

SALA 2024

**Ethics of Representation, Forms of Resistance, and Narratives of
Discomfort**

**23rd Annual South Asian Literary Association (SALA) Online Conference
Saturday-Sunday, 6-7 April 2024**

Virtual via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

**[https://sacredheart-
edu.zoom.us/j/92592933800?pwd=Nmd2TzRIRzh2cTRkeGZDUEdV
NDNpUTo9](https://sacredheart-
edu.zoom.us/j/92592933800?pwd=Nmd2TzRIRzh2cTRkeGZDUEdV
NDNpUTo9)**

Conference Co-chairs

Ruma Sinha, Rider University

Billie Thoidingjam Guarino, Saint. Anselm College

Nidhi Shrivastava, Sacred Heart University

Conference Schedule

SALA Executive Committee Meeting

Friday, April 5, 2024

7:00 - 9:00 pm EDT

4:30 am India, 7:00 am Singapore, 3:00 am UAE, 1:00 am Finland

DAY 1

Saturday, April 6, 2024

8:30 - 9:00 am EDT

6:00 pm India, 8:30 pm Singapore, 4:30 pm UAE, 3:15 pm Finland

Conference Welcome: Cynthia Leenerts

Opening: Conference Co-chairs

Panel 1

9:15-10:45 am EDT

6:45 pm India, 9:15 pm Singapore, 5:15 pm UAE, 3:15 pm Finland

Panel 1 A

Revisiting Arundhati Roy: Queer Identity,
Subalternity, and Form of Resistance

Panel 1 B

Violent Fictions and Spectralized Bodies:
Representing the Invisible and Unseen

Panel 2

11:00-12:30 am EDT

8:30 pm India, 11:00 pm Singapore, 7:00 pm UAE, 5:00 pm Finland

Workshop on Getting Published in *South Asian Review*

Keynote Lecture
Thenmozhi Soundararajan

12:45 -2:00 pm EDT

10:15 pm India, 12:45 am Singapore, 6:00 pm UAE, 6:45 pm Finland

Lunch Break

2:00-2:45 EDT

11:30 pm India, 2:00 am Singapore, 7:15 pm UAE, 8:00 pm Finland

Panel 3

2:45 pm-4:15 pm EDT

12:15 pm India, 2:45 am Singapore, 8:00 pm UAE, 8:45 pm Finland

Panel 3 A

Aesthetics of Silence and Resistance in Partition
Narratives

Panel 3 B

Embodiments of Minority Identity and the
Ethics of Representation

Panel 4

4:30-6:00 pm EDT

2:00 am India, 4:30 am Singapore, 12:30 pm UAE, 10:30 pm Finland

Panel 4 A

Interrogating Violence: Hindu Nationalism,
Terrorism, and Communalism

Panel 4 B

Exploring Cinema: Gender, Violence, and
Masculinity

Graduate Student Virtual Meetup

(hosted by Zachary Bordas)

Zoom link: <https://lsu.zoom.us/j/6242460860?omn=95808630354>

6:00-7:00 pm EDT

3:30 am India, 6:00 am Singapore, 2:00 am UAE, 12:00 am Finland

DAY 2

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Panel 5

8:30-10 am EDT

6:00 pm India, 8:30 pm Singapore, 4:30 pm UAE, 3:15 pm Finland

Panel 5 A

Diasporic Entanglements, Gender Justice, and
Resistance

Panel 5 B

9/11, Islamophobia and the Rising Hate Against
Minorities

Panel 6

10:15-11:45 am EDT

7:45 pm India, 10:15 pm Singapore, 6:15 pm UAE, 4:15 pm Finland

Workshop on Conflict Resolution: Dissent in the Academic Workplace

General Business Meeting

Zoom link: <https://esu-online.zoom.us/j/93125696419>

12:00 pm -1:00 pm EDT

9:30 pm India, 12:00 am Singapore, 8:00 pm UAE, 6:00 pm Finland

Lunch Break

1:00 pm -2:00 pm EDT

10:30 pm India, 1:00 am Singapore, 9:00 pm UAE, 7:00 pm Finland

Panel 7

2:00pm -3:30pm EDT

11:30 pm India, 2:00 am Singapore, 10:00 pm UAE, 8:00 pm Finland

Panel 7 A

Protest Narratives, Resilience, and the Politics of Representation

Panel 7 B

Graphic Subversions, Narrative Violence, and Multivocal Critique

Panel 8

3:45-5:00 pm EDT

1:15 am India, 3:45 am Singapore, 11:45 pm UAE, 9:45 pm Finland

Panel 8 A

Deconstructing Discomforting Narratives, Deviance, and Disobedience

Panel 8 B

Tropes of Motherhood, Transnational Feminism, and Translating Resistance

Awards Ceremony and Conference Conclusion

5:15-6:15 pm EDT

2:45 am India, 5:15 am Singapore, 1:45 pm UAE, 11:15 pm Finland

SALA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday, April 5, 5:00 - 7:00 pm EDT

