Salaam! Namaste! Greetings! On behalf of the executive committee, I extend a warm welcome to you, the one hundred plus who are attending SALA’s 15th annual conference! Over the past year, we have been preparing for this moment, and it should be a great meeting. Prabhjot Parmar and Sharanpal Ruprai, the local arrangements Co-Chairs, have worked hard to create the Call for Papers, evaluate abstracts, organize over 20 panels, the graduate caucus, a graduate student professionalization panel, Hamara Mushaira, a Writers’ Round Table, the reception and closing banquet, business meetings, and awards ceremony, and the materials that go into this undertaking. Given this impressive feat and their own busy schedules, we applaud them heartily.

As you peruse this year’s salaam, I want you to think specifically about the great effort and time that goes into making such a publication possible. We have a Newsletter Editor in Rahul Gairola who has done a great job of enlivening that publication and bringing its branding into line with the webpage. Rahul is an invaluable force in this organization, as an editor and as a friend of SALA. Please, take the time to thank him personally for his passion, contribution, and commitment. Continuing my note of gratitude, I would like to especially thank Nalini Iyer for her impeccable work as Secretary. She has been a steady and thoughtful presence behind the scenes with much cheer. Along with Umme Al-Wazedi, she has made this term an extraordinarily good one. I also extol the virtues of Dr. P. S. Chauhan, for his management of SALA’s peer-reviewed journal, South Asian Review. He and his associate editors and staff have produced outstanding volumes this year, and are busily preparing next year’s offerings. Thanks also go to the voluntary contribution of Mr. Kris Stokes who has recently made our SALA website, www.southasianlit.org, “responsive” so that it can work well on smartphones and mobile devices. With Madhurima Chakraborty’s efforts as a great Web Manager, our web presence is persistent, up-to-date, and informative.

I would also like to thank our Executive Committee, which has accomplished much: we are honoring Dr. Homi Bhabha at our Awards Ceremony, via Skype; we have record-growth in our membership ranks (with over 130 paid members on our rolls); our conference is bringing writer Sadhu Binning as our keynote speaker; Amritjit Singh has organized our annual Hamara Mushaira featuring Punjabi Canadian writers, among a panoply of other wonderful authors. Thanks particularly go to Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay for his assistance in organizing the Grad Student Professionalization Panel. One of my chief goals as President has been to support our graduate students, and Ani, especially, has been a joy to work with. Finally, I would like to recognize the work of Mark Carr-Rollitt at Global Synergies for helping me whittle down the outstanding choices for conference hotel, as he did in Chicago, as well. Mark has made the job of being President a little more manageable, and that is a gift that cannot be repaid.

We are represented well at the 2015 MLA Convention, with a number of sessions listed herein (one being a “President’s Theme” session). We are fiscally sound. We are working on becoming classified as a 501c3 non-profit organization, which will allow our donors to make tax-exempt contributions. Our Facebook page has increased by an unbelievable 3,300 group members in the last year. We now have 3,500+ members on our Facebook page. It has been a great and sustained honor serving you for many years in many roles, and I hope to meet you all at SALA 2015 as you are all the life-blood of this organization. Welcome to Vancouver, and have a great conference!

— Moumin Quazi, President
SALA 2015

Borders, Boundaries, and Margins
The 15th Annual South Asian Literary Association Conference
5-7 JANUARY 2015
Listel Hotel, 1300 Robson St. Vancouver, Canada

Conference Schedule (check the SALA website for updates/changes)

MONDAY, 5 JANUARY
5:00-7:00 p.m. MEETING: Executive Committee
Sculpture Gallery

DAY 1 of Presentations: TUESDAY, 6 JANUARY
8:00 a.m. onward REGISTRATION
Lobby

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

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

Panel 1A AMITAV GHOSH: SEAS, RIVERS, GIRMITIYAS
Sculpture Gallery W Panel Chair: John Hawley, Santa Clara University
Seas and Rivers as Borders/Boundaries: Shaping Identities of the South Asian Indians
Jayshree Singh, Bhopal Noble Post Graduate College
Can the Sublime Be Postcolonial: Aesthetics, Politics and Ethics in Amitav Ghosh's The Hungry Tide
Jana M. Giles, University of Louisiana
“Words Do Not Stop at Borders”: The Chrestomathy and Global Literature in Amitav Ghosh's Ibis Trilogy
Jim Hannan, Moyne College

Panel 1B DIASPORIC BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES
Impressionist Gallery Panel Chair: Bonnie Zare, University of Wyoming
Diasporic Epic Heroines: Nina Paley’s *Sita Sings the Blues* and Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni’s *The Palace of Illusions*
Cynthia A. Leenerts, East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania

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

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

Panel 1C
*UN/CERTAIN BOUNDARIES: ANIMAL, HUMAN, ILLNESS*
*Sculpture Gallery E*

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

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

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

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

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

Panel 2A
*ETHICS, AESTHETICS, CROSSING BORDERS*
*Sculpture Gallery E*

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

Social Plurality and Cohabitation: A Critique of State-Sponsored Nationalism
Navneet Kumar, Medicine Hat College

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

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

“Yeah, That’s What Ed Said”: Das Racist and the Postcolonial Theory Generation
Liam O’Loughlin, University of Pittsburgh

Panel 2B
*NEGOTIATING BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES*
*Sculpture Gallery W*

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

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

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

The Place of Transcategorical Fictions in American Literary Studies
Binod Paudyal, University of Utah
## Panel 2C

**Impressionist Gallery**

**HOME: PLACE, MYTHS, REALITIES, & RETURNS**

*Panel Chair: Sharanpal Ruprai, Mt. Royal University*

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

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

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

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

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### 12:30-1:30 p.m.

**LUNCH: LISTEL HOTEL**

### 1:30-2:45 p.m.

**SESSION 3 (PANELS 3A, 3B, & 3C)**

### Panel 3A

**Sculpture Gallery E**

**REIFYING MARGINS AND BOUNDARIES**

*Panel Chair: Summer Pervez, Kwantlen Polytechnic University*

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

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

- **Translation Goes to Movies: Modeling Critical Discourse Analysis of Adaptation and Interpreting***
  Reema Sukhija, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore

### Panel 3B

**Sculpture Gallery W**

**DALIT IDENTITIES**

*Panel Chair: Prabhjot Parmar, University of the Fraser Valley*

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

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

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

### Panel 3C

**Impressionist Gallery**

**SPACES AND SPECTRES**

*Panel Chair: Kavita Daiya, George Washington University*

- **Mohsin Hamid’s Guarded Narrative Space in *Mothsmoke***
  Shahzeb Khan, University of the Punjab
Cityscape and Cultural Spaces: Lahore in the Fictional Writings of Bapsi Sidhwa
Kirar Sollepura Nanjundegowda, Tumkur University

