PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Greetings! On behalf of the Executive Committee, I extend a warm welcome to you, the one hundred plus, who are attending SALA’s 14th annual conference! Within the last year, we have been preparing for this moment, and it should be an astounding conference. Madhurima Chakraborty and Umme Al-Wazedi, the local arrangements Co-Chairs, have done a stellar job of creating the call for papers, garnering subvention funds, evaluating manuscripts, organizing 25 panels, the Graduate Caucus, reception, business meetings, and awards ceremony, and creating what looks like a seamless product, but is actually a stupendous Herculean effort. We can’t thank these two stalwarts enough.

Speaking of behind-the-scenes wizards, I must dole out special acknowledgment to three others, without whom this year’s SALA activities would not have been as successful as they have been: first of all, thanks to Dr. P. S. Chauhan, for his management of SALA’s journal, South Asian Review. He and his associate editors and staff have continued the legacy that they inherited from our beloved Professor Verma. Congratulations to them on continuing to produce a journal worthy of global recognition. Secondly, I would like to acknowledge the voluntary contribution of Kris Stokes, who has brought our SALA website, www.southasialit.org, into the 21st century. Anyone who works in public and media relations knows how important a meticulously updated webpage is. And we all know how noticeable it is when a website doesn’t work (the recent woes regarding the Affordable Healthcare Act website were a painful reminder). Kris brought his expertise to the web-table, adding PayPal and other features to our site. In conjunction with Kris’s wife Madhurima Chakraborty (SALA web manager), our web presence is consistent, reliable, and solid. That leads to my third special acknowledgment, who is the embodiment of consistency, reliability, and stability: Robin Field. When unusual circumstances caused me to have to take on the interim treasurer role this last year, Robin (as former treasurer) became my closest advisor and consultant. She has helped me to make it through the year’s labyrinth of challenges, involving money and managing SALA’s many sets of records and bank accounts. She was particularly helpful in keeping up with the PayPal records, and for that we are all grateful. Robin, Kris, and Professor Chauhan have helped make this year a grand success, with their quiet and competent pulse.

Now, though our Executive Committee is anything but quiet, its members are most certainly competent. Through remarkable teamwork, we have accomplished much: we are having record-growth in our membership ranks (with over 130 paid members on our rolls); our conference is bringing Dr. Timothy Brennan as our keynote speaker; we are honoring Dr. M. G. Vassani (writing) and Dr. Amritjit Singh (scholarship) at our Awards Ceremony. Amritjit has organized our annual Hamara Mushaira, featuring novelist Dr. Sonora Jha along with several volunteer readers. We are represented well at the MLA, as usual, during sessions 147 and 630. We are fiscally sound. We have seen remarkable subvention efforts from Umme and Madhurima, in addition to Rahul Gairola, Tarleton State University, the UW South Asia Center, and several others who have donated generously to SALA. Our Facebook page has increased by an unbelievable 1000 (that’s one THOUSAND) group members in the last year. We have a Newsletter Editor in Rahul who has taken Maryse’s blood of this organization.

I hope to meet each and every one of you during this year’s proceedings. You are all very special to me, as you are the life-blood of this organization. Have a great conference!

Moumin Quazi, SALA President
The Nation and Its Discontents

South Asian Literary Association
2014 Annual Conference Program
JANUARY 8-9, 2014
ALOFT HOTEL (CITY CENTER)
515 NORTH CLARK STREET; CHICAGO, IL 60654
312-661-1000

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING - “THE YELLOW LINE” ROOM
6-8 p.m.   SALA Executive Committee

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

8:00 a.m. onward   REGISTRATION
Lobby

9:00-9:30 a.m.   CONFERENCE WELCOME
ROOM: THE L
Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University
SALA President
OPENING:
Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia College Chicago
Umme Al-wazedi, Augustana College
Conference Co-Chairs

9:45-11:00 a.m.   SESSION 1 (PANELS 1A, 1B, AND 1C)
1A: INTERROGATING INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONALISM
ROOM: THE RED LINE
Panel Chair: Henry Schwarz, Georgetown University
1. Nationalism and Gender in Cracking India
   Anil H. Chandiramani, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
2. Fragments of History and Female Silence: Discursive Interventions in Partition Narratives
   Parvinder Mehta, Siena Heights University
3. Engendering Nationalism: From Swadeshi to Satyagraha
   Indrani Mitra, Mount St. Mary's University
4. Unhomed and Deterritorialized: Quest for National Identity in Indira Goswami's Ahiran
   Kumar Sankar Bhattacharya, Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences (BITS), Pilani

1B: EUROPE IMAGINES SOUTH ASIA
1. From Somebodies to Nobodies: The Dilemma of National Belonging for Poor Whites in India & Britain
   Suchismita Banerjee, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

2. White Elephants and Discontents
   Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University

3. Social Outcasts in Melodrama: Cross-Cultural Comparisons between Indian & Spanish Melodrama in Film
   Maria Dolores Garcia-Borron, Independent scholar

4. Women as India: Gendered Metaphors of Nation in Indo-Caribbean Indenture Narratives
   Alison Klein, CUNY Graduate Center

1C: THE DALIT QUESTION
ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE
Panel Chair: Maya Sharma, Eugenio de Hostos Community College/CUNY

1. From Worse than Dogs to Heroic Tigers: Situating the Animal in Dalit Autobiographies
   Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida

2. Revolutionary Affects: Alienation of Caste, Class and Gender in Mahasweta Devi's “Rudali”
   Puspa Damai, Marshall University

3. Narrative Arrangement and Radical Politics in Arundhati Roy's The God of Small Things
   Gaura Shankar Narayan, Purchase College, SUNY

11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. SESSION 2 (PANELS 2A, 2B, & 2C)
2A: TERROR, VIOLENCE, AND WAR
ROOM: THE RED LINE
Panel Chair: Suparno Banerjee, Texas State University- San Marcos

1. Magical Killings: The Occult Real and the Representation of State Terror in Two Assamese Fictions
   Amit Rahul Baishya, Ball State University

2. Mani Ratnam's Dil Se and the Pyrotechnics of the Body
   Jason Howard Mezey, Saint Joseph's University

3. Scattered Voices: Diasporic Reflections on the Nation in Turmoil in The Assassin's Song
   Melanie R. Wattenbarger, University of Mumbai

4. India, Geopolitics, and Specters of Future War
   Suparno Banerjee, Texas State University- San Marcos

2B: SRI LANKAN NATIONALISM AND INSURGENCY
ROOM: THE BLUE LINE
Panel Chair: Roksana Badruddoja, Manhattan College

1. Shyam Selvadurai's Toronto: The Role of the City in The Hungry Ghosts
   Asha Jeffers, York University
2. Fragments of the Nation in Beate Arnestad's *My Daughter the Terrorist*
   Joya Uraizee, Saint Louis University

3. Burgher (Trans)Nationalism and the Discontents of Hybridity
   Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas - El Paso

2C: CONTENTIOUS FRAGMENTS
ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE
Panel Chair: Rahul K. Gairola, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1. The Impossibility of the Nation-State in Kashmir in Meena Arora Nayak's *Endless Rain*
   Robin Field, King's College
2. Human Condition in Kashmir
   Priyanka Thakur, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India
   Rashmi Ramaul, Government College of Teacher Education, Dharamshala

12:30-1:30 p.m.   LUNCH (FAIRFIELD BANQUET ROOM)

1:30-2:45 p.m.   Session 3 (Panels 3A, 3B, & 3C)
3A: BANGLADESH AND ITS DIASPORA
ROOM: THE RED LINE
Panel Chair: Pennie Ticen, Virginia Military Institute
1. Negotiating the Politics of Power: Tahmima Anam’s *The Good Muslim* and Women’s Role in Nation Building
   Farzana Akhter, University of Arkansas
2. Clashing Nationalisms and Corrupting Co-existence: An Analysis of the Shahbag/Hefajot Frenzy in Bangladesh
   Asif Iqbal, University of Maine
   Ipshita Chanda, Georgetown University/Jadavpur University

