SALA 2012

Performing South Asia at Home and Abroad
The 12th Annual Conference of The South Asian Literary Association
January 4-5, 2012
Hyatt Place
110 6th Avenue North (at Denny Way)
Seattle, WA

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, January 4

8:00-onward  Registration (Lobby) & breakfast (provided until 9:30 a.m.)

9:00-9:30  Welcome: Dr. Rajender Kaur, SALA President

Opening: Dr. Nandi Bhatia & Dr. Rahul K. Gairola,
SALA 2012 Co-Chairs

9:45-11:00 a.m.  Session 1: Panels 1A and 1B

CRIMES AND DETECTIVES (1A)

1. “Performing the Bengali Detective: Chasing Feluda Across Time”

   Kaustav Mukherjee, Michigan State University

2. “Performance and Criminality in Swarup’s Six Suspects”

   Tanvi Patel, University of Washington, Seattle

3. “Performing the Identity and Reconstructing the Self: Kavery Nambisan’s The Story that Must Not Be Told”

   Manju Dhariwal, LNM Institute of IT, Jaipur
COMICS, SATIRES, AND SITCOMS (1B)

1. “Performing Invisibility: Muslim Comedians/Comedies Waging Peace through Humor in North America”
   
   Umme Al-wazedi, Augustana College

2. “Gender Performance Anxiety: Sikh Men Wearing Duppatas and Sikh Women Donning Turbans”
   
   Sharanpal Ruprai, York University

3. “All About H. Hatterr, Performance and Satire”
   
   Amy L. Friedman, Temple University

11:15-12:30 p.m. Session 2: Panel 2A, 2B, and 2C

BIOPOLITICS, CULTURE AND CITIZENSHIP (2A)

1. “Rewriting Narratives of Birth in Ashok Mathur’s A Little Distillery in Nowgong”
   
   Ranbir Banwait, Simon Fraser University

2. “Citizenship in a Transnational Age: Culture and Politics in Ghosh’s ‘The Shadow Lines’”
   
   Nyla Ali Khan, University of Oklahoma

   
   Suvadip Sinha, University of Toronto

4. “Performing Motherhood: Mother-Daughter Relationship in Anita Rau Badami’s Tamarind Mem”
   
   Asma Sayed, University of Alberta

AGENCY, PERFORMANCE AND NATIONALISM (2B)

1. “Performing ‘Agency’ in (Re)casting Female Subjecthood in Rabindranath Tagore’s Strir Patra or The Wife’s Letter”
Suchismita Banerjee, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

2. “Staging the Rudaalis: The Changing Dynamics of Female Agency from the Short Story to the Film”  
   Swaralipi Nandi, Kent State University

3. “Silently Speaking: The Female Body, Cinema and Nation in ‘Mother India’ and Samt-el-Qusur”  
   Priya Narayanan, Columbia University

   Shumona Dasgupta, St. Cloud State University

IDENTITY, BELONGING, NOSTALGIA (2C)

1. “Cultural Inheritance and the Second Generation in David Chariandy’s Soucouyant”  
   Farah Moosa, McMaster University

2. “Being Indian in Israel and Israeli in India: Performing Ethnicity in Ruby of Cochin”  
   Pallavi Rastogi, Louisiana State University

3. “In Between Worlds: Performing ‘Indianness’ in East Africa”  
   Jodi Thompson, University of Washington, Seattle

4. “Performing Identities or Protecting Ideologies: Pakistani Diasporic English Writers and the Streak of Nostalgia”  
   Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College University, Lahore, Pakistan

12:45-1:45 p.m. Lunch break on your own
2:00-3:15 p.m. Session 3: Panel 3A, 3B, and 3C

WHITENESS, COURTESANS, NAUTCH GIRLS (3A)

1. “The Non-Parallel Lives of Cotton Mary and Helen, Queen of the Nautch Girls”
   *Alexandra Viets, Towson University*