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Panel 4B
RESISTING, ESCAPING, REDEFINING
Sculpture Gallery W
Panel Chair: Rahul K. Gairola, Queens College & York College, The City University of New York

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

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

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

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

Panel 4C
LIMINAL AND SENSORIAL
Impressionist Gallery
Panel Chair: Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas at El Paso

Borders and the Liminal in The Moor’s Last Sigh
Savitri Ashok, Independent Scholar

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

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

The Smell of Empire: Olfactory Oppression of the Colonized Subject in Burmese Days
Rebekah Renee Grado, University of Texas at El Paso
4:00-5:15 p.m.  GRADUATE CAUCUS
Impressionist Gallery

5:15-6:15 p.m.  GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
Impressionist Gallery

6:15-8:15 p.m.  DINNER on your own

8:15-10:00 p.m.  HAMARA MUSHAIRA: LITERARY ARTS EVENT
Impressionist Gallery
Organized and Moderated by Amritjit Singh, Ohio University
If you would like to read your creative writing at Hamara Mushaira, please contact Amritjit Singh directly at singha@ohio.edu, preferably by December 24.

DAY 2 of Presentations:
WEDNESDAY, 7 JANUARY 2015

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Boundary of Faith: Alexandra David-Neel's Anti-Intellectual Pursuit in Tibet
Hui-Chu Yu, National Pingtung University, Taiwan

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

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

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

Radical Politics and Model Diasporas: South Asians in Malayan Anglophone Literature
Christopher B Patterson, New York Institute of Technology
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<tr>
<th>Panel 5C</th>
<th><strong>Impressionist Gallery</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOHSIN HAMID: THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST</strong>&lt;br&gt;Panel Chair: Amber Riaz, Douglas College</td>
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<td>The Cosmopolitan Oppression: Ambiguity and Alienization in Mohsin Hamid's <em>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</em>&lt;br&gt;Priyadarshini Gupta, Ohio University</td>
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<td>Destabilizing the Border: Shifting Cultural Identities in Mohsin Hamid’s <em>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</em>&lt;br&gt;Joya Uraizee, Saint Louis University</td>
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<td>Transnational Identity in Crisis in <em>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</em>&lt;br&gt;Sobia Khan, Richland College</td>
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**10:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

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<tr>
<th>Panel 6A</th>
<th><strong>Sculpture Gallery E</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PARTITION: BORDERLANDS, BELONGING AND CITIZENSHIP</strong>&lt;br&gt;Panel Chair: Amrita Ghosh, Seattle University</td>
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<td>Multiple Migrations: Partition Narratives in the South Asian Diaspora&lt;br&gt;Nalini Iyer, Seattle University</td>
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<td>Border Crossings and Women’s Recovery Bill in Bengali Partition Narratives&lt;br&gt;Amrita Ghosh, Seton Hall University</td>
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<td>Looking East: Frames for Studying Partition Narratives from North-East India&lt;br&gt;Amit R. Baishya, University of Oklahoma</td>
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<tr>
<th>Panel 6B</th>
<th><strong>Sculpture Gallery W</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MARGINS, BRIDGES, AND INTERSECTIONS</strong>&lt;br&gt;Panel Chair: Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia College Chicago</td>
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<td>Re-Imagining the Narratives of the Gulf Diaspora in Literature&lt;br&gt;Maya Vinai, Birla Institute of Technology &amp; Science</td>
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<td>New ‘Legendary Histories’ in the South Asian Anglophone Novel: Bridging Postcoloniality, Contemporary, and Transnationalism in Rao, Joshi, and Kunzru&lt;br&gt;Michaela M. Henry, Brandeis University</td>
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<td>Boundaries as Kaleidoscopes of Intersection: Crossroads of Memory and Resistance in the Film Bombay&lt;br&gt;Smithi Mohan J S., University of Kerala</td>
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<td>Breaking Borders: Towards an Exploration of North East Indian Literature&lt;br&gt;Imti Watitula Longkumer, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore</td>
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<td>Time</td>
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<td>12:00-1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>LUNCH: LISTEL HOTEL</td>
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<td>1:00-2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>SESSION 7 (PANELS 7A, 7B, &amp; 7C)</td>
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**Panel 6C**  
**Impressionist Gallery**  
ROUND TABLE: DIGITAL SOUTH ASIA  
Chair: Alex Gil, Columbia University
- Deepika Bahri, Emory University  
- Rahul Gairola, Queen’s College and York College, CUNY  
- Sonora Jha, Seattle University  
- Roopika Risam, Salem State University

**Panel 7A**  
**Sculpture Gallery E**  
WOMEN, BORDERS, AND BOUNDARIES  
Panel Chair: Melanie Wattenberger, University of Mumbai
- Women and War: A Study of East and West  
  Ranjana Krishna, Lucknow University  
- Stretching the Bounds: Women’s Experience of Indenture in Peggy Mohan’s *Jahajin*  
  Alison Klein, CUNY Graduate Center  
- The M(OTHER)/MONSTER in Mahasweta Devi’s *Bayen*  
  Sobia Mubarak, University of Arkansas

**Panel 7B**  
**Sculpture Gallery W**  
MOBILITY, DIASPORA, AND CINEMA  
Panel Chair: Nicola Mooney, University of the Fraser Valley
- Mother India and Her Others: Occidentalism in *Kabhi Khushie Kabhi Gham*  
  Oliver Ross, University of Cambridge  
- D(h)oomed – Diaspora, Disability, and Discrimination in *Dhoom 3*  
  Jana Fedtke, American University of Sharjah  
- Adaptation and the Reassertion of Boundaries: Deepa Mehta’s *Midnight’s Children*  
  Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia College Chicago

