SALA 2013

Race and the South Asian Diaspora
The 13th Annual South Asian Literary Association Conference
2-3 January 2013
Holiday Inn Brookline- Boston
1200 Beacon St., Brookline, Massachusetts 02446

Conference Schedule

Day 1: Wednesday, 2 January

9:00 a.m. onward  REGISTRATION
Lobby

8:00-9:30  MEETING: Executive Committee
Board Room

9:30-10:00  CONFERENCE WELCOME: Rajender Kaur, SALA President
OPENING: Anupama Arora & Prabhjot Parmar, Conference Co-Chairs
State Room

10:15-11:30 a.m.  Session 1 (Panels 1A, 1B & 1C)

Panel 1A  (IM)POSSIBLE FRIENDSHIPS
State Room  Panel Chair: Kanika Batra, Texas Tech University

1. “It’s a shame when cousins marry”: Discourses of Inbreeding and Racial Otherness in South Asian Cultural Criticism
Stephanie Yorke, University of Oxford

2. Ageism, Racism, and British Tourism in Helen Simonson's Major Pettigrew's Last Stand and Deborah Moggach's These Foolish Things
Sarah B. Mohler, Truman State University

3. South Asian Muslim Belonging: Orientalism, Race, Citizenship, and Shari’ah
Ilyse R. Morgenstein Fuerst, University of Vermont
Panel 1B  RACIALIZED HISTORIES

Board Room  Panel Chair: John Hawley, Santa Clara University

1. Globalization and Diaspora in Amitav Ghosh’s *Sea of Poppies*
   Maya Sharma, CUNY-Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College

2. Bleak Realism and the Diasporic Construct in Amitav Ghosh’s *Sea of Poppies*
   Ashmita Khasnabish, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

3. The “Jewish Question” in the South Asian Diaspora: Reading the Marrano as Metaphor in Amitav Ghosh’s *The Glass Palace* and K. S. Maniam’s *In a Far Country*
   Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida

Panel 1C  FORGING CONNECTIONS: POSSIBILITIES & TENSIONS

Whitney A  Panel Chair: Anupama Arora, University of Massachusetts—Dartmouth

1. Darkly Hilarious: A Study of “Internal” Racism in Mohammad Hanif’s *Our Lady of Alice Bhatti*
   Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College, Lahore, Pakistan

2. Spatializing Cultural Hybridity in Canada: A Study of Race Relations in Rajni Mala Khelawan’s *The End of the Dark and Stormy Night*
   Rajnish Dhawan, University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford, Canada

3. Mothering, Culture Keeping, and Racial Difference in Shilpi Somaya Gowda’s *Secret Daughter*
   Holly Morgan, Westfalsche Wilhelms Universitaet, Münster, Germany,
   Marie Curie ITN Researcher
11:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

01:15-2:30 p.m.  Session 2 (Panels 2A, 2B, & 2C)

**Panel 2A**  RACIALIZED MUSLIMS, RADICALIZED RELIGION

*Whitney A*  Panel Chair: Amritjit Singh, Ohio University

   Amber Riaz, Fanshawe College, London, ON, Canada

2. **The Face of Radical Islam in a Feminist Space**
   Umme Al-wazedi, Augustana College

3. **The Reluctant Model Minority: American Muslims and the Cultural Politics of Race**
   Rajiv Menon, New York University

**Panel 2B**  RACE-ING EARLY SOUTH ASIAN AMERICA

*State Room*  Panel Chair: Roger McNamara, University of Illinois-Springfield

1. **The Seductive Swami**
   Anupama Arora, University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth

2. **W.D. Fard and the Charlatan Swamis**
   Nikhil Bilwakesh, University of Alabama

3. **Documents of Dissent: Reading Race and Resistance in Slave and Lascar Petitions of Colonial America**
   Rajender Kaur, William Paterson University
Panel 2C  DIASPORA, NATION, AND NATIONALISM
Board Room  Panel Chair: Nandi Bhatia, University of Western Ontario

1. The Indian Diaspora and the Racialization of Nationalist Affect
   Sandeep Banerjee, Syracuse University

2. Diaspora and Nation in Qurratulain Hyder’s River of Fire
   Indrani Mitra, Mount St. Mary’s University, Canada

3. Study of Urdu-Hindi Conflict in Anita Desai’s Novels with Special Reference to In Custody
   Bhasha Shukla, Rajiv Gandhi Technological University, Bhopal, India

2:45-4:00 p.m.  Session 3 (Panels 3A, 3B, & 3C)

Panel 3A  RACE & GENDER: INTERVENTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS, DIFFERENCES
Whitney A  Panel Chair: Nikhil Bilwakesh, University of Alabama

1. “Little Walking Prisons:” Interplays of Race and Gender in My Son the Fanatic
   Poonkulaly Gunaseelan, King’s College, London

2. Face of the Muslim Woman: De-facement and Re-construction of Identity in “Saving Face.”
   Sobia Khan, University of Texas at Dallas

3. Representation and Self-presentation: Diasporic Indian English Women Poets
   Amrita Mehta, University of Delhi
Panel 3B  RACE/RACISM & THE SOUTH ASIAN CANADIAN DIASPORA  
*State Room*  Panel Chair: Summer Pervez, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

1. Literary and Cinematic Representations of the “Indo-Canadian Gang Problem” in Vancouver’s South Asian Diaspora  
   Summer Pervez, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

2. Black Water, Cleansing Water: Oceanic Irruptions and Interruptions of Race and Class in Shani Mootoo’s *He Drown She in the Sea*  
   Cynthia A. Leenerts, East Stroudsburg University

3. “Hindoos”, “Gadharites”, and “Martyrs”: Imaginings of the Komagata Maru in Textual, Visual and Online Worlds  
   Naveen Girn, York University

Panel 3C  GRADUATE STUDENT CAUCUS MEETING  
*Board Room*

4:15-5:15 p.m.  Session 4 (Panels 4A, 4B, & 4C)

Panel 4A  BENGALI & BANGLA DIASPORA  
*Whitney A*  Panel Chair: Amrita Ghosh, Seton Hall University

1. Jhumpa Lahiri’s “Unaccustomed Earth”; or Striking New Roots in Transnational Bengali Homes  
   Cristina M. Gamez-Fernandez, University of Cordoba, Spain

2. Anger as Power in Monica Ali’s *Brick Lane*  
   Afrin Zeenat, University of Arkansas

3. Bangladesh Meets the US on AsianEuro.com: Racialized Dating Practices and the Marked Other in Nell Freudenberger’s *The Newlyweds*  
   Jana Fedtke, Asian University for Women, Bangladesh
Panel 4B  CREOLE & COOLIES

State Room  Panel Chair: Maya Sharma, CUNY-Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College

1. Ramabai Espinet: Reading Race, Empire and Indo-Caribbean History
Jayshree Singh, Bhupal Nobles Post Graduate Girls College, Udaipur, India

2. The Indian Creole and the “Racial Colonial System” of the Caribbean: V.S. Naipaul's *The Enigma of Arrival* and the Limits of Creolization
Aparna Mujumdar, Northeastern University

3. *Coolitude* and the Construction of Race in Nathacha Appanah’s *Les Rochers de Poudre d’Or*
Sohomjit Ray, Kent State University

Panel 4C  TAMIL DIASPORICS, EELAM COMBATANTS, IMPERIAL SOLDIERS

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

1. Race, Culture and Long-distance Nationalism in V.V. Ganeshananthan’s *Love Marriage*
Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas at El Paso

2. South Asian Teenagers at War: Niromi de Soyza’s *Tamil Tigress*
Joya Uraizee, St. Louis University

3. “An Imperial Necessity”: Indian Soldiers in England during the First World War
Prabhjot Parmar, University of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford, Canada

END OF SESSIONS FOR DAY 1
5:30-6:30 p.m. GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING  
*State Room*

6:30-8:00 p.m. DINNER ON YOUR OWN

8:00-10:00 p.m. HAMARA MUSHAIRA: LITERARY ARTS EVENT  
*Chaired by Amritjit Singh, Ohio University*

If any of you would like to read your creative writing at Hamara Mushaira at 8 p.m. on 2 January, please contact Professor Singh directly at singha@ohio.edu  
*Whitney A*

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**DAY 2: Thursday, 3 January**

8:00 a.m. onward REGISTRATION  
*Lobby*

8:30-9:45 a.m. Session 5 (Panels 5A, 5B, & 5C)

*Panel 5A*  
HOME, HISTORY, & PERFORMANCE  
*Whitney A*  
*Panel Chair: Cynthia A. Leenerts, East Stroudsburg University*

1. Mythologizing Histories, Re-inviting Pasts: The 1914 Komagata Maru Incident  
   Alia Somani, University of Western Ontario, London, Canada

2. The Unfinished Past: Komagata Maru to Air India Flight 182  
   Chandrima Chakraborty, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada

3. What has “Home” got to do with “Race” in Multicultural Canada? South Asian Voices in Canadian Drama
Panel 5B  THEORIZING RACE AND DIASPORA

Board Room  Panel Chair: Moumin Quazi, Tarleton University

1. Racialized Subjectivities in the South Asian Diaspora
   B.P. Giri, Dartmouth College

2. Strauss, Rorty and the End of Race
   Karim Dharamsi, Mount Royal University, Canada

3. “South Asian”: The Problem of Race versus Region in Double Diaspora
   Asha Jeffers, York University, Toronto, Canada

Panel 5C  COLONY & METROPOLE

State Room  Panel Chair: Navneet Kumar, Medicine Hat College, Canada

1. Sons and Daughters of Ham in Vilayet
   Gaura Narayan, Purchase College-SUNY

2. Making India Their Home? Imperial Impulses and Social Conquests in
   White Mughals: Love and Betrayal in Eighteenth Century India
   Binoy Bhushan Agarwal, Hansraj College, Delhi, India

3. “Suddenly invaded by a devilish Indian Diamond”: The Presence of the Indian
   Other in Wilkie Collins’s The Moonstone
   Dan Brown, University of South Florida

10:00-11:15 a.m.  Session 6 (Panels 6A, 6B, & 6C)

Panel 6A  RACIAL ENCOUNTERS IN CINEMA

State Room  Panel Chair: Amber Riaz, Fanshawe College

1. South Asian Race-based Subjectivity in Mississippi Masala
Abdollah Zahiri, Seneca College, Toronto, Canada

2. **Race and Resistance in Karan Johar’s *My Name is Khan*: A New Diaspora within Popular South Asian Cinema?**
   Nira Gupta-Casale, Kean University

3. **Barometers of Shiny Indifference: *Dostana* and *My Name is Khan***
   Bonnie Zare, University of Wyoming

**Panel 6B  HIERARCHIES OF RACE AND CLASS**

**Whitney A**  *Panel Chair: Rajender Kaur, William Paterson University*

1. **Ambivalence in the Postcolonial Desire: Patterns of Assimilation and Migration in *The God of Small Things***
   Mirosh Thomas, University of Arkansas

2. **Inscriptions of Race in Metaphors of Space: Diaspora and Homelessness in *The Inheritance of Loss***
   Surbhi Malik, University of Illinois-Chicago

3. **South Asian American Physician Writers: Connecting Literature and Medicine***
   Sandhya Shetty, University of New Hampshire

**Panel 6C  RACE, CIVIL RIGHTS, RELIGION**

*Board Room*  *Panel Chair: Alia Somani, University of Western Ontario*

1. **Popular Media, Hinduism, and the Discourse of Civil Rights in the South Asian Diaspora***
   Sailaja Krishnamurti, York University, Toronto, Canada

2. **Race and Religion: An Examination of the French Case of Laïcité***
   Navneet Kumar, Medicine Hat College, Canada
3. Causing Offense: Riots and Rebuttals in Gurpreet Kaur Bhatti’s *Behud*
   J Edward Mallot, Arizona State University

11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m  
LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

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

**Panel 7A**  
**RACIAL MARKERS, COSMOPOLITANISM, & HYBRID IDENTITIES**

*Panel Chair: Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College*

1. **“Dismantling Racial Markers in Gautam Malkani’s *Londonstani*”**
   Robin Field, King’s College

2. **Cosmopolitanism and Cosmos in the Novels of Rafael Lorente**
   María-Dolores García-Borrón, Independent Scholar, Spain

3. **The Vision of Cedric Dover: Hybrid Communities and a New International Order**
   Roger McNamara, University of Illinois-Springfield

**Panel 7B**  
**IDENTITY, SETTLEMENT, CITIZENSHIP**

*Panel Chair: Kamal Verma, University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown*

1. **Linguistic and Cognitive Paradigms in *Manhattan Music***
   Smita Jha, Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee, India

2. **Meena Alexander and Jhumpa Lahiri: Race-ing America**
   Atreyee Gohain, Ohio University

3. **Neutralizing a Threat to Racial and National Identity via Citizenship: A Reading of Thrity Umrigar’s *If Today Be Sweet***
   Debora Stefani, Georgia State University
Panel 7C  DIASPORIC ART, ACTIVISM, & ETHNIC REFLECTIONS

Panel Chair: Surbhi Malik, University of Illinois-Chicago

1. *Midnight's Children*: A Case Study of Diaspora Art
   Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University

2. “Redefining Culture in Political Exile”: Appreciating Tibetan Protest Poetry
   Rashmi Ramaul, Dharamshala, India

3. Not Alone in the Diaspora: Inter-Ethnic Reflections on South Asians in North America
   Amritjit Singh, Ohio University

2:30-3:30 p.m.  Session 8 (Panels 8A, 8B, & 8C)

Panel 8A  COMMODIFICATION AND ORIENTALISM

Panel Chair: Parama Sarkar, University of Toledo

1. The Commodification of Bodies: International Organ Trafficking in Manjula Padmanabhan’s *Harvest* (1997)
   Anna Cheng, University of Connecticut

2. Trading Ethnicity: Race and Commodification in Early Nineteenth-Century South Asian Migrant/Travel Narratives to Britain
   Parama Sarkar, University of Toledo

3. A “Passage to India” in the Era of Global Capital: Orientalism Redux in Oprah’s *India: The Next Chapter* and *Darjeeling Limited*
   Amrita Ghosh, Seton Hall University
Panel 8B  NEW DIRECTIONS: PEDAGOGY, INTERVENTIONS

State Room  Panel Chair: Rajnish Dhawan, University of the Fraser Valley

1. Strategic Interventions: Fictocriticism as Feminist Writing Beyond Autoethnography
   Fazeela Jiwa, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

2. Approaches to Teaching Anita Desai’s “Studies in the Park” and Jhumpa Lahiri’s “A Temporary Matter” to First-Year Students
   Saiyeda Khatun, Johnson and Wales University

3. Emotions of Stereotyping: Changing Faulty Assumptions in the Multi-Ethnic Literature Classroom
   Mayuri Deka, The College of the Bahamas

Panel 8C  QUESTIONS OF RACE & THE WORK OF GAYATRI CHAKRAVORTY SPIVAK

Board Room  Panel Chair: Nalini Iyer, Seattle University

1. A Right, Not a Privilege: Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak’s An Aesthetic Education in the Era of Globalization
   Joylette Williams Samuels, Nassau Community College-SUNY

2. Spotlighting the Quicksand: Question of Race, Caste, & Religion in Gayatri Chakraborty Spivak’s “Indian” Readings
   Anirban Bhattacharjee, Jadavpur University, Kolkatta, India

   Rahul Gairola, Seattle University and the University of Washington
4:00-5:15 p.m.  Session 9  
*State Room*  ROUNDTABLE: RACIAL HATRED & HATE CRIMES

END OF SESSIONS FOR DAY 1

5:30-6:00 p.m.  RECEPTION  
*Whitney A*

6:00-6:30 p.m.  SALA 2013 AWARDS CEREMONY  
*State Room*  Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak  
University Professor, Columbia University  
SALA Distinguished Achievement Awardee

6:30-7:45 p.m.  CONFERENCE KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
*State Room*  “Empire, Race and the Lady of the Snows”  
Ali Kazimi  
Filmmaker and University Professor, York University, Toronto  

**Respondent and Moderator: Rajini Srikanth**  
University Professor, University of Massachusetts—Boston

8:15 p.m.  SALA CONFERENCE DINNER  
Curry House, 1335 Beacon Street, Brookline  
Tel: 617-734-3971

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