

**2025 SALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE PANEL SUMMARY**

<p><b>SALA Executive Committee Meeting</b>  <b>Friday, 17 January 2025</b>  <b>7:00 – 9:00 pm EST</b>  <i>6:00-8:00 pm CDT; 12:00-2:00 pm GMT; 4:00-6:00 pm PDT; Saturday, 4:30-6:30 am India</i></p>			
<p><b>DAY 1 SATURDAY, JANUARY 18</b></p>			
<p><b>8:30 – 9:00 am EST</b>  <i>(7:30 am CST, 1:30 pm GMT, 6:30 pm PKT, 7 pm IST, 7:30 pm BST, 9:30 pm SGT)</i>  <b>Conference Welcome: Maryse Jayasuriya</b>  <b>Opening: Conference Co-chairs</b></p>			
<p><b>Panel 1</b>  <b>Time: 9:15-10:30 am ET</b>  <i>(8:15 am CST, 2:15 pm GMT, 7:15 pm PKT, 7:45 pm IST, 8:15 pm BST, 10:15 pm SGT)</i></p>			
<p><b>Panel 1A</b>   <b>Decoloniality and Indigeneity</b></p>	<p><b>Panel 1B</b>   <b>Rethinking Decoloniality</b></p>	<p><b>Panel 1C</b>   <b>Decolonizing Boundaries and Intersections</b></p>	<p><b>Panel 1D</b>   <b>Vernacular and Decoloniality</b></p>
<p><b>Panel 2</b>  <b>Time: 10:45 am-12:00 pm ET</b>  <i>(9:45 am CST, 3:45 pm GMT, 8:45 pm PKT, 9:15 pm IST, 9:45 pm BST, 11:45 pm SGT)</i></p>			
<p><b>Panel 2A</b>   <b>Caste and Knowledge Production</b></p>	<p><b>Panel 2B</b>   <b>Geographies and Spaces</b></p>	<p><b>Panel 2C</b>   <b>Postcolonial Northeast India and Decoloniality</b></p>	<p><b>Panel 2D</b>   <b>Vernacular and Decoloniality</b></p>

**LUNCH BREAK**  
Time: 12:00-12:30 pm

(11:00 am CST, 5:00 pm GMT, 10 pm PKT, 10:30 pm IST, 11 pm BST, 11:45 pm SGT)

**Keynote Lecture: Gurminder Bhambra**  
Time: 12:30 - 2:00 pm Keynote

(11:30 am CST, 5:30 pm GMT, 10:30 pm PKT, 11 pm IST, 11:30 pm BST, 1:30 AM SGT)

**Panel 3**

Time: 2:15-3:30 pm ET

(1:15 pm CST, 7:15 pm GMT, 12:15 am PKT, 12:45 am IST, 1:15 am BST, 2:15 am SGT)

<b>Panel 3A</b>  <b>Partition Narratives: Postcolonial/Decolonial, Gender, and Violence</b>	<b>Panel 3B</b>  <b>Resilience and Care</b>	<b>Panel 3C</b>  <b>Decolonizing History, Memory and Materiality</b>	<b>Panel 3D</b>  <b>Writing and Teaching Decolonial Futures</b>
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**Panel 4**

Time: 3:45-5:00 pm ET

(2:45 pm CST, 8:45 pm GMT, 1:45 am PKT, 2:15 am IST, 2:45 am BST, 4:45 am SGT)

<b>Panel 4A</b>  <b>Decoloniality and Alternate Modernity</b>	<b>Panel 4B</b>  <b>Decoloniality, Climate, and Ecocriticism</b>	<b>Panel 4C</b>  <b>Identities, Race and Religion</b>
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**Panel 5**

Time: 5:15-6:30 pm

(4:15 pm CST, 10:15 pm GMT, 3:15 am PKT, 3:45 am IST, 4:15 am BST, 6:15 am SGT)

<b>Panel 5A</b>  <b>The Ignored South Asia</b>	<b>Panel 5B</b>  <b>Professionalization Panel</b>
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**DAY 2 SUNDAY, JANUARY 19**

