



View of the Harbor of Surat (Bengal), anonymous, c. 1670. © Rijksmuseum Amsterdam

# THE HIDDEN FACE OF SURAT

EXPLORING THE HISTORY

OF A COSMOPOLITAN CENTRE, 1540–1750

Second JESHO Lecture on Asian History by  
**SANJAY SUBRAHMANYAM**

## The Institute of Iranian Studies

The Institute of Iranian Studies in Vienna was established in 2002 as a research institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The largest academic institution of its kind in Europe, it aims at advancing cutting-edge academic research on all aspects of Iranian and Persian cultures and societies. For further information please visit [www.oeaw.ac.at/iran](http://www.oeaw.ac.at/iran)

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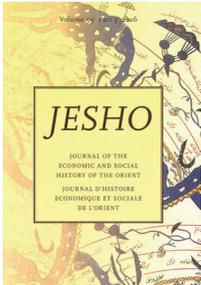
Paolo Sartori, Institute of Iranian Studies, Editor-in-Chief of JESHO  
 Hollandstrasse 11–13, 1020 Vienna  
 T: +43 1 51581-6516  
[paolo.sartori@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:paolo.sartori@oeaw.ac.at)



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For organisational reasons we kindly ask for an informal registration under [iran.office@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:iran.office@oeaw.ac.at) or +43 1 51581 6500 until October 28.

# PROGRAMME

## SECOND JESHO LECTURE ON ASIAN HISTORY

Thursday, November 3, 2016  
Universität Wien, Aula am Campus (Hof 1.11)  
Spitalgasse 2, 1090 Wien

### 06.00 pm *Introduction*

**Dr. Paolo Sartori** | Institute of Iranian Studies, Editor-in-Chief of JESHO

### *The Hidden Face of Surat: Exploring the History of a Cosmopolitan Centre, 1540–1750*

**Sanjay Subrahmanyam** | Distinguished Professor and Irving & Jean Stone Chair in Social Sciences, UCLA

The great port of Surat in western India dominated accounts of Indian Ocean trade between the late sixteenth and mid-eighteenth century. Consolidated first by an Ottoman notable, it became the Mughal Empire's western window into the worlds of the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. This lecture explores Surat's other, less visible, aspect: namely as an intellectual centre, that brought together diverse and sometimes competing traditions. In turn, we shall see how this vibrant intellectual life was tied up both to certain structures of politics, and to commercial exchange at various scales.

### 07.30 pm *Reception*

**Sanjay Subrahmanyam** is Professor and Irving and Jean Stone Endowed Chair in Social Sciences at UCLA. He taught at Paris from 1995 to 2002 as Directeur d'études in the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, holding a position on the economic and social history of early modern India and the Indian Ocean world. In 2002, Subrahmanyam was appointed as the first holder of the newly created Chair in Indian History and Culture at the University of Oxford, a position he held for two years before moving to a chair in UCLA. From July 2005 to June 2011, he served as founding Director of UCLA's Center for India and South Asia. In 2013, Sanjay Subrahmanyam was elected to a Chair in Early Modern Global History at the Collège de France in Paris. He is the author of *The Career and Legend of Vasco de Gama* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997); *Three Ways to be Alien: Travails and Encounters in Modern Eurasia* (Waltham, Mass.: Brandeis University Press, 2011); *Courtly Encounters: Translating Courtliness and Violence in Early Modern Eurasia* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2012).