**Panel 7C**  
**Impressionist Gallery**  
RACIAL AND PEDagogical BOUNDARIES  
Panel Chair: Rahul Gairola, Queen’s College and York College, CUNY
- American Dream: A Myth of Success or Mirage; An Investigation into Lahiri’s *The Namesake* and *Unaccustomed Earth*  
  Khandakar Ashraful Islam, Metropolitan University  
- What Is My Color?: The Problems of Racial Boundaries  
  Qianqian Li, Philipps-University of Marburg in Germany  
- Multicultural Pedagogy: Teaching *The Namesake* and “Hell-Heaven” to a Freshman Class  
  Saiyeda Khatun, Johnson & Wales University  
- Texture as Substance: Reading Homi Bhabha Re-Membering Fanon  
  Henry Schwarz, Georgetown University
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session 8 (Panels 8A, 8B, &amp; 8C)</th>
<th>Panel 8A</th>
<th>Sculpture Gallery E</th>
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<tr>
<td>2:15-3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>NOSTALGIA, MEMORY, BORDERS AND BEYOND</td>
<td>Panel Chair: Navneet Kumar, Medicine Hat College</td>
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<td>Alter-geography, Revisionary Historiography and Cultural Identity in the Novels of Khaled Hosseini and Kamila Shamsie</td>
<td>Naiła Sahar, University of New York</td>
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<td>Partitions of Memory: Trauma and Narrative in Jyotirmoyee Devi’s <em>The River Churning</em></td>
<td>Shumona Dasgupta, University of Mary Washington</td>
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<td>Borders, Boundaries and the Blur in-between: A Reading of Saadat Hasan Manto’s “Toba Tek Singh”</td>
<td>Jaskiran Tiwana, GGDSD College, Chandigarh</td>
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<td>Beyond Borders: From Cartographic Distances to Cosmopolitan Agency in Bapsi Sidhwa’s <em>Ice-Candy Man</em> and Amitav Ghosh’s <em>The Shadow Lines</em></td>
<td>Prathim Maya Dora-Laskey, Alma College, University of Oxford</td>
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<td>Panel 8B</td>
<td>BORDERS, BOUNDARIES, AND IN-BETWEEN</td>
<td>Panel Chair: Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida</td>
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<td>Sculpture Gallery W</td>
<td>Whose Home and How? Understanding the case of “Indian Muslim” through Cultural Productions</td>
<td>Bhumika Rajan, Jawaharlal Nehru University</td>
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<td>Being Modern in Bhakkar: A Gated Community in Rural Pakistan</td>
<td>Tariq L. Rahman, University of Oregon</td>
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<td>Pakistani Transnational Poetics: A Disaporic Reconfiguration of the Ideological Boundaries</td>
<td>Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College</td>
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<td>Panel 8C</td>
<td>SEXUAL IDENTITIES: POLITICS, PLEASURES, DISTINCTIONS</td>
<td>Panel Chair: Nalini Iyer, Seattle University</td>
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<td>Impressionist Gallery</td>
<td>Crossing the Threshold: Queer Identity and the Politics of Public and Private Spheres in Farzana Doctor’s <em>Six Metres of Pavement</em></td>
<td>Melanie R. Wattenbarger, University of Mumbai</td>
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<td>Queer Pleasures of the 90s Desi Party</td>
<td>Swathi Sreerangarajan, University of Pittsburgh</td>
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<td>The Marginalized Sexual Identities of Hijras in Ash Kotak’s <em>Hijra</em></td>
<td>Jeremy Gillette-Newman, Arizona State University</td>
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3:30-4:45 p.m.  
ROUNDTABLE: POETS AND CREATIVE WRITERS

Impressionist Gallery

END OF SESSIONS FOR DAY 2

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

Lobby

5:45-6:30 p.m.  
SALA 2015 AWARDS CEREMONY

Impressionist Gallery

Homi Bhabha (via Skype), SALA Distinguished Achievement Awardee
Anne F. Rothenberg Professor of the Humanities in the Department of English, the Director of the Humanities Center and the Senior Advisor on the Humanities to the President and Provost, Harvard University

6:30-7:45 p.m.  
CONFERENCE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Impressionist Gallery

Sadhu Binning
Poet and Creative Writer

8:15 p.m.-onwards  
SALA 2015 CONFERENCE BANQUET

Salam Bombay
755 Burrard St., Suite 217
Vancouver, B.C.
(604) 681-6300

MLA Panels of Interest/Featuring SALA Members

15. Turning Postamnesia into Postmemory: Diasporic Rewritings of Indian Pasts

Thursday, 8 January, 12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 3, VCC East

A special session

Presiding: Shuchi Kapila, Grinnell Coll.

1. "Narratives Unbound: The Unfinished Stories of Indentured Indian Women," Alison Klein, Graduate Center, City Univ. of New York


51. Remembering The Location of Culture: Circulations, Interventions, and Futurity

Thursday, 8 January, 1:45–3:00 p.m., 222, VCC West

A special session

Presiding: Kavita Daiya, George Washington Univ.

Speakers: Deepika Bahri, Emory Univ.; Homi Bhabha, Harvard Univ.; Kavita Daiya; Keith Feldman, Univ. of California, Berkeley; Ranjana Khanna, Duke Univ.; Gautam Premnath, Univ. of Nevada, Reno; Henry Schwarz, Georgetown Univ.

Session Description: This panel offers a retrospective on Homi Bhabha’s The Location of Culture, published in 1994 and subsequently reprinted globally in over fifteen languages and twenty-two countries. This panel instigates a capacious conversation about the influential and controversial The Location of Culture that looks back and forward.

93. From Cityscape to Small Town: Landscape and Affect in South Asian Vernacular Fiction and Film

Thursday, 8 January, 3:30–4:45 p.m., 10, VCC East

A special session

Presiding: Nalini Iyer, Seattle Univ.

1. "Viewing the City: Urban Spaces and Flânerie in an Early Urdu Novel," Jennifer Dubrow, Univ. of Washington, Seattle

2. "Literary Self-Determination and Narrative Landscape in a Modern Hindi Short Story," Sujata Mody, North Carolina State Univ.


129. Canada and the United States West Coast as Sites of Memory (an “MLA President’s Theme” session)

Thursday, 8 January, 5:15-6:30 p.m., East 15, VCC East

Program arranged by the South Asian Literary Association

Presiding: Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State Univ.

1. "Remembering and Commemorating Citizenship: Reading the Komagata Maru on Its Centennial," Melanie Wattenbarger, Univ. of Mumbai

2. "Forensic Fragments: Renee Sarojini Sakklikar's Elegiae Fragments and Site-Specific Commemoration of a Canadian Tragedy," Heidi Tiedemann Darroch, Univ. of Victoria

3. "Transnational Imagination: Negotiating South Asian Women's Identity," Sobia Khan, Univ. of Texas, Dallas
262. Unfinished "South Asian" Pasts

Friday, 9 January, 12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 18 VCC East

Program arranged by the Discussion Group on South Asian Languages and Literatures

Presiding: Chandrima Chakraborty, McMaster Univ.

Speakers: Atreyee Gohain, Ohio Univ., Athens; Maryse Jayasuriya, Univ. of Texas, El Paso; Shuchi Kapila, Grinnell Coll.; Rajender Kaur, William Paterson Univ.; Farah Moosa, McMaster Univ.

Session Description: This roundtable explores the irruptions of multiple (national) pasts in the present in order to investigate why and how seemingly disparate historical traumas congeal in the popular imagination. Panelists reflect on the critical reworking of memories of historical events that continue to affect South Asia and its diaspora, together with the problem of how to represent and transmit them.

271. Memories of the Future: Collectivity and the Global South in Zizek, Jameson, and Spivak

Friday, 9 January, 12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 12, VCC East

A special session

Presiding: Henry Schwarz, Georgetown Univ.


