Global India in Antiquity

Tuesday, October 22, 2013
6:00pm Reception
7:00pm Presentation
Michael C. Carlos Museum, Reception Hall
Emory University

Globalism arose in antiquity. Ancient India was a major hub of connectivity that entangled people, ideas, and goods along the Silk Route, from the heart of China in the east to the Roman Empire in the west. The Silk Route of the Land interconnected major cities of Han China, Kushan India, Parthian Iran, and Imperial Rome during the early centuries AD. And the Silk Route of the Sea drew together the great ports of the Indian Ocean, extending from the Red Sea to the South China Sea, including entrepôts on India’s coasts that played crucial roles in global exchange. In this paper, I address the growth of regularized, trans-regional interactions and the emergence of cosmopolitanism in South Asia and the ancient Indian Ocean. History and the residues of antiquity contribute to a renewed understanding of the sustained flows of people and goods. The outcomes of these dynamic and sustained human relations in the first to third centuries AD and beyond continue to shape India’s cosmopolitanism in the geopolitical present, as India re-emerges.