**Panel 1**

**Time: 9:15-10:30 am ET**

**(8:15 am CST, 2:15 pm GMT, 7:15 pm PKT, 7:45 pm IST, 8:15 pm BST, 10:15 pm SGT)**

<b>Panel 1A</b> <b>Human, Non-Human, and Planetary Connections</b>	<b>Panel 1B</b> <b>South Asian, World Literature: Intertextuality, Debates and Praxis</b>	<b>Panel 1C</b> <b>Rethinking Genres and Episteme: Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia</b>	<b>Panel 1D</b> <b>Neoliberal/Neocolonial Formations</b>
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**Panel 2**

**Time: 10:45 am-12:00 pm ET**

**(9:45 am CST, 3:45 pm GMT, 8:45 pm PKT, 9:15 pm IST, 9:45 pm BST, 11:45 pm SGT)**

<b>Panel 2A</b> <b>Gender and Performance</b>	<b>Panel 2B</b> <b>Women's Writing and the Region</b>	<b>Panel 2C</b> <b>Rethinking Pre- Colonial Mythological and Textual Traditions</b>	<b>Panel 2D</b> <b>Disaster and Resilience</b>
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**LUNCH BREAK**

**Time: 12:00-12:30 pm**

**(11:00 am CST, 5:00 pm GMT, 10 pm PKT, 10:30 pm IST, 11 pm BST, 11:45 pm SGT)**

**Keynote Lecture: Tahmima Anam and Mirza Waheed**

**Time: 12:30 - 2:00 pm Keynote**

**(11:30 am CST, 5:30 pm GMT, 10:30 pm PKT, 11 pm IST, 11:30 pm BST, 1:30 AM SGT)**

**Panel 3**

**Time: 2:15-3:30 pm ET**

**(1:15 pm CST, 7:15 pm GMT, 12:15 am PKT, 12:45 am IST, 1:15 am BST, 2:15 am SGT)**

<b>Panel 3A</b> <b>Activism and Protests</b>	<b>Panel 3B</b> <b>Partition History and Spatiality</b>	<b>Panel 3C</b> <b>Queerness and Coloniality</b>
<b>Panel 4</b> <b>Time: 3:45-5:00 pm ET</b> <b>(2:45 pm CST, 8:45 pm GMT, 1:45 am PKT, 2:15 am IST, 2:45 am BST, 4:45 am SGT)</b>		
<b>Panel 4A</b> <b>Postcolonial Sri Lanka at a Testimonial Crossroads</b>	<b>Panel 4B</b> <b>Food Politics and Rationality</b>	<b>Panel 4C</b> <b>Decoloniality and Feminist Critique</b>
<b>Panel 5</b> <b>Time: 5:15-6:30 pm</b> <b>(4:15 pm CST, 10:15 pm GMT, 3:15 am PKT, 3:45 am IST, 4:15 am BST, 6:15 am SGT)</b>		
<b>Panel 5A</b> <b>Papal Roundtable: The Role of Literature in Formation</b>	<b>Panel 5B</b> <b>Subaltern Lives, Time, and Agency</b>	

## SALA 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### RETHINKING SOUTH ASIA: POSTCOLONIALITY & DECOLONIAL FRAMES AND PRAXIS