Session Description: This panel illuminates the relation between collectivity and the importance of memory in the recent work of three prominent materialist literary critics, Fredric Jameson, Slavoj Žižek, and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, and their relevance for the study of contemporary world literature. If the aesthetic is “purposelessness,” what is the utility of its memories and visions of utopia?

342. Colonial Tropes in Indian Cinema: Remembering the Legacy of Colonial Modernity in Indian Films

Friday, 9 January, 3:30-4:45 p.m., 207, VCC West

A special session

Presiding: Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, Univ. of Florida.


431. South Asian Women's Bodies and Sexual Violence

Saturday, 10 January, 8:30-9:45 a.m., East 15, VCC East

Program arranged by the South Asian Literary Association
Presiding: Summer Pervez, Kwantlen Polytechnic Univ. & Douglas Coll. (proxy for Alpana Sharma)


3. "Structural and Sexual Violence on the Bodies of Indian Women in Anita Nair's Lessons in Forgetting," Melanie Wattenbarger, Univ. of Mumbai

574. Claiming West Asia: How to Think as a Continentalist

Saturday, 10 January, 3:30–4:45 p.m., 18, VCC East

Program arranged by the Discussion Group on West Asian Languages and Literatures and the Division on Comparative Studies in Twentieth-Century Literature

Presiding: Stephen Sheehi, Coll. of William and Mary

Speakers: Ali Behdad, Univ. of California, Los Angeles; Nergis Ertürk, Penn State Univ., University Park; Seteney Shami, Social Science Research Council; Veli N. Yashin, Columbia Univ.

Responding: Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Columbia Univ.

Session Description: This roundtable examines what it means to claim West Asia as a comparative literary space. It explores how the term West Asia supplements other regional categories (the Near East and Eurasia) and the practice of comparatism at large. Other topics to be discussed include critical regionalism; continentalism; the legacies of European, Russian, and Soviet Orientalisms; and literary communisms.

678. Politics of Difference and Poetics of Reconciliation

Sunday, 11 January, 8:30-9:45 a.m., 14 VCC East
Program arranged by the Discussion Group on South Asian Languages and Literatures
Presiding: Masood Raja, Univ. of North Texas

1. "Cosmopolitan Aesthetics in Shaheek Adilzada's Baazigar," Masood Raja


687. Beyond Monolingualism?

Sunday, 11 January, 10:15–11:30 a.m., 17, VCC East

A special session

Presiding: Avishek Ganguly, Rhode Island School of Design

Speakers: Caterina Bernardini, Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln; Mrinalini Chakravorty, Univ. of Virginia; Avishek Ganguly; Jonathan H. Hsy, George Washington Univ.; Anjuli Kolb, Williams Coll.; Yasemin Yildiz, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana

Responding: Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Columbia Univ.

Session Description: An exploration of the contingent foundations of the monolingual paradigm in literary studies, the reemergence of multilingualism, and their relation with translation.

691. South Asians in Africa

Sunday, 11 January, 10:15-11:30 a.m., East 14, VCC East

Program arranged by the South Asian Literary Association and the Division on African Literatures

Presiding: Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia Coll., IL

1. "Mapping an Interoceanic Landscape: Dube and Gandhi in Early-Twentieth-Century Durban," Rachel Matsha, Univ. of Kwa-Zulu, Natal

Respondent: Joya F. Uraizee, Saint Louis Univ.

749. Reading and Writing Caste, 1935–2015

Sunday, 11 January, 12:00 noon–1:15 p.m., 115, VCC West

A special session

Presiding: James Daniel Elam, Northwestern Univ.

1. "Untouchable Ethics, Dalit Politics," James Daniel Elam
Dear SALA members,

I am 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 kdaiya@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
**Why #BlackLivesMatter is Integral to South Asian Studies**

By Rahul K. Gairola (The City University of New York) and Pranav Jani (The Ohio State University)

**the following views are the authors’ comments alone, and do not officially represent SALA**

It is time to wake up.

The brutal murders of Black people by racist police and vigilantes in the past few years, ranging from Trayvon Martin to Renisha McBride to Kayla Moore to Michael Brown to John Crawford to Rekia Boyd to Eric Garner to Aiyana Jones to Tamir Rice and countless others, make it absolutely urgent for South Asians to inaugurate a critical mass in solidarity with our Black brothers and sisters. This needs to happen now. The numbers of Black and Brown lives extinguished by militant police force just in the past 15 years is disproportionately overwhelming. As John Thatamanil writes, “The pain of the African-American community should bring South Asians of conscience to grief, frustration and rage, not least because we know we are in this country because our Black brothers and sisters marched, fought and died to make this country a more just and inclusive nation.” The new body bags appear, in the colorblind age of Obama and neoliberal multiculturalism, divorced from global histories of bigotry like slavery, colonialism, Jim Crow, lynching, eugenics, bussing, segregation, apartheid, red-lining, incarceration, and the exploitative economic conditions imposed by multinational corporations and financial institutions like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

But when we look at the different histories of these modes of oppression, we do not see divergent trajectories. Rather, we see a panorama of disciplinary techniques that have fashioned and re-fashioned Black and Brown bodies as the ideal sites of institutional, ideological, and repressive state violence. Our humanism, our progressive ideas, our critical thinking – whatever we call it – means little if we stand aside at such a moment. Like fish swimming in a sewer, we are often oblivious to the most basic offenses of neo-imperial societies because we live and breathe in them. But now, we too cannot breathe, and urgently resolved to co-write this piece to catch our breath and share ideas. Solidarity is a survival strategy.

***

The conditions that lay the groundwork for solidarity with Black lives are not only those of oppression – which is nothing new – but a vibrant anti-racist resistance, led by the Black community itself. In August 2014, African Americans in Ferguson stood up against a militarized police force to demand justice for Michael Brown. Since then, activists and organizers have continued a steady series of grassroots actions—occupations, die-ins, protests, marches, rallies, speak-outs—demanding an end to racial discrimination and police murder, and linking Ferguson to the murders of other Black youth, including queer and female youth whose names are often erased in the mainstream. A new generation of Black and POC youth leaders have emerged—often queer, often female—demanding that establishment civil rights activists give space to new voices and grassroots tactics.

In this context – the most sustained period of mass, grassroots organizing against racism since the Civil Rights movement – it is urgent that scholars in South Asian Studies, as South Asians
ourselves and/or as teachers and researchers in the field, re-commit ourselves to the fight against anti-Black racism. This re-commitment can take various forms, including physically participating in and organizing actions, involving our colleagues and students in them, supporting educational spaces inside and outside of the classroom for youth to discuss and debate, and deepening our research efforts in terms of race and racialization in history, literature, culture, and theory.