2:30 am India, 5:00 am Singapore, 1:00 am UAE, 11:00 pm Finland

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Saturday, April 6, 12:45 -2:00 pm EDT

10:15 pm India, 12:45 am Singapore, 6:00 pm UAE, 6:45 pm Finland

Thenmozhi Soundararajan

Dalit activist and Executive Director of Equality Labs

(Introduction: Ruma Sinha)

GRADUATE STUDENT VIRTUAL MEETUP

(hosted by Zachary Bordas)

Saturday, April 6, 6:00-7:00 pm EDT

3:30 am India, 6:00 am Singapore, 2:00 am UAE, 12:00 am Finland

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, April 7, 12:00 pm -1:00 pm EDT

9:30 pm India, 12:00 am Singapore, 8:00 pm UAE, 6:00 pm Finland

AWARDS CEREMONY AND CONFERENCE CONCLUSION

Sunday, April 7, 5:15-6:15 pm EDT

2:45 am India, 5:15 am Singapore, 1:45 pm UAE, 11:15 pm Finland

PANELS

Panel 1 A: Revisiting Arundhati Roy: Queer Identity, Subalternity, and Form of Resistance

Chair: Ruma Sinha, Rider University

1. **Jana Fedtke, Northwestern University**, “Peripheral Urbanization as Queer Identity in Arundhati Roy’s *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*”
2. **Sheetal Majithia, NYU Abu Dhabi**, “Re-scripting Subalternity and scale with *The God of Small Things*”

3. **Madhure Akilla. C, Jawaharlal Nehru University**, “The Ethics of Representation of Crisis, Forms of Resistance, and Narratives of Discomfort in Arundhati Roy’s novel, *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*”

Panel 1 B: Violent Fictions and Spectralized Bodies: Representing The Invisible and Unseen

Chair: Billie Thoidingjam Guarino, Saint Anselm College

1. **Sean Weaver, Louisiana State University**, “In the Absence Of: The Spectral Daddy and the Violent Myth of Masculinity in Shastri Akella’s *The Sea Elephants*”
2. **Azharuddin, Louisiana State University**, “‘All this to make them speak?’— Representation of Indian Muslim Subalternity in Raj Kamal Jha’s *Fireproof* (2006)”
3. **Ankita Rathour, Georgia Institute of Technology**, “How to Tell a Dead Girl Story?”

Panel 2: Workshop on Getting Published in *South Asian Review*

Chair: Dr. Nalini Iyer, Seattle University.

1. **Nalini Iyer, Seattle University. Editor-in-Chief, *South Asian Review***
2. **Robin E. Field, King’s College. Managing Editor, *South Asian Review***
3. **Amit Rahul Baishya, University of Oklahoma. Book Review Editor, *South Asian Review***

Panel 3 A: Aesthetics of Silence and Resistance in Partition Narratives

Chair: Nidhi Shrivastava, Sacred Heart University

1. **Turni Chakrabarti, O. P. Jindal Global University**, “Representing Violence and Resistance: Epical Indian Femininity and the Modern Indian Short Story”
2. **Fatima Naveed, University of Exeter**, “Progressive Partition Literature & Women’s Rehabilitation in the Indian Subcontinent: “Lajwanti” by Rajinder Singh Bedi (1956)”
3. **Bhawya Wadera, University of McMaster**, “Displacement, Communal Violence, and the Predicament of Children”

4. **Deeksha Pareek, Lehigh University**, “The Queer Child Growing Sideways: Reading Ismat Chughtai’s *The Crooked Line*”

Panel 3B: Embodiments of Minority Identities and the Ethics of Representation

Chair: Ruma Sinha, Rider University

1. **Talat Malik, National Institute of Technology**, “Reclaiming the Self: Trauma and Memory in Dalit Women Narratives”
2. **Pooja Sancheti, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research**, “Women and Magical Realism: Oppression and Resistance in the novels of Mohammad Hanif”
3. **Shabeeh Rahat, Independent Scholar**, “Place-ing the Politics of Marginalization: The Everyday Precarity of Dalit Muslims in India”

Panel 4A: Interrogating Violence: Hindu Nationalism, Terrorism, and Communalism

Chair: Bede Scott, Nanyang Technological University

1. **Bede Scott, Nanyang Technological University**, “On Stuplimity: Terrorism, Communal Violence, and Literature”
2. **Rituparna Mitra, Emerson College**, “Dissent and a New Aesthetics of Entangled Witnessing in Hariharan’s *Fugitive Histories*”
3. **Srikanth Mallavarapu, Roanoke College**, “On Labor Politics and Alienation in Jagadish Mohanty’s *Battles of Our Own*”

Panel 4B: Exploring Cinema: Gender, Violence, and Masculinity

Chair: Nidhi Shrivastava, Sacred Heart University

1. **Siddharth Arora, Oklahoma State University**, “The Threat of Excess: Animality and Nationalism in *Eeb Allay Ooo* by Prateek Vats (2019)”
2. **Payel C Mukherjee, IIT Delhi**, “Rape, Violence, and Hyper-masculinity: The (un)holy trinity of Representation in contemporary Indian Narratives on screen”
3. **Mahima Raj C, Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi and Sumit Ghayal, Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi**, “Male

