12th Annual SALA Conference Program
Transnational Realisms and Post Realisms in South Asian Literature and Culture
January 7-8, 2011
Los Angeles, California
Ramada Los Angeles, 1901 West Olympic Blvd.

Tentative Program

Friday, January 7th

8:00 - 9:30 Breakfast Meeting: Executive Committee

9:00 Registration

10:00 - 10:30 Conference Welcome Address: Dr. Pradyumna S. Chauhan, SALA President
Opening Address: Rashmi Dube Bhatnagar and Rajender Kaur, Conference Co-Chairs

10:45 - 12:00 Session 1: Panels 1A and 1B

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch on your own

1:30 - 2:45 Session 2: Panels 2A and 2B

3:00 - 4:15 Session 3: Panels 3A and 3B

4:30 - 6:00 Session 4: Panels 4A, 4B, and 4C

6:00 - 8:00 Dinner on your own

8:00 - 10:00 Hamara Mushaira

Saturday, January 8th

7:30 - 8:30 Breakfast provided by hotel for participants staying at the Ramada Hotel

8:00 Registration

8:30 - 9:45 Session 5: Panels 5A and 5B

10:00 - 11:15 Session 6: Panels 6A, 6B, and 6C

11:30 - 1:00 Conference Plenary Session: Planetary Perspectives: Towards New Theoretical Directions in South Asian Realisms

Jenny Sharpe, UCLA
“The Post-Slavery Archive”

Colin MacCabe, University of Pittsburgh
“Modernism and Realism in The Satanic Verses and When Memory Fails”

1:00 - 2:00 Lunch on your own

2:15 - 3:30 Session 7: Graduate Caucus, and Panels 7B and 7C

3:45 - 5:00 Session 8: Panels 8A and 8B

5:00 - 5:30 Reception for SALA Awardee

5:30 - 6:00 SALA Award Ceremony

6:00 - 7:00 SALA General Business Meeting

8:00 pm SALA Dinner at Gill’s Restaurant

Friday, January 7, 10:45 am - 12:00 pm: Session 1

Panel 1A: Realism, Language, Translation
Chair: Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College, Pakistan

Manisha Basu, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
“The Stuff that Realisms are Made on: Global English and R. K. Narayan’s Painter of Signs”

Ratheesh Radhakrishnan, Rice University
“Framing Experience: Basheer and Untranslatability”

Nukhbah Langah, Forman Christian College, Pakistan
“Sufi Realism or Political Realism: Pakistani South Punjab and Contemporary Siraiki Poetry”

Neetu Khanna, UCLA
“Logics of Viscerality in the Writings of Mulk Raj Anand: The Revolution of Feeling and the All-India Progressive Writers Association”

Panel 1B: Urdu Hindi Realisms
Chair: Jonathan Arac, University of Pittsburgh

Maryam Wasif Khan, UCLA
“British Orientalism, the Dāstān, and the Inscription of Identity on Modern Urdu”

Karni Pal Bhati, Furman University
“Muktibodh’s Modernism”

Abdollah Zahiri, Seneca College, Canada
“Bhakti Realisms”

Friday, January 7, 12:00 - 1:30 pm: Lunch on your own

Friday, January 7, 1:30 - 2:45 pm: Session 2

Panel 2A: Subaltern Realisms: Dalits, Servants, Sex Workers
Chair: Kanika Batra, Texas Tech University

Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida
“In Search of the Real Subaltern: A Critical Look at ‘Subaltern Realism’ in Baby Halder’s A Life Less Ordinary”

Navaneetha Mokkil Maruthur, University of Michigan
“Claiming the Day: The Sex Worker as Subject”

Toral Gajarwala, New York University
“To Make of Artlessness Something Poetic...”

Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas at El Paso
“Out of the Shadows: Realism and Class in Thrity Umrigar’s The Space between Us and Kiran Desai’s The Inheritance of Loss”

Panel 2B: Realism, Populism, Media
Chair: David Shumway, Carnegie Mellon University

Parvinder Mehta, Wayne State University
“Predicaments of History and Mimetic Agency: Postcolonial Return, Repetition and Remediation in Rang De Basanti”

Nira Gupta-Casale, Kean University
“‘Kissa Kisan Ka’: Peepli Live and the Politics of Representation or, the Hero as Farmer”

Rajnish Dhawan, University of Fraser Valley, Canada
“Countering Dictatorial Absolutism Through Satire—A Socio-Political Study of Pakistani Television Drama Aangan Teda”