We build this solidarity to support our Black friends and colleagues and neighbors, who face a racial hatred that is endemic to the very foundations of the United States, built on the labor of the enslaved. But we also do this for ourselves, because we cannot afford to do otherwise if we are to remain true to our own history and identity and scholarship. For those of us who are South Asians, understanding our own racialization in the US today requires understanding anti-Black racism. Whether we are celebrated as a “model minority” for being Asian American or demonized for being Muslim and “Muslim-looking,” or exoticized for our looks and food and clothing, we are being slotted into a racial and social hierarchy whose foundation is the systematic impoverishment, imprisonment, and murder of Black lives. Fighting against the stream of the Hindutva ideology that dominates the Indian American community – an ideology that offers our own brand of “whiteness” – we need to be part of the project to re-forge a new South Asian identity that is also quite old, that of Afro-Asian solidarity.

The basis for this solidarity and unity lies not only in common histories of racial oppression and empire, but also in strategies of coordinated resistance. Africa and South Asia have maintained intimate spaces geographically, culturally, historically, and ideologically over the past two centuries. Both regions of the world share the experience of European colonialism, albeit in different ways, and also of the violent imposition of racial hierarchies on their indigenous populations. The 1955 Bandung Conference, also known as the First Afro-Asian Conference, united African and Asian states in a bid to promote economic cooperation while opposing colonialism in all of its forms. It is known that the U.S. Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was influenced by the non-violent acts of mass civil disobedience promoted by Mahatma Gandhi and staged throughout South Asia as a means of shutting down the British Empire. While there are ample critiques of both of these figures individually, that they facilitated Afro-Asian ties between post-colonial South Asia and a turbulent, Civil Rights-era U.S. is indisputable.

Even today, shared theoretical panoramas abound between black and brown scholars. One such concept is that of “polyculturalism” (in contrast to “multiculturalism”) that both black scholar Robin D.G. Kelley and desi scholar Vijay Prashad use in describing the inter-saturation of culture and identity. We feel that these Afro-Asian connections warrant a much more concerted effort for South Asian Studies to collaborate with Africana and African American Studies scholarship. But such collaboration should not simply highlight moments of unity and solidarity, but also those of conflict and dissent. And this too is in line with the movement of today, which is seeking systemic change and is quite frustrated, at times, with leadership that only promises the same old strategies.

The challenges have been many. In the same vein in which white supremacy has historically engaged in “divide and conquer” tactics throughout the heyday of imperialism, the “model minority/meritocrat” myth continues to stoke divisions between Black and Brown communities in the U.S., Canada, the U.K., the E.U., South Africa, Uganda, Australia, etc. This neoliberal articulation of “fictive ethnicity,” to draw upon Etienne Balibar’s useful term, pits people of color against one another while competitively inserting them into the machinery of capitalism at the same time they are as-
saulted by racism, xenophobia, Islamaphobia, sexism, homophobia, etc.

While the conditions for people of color being included in the meritocratic (“boots straps”) state are stringent, the many possibilities for exclusion from it (and even imprisonment, deportation, death) are infinite and always possible. America’s perpetual wars are a macabre funhouse mirror that reflects its attacks on its own citizens and residents. Indeed, even the umbrella terms “Black” (as used in Britain in the 1980s) and “people of color” in the U.S. risk homogenizing different groups of oppressed folks while ignoring the racism that can exist between them. Despite this, some Asian American organizations and individuals are leading this effort. For example, a recent cover story in *India Abroad* elucidated to a general audience the urgent stakes involved for “a small but determined number of desis,” while SALA member Professor Sonora Jha (Seattle University) has recently written on how the “ghettoized representation of diverse communities” adds to popular anti-Black caricatures.

This is a good start, but we must interrogate the meaning of Afro-Asian solidarity when China is imperializing eastern Africa for minerals. We must critically ask why Gandhi did not work with Black South Africans in his historic struggles for South Asian migrants in the late nineteenth century—or what it means that Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi consolidated their neoliberal deal upon the same Gandhi-King narrative. We must excavate what lies beneath the rise of anti-African racism in India, which Delhi activists focused on recently in a Ferguson solidarity rally. We must open up, for a new generation of activists, the historic links between Black and Dalit struggles for liberation. We need to acknowledge the failures of pan-African and pan-Asian nationalisms and regionalisms, and of the “Third World,” as viable projects to combat imperialism. We have to develop new understandings of white solidarity with anti-racist struggle to pursue the question of what exactly it means if white supremacy is indeed linked to capitalism, which exploits all of the 99%. South Asian Studies scholars have a great deal to learn from the current struggle for Black lives, and we have a great deal of knowledge and experience to contribute.

The question is: do we recognize the urgency of this moment?

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Downtown Manhattan, looking south towards the Freedom Tower, with streets blockaded for the Millions March that brought about 50,000 protestors to New York City on December 13, 2014 — courtesy Rahul K. Gairola

Have news, pictures, feature story ideas, CFPs, and/or personal milestones you’d like to share with the SALA community of scholars, teachers, and allies? Submit it for publication in the Summer 2015 issue of *salaam*! Please send your items in MS Word format to Rahul Gairola at rgairola@uw.edu by June 1st, 2015!
SALA is proud to announce that on December 19, 2014 Dr. K. D. Verma’s son Mr. Richard Verma was sworn in as the U.S. Ambassador to India. Former Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs in the Obama administration, Mr. Richard Verma is the first Indian American to hold this important position. He is currently a senior counselor at Steptoe & Johnson law firm and the Albright Stonebridge Group, a business advisory company, led by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. He shares close ties with Obama’s White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough, National Security Adviser Susan Rice, and senior adviser John Podesta. His success against great odds is at once inspirational and also a point of pride for SALA.

Chandrima Chakraborty (Associate Professor, Department of English and Cultural Studies, McMaster University, Canada) edited a Special Issue “Mapping South Asian Masculinities: Men and Political Crises” for the journal, *South Asian History and Culture* 5.4 (2014). This collection of essays employs political crisis as a frame to analyze how South Asian men and masculinities have been shaped by critical historical events that have redrawn maps and remapped or unmapped bodies with different effects in South Asia and in the diaspora.

Maryse Jayasuriya was named Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Texas at El Paso in September 2014.

Uma Parameswaran (Retired Professor, University of Winnipeg), was one of a three-member jury that decided on the winner of the 2014 Governor General’s Fiction Award. The Award was given to the best work of fiction by a Canadian author published between September 2013 and September 2014. She reports that there were seven works in the list of 231 entries that she could identify as written by South Asian Canadian writers.

Amritjit Singh, former SALA President (2000-03) and current Advisor (2010-16), is in India for 2014-15 at Delhi University on a Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship. In May 2014, he gave the closing plenary talk “Migration, Exile, and Non-Violence: Through a Transnational Glass Darkly,” at the International Conference on “Cultural Politics of Memory,” in Cardiff, Wales. At Ohio University, where Professor
Salaam 38.2

SALAMember News

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

Singh is the Langston Hughes Professor of English, he has been chosen for the 2014 Faculty Award for Excellence in Global Engagement. His new publications include an essay titled “Langston Hughes Speaks of Indian Rivers” in the January 2014 issue of Re-Markings, as well as the Foreword a collection of new essays, Richard Wright in a Post-Racial Imaginary, edited by Alice M. Craven and William E. Dow and published in New York by Bloomsbury.

