SALA 2015

Borders, Boundaries, and Margins
The 15th Annual South Asian Literary Association Conference
6-7 JANUARY 2015
Listel Hotel, 1300 Robson St. Vancouver, Canada

Conference Schedule

MONDAY, 5 JANUARY
5:00-7:00pm MEETING: Executive Committee
Sculpture Gallery

TUESDAY, 6 JANUARY
8:00 a.m. onward REGISTRATION
Lobby

9:00-9:30 a.m. CONFERENCE WELCOME: Moumin Quazi, SALA President
Impressionist Gallery OPENING: Prabhjot Parmar & Sharanpal Ruprai, Conference Co-Chairs

9:45-11:00 a.m. SESSION 1 (PANELS 1A, 1B, & 1C)

Panel 1A AMITAV GHOSH: SEAS, RIVERS, GIRMITIYAS
Panel Chair: John Hawley, Santa Clara University

1. Seas and Rivers as Borders/Boundaries: Shaping Identities of the South Asian Indians
   Jayshree Singh, Bhopal Noble Post Graduate College

2. Can the Sublime Be Postcolonial: Aesthetics, Politics and Ethics in Amitav Ghosh’s The Hungry Tide
   Jana M. Giles, University of Louisiana

3. “Words Do Not Stop at Borders”: The Chrestomathy and Global Literature in Amitav Ghosh’s Ibis Trilogy
   Jim Hannan, Moyne College
Panel 1B  
**DIASPORIC BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES**  
*Panel Chair: Bonnie Zare, University of Wyoming*

1. Diasporic Epic Heroines: Nina Paley’s *Sita Sings the Blues* and Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni’s *The Palace of Illusions*  
Cynthia A. Leenerts, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

2. Negotiating Caste and Gender Across Borders: Migration, Indenture and Freedom in Gaiutra Bahadur’s *Coolie Woman*  
Ruma Sinha, Syracuse University

3. “Stick[ing] to their own kind”: Melancholia, Migration, and Anti-Black Racism in Mira Nair’s *Mississippi Masala*  
Nisha Eswaran, McMaster University

Panel 1C  
**UN/CERTAIN BOUNDARIES: ANIMAL, HUMAN, ILLNESS**  
*Panel Chair: Moumin Quazi, Tarleton University*

1. “Used to be Human Once”: Bodies and Boundaries in Indra Sinha’s *Animal’s People*  
J Edward Mallot, Arizona State University

2. Being Boundless: Reading Trauma, Animals, and Relations through South Asian Epistemologies  
Nandini Thiyagarajan, McMaster University

3. Contagions, Computer Viruses, and Infectious Agents: Transnational Memory in Hari Kunzru’s *Transmission*  
Jessica Young, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.  
**SESSION 2 (PANELS 2A, 2B, & 2C)**

Panel 2A  
**ETHICS, AESTHETICS, CROSSING BORDERS**  
*Panel Chair: Pradyumna S. Chauhan, Arcadia University*

Navneet Kumar, Medicine Hat College

2. Performance, Stereotype and Protest in Contemporary Indian Theatre  
Henry Schwarz, Georgetown University

3. Means of Escape, Means of Invention: Hindu Figures and Black Pop Culture in Rakesh Satyal’s *Blue Boy*  
Asha Jeffers, York University

Liam O'Loughlin, University of Pittsburgh
## Panel 2B
*Sculpture Gallery W*

**NEGOTIATING BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES**  
*Panel Chair: Edward Mallot, Arizona State University*

1. *Liminalities of the “Third Sex” in Contemporary Indian Discourse: Hijras and LGBT in the Gendered Sexual Economy of India*  
   Nisha Tiwari, University of Delhi

2. *“Migrants with Attitude”: On the Politics of Shailja Patel’s Migritude and Afro-Asian Diasporas*  
   Christopher, Ian Foster, The Graduate Center, CUNY

3. *The Place of Transcategorical Fictions in American Literary Studies*  
   Binod Paudyal, University of Utah

## Panel 2C
*Impressionist Gallery*

**HOME: PLACE, MYTHS, REALITIES, & RETURNS**  
*Panel Chair: Sharanpal Ruprai, Mt. Royal University*

1. *No Place Like Home in Srinivas Krishna's *Masala*  
   Manjeet Ridon, University of Nottingham*

2. *Mythical Homes and Violent Realities: Reading Gujarat in M. G. Vassanji’s Writings*  
   Asma Sayed, Grant MacEwan University

3. *Diasporic Imaginaries, Narcissistic Nostalgia, and the Need for New Futures*  
   Alia Somani, Centennial College

4. *Desi/Videshi Diasporic Filmmakers: Indian Values and the Indian Diaspora as Reflected in Cinema*  
   Maria-Dolores Garcia-Borron, Independent Scholar

