Despite historiographical overtures to the global, and spirited polemics decrying area studies’ analytical limits, something called South Asia and another thing called the Middle East persistently structure—and stricture—scholarly inquiry in the academy and beyond.

This workshop highlights the content and conditions of South Asian and Middle Eastern thought in tandem. The workshop aims to raise a set of interdisciplinary historical, historiographical and theoretical questions: What kinds of significant geographies are produced, traversed and imagined in the nineteenth century and after between the Middle East and South Asia? Does the presence of a shared Islamicate past adequately explain Indian and Arab Muslim affiliations? How do we historically recuperate these South-South histories without succumbing to the follies of the post-colonial states? What role did political economy of colonialism play in restructuring the conditions of the early modern’s “connected histories”? How do we historically recuperate these South-South histories without succumbing to the follies of the post-colonial states?

The workshop will bring together early career scholars—graduate students and pre-Tenured faculty—across discipline to participate in this two day intensive workshop. We encourage applications from outside Europe and US. We invite abstracts of around ~300 words and a 300 word scholarly biography to southsouthworkshop@gmail.com no later than 15 July 2016. Acceptance notifications will be sent by 15 August 2016.

We encourage faculty to seek funding from their institutions; limited travel subsidies and accommodation will be provided to graduate presenters. We will make all efforts to especially fund scholars from outside US and EU.