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak is working on two book projects at the moment tentatively titled DuBois in the World and Of Derrida, both with Harvard University Press. She also hosted Eduardo Cadava’s “Forests of Memory” lecture at Columbia University on November 24, 2014 (below, photo courtesy of Rahul K. Gairola).

Brian Yother was promoted from Associate Professor to full Professor of English at the University of Texas at El Paso. He was also a 2014 recipient of the University of Texas Regents Outstanding Teaching Award.

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 manuscripts.

Fill out the query page at http://www.peterlang.com/index.cfm?cid=95, or send your manuscripts to Michelle Salyga at michelle.salyga@plang.com.

Dear SALA Colleagues,

JNU has finally advertised for a Professor in English. Please circulate this information. The advertisement can be accessed from the JNU website: http://www.jnu.ac.in/Career/ADVT_NO_RC_49_2014.pdf

GJV Prasad
Editor, JSL
Chairperson, IACLALS
Professor, Centre for English Studies
School of Language Literature & Culture Studies
Jawaharlal Nehru University
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India
CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2015 Regular Issue of the South Asian Review

South Asian Review, the refereed journal of the South Asian Literary Association, invites submissions for the 2015 Regular Issue, Volume 36, Number 2 (October/November). SAR is a representative scholarly forum for the examination of South Asian languages and literatures in a broad cultural context. The journal invites healthy and constructive dialogue on issues pertaining to South Asia, especially to its literature and the sister arts. It welcomes critical and analytical essays on any aspect or period of South Asian literature (ancient, precolonial, colonial, and, indeed, the postcolonial). SAR is open to all ideas, positions, and critical and theoretical approaches. Recognizing the linguistic and cultural diversity of the subcontinent, the journal stays interested in essays about intercultural, comparative, and interdisciplinary studies in the humanities. For periodic publications, SAR encourages essays on music, painting, sculpture, architecture, and other related fields. The following areas are of special interest to the journal:

South Asian Literatures  Cultural Studies
South Asian Languages  Colonial Studies
South Asian Studies  Postcolonial Studies
South Asian Culture  Comparative Literature
South Asian Diaspora  Women’s Studies
Comparative Aesthetic  Film Studies
Literary Theory  Transcultural Studies

Critical articles of 15–25 pages, prepared in accordance with the MLA style, accompanied by a 100-word abstract and a biographical note of nearly 50 words, must be received by May 30, 2015. Articles should be sent electronically.

All correspondence pertaining to the 2014 and following issues should be addressed to:

Dr. P. S. Chauhan
Professor of English, and
Editor, South Asian Review
Arcadia University
450 South Easton Road
Glenside, PA 19038-3295
Phone: 215-517-2401 | ausar@arcadia.edu
Ahhh, Chicago. The Windy City, the chilly metropolis we are leery of in both the winter and the summer, but which nonetheless constantly hosts the SALA and MLA conventions while also indulging visitors to a wealth of museums, music, sights, sounds, cuisine, etc. A city that also boasts a large desi community on Devon Avenue, also known as “Little India.” Like this dazzling city, SALA 2014 was full of highlights and moments that were captured by our very own photographer, Noopur Banerji. The images on the following are all courtesy of Banerji, who did a fantastic job of serving as the eyes for those who were unable to make it to the Windy City during the great polar vortex of 2014.

(Counterclockwise): Stylistic shot of the SALA logo; Professor Timothy Brennen striking a Hitchcock-esque profile during his keynote lecture on M.N.Roy; Moumin Quazi with Awardee M.G. Vassanji; Amritjit Singh’s acceptance speech; SALA attendees pose for a random shot. — courtesy Noopur Banerji
(Clockwise): Co-Chair Madhurima Chakravorty at the podium; Professor Brennan with Keya Ganguly, his partner; Liam O’Loughlin, Waseem Anwar, and other attendees listen intently; Madhurima with Co-Chair Umme Al-Wazedi; Vasaanji accepts the Award; and Payel Chattopadhyay Mukherji accepts a Grad Student Award for her essay.
Remembering Chelva Kanaganayakam, FRSC

By Aparna Halpé
Professor of English, Centennial College, Toronto

On the evening of November 22nd 2014, when Chelva Kanaganayakam was tragically taken from us, he had just been inducted into the Royal Society of Canada. Characteristically, Chelva, as he was known to his colleagues, students and friends, was profoundly aware of the single honor the society had bestowed on a migrant Tamil intellectual and scholar, and yet as a scholar of postcolonial studies, he could delight in the many ironies at work. It was the kind of paradox at which he would smile his enigmatic smile, while his eyes twinkled with mischief.

Chelva was a man who inhabited many worlds with ease. The son of the formidable Tamil scholar and intellectual, V. Chelvanayakam, he came by his commitment to a life of the mind very early in life. His journey to becoming a scholar and intellectual of international stature was not without trial and tribulation. Chelva was one of a group of young students at the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, whose academic life was callously disrupted by the University reorganizations of the 1970s. But Chelva never let politics contain or define him. As a young lecturer at the University of Jaffna, he worked tirelessly to ensure that his students had access to the foremost writers, artists and intellectuals of the post-independence era in Sri Lanka, thereby fostering a climate of scholarly inquiry that was not bound by narrow nationalist divisions.

Winning a Commonwealth scholarship, Chelva went on to do a Ph.D. at the University of British Columbia with W.H. New, and eventually became the first scholar hired to teach postcolonial literature at the University of Toronto. He was director of the Centre for South Asian Studies at the University of Toronto, where he co-founded the Tamil Studies Conference, the largest gathering of its kind. He was also the founder of the Tamil Literary Garden, an initiative that has nourished the voices of lesser known Tamil writers. Chelva's many volumes of translations speak for themselves. His landmark translation, Ritual (2011), brought a nuanced and sensitive rendering of S. Ponnuthurai's literary gem, Sadangu, to a greater reading public. At the time of his passing, Chelva was working on a “Literary History of South Asian Writing” for Cambridge UP.

But it is the man we remember. That wide, unselfconscious smile, that boyish laughter. He was the kind of mentor who invited his students into his life to share in his joys and sorrows. Chelva would bring us home to scrumptious meals cooked by Thiru, his loving wife and pillar of support since his undergraduate days. We would gather round the table, multiple generations, multiple voices ringing out with laughter, with stories from Kandy and Mumbai and Manila all finding their place as we tucked into string hoppers or pittu. So let us remember him laughing, a great man who walked among us with gentle humility, who always found the time to reach out his hand, to share a sly joke.

I can't really say goodbye, so I return to his own words, from his translation of Puthuvai Ratnathurai’s “A Poet’s Fearless Death”:

[...]
when my body lies at home;
sing my songs,
read my poems aloud,
be at peace;
I came
lived
and left;
no, I did my best
and returned;
for me
that will suffice.
(Wilting Laughter, 101)
In Memoriam
M. K. Naik

For me, the passing of Professor M. K. Naik is both a personal and professional loss. I had experienced his gracious company many times in the 1970s and 1980s and until a few years ago, I was receiving postcards and letters from him on a regular basis.

Dr. Naik was a most productive, lucid, and witty Professor of Literature in all of India. He is the editor, co-editor or author of at least 20 books mostly on Indian Writing on English – including monographs on Raja Rao, W. Somerset Maugham, and Mulk Raj Anand. Perhaps no one did more than M. K. Naik to carry forward the work of Professor K. R. Srinivasa Iyengar in developing Indian Literature in English as a distinct and strong area of study. Perspectives on Indian Poetry in English and similar volumes he edited on other genres remain useful resources to this day. Of course, he is remembered most for his pioneering History of Indian English Literature, published by Sahitya Akademi in 1982. I knew how meticulous he was a scholar when, as part of his preparation for the Sahitya Akademi History, he took the trouble of visiting my Hyderabad home on two or three consecutive days to review the manuscript of Indian Literature in English, 1827-1979 (1981), edited by me with Irene Joshi and Rajiva Verma. Our manuscript too improved as a result of a few suggestions Dr. Naik made after his review.

Dr. Subhendu Mund has referenced Naik’s delightful comic verse, written under the pseudonym EMKEN and available in Indian Clerihews (1989), Indian Limericks (1990), and More Indian Clerihews (1992). He was an astute and methodical editor, who nudged many professors in India (including myself) to read and write on Indian Literature. Without his persuasive powers, I would not have completed "Contemporary Indo-English Literature: An Approach," which served as the opening piece in Aspects of Indian Writing in English Essays in Honor of Prof. K.R. Srinivasa Iyengar, edited by Professor Naik for Macmillan in 1979. As Department Chair at Dharwad, Dr. Naik was one of the first academic leaders to embrace and support Canadian Studies in India and in the mid-1980s, my wife and I were happy to welcome him and Mrs. Naik to our Queens home, as he traveled to Ottawa to give some invited lectures.

In 1994, anticipating his 70th birthday, some colleagues and former students were eager to bring out a festschrift in his honor. C.R. Yaravintelimath, C.V. Venugopal, G. S. Balarama Gupta, and I served as co-editors of New Perspectives in Indian Literature in English: Essays in Honor of Professor M. K. Naik (1995).

We owe M. K. Naik a deep debt of gratitude for his important work as a teacher, mentor, and scholar. May he rest in peace!

Amritjit Singh
Ohio University
CALL FOR PAPERS

Emerging Social Activism in South Asian Film, Literature and New Media:
A Cultural Studies Perspective

Papers are invited for a book chronicling the expressions of feminist solidarity in contemporary South Asia that coalesce in the wake of sexual assaults on women, such as the Delhi student gang-rape in December 2012, the state-led sexual violence against women in various parts of South Asia, cultural violence on women (domestic, caste, sectarian), gendered violence during war, etc. Co-edited by Dr. Sonora Jha (Seattle University) and Dr. Alka Kurian (University of Washington Bothell), the book will take a cultural studies perspective to unravel these complex interlinked strands of inquiry where an understanding of social movements and their representations against gendered violence will be studied through the lens of colonialism, nationalism, citizenship, globalization, transnationalism, neo-liberalism, patriarchy, feminism, the human rights discourse, etc. How is violence against women embedded in South Asia’s colonial, neo-colonial, and patriarchal legacy? How is globalization lived in the day-to-day modernity of the region’s dual economy? How does neo-liberal economy structure multiple patriarchies across class and regional divide? How does one understand the human rights and feminist discourse within a transnational context? How does the medium of social media – unfettered, immediate, current, and authentic – help mobilize against forces of capitalist, militaristic, and patriarchal misogyny? What is the power of representational discourse (film, literature) in promoting dissent against systemic oppression?

Routledge, USA has already shown interest in publishing the book, which will draw from academics, writers and activists studying recent feminist practice in films, literature, and theatre emerging from India, as well as the unprecedented cross-border solidarity and social movements that have emerged on social media, facilitating the production of independent media that pushes feminist dialogue into the common public sphere. The editors invite academic papers from scholars and writers on the emergence of new forms and articulations of dissent, experience, identity and contemporary readings of patriarchy.

Topics solicited include but are not limited to the following:

- Anti-rape movements in South Asia
- Dalit feminist “difference” and caste patriarchy
- Law and sexual assault against women
- Gender, class, caste, and sectarian violence
- State and sexual terrorism
- Gendered politics of resistance
- Social change through social media
- Representation as revolution
- Feminist politics and film/literature
- Transnational solidarity

Please send abstracts (250 words) or papers, if ready (6000-8000 words) addressed to the co-editors, Dr. Sonora Jha (sonora@seattleu.edu) and Dr. Alka Kurian (AKurian@uwb.edu) by January 15, 2015. Final submission of accepted papers will be due on June 1, 2015.
CALL FOR PAPERS

South Asian Canadian Literature and Culture

South Asian Review, the refereed journal of the South Asian Literary Association, invites submissions for its 2015 Special Topic Issue, 36.3, devoted to South Asian Canadian Literature. The recent centennial of the Komagata Maru incident underscores the storied history of South Asians arriving, struggling, and putting down their roots in Canada. Canonical and emerging South Asian Canadian writers and artists have raised some fraught issues about the nation’s reception of South Asians and the efficacy of Canadian multiculturalism.

This special issue of SAR aims to represent all literary and filmic genres with a Canadian connection; to identify critical trends; and to evaluate the works of new as well as established South Asian Canadian authors. All critical approaches to texts (literary or filmic) are welcome. Topics of interest include the following:

* The portrayal of Canada by South Asian writers and artists (living in Canada or abroad)
* The South Asian Canadian writers and artists’ portrayal of their homelands
* Becoming Canadian? South Asians and the Canadian mosaic: hybridity, heterogeneity, homogeneity, immigration policies
* Comparative work on the South Asian Canadian diaspora
* Critical assessments of under-represented or emerging creative artists
* Fresh assessments of the critically acclaimed works of Balachandra Rajan, Michael Ondaatje, Rohinton Mistry, M.G. Vassanji, Anita Rau Badami, Cyril Dabydeen, Shyam Selvadurai and others
* Writings of double or triple-displaced South Asian Canadians such as M.G. Vassanji, Shani Mootoo, Samuel Selvon, and others
* Gender performativity, women’s voices, bodies, struggles
* Creating a self: power, sex, queerness, otherness
* Indigeneity and the South Asian diaspora
* Political trauma, terror, and tragedy: 1947 Partition, Air India 182 bombing, Komagata Maru, 9/11, and beyond.
* Transgenerational and transnational memories, experiences, activism
* Navigating Canadian languages beyond English or French: South Asian poetry and drama
* CanLit and minority voices: canons, representations, critical pedagogy
* South Asian writers and artists’ contribution to Canadian national literature and culture

Abstracts of 100 words invited by 15 January 2015. Finished articles of 15-25 pages, prepared in accordance with the MLA Handbook (7th ed.), along with abstracts of approximately 100 words and a 50-word bio-note, should be sent as Word documents by 20 April 2015.