**Co-chairs:** Amrita Ghosh, Arnab Dutta Roy and Rajorshi Das

#### **SALA executive committee meeting**

Friday, 17 January 2025

**Use the Zoom link to join the conference panel discussions on January 18 & 19, 2025**

<https://ucf.zoom.us/j/95935292872?pwd=FOVCyTeAxXofWAUew5abrb5bhtIpUb.1>

**Meeting ID: 959 3529 2872**

**Passcode: 725287**

Scroll down for links to the keynotes

### **DAY 1 SATURDAY, JANUARY 18**

**Time: 8:30– 9 am ET**

**(7:30 am CST, 1:30 pm GMT, 6:30 pm PKT, 7 pm IST, 7:30 pm BST, 9:30 pm SGT)**

**Conference Welcome:** Maryse Jayasuriya, Professor, Saint Louis University, US

**Time: 9:15-10:30 am ET**

**(8:15 am CST, 2:15 pm GMT, 7:15 pm PKT, 7:45 pm IST, 8:15 pm BST, 10:15 pm SGT)**

#### **1A: Decoloniality and Indigeneity**

Chair: Amardeep Singh

**From resistance to re-existence to co-existence: Decolonial (re-)cognition of Angami Naga shamanic therapeutic traditions in Avinuo Kire's The Last Light of Glory Days.** Sampda Swaraj, Research Scholar, IIT-Roorkee, India

**Decoding Precarity through Decolonial Lens: Semiotic Analysis of The Great Derangement and The Nutmeg's Curse by Amitav Ghosh and A Naga Village Remembered by Estherine Kire.** Lakshminath Rabha, Assistant Professor, D.R. College, India

**"Adivasi" as Catachresis: Postcolonial and Decolonial Engagements with South Asian Indigeneity.** Amardeep Singh, Professor, Lehigh University, US

## **1B: Rethinking Decoloniality**

Chair: Sukriti Bhukkal

**The Politics of Hindutva: Exploring the Appropriation of Decoloniality in Contemporary India.** Sukriti Bhukkal, Assistant Professor, Govt. PG College for Women, India.

**Revisiting Decolonialism in South Asia: The Role of Pre-Colonial Christian Communities.** Clara A.B. Joseph, Professor, University of Calgary, Canada.

**The Decolonial Exotic: Theorizing Post-Orientalism in Postmodern Bengali Fiction.** Dhee Sankar, Guest Lecturer in English, Sanskrit College & University, India.

**Stars Said So: Soft Saffronisation and the Spiritual Grifter.** Payal Nagpal, PhD student, University of Calgary, Canada.

## **1C: Decolonizing Boundaries and Intersections**

Chair: Maria Shawl

**Redefining Postcolonial Resistance: The Hamletian Dilemma and Decolonization in Mirza Waheed's The Collaborator.** Maria Shawl, Research Scholar, SRM University, India.

**(In)visible Intersections: Decolonizing Social Exclusion and Human Rights in Indian Graphic Narratives.** Rounak Gupta, PhD student, SRM University, India.

**A Bengali Lady at England: A position of colonized woman in England.** Ananta Kar, Master's student, Jadavpur University, India

**Liminal Existence and the People of No Man's Land: A Study of Border Culture from Sasim Kumar Barai's novel Dersho Gaje Jibon (Life Within 150 Yards).** Juthika Biswas, PhD candidate, Amity University, Kolkata

## **1D: Vernacular and Decoloniality**

Chair: Feba Rasheed

**Beyond Modernity: What would a decolonial analysis of the vernacular look like?** Shveta Vyas Pare, Associate Lecturer, Flinders University, Australia

**Spatially Constructing the History of English in India.** Renuka Kannan, Ph.D. candidate, Central University of Tamil Nadu, India

**Translating Bid'at: On the Limits of Comparison and Untranslatability.** Feba Rasheed, PhD candidate, University of Oregon, US

**Fiction as History: R. D. Karve and the Vernacular Politics of Sexology in Post/Colonial India.** Rovel Sequeira, Assistant Professor, University of Michigan, US

**Time: 10:45 am-12:00 pm ET**  
**(9:45 am CST, 3:45 pm GMT, 8:45 pm PKT, 9:15 pm IST, 9:45 pm BST, 11:45 pm SGT)**

## **2A: Caste and Knowledge Production**

Chair: Arnab Dutta Roy

**'West' being 'theoretical Capital: Theorizing the 'untheorized' through 'spatialized Ontology.'** Madhuvadhani M, PhD candidate, South Asian University, India

**Re-Caste(ing) Caste via Imagined Encounters between Gandhi and Ambedkar.** Shaweta Nanda, Assistant Professor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, India