3B: AMITAV GHOSH AND NATIONAL CRITIQUE
ROOM: THE BLUE LINE
Panel Chair: Melanie Wattenbarger, University of Mumbai
1. New Currents in Subaltern Studies: Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide, Sea of Poppies, and River of Smoke*
   Cynthia Leenerts, East Stroudsburg University
2. Archiving Disappearance: *Sea of Poppies* and the Historiography of Mixed Race
   Nadine Attewell, McMaster University
3. The Shadow Land: The Enigma of East Bengal in Amitav Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines*
   Nasia Anam, UCLA

3C: CONTESTING THE NATION IN (NON) NOVEL FORMS
ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE
Panel Chair: Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas- El Paso
1. The Nation and Its Hijra Communities: Representations of “in Between Male and Female” in Noman Robin's *Common Gender*
   Jana Fedtke, Asian University for Women, Bangladesh
2. Digital Citizen Journalism and Sri Lankan Nationalisms in *Groundviews*
   Brian Yothers, University of Texas at El Paso
3. *Bhimayana*: Graphic Narrative as a Site for Dalit Resistance and Collaboration
   Ruma Sinha, Syracuse University
4. Acting Like a Thief: Performance as Survival
   Henry Schwarz, Georgetown University

3:00-4:15 p.m.       Session 4 (Panels 4A, 4B, & 4C)
4A: THE COSMOPOLIS AND THE UNDERCLASS
ROOM: THE RED LINE
Panel Chair: Nalini Iyer, Seattle University
1. Emergence of the Cosmopolitan - National in *Midnight's Children* and *Maximum City*
   Payel Chattopadhyay Mukherjee & Arnapurna Rath, Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar
2. Mohsin Hamid, Frantz Fanon, and Sri Aurobindo Duke It Out in Rising Asia
   John C. Hawley, Santa Clara University
3. DeHaadi Friendship & Beyond: Collapsing Our World and Theirs
   Bryan Hull, Portland Community College
4. Urban Space and Terroristic Simmerings: The City Remapped in Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and Uzma Aslam Khan's *Trespassing*
   Saba Pirzadeh, Purdue University

4B: ARAVIND ADIGA’S *THE WHITE TIGER* AND NATIONAL CONFRONTATION
ROOM: THE BLUE LINE
Panel Chair: Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida
1. Survival of the Hungriest
   Amanda Del Signore, Arcadia University
2. The Door Was Always Open: Revising Identity in Adiga's *White Tiger*
   Noreen O'Connor, King's College
3. The Postcolonial India in Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*
   Jaclyn Gaydos, Arcadia University
Panel 4C: THE POLITICS OF ARUNDHATI ROY
ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE
Panel Chair: Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University
1. “Can we leave the bauxite in the mountain?”: Posing Unwomanly Questions in *Walking with the Comrades*
   Pennie Ticen, Virginia Military Institute
2. Novel Kids on the Block: Child Dissidents and Postcolonial Discontent in Shyam Selvadurai's *Funny Boy*
   and Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*
   Prathim-Mayra Dora-Laskey, University of Oxford (U.K.) and Alma College
3. Faith in Fragility: Queer Narrative Form in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*
   Mary Reid, University of California, San Diego

4:30-5:45 p.m.  GRADUATE CAUCUS
ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE

6:00-7:00 p.m.  GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
ROOM: THE L

7:00-8:15 p.m.  DINNER ON YOUR OWN

8:30-10:00 p.m.  HAMARA MUSHAIRA: LITERARY ARTS EVENT
ROOM: THE L
Chaired by Amritjit Singh, Ohio University
Invited Reader: Novelist Sonora Jha, Ph.D. (*Foreign*), Seattle University

DAY 2: THURSDAY, 9 JANUARY

8:00 a.m. onwards  REGISTRATION
Lobby

8:00-9:00 a.m.  PLENIARY PROFESSIONALIZATION PANEL
*Demystifying the Job Market*
Panel Chair: Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida
Panelists: Nalini Iyer, Seattle University
Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas- El Paso
J. Edward Mallot, Arizona State University

9:15-10:30 a.m.  Session 5 (Panels 5A, 5B, & 5C)
5A: SOUTH ASIAN DIASPORA AND FEMALE INTERVENTIONS
ROOM: THE RED LINE
Panel Chair: Lopamudra Basu, University of Wisconsin-Stout
1. The Doubly Marginalized Female Diasporic Subaltern: Dimple and Jyoti in Bharati Mukherjee's *Wife* and *Jasmine*
   Priyadarshini Gupta, Ohio University

2. Diasporic Fiction: Project of Empire and Consolidation of the Nation-State
   Roksana Badruddoja, Manhattan College

3. “The Remnant is the Whole”: Self-Representation through Collage in Meena Alexander's *The Shock of Arrival*
   Umm Al-wazedi, Augustana College

4. The Diaspora's Audacity: Deepa Mehta's Reading of Caste/Indigenous Colonialism in *Water*
   Abdollah Zahiri, Seneca College

5B: STEREOTYPES & RESISTANCE IN SOUTH ASIAN REPRESENTATIONS OF THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY

ROOM: THE BLUE LINE
Panel Chair: Rahul Gairola, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

1. “Feeling so exotic”: Priyanka Chopra's Gendered Representations in Recent Popular Music Videos
   Rahul Gairola, University of Maryland, Baltimore County

2. Against Muslim Monoliths: Locating Agency and Resistance in Mirza Waheed’s *The Collaborator*
   Amrita Ghosh, Seton Hall University

3. Creating Alternative Places to Meet in *36 Chowringhee Lane* and *Rang De Basanti*
   Arundhati Sanyal, Seton Hall University

5C: RECASTING 20TH CENTURY NATIONALISM FROM THE MARGINS

ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE
Panel Chair: Hena Ahmad, Truman State University

1. “Discontent” in the Aesthetics of I. Allan Sealy's *The Trotter-Nama*: Nationalism and Marginalization of the Anglo-Indian Community
   Roger McNamara, Texas Tech University

2. Airing Domestic Dirt: Modernity, Mobility, Education, and Education in Sulekha Sanyal's *The Seedling's Tale (Nabhankur)*
   Kathleen Fernando, Kenyon College

3. Ecriture Feminine: An Approach to Kamala Das and Sara Joseph
   Smita Jha, Indian Institute of Technology

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

6A: MEMORY, TRAUMA, AND REFRAMING THE NATION

ROOM: THE RED LINE
Panel Chair: Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University

1. Neoliberal Development and Conflict: Ambalavaner Sivanandan's *When Memory Dies*
   Nicola Robinson, University of York, UK
2. Tsunami Stories: Narrating the Oceanic Disaster
   Pallavi Rastogi, Louisiana State University
3. Remembering Air India: The Politics of the Apology
   Chandrima Chakraborty, McMaster University
4. South Asian Diasporic Identity Conflict in the Aftermath of 9/11 in South Asian American Young Adult Fiction
   Hena Ahmad, Truman State University

6B: RELIGIOSITY AND SOUTH ASIAN NATIONALITY
ROOM: THE BLUE LINE
Panel Chair: Amritjit Singh, Ohio University
1. Indian National Identity in Salman Rushdie’s *The Moor's Last Sigh*
   Maya Sharma, Eugenio de Hostos Community College/CUNY
2. Islamism, Neo-liberalism and Terror: Fixing Fixity in Tabish Khair's *How to Fight Islamist Terror from a Missionary Position*
   Afrin Zeenat, University of Arkansas
3. The Inbetweeners: The Construction of Moderate Muslim Identities in the Works of Tabish Khair and Mohsin Hamid
   Maryam Fatima, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
4. Many Falls: Rewriting Camus in Postcolonial South Asia
   Matthew Nelson, University of Illinois