### Schedule

**12:30-1:30 p.m.**  
**LUNCH: LISTEL HOTEL**

**1:30-2:45 p.m.**  
**SESSION 3 (PANELS 3A, 3B, & 3C)**

## Panel 3A
*Sculpture Gallery E*

**REIFYING MARGINS AND BOUNDARIES**  
*Panel Chair: Summer Pervez, Kwantlen Polytechnic University*

1. *Sympathy for the Migrant: The Rushdie Affair, Hanif Kureishi’s *The Black Album* and the Emergence of the Neoliberal Novel*  
   Kasim Husain, McMaster University

2. *The Identity of “Paki” versus “Pakistani” Engendering Power Boundaries in Hanif Kureishi’s *My Beautiful Launderette*  
   Syrrina Ahsan Ali Haque, Lahore School of Economics

   Reema Sukhija, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore
Panel 3B
Sculpture Gallery W
DALIT IDENTITIES
Panel Chair: Prabhjot Parmar, University of the Fraser Valley

1. Soaring over a Literary Boundary and the Mind-Body Boundary: The Unique Stories of M. M. Vinodini
   Bonnie Zare, University of Wyoming

2. Trauma and (Story)telling: Dalit Names as Unhappy Objects in Omprakash Valmiki’s Joothan
   Sanchari Sur, Wilfrid Laurier University

3. The Mis/Appropriation of Dalit as a Marginal Identity: A Study of Prakash Jha’s Aarakshan
   Alpna Saini, Central University of Punjab

Panel 3C
Impressionist Gallery
SPACES AND SPECTRES
Panel Chair: Kavita Daiya, George Washington University

1. Mohsin Hamid’s Guarded Narrative Space in Mothsmoke
   Shahzeb Khan, University of the Punjab

2. Cityscape and Cultural Spaces: Lahore in the Fictional Writings of Bapsi Sidhwa
   Kiran Sollepura Nanjundegowda, Tumkur University

3. Life and Death Borders, or the Return of Spirit in Contemporary South Asian Culture
   Nandini Bhattacharya, Texas A&M University

2:45-4:00 p.m.
SESSION 4 (PANELS 4A, 4B, & 4C)

Panel 4A
Sculpture Gallery E
PUNJABI AND SIKH DIASPORA
Panel Chair: Amritjit Singh, Ohio University

1. Performing the Komagata Maru: Theatre and the Work of Memory
   Anne Murphy, University of British Columbia

2. On the Edge and Beyond: The Sikhs in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran
   Abdollah Zahiri, Seneca College

3. The Strength and Fragility of Boundaries in Ocean of Pearls
   Ruby Rana, University of Mumbai

4. Punjabi Pastoral: The Poetics and Politics of a Rural Imaginary
   Nicola Mooney, University of the Fraser Valley
Panel 4B

**Sculpture Gallery W**

RESISTING, ESCAPING, REDEFINING

Panel Chair: Alpana Sharma, Wright State University

1. **The Pink Sisterhood: Rural Activist into Bandits (Gulabi Gang vs Gulaab Gang)**
   Imti Watitula Longkumer and Reema Sukhija, IIT Indore

2. **Escaping Gender Boundaries in Mahasweta Devi’s Dopdi and Mahesh Dattani’s Dance Like a Man**
   Nosheen Kapoor, Panjab University

3. **Reimagining the Margin(s), Exploring the Self: Imtiaz Ali’s Highway**
   Shreyosi Mukherjee, National University of Singapore

4. **Marginal Maternities: Surrogacy, Motherhood, and Definitions of Family**
   Holly Morgan, Westfaelische Wilhelms-Universitaet

Panel 4C

**Impressionist Gallery**

LIMINAL AND SENSORIAL

Panel Chair: Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas at El Paso

1. **Borders and the Liminal in The Moor's Last Sigh**
   Savitri Ashok, Independent Scholar

2. **Embracing the Borderlands: Diasporic Identity as Border-ed in Shauna Singh Baldwin’s English Lessons and Other Stories**
   Amber Riaz, Douglas College

3. **The Immigrant Enclave as a Borderland in Monica Ali’s Brick Lane**
   Nasia Anam, UCLA

4. **The Smell of Empire: Olfactory Oppression of the Colonized Subject in Burmese Days**
   Rebekah Renee Grado, University of Texas at El Paso

END OF SESSIONS FOR DAY 1

4:00-5:15 p.m. **GRADUATE CAUCUS**

Impressionist Gallery

5:15-6:15 p.m. **GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Impressionist Gallery

6:15-8:15 p.m. **DINNER**

8:15-10:00 p.m. **HAMARA MUSHAIRA: LITERARY ARTS EVENT**

Impressionist Gallery

Organized and Moderated by Amritjit Singh, Ohio University

If any of you would like to read your creative writing at Hamara Mushaira, please contact Professor Singh directly at singha@ohio.edu preferably by December 24
DAY 2: WEDNESDAY, 7 JANUARY 2015