**Dalit Universalisms: Caste, Capitalism, & Identity Politics in Yashica Dutt's Coming Out as Dalit.** Arnab Dutta Roy, Assistant Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University, US

## **2B: Geographies and Spaces**

Chair: Shyma P

**Transactions across the Sea: Kacchilpattanam and the Fashioning of Urbanity in North Malabar.** Shyma P, Assistant Professor, Payyanur College, India

**Goat as Critic: Decolonial Essays between Vaikom Muhammad Basheer's Pathumma's Goat and Virginia Woolf's A Room of One's Own.** Gautam Joseph, PhD student, National University of Singapore & King's College London, UK and Singapore

**Geography of Fear and Critical Poetic Cityscape: Maki Kureishi's Poetry on Karachi.** Ayesha Perveen, Assistant Professor, Virtual University of Pakistan, Pakistan

## **2C: Postcolonial Northeast India and Decoloniality**

Chair: Kalpana Bora

**Making Sense of Manipur Violence through the Lens of Ethnic Homeland Politics and Hindutva.** Amom Malemnganba Singh, PhD student, Manipur University, India

**Decolonial worlding and “in-betweenness” in Janice Pariat’s Everything the Light Touches.** Kalpana Bora, Assistant Professor, Cotton University, India

**Un-writing Colonial Hill-Stations: Decolonial Futures and the Mountainscapes in Kiran Desai’s Inheritance of Loss.** Rai Kamalini Mukherjee, PhD candidate, IIT-Guwahati, India

12:00-12:30 pm Recess

**Time: 12:30 - 2:00 pm Keynote**  
**(11:30 am CST, 5:30 pm GMT, 10:30 pm PKT, 11 pm IST, 11:30 pm BST)**

<https://ucf.zoom.us/j/95935292872?pwd=FOVCyTeAxXofWAUew5abrb5bhtIpUb.1>

[Meeting ID: 959 3529 2872](#)

[Passcode: 725287](#)

**On the Difference Between the Mughal Empire and British Colonial Rule in India and its Contemporary Significance.** Gurminder Bhambra

**Time: 2:15-3:30 pm**  
**(1:15 pm CST, 7:15 pm GMT, 12:15 am PKT, 12:45 am IST, 1:15 am BST)**

**3A: Partition Narratives: Postcolonial/Decolonial, Gender, and Violence**

Chair: Nalini Iyer

**Iphigenia in Calcutta: Dislocated Families and Disposable Daughters.** Debali Mookerjee-Leonard, Professor, James Madison University, US

**“How to belong as a woman?”: Narratives of remembrance and resilience in the light of the 1947 Partition of India.** Ragini Chakraborty, PhD candidate, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, US

**Writing About Partition for Youth in the Diaspora.** Nalini Iyer, Professor, Seattle University, US

**3B: Resilience and Care**

Chair: Moumin Quazi

**Disability: Challenges and Traumas of Becoming or Not Becoming Mother.** Sonia Sharmin, Lecturer, Augusta University, US

**Challenging Intersectional Precarity: The Resilience of Dalit Women.** Talat Mallick, PhD student, NIT Patna, India

**“A Dirty Joke.”** Moumin Quazi, Professor, Tarleton State University, US

### **3C: Decolonizing History, Memory and Materiality**

Chair: Avishek Banerjee

**Decoloniality and Selective Amnesia: A study of Anjum Hasan’s novel History’s Angel.** Vagesh Nandini, PhD candidate, IIT-Jodhpur, India

**Resistance in Neo-Colonial Calcutta: Exploring the Naxalite Rebellion in Satyajit Ray’s Films.** Avishek Banerjee, PhD candidate, SRM University, India

**Decolonising Indian history: Oral storytelling and cultural traditions in Parismita Singh’s The Hotel at the End of the World.** Deblina Rout, PhD candidate, IIT-Hyderabad, India

### **3D: Writing and Teaching Decolonial Futures**

Chair: Soraya Zarook

**Feeling Difference in the South Asian Writing Classroom: (Re)imagining Writing Pedagogy and its Affective (Dis)course.** Sonakshi Srivastava, Senior Writing Tutor, Ashoka University and Vrinda Chopra, Senior Writing Fellow, Ashoka University, India

