

# Amitav Ghosh

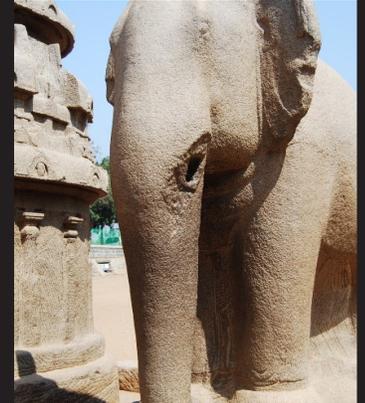
## A Lecture

From Bombay to Canton: Traveling the  
Opium Route to 19th Century China

Thursday, April 10, 2014  
7:00 pm



Asia Society Texas Center  
1370 Southmore Blvd  
Houston, Texas, 7700



Guangzhou (also known as Canton) is one of the world's great cosmopolitan entrepôts. In the 18th and early 19th centuries, it was through this city and its environs that opium was funneled into China by British, American and Indian merchants. This trade was to have an enormous impact, not just on China but the whole world. Its influence on India was especially significant, for the subcontinent was the world's leading opium-producing region under the British Raj. One of India's most important novelists, Amitav Ghosh, explores Guangzhou as an Indian trader might have seen it in the 19th century, and as this amazing cultural crossroads is portrayed in his "Ibis Trilogy." The first two novels of this trilogy, *Sea of Poppies* and *River of Smoke*, have been published, and Mr. Ghosh is working on the third.