SALA 2016

Cultural Practices in the South Asian Public Sphere
The 16th Annual Conference of the South Asian Literary Association
JANUARY 5-6, 2016
Wyndham Garden Hotel, 3401 S IH 35; Austin, Texas

Conference Schedule

MONDAY; JANUARY 4, 2015

6:00-9:00 PM  MEETING: Executive Committee
Lake Austin

DAY 1: TUESDAY; JANUARY 5, 2016

8:00 AM onward  REGISTRATION
Lobby

9:00-9:30 AM  CONFERENCE WELCOME: Moumin Quazi, SALA President
Lake Austin
OPENING: Abdollah Zahiri & Jana Fedtke, Conference Co-Chairs

9:30-10:45 AM  SESSION 1 (PANELS 1A, 1B, & 1C)

Panel 1A  Kashmir Unfinished: Aesthetics, Politics, and Solidarity
Lake Austin  Panel Chair: John Maerhofer, City University of New York

1. The Work of Mourning: Affective Law and the Search for Disappeared Men in Kashmir
   Ather Zia, University of Northern Colorado, Greeley

2. Emerging Kashmiri Literature: Rethinking Violence and Resistance in a “State of Exception”
   Amrita Ghosh, Seton Hall University

   John Maerhofer, City University of New York
**Panel 1B**  
*Executive Learning Center*  
Pakistan in the Public Sphere: Literature, Pop Music, Drones, and Film  
*Panel Chair: Jana Fedtke, American University of Sharjah*

1. **Literary Public Sphere/s and the History of Pakistani Literature in English**  
   Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College, Lahore

2. **“No sir! Na janaab! Ehtesaab bas ehtesaab!”: Pakistani Popular Music as Resistance**  
   Saba Pirzadeh, Purdue University

3. **Drone-Zone as a Camp: A New Public Space in Pakistan**  
   Muhammad Waqar Azeem, Binghamton University-State University of New York

4. **“…that shithole”: A Post-9/11 Portrayal of a Public and Private Pakistan in Season 4 of Homeland**  
   Jana Fedtke, American University of Sharjah

**Panel 1C**  
*San Gabriel*  
Language, Translation, Nation-Building, and Censorship  
*Panel Chair: Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas at El Paso*

1. **Identity and New Pragmatics of English in Foreign Surroundings**  
   Sohail Ahmed, Independent Scholar

2. **The Polyglot Colonial and Precolonial Translations of the Qissa-i-Kamroop-o-Kala**  
   Zeeshan Riyaz Reshamwala, University of Denver

3. **Pedagogy of Alienation: Epistemic Hegemony of the Mental Space and Fatal Fault Lines in the National Space**  
   Shahzeb Khan, University of the Punjab, Lahore

4. **The Murder of the Author: Censorship and Indian Public Sphere**  
   Sourit Bhattacharya, University of Warwick

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**11:00 AM-12:15 PM**  
**SESSION 2 (PANELS 2A, 2B, & 2C)**

**Panel 2A**  
*Lake Austin*  
Muslim Women in the Public Sphere  
*Panel Chair: Afrin Zeenat, University of Kansas*

1. **The Courtyard House and the City: Private and Public Spatial Consciousness in South Asian Muslim Women’s Literary Self-Representation**  
   Diviani Chaudhuri, State University of New York at Binghamton

2. **Loving Allah and Fearing the Custodians: Gendered Fault-lines in the Muslim Society with Special Reference to Qanta Ahmed’s In the Land of Invisible Women**  
   Aysha Munira Rasheed, Aligarh Muslim University
3. Let the Women Speak: Colonized Representations of Muslim Women in Media  
   Sobia Khan, Richland College, Dallas

Panel 2B  
Executive Learning Center  

History, Religion, and the Law in Public Spaces  
Panel Chair: J. Edward Mallot, Arizona State University

1. Analyzing the Representation of Marginality in the Urban Public Sphere of Mumbai in Altaf Tyrewala's No God in Sight  
   Annika Bauer, Technische Universität Chemnitz

2. Art as Representation of Contestations within the Public Sphere: The Case of the Indian Statue of Mother Mary  
   Richa Raj, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi

3. Hierarchies and Counterpublics in Chaitanya Tamhane’s Court  
   Shakti Jaising, Drew University

4. Public History Embodied  
   Kathleen Hewett-Smith, American University of Sharjah

Panel 2C  
San Gabriel  

Alternative Publics  
Panel Chair: Nalini Iyer, Seattle University

1. Refeudalization of the Public Sphere in Relation to the Tibetan Question  
   Abheeshta Nath, Govt. College for Women, Kerala University

2. Locational Counterpublics, Human Rights, and Sexuality in India  
   Kanika Batra, Texas Tech University

3. Lying in Public(s): The Multiple Public Spheres of Meera Syal’s Anita and Me  
   Asha Jeffers, York University

12:15-1:45 PM  
LUNCH on your own

1:45-3:00 PM  
SESSION 3: PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDTABLE

Panel 3A  
Lake Austin  

“Censorship and Intolerance in the Indian Public Sphere”

Participants:  
Josna Rege, Worcester State University  
Others TBD
### SESSION 4 (PANELS 4A, 4B, & 4C)

**Panel 4A**  
**Location:** Lake Austin  
**Chair:** Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University

1. **Cosmopolitanism and the Aesthetics of Consumption**  
   Koel Banerjee, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