6C: POETICS, POLITICS, AND AFFECT
ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE
Panel Chair: John C. Hawley, Santa Clara University
1. Samrat Upadhyay's Compassionate Gaze
   Ubaraj Katawal, Valdosta State University
2. Transnational Poetics of Contemporary Pakistani Diaspora Poets
   Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore, Pakistan
3. No Recourse But to the Nation: A Reading of Shonali Bose's *Amu*
   Alpana Sharma, Wright State University

12:00-1:00 p.m. LUNCH (FAIRFIELD BANQUET ROOM)

1:00-2:15 p.m. Session 7 (Panels 7A, 7B, & 7C)
7A: PERFORMANCE OF GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
ROOM: THE RED LINE
Panel Chair: Kanika Batra, Texas Tech University
1. Fashioning Citizenship: Cosmopolitanism in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*
Pia Sahni, Brown University
2. Nearly Home: Gender, Citizenship, and Belonging in Anita Rau Badami's *Can You Hear the Nightbird Call?*
   Nalini Iyer, Seattle University
3. Karma Cola Nation: Between History and Mythology in Anita Desai's *Journey to Ithaca*
   Stephanie Stonehewer Southmayd, University of Toronto
4. Her Memoir. Her Voice. The Khaki Memsahib Defines Herself
   Sukanya Gupta, University of Southern Indiana

7B: GLOBALIZING THE CALL CENTER
ROOM: THE BLUE LINE
Panel Chair: Chandrima Chakraborty, McMaster University
1. Call Centre Cosmopolitanism: Global Capitalism and Local Identity in Bangalore Fiction
   Anna Guttman, Lakehead University
2. Disaster Normalized: The Poetics of Bureaucracy
   Liam O'Loughlin, University of Pittsburgh
3. Is There a Call Center Literature?
   Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan, University of California- Berkeley

7C: THE POLITICS OF FILM
ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE
Panel Chair: Summer Pervez, Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Vancouver Film School
1. Bollywood and the Formal Aesthetics of a Global Nation
   Koel Banerjee, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
2. The Objective and the Immersed: Cinematic Lenses for Caste and the Contemporary Rural in *Bawandar* and *Omkara*
   Arunima Paul, University of Southern California
3. By the Glow of the Campfire: Interrogating Indian Summer
   Anu Chatterjee, Clermont College, University of Cincinnati
4. Rituparno Ghosh: Queer Aesthetics and Political Drag in the Discontented Nation
   Basuli Deb, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2:30-3:30 p.m. Session 8 (Panels 8A, 8B, & 8C)
8A: PERFORMANCE OF GENDERED CITIZENSHIP
ROOM: THE RED LINE
Panel Chair: Afrin Zeenat, University of Arkansas
1. Material Girls Living in a Material World: Gender and the Nation State in *Rising Asia*
   Nira Gupta-Casale, Kean University
2. Re-mapping the Nation: Gender, Identity and Domestic Space in Anita Desai's *Fire on the Mountain*
   Sreya Chatterjee, West Virginia University
3. War on Women: South Asian Women, Violent Event and the Concept of "Ethnicity"
Tehmina Pirzada, Purdue University
4. The Myth of Gender Equality: The H4 Visa and the West
   Parmita Kapadia, Northern Kentucky University

8B: NEW DIRECTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS
ROOM: THE BLUE LINE
Panel Chair: Maria-Dolores Garcia-Borrón, Independent Scholar
   Mayuri Deka, The College of the Bahamas
2. The Disruption and Restructuring of Social Schema in the Classroom Using Bollywood Film to Create Counterstereotypical Exemplars
   Sarah Mohler, Truman State University
3. Translating Landays: Using Schema Theory to Teach New Poetic Forms
   Zeeshan Riyaz Reshamwala, Moberly Area Community College

8C: THE BRITISH DIASPORA
ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE
Panel Chair: Cynthia Leenerts, East Stroudsburg University
1. “This is a Text Nobody Likes”: Hanif Kureishi and the Subversive Spaces of British Nationalism
   J. Edward Mallot, Arizona State University
   Tawnya Ravy, The George Washington University
3. The Subversive Sketch Comedy of Meera Syal and Sanjeev Bhaksar
   Summer Pervez, Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Vancouver Film School

4:00-5:00 p.m. RECESSION (FAIRFIELD BANQUET ROOM)

5:00-6:00 p.m. CONFERENCE KEYNOTE ADDRESS
ROOM: THE L
Professor Timothy Brennan, University of Minnesota
“Future Interrupted: The Subjunctive Nationalism of M. N. Roy”

6:00-7:00 p.m. SALA 2014 AWARDS CEREMONY
ROOM: THE L
Graduate Student Paper Prizes
M. G. Vassanji, Distinguished Achievement in Writing Award
Professor Amritjit Singh, Distinguished Achievement in Scholarship Award

7:30-9:00 p.m. SALA CONFERENCE DINNER
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO SALA, WE HUMBLY THANK:

The Dean’s Office, Columbia College Chicago
The English Department, Columbia College Chicago
South Asia Center, University of Washington
The English Department, Augustana College
The Dean’s Office, Augustana College
Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Augustana College
The English and Languages Department, Tarleton State University
Shauna Singh Baldwin
P. S. Chauhan
Lopamudra Basu
Nikhil Bilwakesh
Sharleen Mondal
Panels at MLA 2014 of Interest to SALA Members

Pop by the annual MLA convention to support your colleagues and hear cutting edge research!

147. South Asia at Risk (Under Presidential Theme) *
Thursday, 9 January
5:15–6:30 p.m., Ontario, Sheraton Chicago
Program arranged by the South Asian Literary Association
Presiding: Nalini Iyer, Seattle Univ.
2. "Remembering the Stories We Have Not Written: Representations of the Anti-Sikh Pogroms of 1984," Harveen Sachdeva Mann, Loyola Univ., Chicago

458. Feminism, Nationalism and South Asian Women (Under Presidential Theme)
Saturday, 11 January
8:30–9:45 a.m., Columbus, Sheraton Chicago
A special session: This session will act as a point of entry into reconceptualizing the relation between nationalism and feminism in South Asia and South Asian diaspora. Through their papers, the panelists capture the different axes of female identity construction and the relations to national and transnational feminist agendas.
Presiding: Umme Al-wazedi, Augustana Coll., IL
Speakers: Umme Al-wazedi; Kanika Batra, Texas Tech Univ.; Jana Fedtke, Asian Univ. for Women; Poonkulaly Gunaseelan, Univ. of London, King's Coll.; Feroza Framji Jussawalla, Univ. of New Mexico, Albuquerque; Harveen Sachdeva Mann, Loyola Univ., Chicago.