**Decolonising Tamil Studies: Towards a ‘New’ Literary Historiography.** Aadhavan Pazhani, PhD candidate, Goldsmiths, University of London, UK

**Sri Lankan Anglophone and Diasporic Poetry as Decolonial Praxis.** Soraya Zarook, Assistant Professor, Old Dominion University, US

**Time: 3:45-5:00 pm ET**  
**(2:45 pm CST, 8:45 pm GMT, 1:45 am PKT, 2:15 am IST, 2:45 am BST)**

### **4A: Decoloniality and Alternate Modernity**

Chair: Abhinaba Chatterjee

**Decoloniality and Alternative Modernism in the novels of Amitav Ghosh.** Abhinaba Chatterjee, Research Scholar, Gurukul Kangri, India

**Phanishwarnath Renu: Interrogating the literary archives of State and Region in post-colonial India.** Prabhakar Kumar, PhD candidate, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

**Lesser Lives: Working class Women in the Fiction of Post-liberalisation India.** Pradarshika Biswas, PhD candidate, IIT-Jodhpur, India

#### **4B: Decoloniality, Climate, and Ecocriticism**

Chair: Pavithra Tantrigoda

**The Authority of the Dead and ‘Eco-critical Ethics of Witnessing’ in Michael Ondaatje’s Anil’s Ghost.** Pavithra Tantrigoda, Assistant Professor, University of Central Florida, US

**Politics of Cli-Fi: Understanding Climate, Ecology and Social in Select South Asian Climate Fiction.** Elza Maria Baby, PhD student, IIT-Kanpur, India

**Graphic Narratives by Tribal Artists: Decolonizing the Techno-scientific Narratives on Climate Change.** Anandita Saraswat, PhD student, IIT-Indore and Aratrika Das, Asst Professor, IIT-Indore, India

**Qissa Khwani: Forging an Alternate Imaginary of the River’s Edge.** Mahwish Khalil, artist and instructor, Syracuse University, US

#### **4C: Identities, Race and Religion**

Chair: Musab Abdul Salam

**Decoloniality in Düsseldorf: Mithu Sanyal’s Identitti and the Globality of Postcolonial Studies.** Hans-Georg Erney, Professor, Georgia Southern University, US

**On Navigating Brownness, Islamophobia, and Settler-colonialism: Reading the Politics of Race in Omer Aziz’s Brown Boy.** Asma Sayed, Canada Research Chair, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Canada

**A Destitute Muslim on the Margins of the Nation: Crisis of Mobility, Modernity and Citizenship in Megha Majumdar's 'A Burning'.** Md Asif Uzzaman, Research Scholar, IIT-Kanpur, India

**Against Pluralism: Rethinking Religion in South Asian Anglophone Scholarship.** Musab Abdul Salam, PhD candidate, University of Oregon, US

**Time: 5:15-6:30 pm**

**(4:15 pm CST, 10:15 pm GMT, 3:15 am PKT, 3:45 am IST, 4:15 am BST)**

**5A: The Ignored South Asia**

Chair: Amrita Ghosh

**Pashtuns in the Postcolony: Necropolitical Violence and the Question of Existence.** Muhammad Farooq, Assistant Professor, Seton Hall University, US

**From Tagore's Kabuliwala to SRK's Pathaan: Construction of the Pathaan in Indian Imaginary.** Amrita Ghosh, Assistant Professor, University of Central Florida, US

**The Paradoxes of Contemporary Bhutan in Kunzang Choden's fiction.** Pooja Sancheti, Assistant Professor, IISER Pune, India

**5B: Professionalization Panel**

Chairs: Moumin Quazi & Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay

Panelists: Nalini Iyer, Professor, Seattle University, US

Cynthia Leenerts, Associate Professor, East Stroudsburg University, US

Moumin Quazi, Professor, Tarleton State University, US

Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, Associate Professor, Texas A&M Univ-Kingsville, US