2. **Desi Food Blogs in the Diaspora & the Transnational Public Sphere**  
   Sukanya Gupta, University of Southern Indiana

3. **Representation of (Extra) Ordinary Experiences in Autobiographies Written in English in India: An Analysis of Select Autobiographies**  
   Surya Simon, Christ University, Bangalore

**Panel 4B**  
**Location:** Executive Learning Center  
**Chair:** Gautam Basu Thakur, Boise State University

1. **Dawn of the Living Dead: South Asian Zombie Films and Social Critique**  
   Amit Rahul Baishya, University of Oklahoma

2. **Fathers and Sons: Amitabh Bachchan, Shahrukh Khan and the Bombay Melodrama in the Age of Neoliberalism**  
   Anustup Basu, University of Illinois

3. **The Accidental Selfie: Queen and the Indian Metropolar Public Sphere**  
   Gautam Basu Thakur, Boise State University

**Panel 4C**  
**Location:** San Gabriel  
**Chair:** Summer Pervez

1. **Origin of New Public Spaces: Re-imagining Violence in Jhumpa Lahiri’s The Lowland**  
   Sadia Tahira, Lahore College for Women University

2. **Identifying a Diasporic Public Sphere in Jhumpa Lahiri’s The Lowland**  
   Rizwan Akhtar, Punjab University, Lahore

3. **Personalising the Public: Reading Jhumpa Lahiri’s The Lowland**  
   Nasmeen Akhtar, Dibrugarh University, Assam

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END OF SESSIONS FOR DAY 1

**4:30-5:30 PM**  
**Location:** Graduate Caucus  
**Location:** Lake Austin
5:30-6:30 PM  GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING
Lake Austin

6:30-8:15 PM  DINNER on your own

8:15-10:00 PM  HAMARA MUSHAIRA: LITERARY ARTS EVENT
Lake Austin
Organized and moderated by Amritjit Singh, Ohio University
If any of you would like to read your creative writing at Hamara Mushaira, please contact Professor Singh directly at singha@ohio.edu, preferably by December 15

DAY 2: WEDNESDAY; JANUARY 6, 2016

8:00-8:45 AM  REGISTRATION
Lobby

8:00-9:00 AM  GRADUATE STUDENT PROFESSIONALIZATION
Lake Austin  Panel Chair: Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida
Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University
Cynthia Leenerts, East Stroudsberg University
Melanie Wattenbarger, University of Mumbai

9:15-10:30 AM  SESSION 5 (PANELS 5A, 5B, & 5C)
Panel 5A  A New Feminist Public Sphere
Lake Austin  Panel Chair: Reshmi Mukherjee, Boise State University
1. The Millennial Indian Woman and an After-life of the Public Sphere
   Manisha Basu, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2. Indian Women Food Bloggers: Creating Contradictory Knowledge of "Home,” Domestic Labor and Culinary Creativity
   Nandini Dhar, Florida International University

3. Cyber Rhetoric and Indian Women’s Empowerment
   Reshmi Mukherjee, Boise State University

Panel 5B  Islamophobia: The Public Muslim and the Critical Muslim
Executive Learning Center  Panel Chair: Amrita Ghosh, Seton Hall University
1. The Muslim (as) Terrorist in Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni’s One Amazing Thing
   Atreyee Gohain, University of North Florida

2. The Indian Interwebs, Islamophobia, and Its Counterpublics
   Afrin Zeenat, University of Arkansas
3. “A Tense Terrain”: Family Mirroring Nation in Wajahat Ali’s *The Domestic Crusaders*
   Elizabeth Redwine, The Abbey Theatre

**Panel 5C**
San Gabriel

**Sri Lanka in the Public Sphere**
*Panel Chair: Amritjit Singh, Ohio University*

1. Memoir and the Public Sphere: *Running in the Family* and the Shape of its Audience
   Roger MacNamara, Texas Tech University

2. Adaptive Modernities: Geoffrey Bawa and Building Sri Lanka
   Anupama Mohan, Presidency University, Kolkata

3. Bricks, Mortar, Words: Memorializing Public Spaces Destroyed in the Sri Lankan Ethnic Conflict
   Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas at El Paso

**SESSION 6 (PANELS 6A, 6B, & 6C)**

**10:45 AM-12:00 PM**

**Panel 6A**
Lake Austin

**Literary Elites and Canon Formation**
*Panel Chair: Dorothy Lane, Luther College, University of Regina*

1. Radioactive Masculinity: Anxious Atomic Publics and the Postcolonial Bomb
   Dibyadyuti Roy, West Virginia University

2. Lit, Elite: A Postcolonial Inquiry into the Role of Public Sphere of Imagination as an Informal Participant in Region-Making and Shaping of Gujarati Identity
   Chirag Trivedi, B K Majumdar Institute of Business Administration, Ahmedabad

3. Literary Public Culture: From AIPWS to Jaipur
   Michaela Henry, Brandeis University

**Panel 6B**
Executive Learning Center

**Social Justice in the Public Sphere**
*Panel Chair: Abdollah Zahiri, Seneca College*

1. Tossing Caste, Nation, Economics and Race into the Public Sphere: Arundhati Roy’s “The Doctor and the Saint”
   Pennie Ticen, Virginia Military Institute

2. