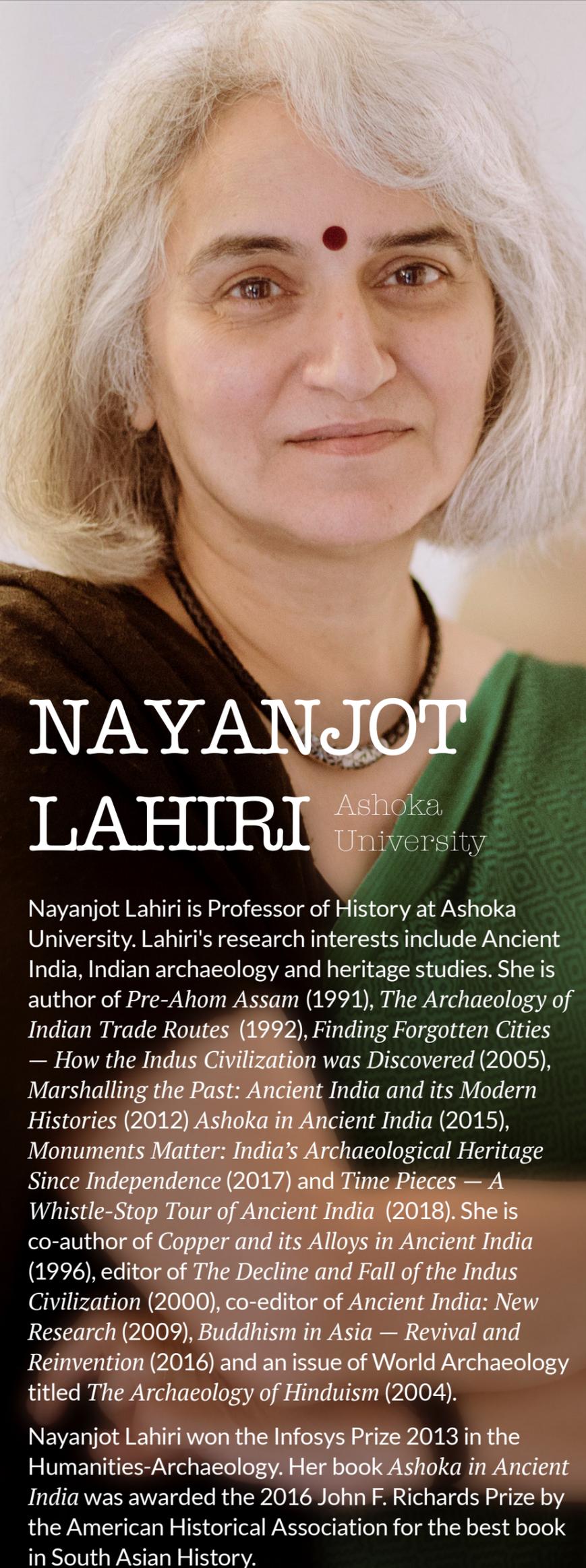
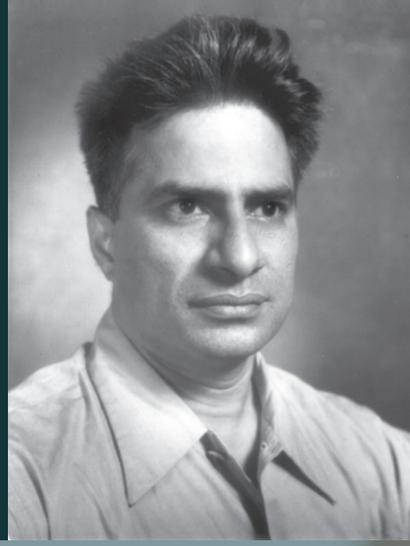
INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE for
THEORETICAL
SCIENCES

TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH

D. D. KOSAMBI LECTURE

Damodar Dharmanand Kosambi was a mathematician and statistician who made pioneering and foundational contributions to the methods and study of ancient Indian history. He was the first professor of mathematics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (1946-62).

The *ICTS D. D. Kosambi lectures* are delivered by eminent scholars in the social sciences, the arts and the humanities.



NAYANJOT

LAHIRI

Ashoka
University

Nayanjot Lahiri is Professor of History at Ashoka University. Lahiri's research interests include Ancient India, Indian archaeology and heritage studies. She is author of *Pre-Ahom Assam* (1991), *The Archaeology of Indian Trade Routes* (1992), *Finding Forgotten Cities – How the Indus Civilization was Discovered* (2005), *Marshalling the Past: Ancient India and its Modern Histories* (2012) *Ashoka in Ancient India* (2015), *Monuments Matter: India's Archaeological Heritage Since Independence* (2017) and *Time Pieces – A Whistle-Stop Tour of Ancient India* (2018). She is co-author of *Copper and its Alloys in Ancient India* (1996), editor of *The Decline and Fall of the Indus Civilization* (2000), co-editor of *Ancient India: New Research* (2009), *Buddhism in Asia – Revival and Reinvention* (2016) and an issue of *World Archaeology* titled *The Archaeology of Hinduism* (2004).

Nayanjot Lahiri won the Infosys Prize 2013 in the Humanities-Archaeology. Her book *Ashoka in Ancient India* was awarded the 2016 John F. Richards Prize by the American Historical Association for the best book in South Asian History.

History, Memory, Memorialization

Nayanjot Lahiri will explore the interplay of history and memory in relation to Ashoka, the third emperor of the Maurya dynasty. The memory and memorialization of this historical emperor, as her lecture will underline, was expressed in various ways, from the presence of relics like dharmachakras which appear to be quintessentially Ashokan to the chronicles in which the emperor figures well into medieval times as also in stupas and Buddhist temples, and even in the names of local rulers whose dynastic affiliations were deliberately forged to evoke an association with that ruler. While the historical emperor's sphere of influence was largely across South Asia, what has emerged in Lahiri's field work in parts of India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand, is that the remembered emperor has not merely a far wider sphere of influence but one that has less to do with the persona of the communicator-emperor as he appears in his own inscriptions and more with regional religious interests and political ambitions. Through such evidence, a more general question will also be posed by the lecture. This concerns how different societies and writers impose new meanings upon old events, and the ways in which memory is generally reconstructive, based less on 'what happened in history' and more on our own presuppositions and mindsets.

4 PM, THURSDAY
16 JANUARY 2020
ICTS, BENGALURU

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