2. “Performing on the Limits of Respectability: Representation of Courtesan and *Sharif* Culture in *Pakeezah*”
   *Nida Sajid, Rutgers University*

3. “Rethinking the Performative Power of Whiteness in India: The Case of Anglo-Indians”
   *Priya Menon, Troy University*

4. “‘Who’s the Hottest Girl in the World?’: The Scopic Drive and the Representation of White Females in Bollywood”
   *Kimberley McLeod, York University*

GLOBALIZING SOUTH ASIAN MUSIC: POLITICIZING MUSIC, GENDERING GENRE (3B)

1. “*Coke Studio*. Performing Popular Pakistani Music in the Globalized Era”
   *Summer Pervez, Kwantlen Polytechnic University*

   *Amber Riaz, University of Western Ontario*

3. Romeos & Gangstas: (De)-Constructing Performances of Hyper-Masculinity and Male Desire in Canadian Bhangra Music
   *Manjot Bains, York University*

REFORM, REVIVAL, RESISTANCE (3C)

1. “The Early Indian Novel as a Rehearsal for Reform: The Case of *Indulekha*”
   *Kellie Holzer, University of Washington, Seattle*

2. “Performing for the Lord: Pandita Ramabai’s Pentecostal Revival”
Sharleen Mondal, Ashland University

3. “Show or Tell? Performance as Instruction in Govardhanram’s Saraswatichandra”

Meera Ashar, City University of Hong Kong


Jessica Sniezyk, University of Virginia

3:30-4:45 p.m. Session 4: Panel 4A, 4B, and 4C

PERFORMING THE NATION AND ITS PROTESTING OTHER(S) (4A)

1. “Stripping the Empire: Making Visible the Unseen, the Return of the Abjected”

Huma Dar, University of California, Berkeley

2. “The Politics of Shamelessness”

Deepti Misri, University of Colorado


Sunera Thobani, University of British Columbia

PERFORMING EMPIRE/STAGING INDIA (4B)

1. “Raja Ravi Varma, Nalini Malini, and the Staging of India”

Sheshalatha Reddy, University of Mary Washington

2. “Re-Staging India: Gender, Citizenship, and the Transnational Beauty Assemblage”

Vanita Reddy, Texas A&M University

3. “Hastings, Burke, and a Deferred Denouement”

Gaura Shankar Narayan, State University of New York, Purchase

4. “Mapping New Mindcapes: Performativity and Protest in Contemporary South Asian Art in the U.S.”
Rajender Kaur, William Paterson University

PERFORMING SRI LANKAN & TAMIL IDENTITIES (4C)

   Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas at El Paso

2. “Mourning the Dead: Trojan Women, Maternal Politics, and Justice”
   Nimanthi Perera-Rajasingham, Rutgers University

3. “Tamil Representations in Novels from Malaysia/Singapore: Symbolic Ethnicity and Multicultural Repression”
   Christopher Patterson, University of Washington, Seattle

5:00-6:15 p.m. General Business Meeting
6:30-7:45 p.m. Dinner on your own
8:00-10:30 p.m. HAMARA MUSHAIRA Literary Arts Event
   Chaired by Amritjit Singh, Ohio University (singha@ohio.edu).
   Invited Reader: Charles Johnson, author of Middle Passage and Oxherding Tale, Winner of the National Book Award (1990)

Thursday, January 5

6:30-9:00 a.m. Breakfast provided by Hyatt for hotel guests
8:00-onward Registration (Lobby)
9:00-10:15 a.m.    Session 5: Panel 5A and 5B

KHUSRAS, HIJRAS AND ‘OTHER’ SEXUALITIES (5A)

1. “‘A Boy with a Bust Made from Rags’: Representation of Queer Corporeality in Ash Kotak’s Hijra”
   Sohomjit Ray, Kent State University

2. “Performing South Asian Femininity: Embodied Performance and Queer Feminist Diasporic Analytic in Sonali Gulati’s Auto-Docs”
   Soumitree Gupta, Syracuse University