578. South Asians in North America: Interethnic Readings
Saturday, 11 January
1:45–3:00 p.m., Great America, Chicago Marriott
Program arranged by the Division on Ethnic Studies in Language and Literature
Presiding: Amritjit Singh, Ohio Univ., Athens
3. “The City as a ‘Contact Zone’: Re-inscribing ‘American Space’ in Meena Alexander’s Manhattan
Music,” Xiaojing Zhou, University of the Pacific
4. “Asians in the South: Prehistories of Asian Belonging in Mira Nair’s *Mississippi Masala,*”
   Gaurav Desai, Tulane University

630. *One Hundred Years of Bollywood!* *
Saturday, 11 January
5:15–6:30 p.m., Ohio, Sheraton Chicago
Program arranged by the South Asian Literary Association
*Presiding:* Rahul Gairola, Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County
2. "Between State and Capital: Women Make Movies," Sangita Gopal, Univ. of Oregon
3. "Congested City, Conflated Identities: Terror and Slum in Bollywood," Megha Anwer, Purdue Univ., West Lafayette

Sunday, 12 January
10:15–11:30 a.m.
A special session: This panel will examine the deployment of the veil in literature and culture from across the world. Identifying the veil in Western perception as an object of female subjugation and control within Islam, speakers will focus on the multifaceted nature of the practice of veiling around the world.
*Presiding:* Afrin Zeenat, Univ. of Arkansas, Fayetteville
*Speakers:* Martine Antle, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Nancy El Gendy, Univ. of Oklahoma; Md. Mahmudul Hasan, International Islamic Univ., Malaysia; Maya Kesrouany, American Univ. of Sharjah; Afrin Zeenat

769. *The Sacred and the Sexual in South Asian Literatures*
Sunday, 12 January
12:00 noon–1:15 p.m.
Program arranged by the Discussion Group on South Asian Languages and Literatures
*Presiding:* Indrani Mitra, Mount Saint Mary's Coll., MD
1. "Islam: The Rights of Women and the Patriarchal Readings," Masood Raja, Univ. of North Texas
2. "Loyalty, Polygamy, and the Conjugal Modern," Sukanya Banerjee, Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
3. "Secular Sexualities: Material Manifestations of the Sacred and Articulations of Resistance in Shyam Selvadurai's *Funny Boy,*" Rahul Gairola, Univ. of Maryland, Baltimore County
*Respondent:* John Charles Hawley, Santa Clara Univ.

*This is a SALA session at the annual MLA convention.*
Distinguished Guests — SALA 2014 Conference, Chicago

Professor Timothy Brennan

Conference Keynote Speaker

Timothy Brennan works on the relationship between comparative literature, world literature, and global English. He is a member of both the departments of Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, and English, and is a member of the graduate faculty of American Studies. He is also affiliated with the Institute for Global Studies and the Institute for Advanced Studies. His essays and course offerings deal with issues of intellectual history, cultural theory, the Marxist and phenomenological traditions, the avant-gardes, theories of colonialism and imperialism, problems of translation, and popular music. He is the author most recently of Secular Devotion: Afro-Latin Music and Imperial Jazz (Verso, 2008), and edited, introduced, and co-translated the first English edition of Alejo Carpentier’s classic study, Music in Cuba (U of Minnesota P, 2001). His other recent books include Wars of Position: The Cultural Politics of Left and Right (Columbia UP, 2006), Empire in Different Colors (Revolver, 2007) and At Home in the World: Cosmopolitanism Now (Harvard UP, 1997). In 1989, he received an award from the Council of Editors of Learned Journals for his special issue of Modern Fiction Studies titled “Narratives of Colonial Resistance” (1989). Professor Brennan is a recipient of fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the McKnight Foundation, and has taught at Cornell University, the University of Michigan, and the Humboldt University (Berlin).

M.G. Vassanji

Distinguished Achievement in Writing Award

M. G. Vassanji was born in Kenya and raised in Tanzania. He attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of Pennsylvania, where he specialized in nuclear physics, before moving to Canada as a postdoctoral fellow in 1978. From 1980 to 1989 he was a research associate at the University of Toronto. During this period he developed a keen interest in medieval Indian literature and history, co-founded and edited a literary magazine (The Toronto South Asian Review, later renamed The Toronto Review of Contemporary Writing Abroad), and began writing fiction. In 1989, with the publication of his first novel, The Gunny Sack, he was invited to spend a season at the International Writing Program of the University of Iowa. In 1996 he was a Fellow of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study in Shimla, India. M.G. Vassanji is one of Canada’s most acclaimed writers. He has published six novels, two collections of short stories, a memoir of his travels in India, and a biography of Mordecai Richler. His work has appeared in various countries and several languages. Vassanji has been nominated for the Giller Prize for best work of fiction in Canada three times, winning twice. He has also been awarded the Commonwealth Regional Prize (Africa), and the Governor-General’s Prize for nonfiction. His work has also been shortlisted for the Rogers Prize, the Governor-General’s Prize in Canada for fiction, as well as the Crossword Prize in India. His most recent book, set in Tanzania will be published in Canada in 2012. He is a member of the Order of Canada and has been awarded several honorary doctorates.

Professor Amritjit Singh

Distinguished Achievement in Scholarship Award

Amritjit Singh, Langston Hughes Professor of English at Ohio University, taught from 1986 to 2006 at Rhode Island College, where he was named the Mary Tucker Thorp Professor of Arts and Sciences in 1991-92 and also received the 2003 Alumni Association’s Distinguished Faculty Award. He has held visiting positions at New York University, Wesleyan University, College of the Holy Cross, and University of California at Berkeley. An internationally known scholar of African American and South Asian Studies, Singh has lectured and/or taught in more than a dozen countries in Europe, Africa, and Asia. In 2002, he was a Senior Fulbright Professor at the JFK Institute of North American Studies, Freie University, Berlin. He also served as the Fulbright Senior Specialist in American Studies at the University of Graz, Austria (October-November 2007) and at the University of Alexandria in Egypt (February-March 2010). His many books include the following: The Novels of the Harlem Renaissance (1976,1994); Indian Literature in English, 1827-1979: An Information Guide (1981); India: An Anthology of Contemporary Writing (1983); Conversations with Ralph Ellison (1995); Memory and Cultural Politics (1996); Postcolonial Theory and the United States (2000); Collected Writings of Wallace Thurman (2003); Interviews with Edward W. Said (2004); and The Circle of Illusion: Poems by Gurcharan Rampuri (2011). He has served in leadership positions in organizations such as MELUS, USAACLALS, and SALA and received the MELUS Lifetime Achievement Award in 2007.
CALL FOR PAPERS
Special Topics Issue of the South Asian Review
Focused on
Satyajit Ray

Submissions are invited for a special issue of the South Asian Review to be published in Spring, 2015, on Satyajit Ray. Papers are welcomed from scholars considering Ray from any of a host of perspectives: Ray as filmmaker, visual artist, writer of fiction, musical composer (or from cross-disciplinary points of view). Possible topics include, but are not restricted to:

--specific films or relationships between/among specific films in the Ray canon
-- Ray’s colonial/postcolonial vision(s)
-- Ray’s “position” within and in relation to Indian cinema
-- Ray’s impact on or “place” in international cinema
--Ray as social critic
-- Ray’s treatment of his literary sources
--Ray as an author of fiction/science fiction
--Ray’s musical scores in relation to particular films
-- the local/global dialogic in Ray’s work
-- discord or continuity between/among Ray’s various creative media
-- postmodern assessments of specific works in the Ray canon
-- the development/evolution of the Ray aesthetic

Scholarly articles of 15-25 pages (4500-7500 words), prepared in accordance with MLA style, along with abstracts of 100 words and a 50 word biographical note, must be received by May 30, 2014.
Submit papers and any correspondence electronically to Geoffrey Kain at kaing@erau.edu

Dear SALA members,

I’m writing because our journal, South Asian Review, periodically needs reviewers from a range of disciplines - literary studies, anthropology, history, political science, and others - to submit book reviews for the many South Asia-related books we receive from presses in Europe, USA and South Asia. We are looking for folks willing to do these book reviews, ranging in length from 850-1250 words. Doing these short book reviews is a wonderful way to contribute to the processes of knowledge building on South Asia, and is a part of the peer-review process so integral to our scholarship. I also see it as a great opportunity to curate, as it were, the conversation on the issues in which you are invested.

If you would be willing to do a book review in this academic year, would you kindly write to me at kdaia@gmail.com? Please specify which discipline or period would be of interest to you, and I can send you the list of books available for review. I will appreciate that very much. We can forward to you a free copy of the book you choose. Alternately, if there are important new books in your areas of expertise that you believe should be reviewed, please contact me and we can slot those in for forthcoming issues. Please feel free to connect me with friends in other disciplines who might be interested in reviewing books as well.

Thank you in advance,

Dr. Kavita Daiya
Book Reviews Editor, South Asian Review
SALA Member News

Hearty congratulations to our colleagues & allies for their impressive accomplishments over the past year!