Friday, January 7, 3:00 - 4:15 pm: Session 3

Panel 3A: Realisms and the State
Chair: Parvinder Mehta, Wayne State University
Harveen Mann, Loyola University Chicago
“Disciplined Soldiers of Indian Freedom’: Women and the Narrativizing of Quit India”

Pankhuree Dube, Emory University
“‘Every Bengalee is a Thief’: Realism and Representation in *The Memoirs of William Hickey*”

Manjula Jindal, Independent Scholar
“Karimuddin Asif’s *Mughal-E-Azam*: A Study of Self, Gender, and the State”

Hasan Al Zayed, East West University, Bangladesh
“Akhteruzzaman Elias and Critical Realism”

**Session 3B: Interfacing Realism and Myth.**
**Chair: Dr. K. D. Verma, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown**

Mark Balmforth, Columbia University
“Façades of Pluralism: Use and Misuse of Myth vis-à-vis ‘Realism’ in Chandrasiri’s *Dutugemunu*”

Surekha Dangwal, HNB Garhwal University, India
“Myth/History Interface in Bharati Mukherjee’s *The Tree Bride*”

Sheshalatha Reddy, University of Mary Washington
“‘To Observe, Record, and Reflect Life in an Indian Village’: Realism and Romance in the Poetry of Ramakrishna Pillai”

Smita Jha, IIT, India
“Myth and Realism: A Study of Rushdie’s *Midnight Children*”

**Friday, January 7, 4:30 - 6:00 pm: Session 4**

**Panel 4A: Against Magical Realism: Salman Rushdie**
**Chair: Deepika Bahri, Emory University**

Pennie Ticen, Virginia Military Institute
“Skeptical Belief and Faithful Questioning: Interrogating Realism and Bolstering Mythology in *The Satanic Verses*”

Rahul Gairola, Cornish College and University of Washington
“Engendering Cuisines: The Ideological Ingredients of Gender in Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*”
Rashmi Dube Bhatnagar, University of Pittsburgh
“Problematic of Realism: Homo Social Affect and Rushdie’s Agra in The Enchantress of Florence”

Feroza Jussawala, University of New Mexico
“Realist, Post-Realist, Magic Realist: The Case of Contemporary South Asian Writers”

Panel 4B: Realisms in Activist Literatures
Chair: Manisha Basu, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Navneet Kumar, University of Calgary, Canada
“Activist Realisms in Arundhati Roy’s Nonfiction Prose”

Kanika Batra, Texas Tech University
“Cities, Animals, and the Algebra of Infinite Injustice in Indra Sinha’s Animal’s People”

Bonnie Zare, University of Wyoming, and Afsar Mohammed, University of Texas
“Burning Saris and Houses: Activism through Poetic Discourse (Telegu Poetry)”

Friday, 6:00 - 8:00 pm: Dinner on your own

Friday, 8:00 - 10:00 pm: Hamara Mushaira

Saturday, January 8

7:00 - 8:30 am: Breakfast at Hotel

Saturday, January 8, 8:30 - 9:45 am: Session 5

Panel 5A: South Asian Realisms: Exploring Subjectivity and Conflict
Chair: Josna Rege, Worcester State College

Mayuri Deka, The College of the Bahamas
“Reading the Reality: Coming into Being throughNarration in Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni’s One Amazing Thing”

Rajiv K. Menon, New York University
“The Third World Below: ‘Kitchen Cosmopolitanisms’ and Migrant Intimacies in Kiran Desai’s The Inheritance of Loss”

Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University
“‘Like Stacked Spoons’: Deconstruction and Postpositivist Realism in Arundhati Roy’s The God of Small Things”
Nyla Ali Khan, University of Oklahoma
“Inevitable Multiplicity of Subject Positions in Fawzia Afzal-Khan’s Lahore With Love: Growing Up With Girlfriends Pakistani-Style”

Panel 5B: Figuring South Asian Terrorisms
Chair: Nyla Ali Khan, University of Oklahoma

Aneesa Hussain, Queens College, CUNY
“A Call to South Asian Activism: Beyond Realisms in The Reluctant Fundamentalist”

Alia Somani, University of Western Ontario, Canada
“Confessing to Racial Anger and Racialized Desire: Reading the Postcolonial Confessional Novel”

Rajeswari Mohan, Haverford College
“Melodrama and Masquerade in Santosh Sivan’s The Terrorist”

Aparna Halpé, University of Toronto
“Realism in Conflict: The Work of Jean Arasanayagam and A. Sivanandan”

Saturday, January 8, 10:00 - 11:15 am: Session 6

Panel 6A: Visceral Realisms: Affect and the Body
Chair: Lindsay Waters, Harvard University Press

