# Conference Schedule

**Sunday: January 7, 2018**

5:00-7:00 PM  
**Meeting:** SALA Executive Committee 
Carnegie

**Day 1: Monday: January 8, 2018**

7:30 AM onward  
**Registration** 
Julliard Foyer

8:00-8:20 AM  
**Conference Welcome:** John Hawley, SALA President 
**Opening:** Sukanya Gupta & Afrin Zeenat, Conference Co-Chairs 
Julliard

8:30-9:45 AM  
**Can the Subaltern Speak: Thirty (Insecure) Years Later** 
Plenary 
Chair: Rajeswari Sunder Rajan, New York University 
Julliard

X Marks the Spot: Critical Notes on Queer Eroticism in Postcolonial India  
Rahul K. Gairola, Independent Scholar

One Cannot Speak What One Does Not See: Queer Sexual Identities and Hybridity in Postcolonial Discourse  
Robert LaRue, Moravian College

Locating Human Labor in the Age of the Anthropocene: Digital Subalternity, Leisure/Work and Digital Financialization  
Radhika Gajjala, Bowling Green State University

Ethics of Representation and the Figure of the Woman: The Question of Agency in Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak’s “Can the Subaltern Speak?”  
Anirban Bhattacharjee, Santipur College and the University of Kalyani

**Respondent:** Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Columbia University
SESSION 1 (PANELS 1A, 1B, & 1C)

Panel 1A Guggenheim
States of Insecurity: Framing New Heuristics for Literature from Northeast India
Panel Chair: Uddipana Goswami, University of Pennsylvania

A Botany of Death: Disavowed Pasts and Horizons of Futurity in “Sambhabya Kaal”
Amit R. Baishya, University of Oklahoma

Sub-National Fantasies in Genre Fiction: A Study of Kanchan Baruah’s Asimot Jar Heral Sima.
Shalim Muktadir Hussain, Jamia Millia Islamia

Uddipana Goswami, University of Pennsylvania

Literary Representation of Conflict and Insecurity: The Case of Nagaland in Temsula Ao’s Short Fiction
Nupur Chawla, Jamia Millia Islamia

Panel 1B Julliard
Media Precarities I
Panel Chair: Nalini Iyer, Seattle University

South Asian Bodies in American Television: Representation and Resistance
Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, Texas A&M University-Kingsville

Precarious Politics: Gender-Based Violence in Recent Digital Graphic Novels
Jana Fedtke, American University of Sharjah

Qawwali and Resistance: A Study of The Reluctant Fundamentalist (Film)
Muhammad Waqar Azeem, Binghamton University-SUNY

Panel 1C Metropolitan
Identity/Resistance Precarities
Panel Chair: Waseem Anvar, Forman Christian College University

Precarity and Resistance: Women in Chitra Diva Karuni’s Silver Pavements, Golden Roofs and The Thing Around Your Neck by Chimamanda Adichie
Saiyeda Khatoon, Johnson & Wales University

Migration and Sexuality in S. J. Sindu’s Marriage of a Thousand Lies and Rahul Mehta’s No Other World
Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas at El Paso

Precarious Derealisation as a Mode of Protest in Animal’s People
Sagnika Chanda, University of Pittsburgh
The Precariousness of the Afghan Identity in Khaled Hosseini’s *The Kite Runner*
Farah Siddiqui, University of Texas at Dallas

11:30 AM-12:45 PM

**SESSION 2 (PANELS 2A, 2B, & 2C)**

**Panel 2A**
*Diaspora Precarities*

*Panel Chair: Amritjit Singh, Ohio University*

Sikhs in Afghanistan at the Cusp of Taliban Rule in 1990 and After
Abdollah Zahiri, Seneca College, King Campus, Toronto

Unhomely Home: The Precariousness of Being, Belonging, and Becoming
Payel Chattopadhyay Mukherjee, Ahmedabad University

South African Gujarati Literature: An Inventory and Critical Commentary
Mrunal Chavda, University of Cape Town

Situating Kwai-Yun Li’s *The Palm Leaf Fan* in Diasporic South Asian Literature,
Asha Jeffers, University of King’s College

**Panel 2B**
*Roy Precarities*

*Panel Chair: Jana Fedtke, American University of Sharjah*

“By slowly becoming everybody”: Building Community for the Unconsoled in Arundhati Roy’s *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*
Pennie Ticen, Virginia Military Institute

Precarious Duniyas: Post-Human Subjectivity and Politics in *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*
Rituparna Mitra, James Madison College

Post-Magic: The Female Naxalite at 50 in Arundhati Roy’s *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*
Meghan Gorman-DaRif, University of Texas at Austin

**Panel 2C**
*Queer Precarities I*

*Panel Chair: Umme Al-Wazedi, Augustana College*

Writing the *Bacha Posh* & Literary Care Communities
Sukanya Gupta, University of Southern Indiana

Coordinated Resistance in Arundhati Roy’s *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*
Romy Rajan, University of Florida
Panel 2D
General Precarities
Carnegie