Anirban Bhattacharjee recently delivered talks at Delhi University (New Delhi), Jadavpur University (Kolkata), Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta and the XIth biennial International conference of the Comparative Literature Association of India (CLAI). He has published articles in Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences (Calcutta University), Bangla Journal (Ontario, Canada), Boundaries of the Self: Gender, Culture and Spaces (Ed. Debalina Bannerjee, Cambridge Scholars Publishers, London), and in Radical Left (Naxalite and Maoist) Movements in the Indian Subcontinent: Postcolonial Critique (Ed. Pradip Basu, Cambridge University Press). He has translated Sibaji Bandyopadhyay's Critique of Non-violence (Boundary 2) and Anirban Das's Of Sleep and Violence (Mahabharata Today, Routledge) into Bengali (Alochona Chakra, Kolkata) and has been translating Jacques Derrida's Spurs into Bengali for the book, Banglay Binirman/Obinirman (Deconstruction in Bengal, Ababhas, Kolkata).

Rahul Gairola has accepted a job teaching at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

Anna Guttman has published her second monograph, Writing Indians and Jews: Metaphorics of Jewishness in South Asian Literature (Macmillan, 2013). Here is a link to the book's site, with a brief description, praise, etc: http://us.macmillan.com/writingindiansandjews/AnnaGuttman

Maryse Jayasuriya received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor at the University of Texas, El Paso.

Uma Parameswaran's biography, Lady Lokasundari Raman: Reflections of her Early Life and Times has just been released by Manipal University Press. During the last year, she has also published two titles: Early Indo-English Fictionists of South India (Essays) and Pinto Sees the Light (Short Stories). Copies are available at flipkart.com for buyers in India and with the author for buyers elsewhere.

Moumin Quazi has been elected President-Elect of the following organizations: Conference of College Teachers of English (He has also edited their journal, CCTE Studies, for 11 years) and the Stephenville chapter of the Rotary Club International. This last semester, he was named Director of the Graduate Studies in English program at Tarleton State. Additionally, the book series that he edits, South Asian Literature, Arts, and Culture Studies (Peter Lang Publishing), saw its first offering this year: A Passage to Globalism: Globalization, Identities, and South Asian Diasporic Fiction in Britain (by Bidhan Chandra Roy). He is marrying P. J. on March 15, at the Luxor Hotel in Las Vegas; let him know if you'd like to attend.

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (left) was awarded the Republic of India’s Padma Bhushan Award by Pranab Mukherjee, the President of India, in New Delhi. The national distinction is one of the highest civilian honors, and is announced on Republic Day every year.

Photo courtesy of Columbia University, New York City.

Bonnie Zare's article, "'We want Change for our Daughters': Personal Discourse about the Daughter Deficit in Andhra Pradesh," will appear in Women's Studies International Forum in early 2014. She invites comments, ideas and 50-word abstracts for a Madison South Asia Studies Conference (October 16-19, 2014) panel: "Sex, Gender and Crisis in South Asia: Teaching Strategies." Please share your interest in this by emailing her in Jan/Feb 2014 at Bzare@uwyo.edu
On November 15, 2013, Kshama Sawant, Ph.D., an Economics professor at Seattle Central Community College, became the first socialist in modern history to be democratically elected to Seattle’s city council. This monumental event dramatically unfolded many miles away from the Council Member’s hometown in India. Sawant grew up in Mumbai (formerly Bombay), and graduated with a B.S. in Computer Science in 1994 from the University of Mumbai. After moving to the U.S. with her husband, Sawant resolved to study Economics given her interests in economic equality. She joined the graduate program in Economics at North Carolina State University, where she completed a Ph.D. after writing a dissertation titled, Elderly Labor Supply in a Rural, Less Developed Economy. Sawant moved to Seattle in 2006, and became a U.S. citizen in 2011. Sawant has been an active supporter of the Occupy Wall Street movement while teaching at Seattle Central Community College, where she held an all night teach-in course. She challenged Democratic House Speaker Frank Chopp in the November 2012 general elections and garnered 29% of the vote on a Socialist Alternative platform that advocated LGBTQ, women’s, immigrant and people of color issues, in addition to opposing financial cuts to education and other social programs.

Despite losing the 2012 election to Chopp, Sawant resolved to campaign for the seat on the Seattle City Council held by 16-year incumbent Richard Conlin (D). Though Conlin procured double of Sawant’s campaign funds and led by a slim margin on election night, late ballots overwhelmingly favored Sawant. Her Socialist Alternative platform focused on a minimum wage increase to $15USD/ hour, rent control, and an increase of taxes on the wealthy. Sawant moreover advocated for the unionization of large Seattle companies like Amazon and Starbucks, and called for the nationalization of large Washington state companies like Microsoft, Amazon, and Boeing – the latter which has threatened to leave the state unless it approves a $9 billion tax cut along with a cut to workers’ pensions. During her victory party on November 17, 2013, Sawant described her platform’s success as a “political earthquake” rooted in intersecting histories of oppression with resounding consequences for the future of national and global equality. Hailing from a country that had been subjugated by British imperialism for over two centuries, Sawant recognizes masked aspects of poverty and oppression in Seattle as the inheritance of former modes of subjection. Amidst an electrifying media frenzy, Sawant (KS) kindly agreed to an interview with Rahul Gairola (RG), SALA Newsletter Editor, and Robby Franceschini (RF), a law student at the University of Washington.

RG: We would like to begin by congratulating you on your victory, and also thank you for making time to engage in dialogue with us. My first question involves the role of Marxist literary theory in the disciplinary fields of South Asian studies, literature, theory, etc. Most SALA members are literary scholars, and we deploy Marxist and post-Marxist critical lenses to the ways that we read literature. Subaltern and postcolonial studies are borne from Marxism, and we thus read narratives as “socially symbolic acts,” to draw on Frederic Jameson’s terminology. What are the implications of your win for academic fields like South Asian studies?

KS: I encourage students of South Asian studies to not limit their evaluation of our campaign to my identity as an Indian-American immigrant woman. No doubt it is of tremendous significance to be able to demonstrate that an immigrant woman of color can play a prominent role in shaping contemporary American politics. But I think the real significance of the campaign is that it was conceived of and implemented by a Marxist revolutionary organization. It was a Marxist analysis of the present-day political situation that led us to identify the need to challenge corporate politics as an open socialist, to offer a living example of rejecting the domination of the two parties of big business, and to develop the tactics and strategies necessary to be able to win the election against an entrenched 16-year corporate Democratic Party incumbent.
Take the example of India. There is a dizzying number of political parties, NGO's, and philanthropists. But the reality is that most of the political parties, including the so-called Communist parties and parties for the lower castes, have been willing perpetrators of the neoliberal reforms of global capitalism. There is no solution to the current global economic crisis on the basis of capitalism. The question that stares us in the face is – what is the way out? As a Marxist, I would say that an organized struggle of the working class, in solidarity with rural struggles, is an absolute and urgent necessity. In this process, we will need the South Asian working class to develop its own political formations independent of the neoliberal parties. So, while specific conditions and tactics will need to differ from South Asia to North America, the fundamental ideas are applicable globally.

RF: What do you see as the future for global governance, especially concerning global warming? For example, does the international community work within the framework of existing institutions, capturing ones such as the WTO or IMF and reforming them, or do we maybe resort to treaties enforced by economic sanctions?

KS: In answering this question, I am here referring to parts of Pete Dickenson’s “Needed: a socialist plan for the environment.” Global financial institutions such as the WTO, IMF, and the World Bank are the agents of the global capitalist class. Whenever there has been a clash between Green and trade issues, capitalist institutions like the WTO have invariably – and not surprisingly – chosen in favor of their private profits, and never in favor of the environment. Like many previous summits, the 2011 UN sponsored climate change conference in Durban, South Africa, abjectly failed to reach an agreement to tackle global warming. The failures of the Durban summit and its predecessor at Copenhagen in 2009, gatherings that were meant to correct the failings of Kyoto, showed the inability of the capitalist class to tackle global warming.