3. “Performing Otherness: Sexual Citizenship and the Political Economy of Medicine”
   Nishant Shahani, Washington State University, Pullman

CONSUMING SOUTH ASIA (5B)

1. “Oriental Hauntings: An Exploration of Post-Orientalism in Recent ‘Western’ Cinematic Representations of ‘India’”
   Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida

2. “The Indian Writer as Indo-Chic: Recent Trends in the Marketing and Cultural Consumption of Indian Women’s Writing”
   Parama Sarkar, University of Toledo

3. “Performing History, Memory and the Nation: India Versus Pakistan, World Cup Cricket 2011”
   Shreyosı Mukherje, National University of Singapore

4. “Performing a Literary Googly: Cricket, Nation, and Technology in Shehan Karunatilaka’s Chinaman”
   Brian Yothers, University of Texas at El Paso
10:30-11:45 a.m.  Session 6: Panels 6A, 6B, and 6C

FROM PAGE TO STAGE AND FILM (6A)

1. “A Comparison/Contrast of Rushdie’s Midnight’s Children and Its Stage Adaptation”
   Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University

2. “‘Everyone Has His Reasons’: Satyajit Ray’s and Rabindranath Tagore’s Ghare-Baire”
   Cynthia A. Leenerts, East Stroudsburg University

   Pennie Ticen, Virginia Military Institute

PERFORMANCE / TRANSLATION / VERNACULARITY (6B)

1. “Performance and Translation in Vijay Dan Detha”
   Karni Pal Bhati, Furman University

2. “Memory, Boli (speech) and Performance in Ardhkathanak (1641)”
   Rashmi Dube Bhatnagar, University of Pittsburgh

3. “Performance as Resistance: Folk Theater of Kerala”
   Shoba Sharad Rajgopal, Westfield State University

4. “‘With a night of ghazals, what else comes to an end?’: Remembering the Majlis in America”
   Fatima Burney, University of California at Los Angeles

CASTE, RACE AND OTHER MARGINALITIES (6C)

1. “‘You are Your Own Refuge’: Shame in Sharankumar Limbale’s The Outcaste and Shashi Deshpande’s The Dark Hold No Terrors”
   Elise Auvil, University of Maryland

2. “Quotidian Violence: Reading Dalit and Aboriginal Canadian Literatures”
   Alia Somani, The University of Western Ontario

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.  Lunch break on your own / Graduate Caucus Lunch

1:15-2:30 p.m.  Session 7: Panels 7A, 7B, and 7C

COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE (7A)

1.  “Dynamics of Performance in the Ancient Greek and Sanskrit Drama”
   Rajnish Dhawan, University of the Fraser Valley

2.  “Dancing Bodies, Soaring Souls: Exploring Spirituality in Dances Across Cultures”
   Shreelina Ghosh, Michigan State University

3.  “Representing, Embodying and Evoking Lover Krishna”
   Nidya Shanthini Manokara, National University of Singapore

4.  “Dancing down history: Substituting Bharatanatyam for Sadir and Ethnicity for Art”
   Teresa Hubel, Huron University College

BODY POLITICS (7B)

1.  “Scopophilia and the Male Body in Indian Cinema”
   Elizabeth Hornbeck, University of Missouri

2.  “Shonali Bose’s Amu and the Performance and Representation of Sikh Bodies”
   Gitanjali Kaur Singh, University of California, Los Angeles

3.  “‘We Don’t Want Freaks’: Performing Disability in Mahesh Dattani’s Tara”
   J. Edward Mallot, Arizona State University

PEDAGOGY AND PERFORMANCE (7C)

1.  “Visualizing the South-Asian Body: Social Justice and the Literature Classroom”
   Mayuri Deka, The College of the Bahamas
2. “Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Identity Negotiation of South Asian, Shia-Ismaili Muslim Girls in US Public Schools”
   Natasha Merchant, University of Washington

3. “Performing Ladakh: The Creation of Performance with Students at Druk White Lotus School”
   Lakshmi Eassey, Pitzer College