**SALA Business Meeting: 6:30-7:30 EST**

**DAY 2, JANUARY 19**

**Time: 9:15 am- 10.30 am**

**(8:15 am CST, 2:15 pm GMT, 7:15 pm PKT, 7:45 pm IST, 8:15 pm BST, 10:15 SGT)**

**1A: Human, Non-Human, and Planetary Connections**

Chair: Nivedita Ghosh

**Colonial Animal Perceptions and the Dogs of Contemporary India.** Nivedita Ghosh, Assistant Professor, Jesus and Mary College, India

**Decolonizing Development: Indigenous Voices and Ecological Justice in Sheela Tomy's Valli.** Dharmendra Kumar, Assistant Professor, HNB Garhwal University, India

**More than Humans: Questions Environmental Ethics and Planetary in O.V. Vijayan's Novels.** Dhanesh Mankulam, Assistant Professor, Christ University, India

### **1B: South Asian, World Literature: Intertextuality, Debates and Praxis**

Chair: Aniket Roy

**De(Colonial) Empowerment: Debates on "After World Literature" and Its Petrification.** Arindam Saha, PhD candidate, Pondicherry Central University, India

**Marginality and Catastrophe: Reading the Voices of the Wounds in the selected works of Rabisankar Bal.** Aniket Roy, PhD candidate, IIT-Gandhinagar, India

**The Spectrum of Queer Diaspora: Remediating Diaspora Discourses.** Anju Upendran, PhD candidate, Kannur University, India

### **1C: Rethinking Genres and Episteme: Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia**

Chair: Swati Ganguly

**"Writing a History of Future": Reconfiguring Science Fiction and Postcoloniality.** Nandini Lohia, postgraduate student, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

**Decolonising Critical Spatial Temporal Frameworks in South Asian Literature.** Rupal Bansal, Ph.D. candidate, Nottingham Trent University, UK

**Decolonizing knowledge production: Rabindranath's essays on Visva-Bharati**  
**Tagore's essays on Visva-Bharati.** Swati Ganguly, Professor of English, Visva-Bharati, India

### **1D: Neoliberal/Neocolonial Formations**

Chair: Aakanksha D'Cruz

**A Postcolonial Complicity: Syed Waliullah's The Ugly Asian.** Ummey Haney Pinkey, Lecturer, Chittagong Independent University, Bangladesh

**The Gendered Politics of Neoliberal Development in India: A Decolonial Feminist Critique of "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" (Save the daughter, Educate the daughter).** Aakanksha D'Cruz, PhD candidate, University of California, Irvine, US

**#Metoo as a Tool of Resistance: When Regional Fictional Work Becomes Pan-Indian Representation.** Pritha Sarkar, Assistant Professor, XIM University Bhubaneswar, India

**Time: 10:45 am-12:00 pm ET**  
**(9:45 am CST, 3:45 pm GMT, 8:45 pm PKT, 9:15 pm IST, 9:45 pm BST)**

## **2A: Gender and Performance**

Chair: Shanna Jain

**The Indian Chick Lit Hero: A Return to Colonial Stereotypes?** Amrita Mitra, Assistant Professor, Banwarilal Bhalotia College, India.

**Anxious Men: A Decolonial Queer Reading of Masculinity in Twentieth-Century South Asian Fiction.** Shanna Jain, PhD candidate, IIT Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India

**Queer Garba and the Trope of the Tolerant Hindu family in Maja Ma.** Rajorshi Das, PhD candidate, University of Iowa, US

## **2B: Women's Writing and the Region**

Chair: Pennie Ticen

**Manifesting the Postcolonial Space in Women's Writing: 'Regional' Literature and the Quest for Identity.** Paloma Chaterji, Assistant Professor, Chinmaya Viswa Vidyapeeth, India

**City, Body, and Heterotopias: Conceptualizing the Gendered Spaces in Aarachar by K R Meera.** Kavya E M, Doctoral Research Fellow, EFLU, Hyderabad, India.