**Panel Chair:** Amit Baishya, University of Oklahoma

Sanitation and Civility in Rohinton Mistry’s *Squatter*
Rebecca Kumar, Morehouse College

Melancholia and Violence in selected works of Bharati Mukherjee
Rima Bhattacharya, IIT Kanpur

The Laws and Politics of Precarity
Naila Sahar, SUNY Buffalo

1:00-2:00 PM
LUNCH AT HOTEL

2:15-3:30 PM
**SESSION 3: Graduate Student Professionalization: The Pragmatics of Professionalism**
Julliard

**Panel Co-Chairs:** Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay (Texas A&M University-Kingsville) and Moumin Quazi (Tarleton State University)

Pennie Ticen, Virginia Military Institute

Robin Field, King’s College

Moumin Quazi (Tarleton State University)

Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay (Texas A&M University-Kingsville)

3:45-5:00 PM
Metropolitan

**Panel Chair:** Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia College Chicago

John Hawley, Professor of English, Santa Clara University

Nalini Iyer, Professor of English, Seattle University

Pallavi Rastogi, Associate Professor of English, Louisiana State University

Madhurima Chakraborty, Associate Professor of English, Columbia College Chicago

END OF SESSIONS FOR DAY 1

5:00-6:15 PM
**GRADUATE CAUCUS** (led by Asha Jeffers, University of King’s College)

Julliard
6:15-7:30 PM  GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING  
Julliard

7:30-8:15 PM  DINNER on your own

8:30-10:30 PM  *Hamara Mushaira: Literary Arts Event*  
Julliard  
Organized and moderated by Amritjit Singh, Ohio University  

Tahira Naqvi, New York University  
Vandana Singh and featuring several members of SALA

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**DAY 2: TUESDAY: JANUARY 9, 2018**

8:15- 9:15 AM  REGISTRATION  
Julliard Foyer

9:30-10:45 AM  SESSION 5 (PANELS 5A, 5B, & 5C)  

**Panel 5A**  
*Media Precarities II*  
Panel Chair: Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, Texas A&M University  

Aspects in the Cinema on Migrants, and the Cross-culture Flow of Concepts  
Maria-Dolores García-Borrón, Independent scholar

Mass Rape during the 1947 Partition and its Representation or Silencing in Hindi Cinema  
Nidhi Srivastava, University of Western Ontario

Ostracized Pakistani Hijras and Transmisogyny in Bol  
Iqra Shagufta Cheema, University of North Texas

Romancing Widows: Insecure Women in Ishqiya and Dedh Ishqiya  
Madhavi Biswas, University of Texas at Dallas

**Panel 5B**  
*Gender Precarities*  
Panel Chair: Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia College Chicago

Precarity and Resistance in Zubaan Books’ Drawing the Line: Indian Women Fight Back  
Anuja Madan, Kansas State University

The ‘Other’ Side of Silence: Resisting Anonymity in Mahasweta Devi’s Draupadi  
Amrita De, SUNY Binghamton
The Precariousness of Muslim Women in Post-9/11 United States: A Study of Shaila Abdullah's Saffron Dreams
Zunaira Yousuf, Binghamton University-SUNY

Of Personality Grooming Schools and Neoliberalism: Fashioning the New Working Woman
Suchismita Chattopadhyay, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies

Panel 5C
Guggenheim

Economic Precarities
Panel Chair: Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University

Domestic Servants and Upper Class Narrators in Attia Hosain’s Short Stories
Ambreen Hai, Smith College

Dangerous Liaisons: The Nexus of High Finance and Terrorism in Ayad Akhtar’s The Invisible Hand
Lopamudra Basu, University of Wisconsin-Stout

Racialized Encoding: Hari Kunzru’s Transmission, Capitalist Realism, and the South Asian Laboring Body
Alden Sajor Wood, University of California, Irvine

11:00 AM-12:15 PM
SESSION 6 (PANELS 6A, 6B, & 6C)

Panel 6A
Guggenheim

Queer Precarities II
Panel Chair: Payel Chattopadhyay Mukherjee, Ahmedabad University

Gendered Citizenship and the Chitmahals
Umme Al-Wazedi, Augustana College

Sports, Desire and Law: Who is Afraid of Forbidden Sex/Body?
Gourab Ghosh, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Trans-forming the lives of Transgenders in India
Shaweta Nanda, Central University of Himachal Pradesh

Panel 6B
Metropolitan

Care Communities & Precarity
Panel Chair: Bonnie Zare, Virginia Tech University

Drawing attention: Artists Opening the Way Towards Safe Public Space
Bonnie Zare, Virginia Tech University

Precarity, Ressentiment and Negative Solidarity in Zia Haider Rahman’s In the Light of What We Know
Afrin Zeenat, University of Dhaka

Creating Communities of Care: Spirituality and Friendship in the Age of Insecurity
Nisha B. Eswaran, McMaster University
Panel 6C  
**Genre Precarities**
*Panel Chair: Pallavi Rastogi, Louisiana State University*