4. “Performing Pakistani Muslim Womanhood in the Classroom”
   Samina Najmi, California State University, Fresno

2:45-4:00 p.m. Session 8: Panels 8A, 8B, and 8C

CONTESTING CATEGORIES, BREAKING BOUNDARIES: THEATRES OF RESISTANCE AND CULTURAL CITIZENSHIP (8A)

1. “Not Really a King, Only a Shadow: Deconstructing the Popular Sikh Image in Indian Cinema”
   Parvinder Mehta, Davenport University

2. “Negotiating Bridges (from the Edges): Mangai’s Performative Practice in Progressive Tamil Theatre”
   Prathim Maya Dora-Laskey, University of Oxford

3. “Shadowdancing: Growing up Gen 1.5 during the 1970s”
   Priya Jha, University of Redlands

LITERATURE, ART, VIRTUAL NETWORKS AND PERFORMANCE (8B)

1. “Twittering the New Generation: Performing Writerly Identities through Social Media”
   Josna Rege, Worcester State University

2. “Performativity of Language and Amitav Ghosh’s The Hungry Tide and Sea of Poppies”
   Rajyashree Khushu-Lahiri, Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar

3. “Transforming Gender through Art among the Siddis of South India”
TESTIMONY, RESISTANCE, AND HUMAN RIGHTS (8C)

   Harveen Mann, Loyola University, Chicago

2. “Performing Transit: Testimony and Subjectivity in the Canadian Refugee Hearing”
   Arun Nedra Rodrigo, York University

3. “Songs of Freedom: Performance as Protest and Piety in Tareque Masud’s Matir Moina”
   Fawzia R. Mahmood, Independent Scholar

4. “Performances of Resistance: Contesting Performances of Humiliation in Contemporary ‘Religious Violence’ in India”
   Namrata Mitra, Purdue University

PERFORMING A GLOBAL BOLLYWOOD (9A)

1. “Performing Cool: From Hollywood to Bollywood Via Hong Kong”
   Rashna Wadia Richards, Rhodes College

2. “‘New Girl in the City’: Bollywood’s New Feminine Trajectories through Globalizing Bombay”
   Arunima Paul, University of Southern California

3. “Globalization and Bollywood in Idaho”
   Alan Johnson, Idaho State University

4. “Viewing Pleasure, Self-Reflexivity and Shyam Benegal’s Cinema”
   Bryan Hull, Portland Community College, Oregon
ACTIVIST PERFORMANCE (9B)

1. “‘Please Don’t Beat Me, Sir!’: Aesthetic Theory and Political Resistance in Contemporary Indian Performance”
   
   Henry Schwarz, Georgetown University

2. “Literature vs. Activism”
   
   Shazia Rahman, University of the Western Illinois, Macomb

3. “Re-presenting Lives and Representational Limitations”
   
   Pankhuree Dube, Emory University

GENDER AND PERFORMANCE (9C)

1. “Politics as Performance: Memory and Trauma in Fawzia Afzal-Khan’s Lahore with Love”
   
   Joylette Williams Samuels, Nassau Community College, SUNY

2. “Other People’s Parts: Covering the Undesirable in Works by Nafisa Haji and Shaila Abdullah”
   
   Miriam Robinson, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

3. “Slipping into the Cracks: Performances of Gender and Culture in Shani Mootoo’s Valmiki’s Daughter”
   
   Holly Morgan, Lakehead University

5:30-6:00 Reception

6:00-6:30 Awards Ceremony

6:30-7:45 p.m. Conference Plenary: Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Columbia University

8:00-10:00 p.m. SALA 2012 Conference Dinner
   Annapurna Café, 1833 Broadway (at Denny Way)
   (206) 320-7770
The SALA 2012 organizers graciously thank:

Seattle Art Museum (SAM)

The Arts Commission of the City of Redmond, WA

The South Asia Center, University of Washington, Seattle

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Priya Frank and Theryn Kigvamasudvashti, SALA 2012 Volunteer Research Assistants

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