**Separate Categories and Hierarchical Dichotomies? Reframing Borders and Gender Roles as Porous and Multi-layered in Geetanjali Shree's Tomb of Sand.** Pennie Ticen, Associate Professor, Virginia Military Institute, US

**Who could be a Feminist? Contesting Historical Debates on Feminist Discourses in 19th and 20th century India.** Kanchan Panday, PhD candidate, Deakin University, Melbourne

## **2C: Rethinking Pre-Colonial Mythological and Textual Traditions**

Chair: Billy Clem

**"[F]inally Sita was returning to her normal . . . ": Sita as Decolonial Lover in Qurratulain Hyder's Sita Betrayed.** Billy Clem, Professor, Waubensee Community College, US

**Materializing decolonial Mahabharata: Investigating Arjuna as a queer hero in Adishakti's Brhannala (1998) and The Hare and the Tortoise (2007).** Sushmita Dey, Senior Research Fellow at IIT, Dhanbad, India

**Tracing the Tradition of “Non-Western Enlightenment” in Urdu Poetry of Nazir Akbarabadi.** Mohd. Siddique Khan, PhD candidate, University of Lucknow, India

## **2D: Disaster and Resilience**

Chair: Amit Baishya

**Indigenous Resilience, Planetary Dystopia and the Politics of the Anthropocene in Amitav Ghosh’s The Living Mountain.** Neeharika Haloi, PhD candidate, Tezpur University, India

**The Natural and the Necropolitical in Kaala Paani.** Turni Chakrabarti, Assistant Professor, O. P. Jindal Global University, India

**Decolonial Engagement with the Past and Resistance to Bio- and Necropolitics in Rajat Chaudhuri’s The Butterfly Effect.** Md. Alamgir Hossain, Assistant Professor, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh

**“An Alien Visitation”: The Weird and the Aesthetics of Breathing in Siddhartha Deb’s The Light at the End of the World.** Amit Baishya, Associate Professor, University of Oklahoma, US

12:00-12:30 pm Recess

### **Time: 12:30-2.00 pm Keynote Discussion**

**(11:30 am CST, 5:30 pm GMT, 10:30 pm PKT, 11 pm IST, 11:30 pm BST)**

**<https://ucf.zoom.us/j/95935292872?pwd=FOVCyTeAxXofWAUew5abr5bhtIpUb.1>**

**Meeting ID: 959 3529 2872**

**Passcode: 725287**

**“Out of Empire.”** Tahmima Anam and Mirza Waheed

### **Time: 2:15 -3.30 pm ET**

**(1:15 pm CST, 7:15 pm GMT, 12:15 am PKT, 12:45 am IST, 1:15 am BST)**

### 3A: Activism and Protests

Chair: Sahid Mondal

**Students Strike Back: Youth Life and the Promise of Post-Colonial Pakistan.** Hashim Ali, Ph.D. Candidate, University of Illinois at Chicago, US

**Shifting Paradigms of Protest: Contentious Actions and Critical Framings of Student Collectives in Post-Colonial India.** South Ismail, PhD fellow, University of Hyderabad, India

**Har Shaam Shaheen Bagh: Indexing Decolonial Aesthetics of Resistance.** Sahid Mondal, PhD student at Brandeis University, US

### 3B: Partition History and Spatiality

Chair: Afroj Jahan

**Decolonising the Cover Illustration: Literary Marketplace and Partition Memories.** Afroj Jahan, PhD candidate, IIT-Roorkee

**Centering the De-centered: The Partitioned Tales of Spatial Crisis.** Silpi Maitra, Assistant Professor, Falakata College, India

**Interrogating the Insularity of Hegemonic Historical Narratives: Memory and Decolonial Dialogues through Select Dalit Partition Life Writings.** Biraj Biswas, Doctoral Research Scholar SRM University, India and Bidisha Pal, Assistant Professor, SRM University, India

### 3C: Queerness and Coloniality

Chair: Swati Gilotra

**Queerness and the Limits of Pedagogy in Murder in Mahim (2017) by Jerry Pinto and Aligarh (2015) directed by Hansal Mehta.** Apoorv Pandey, PhD candidate, University of Rochester, US