8:00-8:45 a.m. REGISTRATION
Lobby

8:00-9:00 a.m. GRADUATE STUDENT PROFESSIONALIZATION
Impressionist Gallery
Panel Chair: Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida
Nalini Iyer, Seattle University
Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University
Edward Mallot, Arizona State University
Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia College Chicago

9:15-10:30 a.m. SESSION 5 (PANELS 5A, 5B, & 5C)

Panel 5A VIOLENCE, COSMOPOLITANISM, TRANSCENDING BORDERS
Sculpture Gallery E
Panel Chair: Henry Schwarz, Georgetown University

1. Burning Borders: Migration and Violence in South Asia
   Sajaudeen Nijamodeen Chapparban, University of Hyderabad

2. Crossing Borders: Cedric Dover, Colored Cosmopolitanism, and Inter-racial Identity
   Roger McNamara, Texas Tech University

3. Rebels Without Borders: The Ghadar Party on Ireland and China
   Pranav Jani, Ohio State University

   Hui-Chu Yu, National Pingtung University, Taiwan

Panel 5B CONTESTED BOUNDARIES, ETHNIC TRANSFORMATION
Sculpture Gallery W
Panel Chair: Savitri Ashok, Independent Scholar

1. Temporal and Spatial Boundaries in Romesh Gunesekera’s Noon Tide Toll and Lal Medawattegedera’s Playing Pillow Politics at the MGK
   Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas at El Paso

2. The Tiger and the Chameleon: The Legacy of Ethnic Difference in K. S. Maniam’s In a Far Country and Between Lives
   Aniruuddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida

3. Radical Politics and Model Diasporas: South Asians in Malayan Anglophone Literature
   Christopher B Patterson, New York Institute of Technology

4. The Boundaries of the Creole Nation: The Failure of Creolization as a Process to Locate South Asian Subjectivities in Caribbean Space
   Rajiv Mohabir, University of Hawaii
Panel 5C

Impressionist Gallery

MOHSIN HAMID: THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST
Panel Chair: Amber Riaz, Douglas College

1. The Cosmopolitan Oppression: Ambiguity and Alienization in Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*
   Priyadarshini Gupta, Ohio University

2. Destabilizing the Border: Shifting Cultural Identities in Mohsin Hamid’s *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*
   Joya Uraizee, Saint Louis University

3. Transnational Identity in Crisis in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*
   Sobia Khan, Richland College

10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m. SESSION 6 (PANELS 6A, 6B, & 6C)

Panel 6A

Sculpture Gallery E

PARTITION: BORDERLANDS, BELONGING AND CITIZENSHIP
Panel Chair: Amrita Ghosh, Seattle University

1. Multiple Migrations: Partition Narratives in the South Asian Diaspora
   Nalini Iyer, Seattle University

2. Border Crossings and Women's Recovery Bill in Bengali Partition Narratives
   Amrita Ghosh, Seton Hall University

3. Looking East: Frames for Studying Partition Narratives from North-East India
   Amit R. Baishya, University of Oklahoma

Panel 6B

Sculpture Gallery W

MARGINS, BRIDGES, AND INTERSECTIONS
Panel Chair: Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia College Chicago

1. Re-Imagining the Narratives of the Gulf Diaspora in Literature
   Maya Vinai, Birla Institute of Technology & Science

   Michaela M. Henry, Brandeis University

3. Boundaries as Kaleidoscopes of Intersection: Crossroads of Memory and Resistance in the Film Bombay
   Smithi Mohan J S., University of Kerala

4. Breaking Borders: Towards an Exploration of North East Indian Literature
   Imti Watitula Longkumer, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore
Panel 6C  
**Impressionist Gallery**  
**ROUNDTABLE: DIGITAL SOUTH ASIA**  
*Chair: Alex Gil, Columbia University*

Deepika Bahri, Emory University  
Rahul Gairola, Queen’s College and York College, CUNY  
Sonora Jha, Seattle University  
Roopika Risam, Salem State University

12:00-1:00 p.m.  
**LUNCH: LISTEL HOTEL**

1:00-2:15 p.m.  
**SESSION 7 (PANELS 7A, 7B, & 7C)**

Panel 7A  
**Sculpture Gallery E**  
**WOMEN, BORDERS, AND BOUNDARIES**  
*Panel Chair: Melanie Wattenberger, University of Mumbai*

1. Women and War: A Study of East and West  
   Ranjana Krishna, Lucknow University

2. Stretching the Bounds: Women’s Experience of Indenture in Peggy Mohan’s *Jahajin*  
   Alison Klein, CUNY Graduate Center