Jana Fedtke, University of South Carolina
“Asperger’s Syndrome and the Activist Struggle: Tropes of Disability and Asexuality in My Name is Khan”

Rajender Kaur, William Paterson University
“Figuring Hunger and Social Injustice: Body and Affect in Mahasweta Devi’s Short Fiction”

Stephanie Yorke, Oxford University, UK
“Materiality, Construction and the Disabled Body in Rohinton Mistry’s Such a Long Journey and A Fine Balance”

Panel 6B: Partition Realisms
Chair: Susan Andrade, University of Pittsburgh

Shumona Dasgupta, St. Cloud State University
“What Really Happened during the Partition? Text, Context and the Politics of Representation”

Shuchi Kapila, Grinnell College
“Disorienting Realism: Partition Fiction of the 1940s and 50s”

Dan Brown, University of Florida
“South Asian Realism: Bapsi Sidhwa’s Cracking India”

**Panel 6C: Novelistic Interventions in the Real**
**Chair: Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University**

Amrita Ghosh, Drew University
“Reconstructing Reality and Space in a Heterotopia: Joginder Paul’s Sleepwalkers”

Scott Teal, Oxford University, UK

Deepika Bahri, Emory University
“Novel Realism: Rohinton Mistry’s Such a Long Journey”

**Saturday, January 8, 11:30 - 1:00 pm: Conference Plenary**
**Planetary Perspectives: Toward New Theoretical Directions in South Asian Realisms**

Jenny Sharpe, UCLA
“The Post-Slavery Archive”

Colin MacCabe, University of Pittsburgh
“Modernism and Realism in The Satanic Verses and When Memory Fails”

**Saturday, January 8, 1:00 - 2:00 pm: Lunch on your own**

**Saturday, January 8, 2:15-3:30 pm: Session 7**

**Panel 7A: Graduate Caucus** led by Sharanpal Ruprai, York University, Canada, and Gitanjali Kaur Singh, UCLA

**Panel 7B: Theorizing Realisms of Nation/Humor/Political Economy**
**Chair: Pradyumna Chauhan, Arcadia University**

Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College, Pakistan
“Amorphous Realism: A Viable Context for Pakistani Literary Texts”

Namrata Mitra, Purdue University
“What’s Funny about This Joke? Politics of Humor in Postcolonial Fiction”

Ashmita Khasnabish, MIT
“Amartya Sen’s Theory of Welfare Economics and Its Possible Impact on Diaspora”
Panel 7C: Cosmopolitan Realisms: Writers of the South Asian Diapora
Chair: Bonnie Zare, University of Wyoming

Gita Mohan, Independent Scholar, UK
“A Study of Reality and Realism: Sankar’s Chowringhee and Monica Ali’s In the Kitchen”

Brian Yothers, University of Texas at El Paso
“Diasporic Realisms, Hybrid Genres: The Social Textures of Vikram Seth’s The Golden Gate.”

Shirin Edwin, Sam Houston State University, Texas
“Marginal Realities in Khaled Hosseini’s A Thousand Splendid Suns”

Saturday, January 8, 3:45 - 5:00 pm: Session 8

Panel 8A: Figurations of Violence: After Neo-Realism
Chair: Robin Field, King’s College

Anustup Basu, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
“‘Encounter’ in Popular Hindi Cinema”

Pashmina Murthy, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
“Functional Violence: Between Reality and the Real”

Alpana Sharma, Wright State University
“Realism, the ‘Cinema Effect,’ and Anurag Kashyap’s Black Friday”

Summer Pervez, University College of Fraser Valley, Canada
“Remapping Realist Partition Films: Sabiha Sumar’s Khamosh Pani”

Panel 8B: Realism and Minoritarianism
Panel Chair: Amritjit Singh, Ohio University

Gitanjali Kaur Singh, UCLA
“Queering Sikh American Women: Amu and Visual Representations”

Kumar Sankar Bhattacharya, Drew University
“Controlled Reality and the Reality of Violence: Reading Sikh Pogrom in Indira Goswami’s Pages Stained with Blood”

Sharanpal Ruprai, York University, Canada
“Empowering Sikh Women’s Subjectivity in Deepa Mehta’s film Heaven on Earth”
Elise Auvil, Ohio University

5:00 - 5:30 pm: Reception for SALA Awardee

5:30 - 6:00 pm: SALA Award Ceremony

6:00 - 7:00 pm: SALA General Business Meeting

8:00 pm:  SALA Dinner at Gill’s Restaurant at 838 S Grand Ave, LA