**Re-Reading Queer Identities in Sri Lanka in a New Light.** Shreeja Basu, Master's student, Jadavpur University, US

**Othering Sameness: Citizen/Traitor and Gender Performativity in Megha Majumdar's A Burning.** Swati Gilotra, PhD candidate, University of Georgia, US

**3:45- 5:00 pm ET**  
**(2:45 pm CST, 8:45 pm GMT, 1:45 am PKT, 2:15 am IST, 2:45 am BST)**

#### **4A: Postcolonial Sri Lanka at a Testimonial Crossroads**

Chair: Dinidu Karunanayake

**Emerging Writers Bearing Witness: Possibilities and Challenges.** Maryse Jayasuriya, Professor, Saint Louis University, US

**'Homo photographers': Queer object/body alignments and the impotent witnessing of war in The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida.** Shermal Wijewardene, Senior Lecturer, University of Columbo, Sri Lanka

**Scatological Witnessing and Sri Lanka's Era of Terror.** Dinidu Karunanayake, Asst Professor, Elon University, US

#### **4B: Food Politics and Rationality**

Chair: Aryehi Bhushan

**Meat Matters: Carnivorous Politics and Modi's Hindutva.** Aryehi Bhushan, DPhil candidate, University of Oxford (Wolfson College), UK

**Purity, Contamination and the Brahmanical Politics of Vegetarianism.** Sanjula Rajat, PhD candidate, University of Oregon, US

**On Order, Rationality, and Morality in Tanuj Solanki's Manjhi's Mayhem.** Srikanth Mallavarapu, Associate Professor, Roanoke College, US

#### **4C: Decoloniality and Feminist Critique**

Chair: Madhulina Choudhury

**The Precarious Fate of Postcolonial Feminism in Rituparno Ghosh's Cinema.** Md Rezaul Haque, Adjunct Associate Professor, St. John's University, US

**'Delinking' Eurocentric Epistemes: Decoloniality as a Paradigm of Spiritual Feminism in The Circle of Karma.** Madhulina Choudhury, Assistant Professor, Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya, India

**Decolonizing the knowledge production around menstruation in Kolkata.** Udit Bose, Doctoral Researcher, Brunel University, UK

**Time: 5.15- 6.30 pm ET**  
**(4:15 pm CST, 10:15 pm GMT, 3:15 am PKT, 3:45 am IST, 4:15 am BST)**

**5A: Papal Roundtable: The Role of Literature in Formation**

Chair: Cynthia Leenerts

**Not only how to make a living but how to live: Literature as Mission and Vocation.** Robin Field, Professor, King's College, London, UK

**Being Challenged by Other Voices in Public Reading Groups.** Maryse Jayasuriya, Professor, Saint Louis University, US

**Seeing Through the Eyes of Another.** John Hawley, Professor Emeritus, Santa Clara University, US

**Postcolonial Lit and the Papal Letter.** Nalini Iyer, Professor, Seattle University, US

**Pedagogy, Social Justice, and the Catholic University Perspective.** Nidhi Shrivastava, Assistant Teaching Professor, Sacred Heart University, US

**Finding 'Companions' in South Asian Books: A View from an Americanist.** Brian Yothers, Professor, Saint Louis University, US

**Pope Francis as Theorist: Postcoloniality in Letter on Formation; Ecocriticism in Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum.** Cynthia Leenerts, Associate Professor, East Stroudsburg University, US.

**5B: Subaltern Lives, Time, and Agency**

Chair: Wafa Asher

**The Becoming "Black" of India: Poor Lives Matter.** Sharmila Mukherjee, Associate Professor, Bronx Community College, CUNY, US

**Braking Time: Dalit Temporality in Vemula Yellaiah's novel Kakka.** Bonnie Zare, Professor, Virginia Tech, US

**The Erotics of Disgust and Subaltern Agency in Rashid Jahan's Who.** Wafa Asher, PhD candidate, UChicago, US.