The Special Issue will be guest-edited by Dr. Robin E. Field, King’s College, PA (USA)—email: robin-field@kings.edu; and Dr. Chandrima Chakraborty, McMaster U, Hamilton, Ontario (Canada)—email: chand dri@mcmaster.ca. Please address your inquiries to the guest editors.
SALA 2014 General Business Meeting Minutes
Aloft Hotel, Chicago, January 8, 2014


SALA President, Dr. Moumin Quazi, called the meeting to order. He thanked all participants and the co-chairs, Dr. Madhurima Chakraborty and Dr. Umme Al-Wazedi, for this year’s conference. The president read an e-mail from the vice president, Dr. Prabhjot Parmar. In the e-mail, the vice-president thanked the members of the executive committee and especially Dr. Robin Field for her eagerness to step up to help with the treasurer-search. She pointed that since Dr. Umme Al-Wazedi had agreed to take the post, the committee should consider this. Dr. Parmar’s motion was accepted and the floor was opened for discussion. Dr. Pennie Ticen “called the question.” There was a vote and people supported that Dr. Al-Wazedi be the treasurer (for one year, to be renewed for a 2-year term in 2015).

Next, votes were taken for several Constitution revisions brought to the floor by the executive committee. The first one was about email business protocol. Article VI: We can use e-mail meetings instead of meeting once a year. Dr. Amritjit Singh seconded. Dr. Maya Sharma called the question. Dr. Waseem Anwar questioned: was it for everything? Dr. Quazi answered: only those things that can be talked about. The issue passed unanimously. Article IV was amended: already in effect (a graduate student will be represented in the committee). There will be 5 people instead of 4 in the executive committee. There was a vote to adopt the language. It was seconded by Dr. Gairola. The issue passed. There was also a vote about publishing the abstracts in the web. Dr. Maryse Jayasuriya seconded. Dr. Waseem Anwar asked: can people change the abstracts? Dr. Madhurima Chakraborty said yes. After discussion, the question was called, and it passed unanimously. The next vote was on Article VI, Section 2. Dr. Maya Sharma commented: the language for MLA changed, why don’t we change with the change of MLA. Friendly amendment for the amendment was taken. Dr. Ticen: members should be made aware of the change. Ani seconded. The question was called by Dr. Jayasuriya. It passed unanimously. Article V: Dr. Al-Wazedi will finish the term and then the executive committee will recommend again. Dr. Cynthia Leenerts seconded. The question was called by Dr. Amritjit Singh. It was unanimously passed. The next agenda was web manager voting rights. As an effective post, we should decide on a voting member. Dr. Jayasuriya called the question. It passed unanimously.

The next discussion was about tax filing. Dr. Quazi notified that studies are being done. It has to be filed from Texas and it will take approximately 5 months. Dr. Quazi also said that he has been digitally archiving all files. Now all the files are in a flash drive.

The next discussion was about the name of the newsletter. The president thanked Dr. Gairola for his work on the newsletter. Dr. Gairola proposed SALAAM, and Dr. Sharma seconded it. Dr. Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay pointed out that other names have been proposed. This one was chosen because it was inclusive. A vote was taken. It was passed unanimously. Dr. Gairola asked for photos to be published in the newsletter. The president reminded everybody about the SAR’s deadlines.

Several other elections took place in the meeting: 1) Graduate student representative: Melanie, Liam, Alison were nominated and after a vote the graduate student position went to Melanie Wattenbarger, as she had the majority vote. 2) In the non-graduate student positions, the following people were nominated: Dr. Alpana Sharma and Dr. Cynthia Leenerts (nominated). Dr. Alpana Sharma was elected.

Among other business, the 2015 conference theme/cfp was discussed. The conference co-chairs are Dr. Prabhjot Parmar and Dr. Sharanpal Ruprai. Their working title is: “Outsiders, outcasts, and others: borders and boundaries.” There was a discussion about 2015 MLA guaranteed and non-guaranteed sessions. The president notified the committee about the 2015 SALA awardees. Dr. Quazi contacted Dr. Homi Bhabha. If the members will allow, then Dr. Quazi will ask him again. Dr. Ticen seconded enthusiastically. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Umme Al-Wazedi (for Nalini Iyer)
January 7, 2014
SOUTH ASIAN LITERARY ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

If you have not yet renewed your membership in SALA for calendar year 2015, please take a moment to do it now. Membership in SALA entitles you to keep receiving the SALA Newsletter, as well as to receive the refereed journal, South Asian Review.

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SOUTH ASIAN LITERARY ASSOCIATION
An Allied Organization of the Modern Language Association

- SALA promotes knowledge of, and scholarly interest in, the languages, cultures, and literatures of South Asia and the South Asian diaspora. Membership in the Association is open to all individuals and libraries/institutions/organizations interested in South Asian literature, culture, languages, and philosophy, and also in comparative studies.

- SALA hosts up to three sessions at the Modern Language Association’s annual convention and, in addition, hosts an independent annual conference during the same week as the MLA Convention.

- SALA publishes a newsletter carrying announcements of its MLA sessions, scholarly activities and accomplishments of its members, new titles in the field, and other valuable information for those interested in South Asian literatures.

- SALA also publishes a refereed journal, the *South Asian Review* (*SAR*), a representative scholarly forum for the examination of South Asian languages and literatures in a broad cultural context. The journal invites healthy and constructive dialogue on issues pertaining to South Asian literatures, arts, and cultures.

- *SAR*, intended for an audience of various disciplines, welcomes critical and analytical essays on any aspect or period of South Asian literature (ancient, pre-colonial, colonial, and postcolonial). *SAR* is open to all critical and theoretical approaches.

- Membership dues include subscriptions to the *Newsletter* and the *South Asian Review*.

Reminder: If you have any announcements you would like to see in the Summer 2015 issue of *salaam*, please send them in the form of an e-mail (MS Word attachments only, please)
To Rahul Gairola at rgairola@uw.edu
by May 1, 2015

For membership forms, announcements, CFPs, and other information

Visit the SALA Webpage at:
http://www.southasianliteraryassociation.org/