Representation through Violence: A Critique of the 'Anti-hero' in Indian Popular Films”

Panel 5A: Diasporic Entanglements, Gender Justice, and Resistance

Chair: Robin Field, King's College, Pennsylvania

1. **Robin Field, King's College, Pennsylvania**, “When Nothing Means Everything: Rescripting Expectations about Gender Violence in Tom Koshy's film ‘An Independence Day’”
2. **Apala Kundu, University of Pittsburgh**, “Devi's and Spivak's ‘Draupadi:’ Looking at Representation and Resistance through the Lens of Translation”
3. **Wardah Malik, University of Cambridge**, “Diaspora Engagement and Gender Justice: An Inclusive Approach to Social Change?”
4. **Muhammad Manzur Alam, University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio**, “‘Decaffeinated Revolution,’ Troubled Identity, and Jhumpa Lahiri’s *The Lowland*”

Panel 5B: 9/11, Islamophobia and the Rising Hate Against Minorities

Chair: Harveen Mann, Loyola University

1. **Sini Eikonsalo, The University of Tampere**, “Dynamics of suspicion, stereotyping, and East-West relations in Mohsin Hamid’s *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*”
2. **Harveen Mann, Loyola University**, “‘See No Stranger:’ Sikh Ethics and Valarie Kaur’s Grassroots Activism”
3. **Namrata Dey Roy, Georgia Institute of Technology**, “Diseased Bodies and Unheard Voices: *Bheed*, A Movie Voicing the Unheard”

Panel 6: Workshop on Conflict Resolution: Dissent in the Academic Workplace

1. **Robin Field, King's College**
2. **Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, Texas A&M University-Kingsville**
3. **Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University**

Panel 7A: Protest Narratives, Resilience, and the Politics of Representation

Chair: Billie Thoidingjam Guarino, Saint Anselm College

1. **Kalpana Bora, Cotton University**, “Resistance and Resilience: Protest Narratives from India’s North East”
2. **Clara Joseph, University of Calgary**, “Narratives of Faith and Decolonialism: A Thomas Christian Perspective on the Image of the Christian in Northeast India”
3. **Udita Banerjee, IIT Gandhinagar**, “Interrogating the Politics of Representation and Resistance in Narratives from Assam”
4. **Rai Kamlini Mukherjee, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati**, “Everyday Aesthetics of Partition Violence and Resistance in Sabitri Roy’s *Nowhere People* (2017)”

Panel 7B: Graphic Subversions, Narrative Violence, and Multivocal Critique

Chair: Zachary Bordas, Louisiana State University

1. **Abhirami Prasanth, Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi, and Neethi V Alexander, Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi**, “Graphic Echoes: Narrative Resonance of Resistance and Discomfort in Orijit Sen’s *River of Stories*”
2. **Leenu Sugathan, George Washington University**, “The Ethno-Graphic Form, Human Rights Imaginary, and Narrative Violence in *Vanni: A Family’s Struggle* through the Sri Lankan Conflict”
3. **Deblina Rout, Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad**, “Graphic Subversions: Visualising the Resisting Female Body in Comics”
4. **Samarth Singhal, University of California, Riverside**, “Redefining Adivasi Visual Availability: Bhajju Shyam’s *The London Jungle Book*”

Panel 8A: Deconstructing Discomforting Narratives, Deviance, and Disobedience

Chair: Hans-Georg Erney, Georgia Southern University

1. **Hans-Georg Erney, Georgia Southern University**, “A Tale of Two Obedient Fathers: Akhil Sharma Returns to the Scene of the Crime”
2. **Palash Naskar, Sushil Kar College**, “Re-representing the Naxal Women: Deconstructing the Narratives”
3. **Shriya Rai, Independent Scholar**, “Unveiling Deviance: Tawaifs between Colonial and Nationalist Imaginaries”
4. **Dheebika P, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras**, “Memories Carved in Flesh: Unearthing Corporeal Remnants of the Tamil Genocide in *The Story of a Brief Marriage*”

Panel 8B: Tropes of Womanhood, Transnational Feminism, and Translating Resistance

Chair: Masrufa Ayesha Nusrat, University of Texas at Dallas

1. **Masrufa Ayesha Nusrat, University of Texas at Dallas**, “Women’s Documentary from Bangladesh: Interpreting *Rising Silence and The Poison Thorn* from the Terrain of Trans/national Feminism”
2. **Partha Debanath, Independent Scholar**, “The Representation of Resistance through Female Gaze: A Critical Reading of a Bengali Woman’s Travelogue of Japan”
3. **Shyamasri Maji, Durgapur Women’s College**, “Reading the Anglo-Indian Woman as Wife in Indian English Fiction”
4. **Sushree Routray, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee**, “Magic Realism and Queer Defamiliarization: Decolonialisation of Hijras in Geetanjali Shree’s *Tomb of Sand*”