Rather than backing the market-type system discussed at Copenhagen, many activists are now calling for direct measures to be implemented to reduce greenhouse gases. These measures could include laws to establish a ceiling in emissions by a certain date, with any breach dealt with using criminal sanctions. However, if the world’s ruling classes opposed the largely cosmetic measures proposed at Copenhagen, any new approach with real teeth would meet with even more determined resistance. As Naomi Klein says in her recent essay, “...research shows that our entire economic paradigm is a threat to ecological stability. And indeed that challenging this economic paradigm – through mass-movement counter-pressure – is humanity’s best shot at avoiding catastrophe.”

RG: Given all the gentrification in Seattle and other parts of the country eliminating affordable housing for artists, students, and other demographics that contribute to the unique characters of many neighborhoods, what can/ should be done about this?

KS: While new units are continually being built, most of them are not affordable by federal standards. According to federal standards, the total cost of housing must not exceed 30% of the household’s gross income. The minimum wage in Washington is $9.19/hr, which is less than

Dr. Kshama Sawant now serves the Seattle City Council. Courtesy Kshama Sawant.
half of what a renter needs to be able to afford a two-bedroom apartment. A public mandate of rent control would ensure that rents are affordable for the majority. Rent control would tie the increase in rents to the overall cost of living (CPI), ensuring that low-income people are able to afford housing in the city. Our focus is a campaign to win a minimum wage high enough to meet living standards in a city like Seattle ($15/hr is a start). But this has to be an ongoing process of change towards social justice, and has to include implementing progressive taxation.

**RF:** How do you define the term “public interest”? What’s the most effective method of fashioning a global public interest, given that conflicting national priorities repeatedly prevent agreement on varying issues of social import?

**KS:** National priorities, as they are now, are not so much the priorities of the people, but instead dictated by global capitalist interests that compete with one another for the biggest shares of the global wealth. People all over the world have numerous priorities in common: things like high quality child care, healthful and affordable food, clean water, accessible healthcare, housing, and education, opportunities to explore science, art and other creative pursuits, opportunities for leisure and recreation, walkable neighborhoods full with amenities like parks, libraries, food. Despite the undeniable need for this basic living standard, however, overwhelming numbers of people in the world live lives steeped in intergenerational poverty, war, violence, malnutrition, not to mention the dangers of climate change. This indicates that the people who want to fulfill these needs do not have a say in how resources are used globally. If, instead, the other 99% of people around the globe were able to have a say in the determination of their own “public interest,” we would likely see a major shift in national priorities towards that of the majority, rather than the few.

**RG:** It seems that many people in the U.S. have a number of misconceptions of what “socialism” is and means. How would you briefly define the term, and what do you think its implications are for South Asian diasporic and other immigrant communities living in the U.S.?

**KS:** Socialism, as we would define it, is the democratic public ownership and control of the productive resources in order to meet real human needs. A socialist society would also engender political democracy and social liberation, because real democracy comes from having a real say in the process, not having a seeming right to vote to rubberstamp the status quo. In fact, democracy and capitalism cannot coexist. Under capitalism, all workers, both foreign-born and native-born, receive only a fraction of the profits of their labor. The rest goes to corporations and their major investors, who are constantly emphasizing class divisions so as to undercut any sort of united workers movement. A global workers movement, however, is exactly what we need, and would benefit all workers everywhere. Fighting for immigrant rights in the U.S. is interwoven with the fight for workers’ rights, as both require an end to the oppression of capitalism. It is also important to clarify that democratic socialism, which Socialist Alternative advocates for, is not the bureaucratic regime that existed in the Soviet Union. Nor is it the idea of social democracy under capitalism, like in Western Europe. Social democracies were able to expand the base of social welfare to benefit a larger section of the working class. However, they still depend on global exploitation, and more importantly, social programs set up in the 1940s-1960s are being dismantled and uprooted in the post-recession austerity politics.

**RF:** Data shows that women make 73 cents for every dollar earned by a man in Seattle, giving it the distinction as the city with the widest gender pay gap in the United States. Besides changing hiring and employment practices by the city and its contractors, what would be the most effective way to remedy this issue in the private sector in Seattle and the United States at large?

**KS:** Laws preventing gender discrimination need to be enforced. There would be public agencies with the role of practically enforcing this, and safe avenues for women to file grievances. Right now, the laws are very
much stacked against workplace organizing and the ability to form unions. The presence of a democratic and effective workers’ union will help alleviate many forms of workplace discrimination. As the 2008 study from Center for Economic Policy and Research showed, being unionized is at least as effective as having a college education for a woman to get better pay and benefits. Our campaign is committed to supporting union struggles across all sectors of the economy. We are also committed to using the City Council position to help end the soft silence on gender discrimination in Seattle. Women’s oppression needs to be studied in the wider context of its historical emergence through the development of class society. Past reforms in the private sector have indeed been instrumental in improving the lives and economic conditions of women, and further reforms must be fought for in the immediate future. However, the true struggle for all gender liberation requires illuminating the connection between the oppression of women and the oppression of other layers in the working class.

RG: As South Asians who have been exposed to the caste system in myriad ways at home and abroad, I wanted to ask you to mediate a bit about how your own upbringing and past has shaped your political stakes. Growing up in Mumbai, amidst abject poverty and caste discrimination and also extreme patriarchy, seems to have been formative to the political passions that shape your platform. How so?

KS: My experience of childhood in India was central to shaping my political analysis. I grew up in a middle income household, not rich by any stretch of the imagination, but not wanting for basic things either. The sight of an ocean of poverty, misery, privation, and sexual and caste violence around me left me seething with outrage and broken-hearted with sadness. But more significantly, it evoked several logical questions. Why do these miseries exist, what purpose to they serve, and why is it that even with the pinnacle of cultural and technological achievement, and an abundance of food and other goods and services, such basic problems have not been solved? The common responses to my questions on why castes and classes exist (“it’s their karma”, “it’s just luck”, “poverty always existed and always will, your agonizing about it won’t change a thing”, “that’s just the way it is, why don’t you chill and focus on your own career”, “isn’t it egotistical to think you can come up with a solution for this massive issue?”) were obviously an escapism from having to carry out a logical analysis. It seemed clear to me that there was nothing inherent in human nature or in physical nature for such misery to persist. Which led me conclude that it had something to do with the prevailing economic organization. Unbeknownst to myself at the time, I was recognizing capitalism as the source of these miseries and identifying socialism as the solution.

RF: What forms of public transportation should be top priority locally and perhaps nationally, and how should the city incorporate affordable housing issues into these considerations?

KS: The forms of transportation that we support most are buses and high speed rails, as these systems are most accessible to working class people. As I mentioned above, the skyrocketing costs of housing in Seattle...
have been pushing workers farther outside the city, requiring a longer commute to their city jobs. Additionally, the proposed 17% cuts to our Metro transit system, as well as higher fares, are obstacles to working people. We currently have all of the necessary technology to construct a world-class transit system, one that would benefit everyone. What we need is a progressive taxation structure so that we can raise funds to expand transit options to lower-income neighborhoods in Seattle, as well as outside the city. In addition to expanding route availability and increasing frequency, we should campaign for a low-income fare option. We need to mobilize together to form a mass movement to advocate for a Millionaire Tax and to defend our transit.

**RG:** What kind of repercussions do you hope that your win in Seattle will have nationally and globally, in general, and in South Asia, in particular? How might these repercussions compel a re-thinking of human agency and the vectors of racism, classism, sexism, etc. that literary and cultural scholars grapple with in our work on a daily basis (especially in the intersections of academics with activism)?