**War of the Words: Fighting out the Geopolitical Disaster**  
Pallavi Rastogi, Louisiana State University

**Is the Precarious the same as the Postcolonial**  
Auritro Majumdar, University of Houston

**Caring for the Precarious: The Ethics of Retelling Life Stories**  
Melanie R. Wattenbarger, Bishop Gorman High School

**Touching, Feeling, Reading: Genre Fiction in the Age of Precarity**  
Charlotte Salmi, Queen Mary University of London

12:30 PM-1:30 PM  
**LUNCH AT HOTEL**

1:30-2:45 PM  
**SESSION 7 (PANELS 7A, 7B, &7C)**

Panel 7A  
**Environmental Precarities**  
*Panel Chair: John Hawley, Santa Clara University*

**Manohar Mouli Biswas, Amitav Ghosh, and The Great Derangement: Countering Androcentrism in an Age of Precarity**  
John Hawley, Santa Clara University

**An Economy of Broken Bodies in Animal’s People**  
Sukshma Vedere, George Washington University

**Precarious Poetry: Institutionalized ecological destruction and the changing idea of home in Fijian Literature**  
Tana Trivedi, Ahmedabad University

Panel 7B  
**Poetry Precarities**  
*Panel Chair: Melanie R. Wattenbarger, Bishop Gorman High School*

**The Indian Mushairah as Space of Dissent, Solidarity, and Critique**  
Maaz Bin Bilal, O.P. Jindal Global University

**The Poetics of Precarity: Images of Indenture in Indo-Caribbean Poetry**  
Alison Klein, Duke University

**A Postcolonial Analysis of the Fragments in Akhteruzzaman Elias’s Chlekothar Sepai**  
Asif Iqbal, Michigan State University

Panel 7C  
**Hamidian Precarities**  
*Panel Chair: Abdollah Zahiri, Seneca College, King Campus, Toronto*
Emergency Thrillers and the State of Security
Ayelet Ben-Yishai, University of Haifa / Cornell Society for the Humanities

Of Borders and Magic Doors: New Directions in Pakistani Fiction
Shazia Sadaf, Western University Canada

Exit and (Re)Enter: Traversing through Doorways of Insecurities
Jayana Jain Punamiya, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster and University of Mumbai

3:00-4:15 PM

SESSION 8 (PANELS 8A, 8B, & 8C)

Panel 8A
Pedagogical Precarities
Panel Chair: Robin Field, King’s College

Pedagogical Precarity: Teaching the Precariats of Lit.-Crit. Theory “Queerly” (in Pakistan)
Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College, and Sameer Afzal, Beaconhouse Systems

Humanistic Education, Radical Pedagogy, and Semiocapital
Masood Raja, University of North Texas

Considering the Pedagogical Importance of Sri Lankan Literature:
Insecurity and Healing in Rohin Mohan’s The Seasons of Trouble
Collen Lutz Clemens, Kutztown University

Panel 8B
Literal Precarities
Panel Chair: Summer Pervez, Lahore School of Economics

The Agitator’s Voice: Trials and Tribulations in Regional Muslim Literature in Telugu
M.G. Prasuna, BITS Pilani-Hyderabad

New Directions in Pakistani Fiction in English: On the Formation of Care Communities in Mohsin Hamid’s Exit West and Faiqa Mansab’s This House of Clay and Water
Summer Pervez, Lahore School of Economics

The Class Called Literary Precariat: The Question of Canon-formation and Literary Elitism in Gujarati Literature
Chirag Trivedi, Ahmedabad University

Epistemology of Precarity: A Study of Pakistani Anglophone Writing
Zakia Rashid, Riphah International University

Panel C
Problematic Bodies & Precarity
Panel Chair: Kathleen Fernando, Kenyon College
Putting People Back Together: Caring for the militant body and Tamil Femininity in V.V. Ganeshananthan's Love Marriage
Kathleen Fernando, Kenyon College

Dalit Victimisation: Recasting the Nation and Re-Claiming the Pariah Identity in Bama's Sangati
Khem Guragain, York University

Consuming Caste: Dalit Foods, Precarity and Resistance
Ruma Sinha, Syracuse University

END OF SESSIONS FOR DAY 2

6:00-7:30 PM
CONFERENCE KEYNOTE ADDRESS AND AWARDS

Julliard
SALA 2018 AWARDS CEREMONY

SALA Distinguished Achievement in Creative Writing Awardee
Tahira Naqvi, New York University

SALA Distinguished Achievement in Scholarship Awardee
Gaurav Desai, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Graduate Student Paper Prize(s)

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE
Precarious Futures, Precarious Pasts: Climate, Terror and Planetarity
Gaurav Desai, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

8:00-10:00 PM
SALA CONFERENCE DINNER (tickets $32)
Darbar Grill, at 157 E. 55th St.,
(between Lexington and Third Avenues)
Dinner entry only with tickets, purchased by Tuesday, Jan 8, 12 noon.