3. The M(O)ther/Monster in Mahasweta Devi’s *Bayen*  
   Sobia Mubarak, University of Arkansas

Panel 7B  
**Sculpture Gallery W**  
**MOBILITY, DIASPORA, AND CINEMA**  
*Panel Chair: Nicola Mooney, University of the Fraser Valley*

   Manfa Sanogo, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

2. Mother India and Her Others: Occidentalism in *Kabhi Khushie Kabhi Gham*  
   Oliver Ross, University of Cambridge

3. D(h)oomed – Diaspora, Disability, and Discrimination in *Dhoom 3*  
   Jana Fedtke, American University of Sharjah

4. Adaptation and the Reassertion of Boundaries: Deepa Mehta’s *Midnight’s Children*  
   Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia College Chicago
Panel 7C  
**Impressionist Gallery**  
**RACIAL AND PEDAGOGICAL BOUNDARIES**  
*Panel Chair: Rahul Gairola, Queen’s College and York College, CUNY*

1. **American Dream: A Myth of Success or Mirage; An Investigation into Lahiri’s The Namesake and Unaccustomed Earth**  
   Khandakar Ashraful Islam, Metropolitan University

2. **What Is My Color?: The Problems of Racial Boundaries**  
   Qianqian Li, Philipps-University of Marburg in Germany

3. **Multicultural Pedagogy: Teaching The Namesake and “Hell-Heaven” to a Freshman Class**  
   Saiyeda Khatun, Johnson & Wales University

4. **Texture as Substance: Reading Homi Bhabha Re-Membering Fanon**  
   Henry Schwarz, Georgetown University

2:15-3:30 p.m.  
**SESSION 8 (PANELS 8A, 8B, & 8C)**

Panel 8A  
**Sculpture Gallery E**  
**NOSTALGIA, MEMORY, BORDERS AND BEYOND**  
*Panel Chair: Navneet Kumar, Medicine Hat College*

1. **Alter-geography, Revisionary Historiography and Cultural Identity in the Novels of Khaled Husseini and Kamila Shamsie**  
   Naila Sahar, University of New York

2. **Partitions of Memory: Trauma and Narrative in Jyotirmoyee Devi’s The River Churning**  
   Shumona Dasgupta, University of Mary Washington

3. **Borders, Boundaries and the Blur in-between : A Reading of Saadat Hasan Manto's “Toba Tek Singh”**  
   Jaskiran Tiwana, GGDSD College, Chandigarh

4. **Beyond Borders: From Cartographic Distances to Cosmopolitan Agency in Bapsi Sidhwa’s Ice-Candy-Man and Amitav Ghosh’s The Shadow Lines**  
   Prathim Maya Dora-Laskey, Alma College, University of Oxford

Panel 8B  
**Sculpture Gallery W**  
**BORDERS, BOUNDARIES, AND IN-BETWEEN**  
*Panel Chair: Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida*

1. **Whose Home and How? Understanding the case of “Indian Muslim” through Cultural Productions**  
   Bhumika Rajan, Jawaharlal Nehru University

2. **Being Modern in Bhakkar: A Gated Community in Rural Pakistan**  
   Tariq L. Rahman, University of Oregon
3. The Brown between Black and White: Resistance Against Dichotomous and Reductive Narratives in *And the World Changed: Contemporary Stories by Pakistani Women* (2008)
Sarah Batool Khan, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College

Panel 8C
**SEXUAL IDENTITIES: POLITICS, PLEASURES, DISTINCTIONS**
*Impressionist Gallery*
Panel Chair: Nalini Iyer, Seattle University

1. Crossing the Threshold: Queer Identity and the Politics of Public and Private Spheres in Farzana Doctor’s *Six Metres of Pavement*
   Melanie R. Wattenbarger, University of Mumbai

2. Queer Pleasures of the 90s Desi Party
   Swathi Sreerangarajan, University of Pittsburgh

3. The Marginalized Sexual Identities of Hijras in Ash Kotak’s *Hijra*
   Jeremy Gillette-Newman, Arizona State University

3:30-4:45 p.m.
**ROUNDTABLE: POETS AND CREATIVE WRITERS**
*Impressionist Gallery*

END OF SESSIONS FOR DAY 2

4:45-5:45 p.m.
**RECEPTION**
*Lobby*

5:45-6:30 p.m.
**SALA 2014 AWARDS CEREMONY**
*Impressionist Gallery*
Homi Bhabha (via skype from India)
University Professor, Harvard University
SALA Distinguished Achievement Awardee

6:30-7:45 p.m.
**CONFERENCE KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
*Impressionist Gallery*
Sadhu Binning
Poet and Creative Writer

8:15 p.m.
**SALA CONFERENCE DINNER**
Salam Bombay, 755 Burrard St., Vancouver (Tel: 604-681-6300)