**KS:** It is the responsibility of the left everywhere, and the labor movement, to seize on this moment, and organize ourselves into disciplined, dedicated, self-sacrificing mass movements that also run their own political candidates. There will be setback along with defeats, and tactics and strategies have to be learned, but the biggest defeat would be for the left to remain in a dormant state and not act. This win has huge implications for consciousness both here the United States and internationally, including, of course, South Asia. Hopefully the campaign in Seattle can demonstrate that, as common people dedicated to a cause, we can win against what sometimes feels like overwhelming institutional opposition. Socialism is beginning to be accepted as a viable alternative to capitalism. The objective conditions are aligning to open up space for a genuine socialist alternative. The necessary systemic change demands commitment and hard work, and we must realize that we do have agency. It is up to us to seize the opportunity and commit ourselves to the long haul of building this collective movement.

**RF:** Finally, what are your thoughts on the recent Indian Supreme Court upholding of Section 377, a colonial-era law legislating consensual sex between same sex partners a criminal “unnatural offence”?

**KS:** The Indian Supreme Court’s ruling to revive the colonial-era law is yet another attempt at furthering the oppression of the gay community, and oppression in general. We need to be vocal in our condemnation of the ruling, and help to keep building a globally-linked mass movement for LGBT rights.

**RF & RG:** Thanks for your time, and all the best with your future academic and political ventures!

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**Call for SALA-MLA 2015 Session Proposals**

SALA members are invited to send to Nalini Iyer any SALA Session proposals for MLA 2014 (Vancouver) so that we can discuss and select the following at our General Business Meeting in January. Please send us ideas for one of the three following types of session:

- Guaranteed MLA Session proposal
- Non-guaranteed MLA Session proposal
- Collaborative non-guaranteed MLA Session (Group) proposal

Send proposals to Nalini Iyer niver@seattleu.edu by January 1, so we can discuss them at the Ex. Comm. meeting on January 7 and then the General Business meeting on January 8.
The following changes have been made to the SALA Constitution to reflect the practices that have been adopted in past years:

ARTICLE I: Name and Objectives
Section 3. The principal aims and objectives of the Association shall be:
(6) To mentor graduate students and young faculty members as they enter the academy. To encourage excellence in scholarship among graduate students, SALA will offer up to three prizes for “Best Graduate Student Paper,” selected by the Conference Co-chairs in consultation with the Vice President. The Conference Co-chairs will invite submissions of completed presentation/article length papers for this prize from graduate students whose abstracts have been accepted for presentation at the annual SALA conference. The prize shall consist of a certificate, a modest cash prize, and the waiving of the following year’s membership fee, and will be awarded at the SALA Awards Ceremony.

The above section has been amended to reflect the practice adopted in 2011.

ARTICLE IV: Officers of the Association and the Executive Committee
Section 1. The Association shall have an elected President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, five members of the Executive Committee, one of whom shall be a graduate student, an editor of the Newsletter, an editor of the journal, South Asian Review, a Website Manager, and an Advisor. (This amended structure was passed at the General Business Meeting in December 2002, and amended in January 2013.)

The above section has been amended to reflect the changes adopted in 2013.

Section 8. Web Manager: The Web Manager will create and maintain a website for the Association. He or she will actively update the site to maintain the accuracy of its information. He or she will ensure an attractive and professional design which will reflect the scholarly nature of the Association. The Web Manager will publish the Conference Abstracts on the SALA website.

The last sentence above (italicized for emphasis) has been added to reflect the change adopted in Boston, 2013.

ARTICLE VI: Meetings
Section 1. The Association shall hold its annual general body/business meetings during the MLA conventions. Such meeting shall be presided over by the President of the Association. Members present shall constitute the required quorum. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order. Executive committee business shall be executed throughout the year via email, and will also be conducted in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order.

This last sentence above has been added to reflect actual practice.

Section 2. The Association shall attempt to have at least two scholarly sessions during each MLA convention, by virtue of being an allied organization. One of these sessions shall be a “guaranteed” session, and the other shall be a “non-guaranteed” session, plus a possible third “non-guaranteed collaborative” session with a Group. As of 12/27/2009, nobody may read at a SALA MLA panel for two consecutive years. The Secretary must keep track of readers and relay this info to the chairs for the following years. (This policy was adopted on 12/27/2009 in Philadelphia.) As of 1/8/2011, the moderator of a SALA-sponsored MLA panel generally will not also present a paper in that panel. The moderator will coordinate the panel and work closely with the Secretary who must submit the session information to the MLA. In cases where there is an exception, the deliberations will be opened to the Executive Committee Officers. (This amendment was adopted on 1/8/2011 in Los Angeles.)

The italicized sentence above has been changed to reflect the MLA’s new practices adopted in the last few years.
The following changes are proposed amendments that need to be voted for/against ratification at the January General Business meeting:

ARTICLE IV: Officers of the Association and the Executive Committee
Section 3. The elections shall take place during the SALA business meeting at the MLA convention. The election shall be by a simple majority vote of the present membership. All members shall have a right to vote and to contest for the election of any office for which they meet the required conditions. Associate and Honorary members shall not have such a right.

Resolution 1:
The President moves that we delete the mention of “Associate” member, which does not exist, for all practical purposes.

ARTICLE V: Duties and Responsibilities of the Officers
Section 4. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible for collecting annual membership dues; keeping the account of expenditure and revenues and related files up to date; maintaining a savings or checking account in a local bank of his/her town in the name of SALA; and shall inform the individual members about the non-payment of their dues. He/she shall present the annual report relating to the financial state of the Association and make proper recommendations about its amelioration. The Treasurer will provide the Newsletter editor and the editor of SAR with updated membership lists for the distribution of these publications. The Treasurer is responsible for collecting conference registration and dinner dues and for making payments to conference hotels, publishers, and other vendors. Any nominees shall go through a rigorous vetting process by the President, VP, and former Treasurer, before a new term begins, before being elected by the general membership.

Resolution 2:
The President moves that this caveat statement be added.

Resolution 3:
The President moves that this last sentence be added, giving voting rights to the web manager.

Resolution 4:
The President moves that this last sentence be added, to reflect our current practice.
**Update: SALA Treasurer Position**

During the last 7 months, SALA asked for nominations for the position of Treasurer (posted on the SALA website, SALA Facebook page, SALA summer newsletter, and member emails). A committee was appointed by President Quazi, who took on the responsibility of interim treasurer from May 2013 to the present, comprised of VP Prabhjot Parmar and former Treasurer Robin Field.

Responsibilities of the SALA Treasurer include:

- being responsible for collecting annual membership dues
- keeping the account of expenditure and revenues and related files up to date
- maintaining a savings or checking account in a local bank of his/her town in the name of SALA
- informing the individual members about the non-payment of their dues
- working with the editor of the *South Asian Review* to ensure that the accounts are coordinated
- presenting the annual report relating to the financial state of the Association and make proper recommendations about its amelioration
- providing the *Newsletter* editor and the editor of *SAR* with updated membership lists for the distribution of these publications
- collecting conference registration and dinner dues and for making payments to conference hotels, publishers, and other vendors

Skills required:

- meticulous record-keeping
- timely responses to email communications
- careful attention to detail
- experience with running an academic conference or other such large gatherings or organizations
- accounting experience is a plus
- U.S. citizenship and residency preferred, for banking purposes

After careful consideration, the committee, in conjunction with members of the executive committee, recommended that Umme Al-Wazedi be invited by the president to finish the 2-year term begun by Joylette Samuels, ending in 2015, at which time she would be nominated for another 2-year term ending in 2017. Umme, after thoughtful consideration, accepted the nomination.

**President’s resolution:**

The Executive Committee nominates Umme Al-Wazedi to complete the two-year term begun in 2013, after which she would be nominated to serve another two-year term which would end in 2017.
CALL FOR PAPERS

REVISITING PARTITION

Editors: Amritjit Singh (Ohio University), Nalini Iyer (Seattle University), Rahul Gairola (University of Maryland, Baltimore County)

In anticipation of the upcoming 70th Anniversary of the Partition of Indian subcontinent, this collection of essays explores from a variety of disciplinary perspectives the cultural, social, political and economic impact of the Partition in 1947. We solicit 5,000 to 7,000 word essays from scholars that assess, interrogate, and rethink the events of 1947 and after in India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. We are interested in essays that open new avenues of thinking on the Partition as well as on the academic scholarship that has emerged in the last 70 years. Suggested topics include:

- Northwest borderlands
- Northeast borderlands
- Partition and Southern India (Hyderabad for example)
- The impact of Partition on sectarian violence in India—1984, 1992, 2002
- New archival material—previously unpublished partition narratives; oral histories
- Representing partition in literatures and film
- Partition historiography
- Partition and diasporic communities
- Multigenerational impact of partition
- Gender and Partition narratives
- Partition and the Violence in Kashmir
- US/ British interests in the division of South Asia
- Diasporas of Partition and/ or Becoming Diasporic Without Moving
- Violence towards Women from Partition to Modern Day
- Partition and Class

500 word proposals due February 1, 2014 ; Final papers due April 30, 2014. Email to: niyer@seattleu.edu

CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

South Asian Literature, Arts, and Culture Studies

(Peter Lang International Academic Publishers)
Series Editor: Moumin Quazi

The South Asian Literature, Arts and Culture Studies series invites submissions from scholars working in the field of South Asian Studies, with a particular interest in literature, the arts (print and film), politics, religion, and society. South Asian Studies especially focuses on the Indian subcontinent, particularly India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Burma, and the diaspora of Non-Resident South Asians throughout the world. The series welcomes a variety of approaches and theories that interrogate and explore aspects and elements of South Asian thought, life, and artistic production. The series does not only focus on contemporary, but also in special cases, on the ancient or classical studies.

This series welcomes a variety of analytical approaches and theories, especially postcolonial, feminist, post-structural, new historical, psychological, Marxist, and structuralist. Scholars working in related fields, such as philosophy, hermeneutics, and social theory, with a major interest in how these disciplines relate to South Asian Studies, are also invited to contribute.

Fill out the query page at http://www.peterlang.com/index.cfm?cid=95, or send your manuscripts to Heidi Burns at hburns@plang.com.

SALA General Business Meeting, January 2, 2012, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

President Rajender Kaur called the meeting to order. She thanked all participants and the co-chairs, Dr. Anupama Arora and Dr. Prabhjot Parmar, for this year’s conference. Dr. Kaur mentioned that she is stepping down as President and expressed her appreciation for everybody during her term of office.

The first item on the agenda was approval of last year’s minutes. Dr. Maya Sharma proposed a motion for formal acceptance of last year’s minutes (available in the newsletter), seconded by Dr. Pervez, and approved by a majority vote.

Next, Dr. Kaur proposed a formal vote of thanks for Dr. Verma for his editorship of SAR, his dedication and vision in making this journal so successful. She also proposed a formal vote of thanks for Dr. Maryse Jayasuriya who had served as newsletter editor, and announced that Dr. Rahul Gairola had been appointed the incoming newsletter editor.

After this, Dr. Kaur suggested that the crucial matter of elections be brought up in the interest of time. Elections were held for the posts of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer as well as some vacancies on the Executive Committee.

Dr. Kaur nominated Dr. John Hawley as President, and Dr. Kanika Batra seconded it. Dr. Verma and Dr. Kaur spoke a few words on behalf of Dr. Hawley’s service to SALA over the years. Dr. Cynthia Leenerts proposed Dr. Moumin Quazi as President, and Dr. Pervez seconded it. Dr. Quazi, the current Vice President, spoke a few words about his nomination highlighting his service to SALA over the years and his goals for the organization’s growth and success. The GBM was asked to vote on the two candidates. Dr. Quazi was elected President by a majority vote.

Next, Dr. Waseem Anwar nominated Dr. Kwaja Waqas for the post of Vice President, the nomination was seconded by Dr. Amritjit Singh. Dr. Anwar introduced himself to the GBM, and Dr. Singh mentioned his contribution to SALA and to the profession. Dr. Nandi Bhatia nominated Dr. Parmar as Vice President, and the nomination was seconded by Dr. Kaur. After a vote on these two candidates, Dr. Parmar was elected Vice President.

There were two nominations for the post of Secretary. Dr. Joylette Samuels nominated Dr. Summer Pervez, and this nomination was seconded by Dr. Ummee Al-Wazedi. Dr. Rahul Gairola nominated Dr. Nalini Iyer, seconded by Dr. Kaur Raje. Dr. Nalini Iyer was elected as Secretary after a vote by the GBM.

The President then called for nominations for the post of Treasurer. She also commended Dr. Field for doing a tremendous job managing the position. Dr. Kaur nominated Dr. Samuels; this was seconded by Dr. Singh. Dr. Samuels was elected Treasurer unopposed. [In May, she resigned, and Dr. Moumin Quazi stepped in as interim.]

There were 2 positions open on the Executive Committee since Dr. Waseem Anwar and Dr. Nyla Ali Khan completed their terms this year. The President called for nominations for these positions. Dr. Abdullah Zahiri nominated himself, and was seconded by Dr. Parmar. Dr. Waseem Anwar nominated himself, seconded by Dr. Pervez. Dr. Williams nominated Dr. Pervez, seconded by Dr. Leenerts. Dr. Kaur nominated Dr. Bed Giri, seconded by Dr. Singh Amrit. Dr. Kaur also nominated Dr. Bonnie Zare, seconded by Dr. Iyer. Dr. Singh nominated Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay for the graduate student position, seconded by Dr. Quazi. After a GBM election on the nominations, Dr. Zare and Dr. Pervez were elected as general members, and Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay was elected as the graduate student representative. With the successful conclusion of the elections, the President called on the Treasurer to present the report. Dr. Field reported that SALA has $21,000 in its account and that there are 120 dues paying members in the organization, indicating its health.

Finally, the President requested Dr. Verma to present the SAR report. Dr. Verma mentioned that the journal is doing well and will be moving to Arcadia University. Dr. Verma requested members to cooperate with Dr. Pradyumna Chauhan, who will be taking over the editorship. Dr. Verma mentioned that he has served as editor of SAR since 2000 for 12 continuous years. He expressed the hope that under its new editorship the journal will become even more recognized. Dr. Verma encouraged members to ensure that their university libraries subscribe to SAR and purchase old copies of the journal. After the reports had been presented, Dr. Verma called for a vote of thanks for the outgoing President, Dr. Kaur for her contribution to the organization. The GBM unanimously thanked Dr. Kaur.

With this important business having been successfully accomplished, the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Kanika Batra, Secretary, SALA
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

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SALA: South Asian Literary Association, an Allied Organization of the Modern Language Association (MLA)

Link to the SAJA forum webpage:

http://www.sajaforum.org/books/

The SALA listserv is up and running.

Join for free at:

http://groups.google.com/group/southasialit?hl=en

We are on facebook!
Join us there for news, networking, and connecting across the time zones and geographies that make this organization so strong! With 1,150 members there, our facebook page is a great place to check in on all things SALA!

https://www.facebook.com/groups/71331951163/

If you have personal tributes for colleagues in our field who have passed away that you would like us to include in the newsletter, please send it to us in time for the summer issue.

Reminder: If you have any announcements you would like to see in the Summer 2014 SALA Newsletter, please send them in the form of an e-mail (MS Word attachments only, please) To Rahul Gairola at rgairola@uw.edu by May 30, 2014.

For membership forms, announcements, CFPs, and other information
Visit the SALA Webpage at:
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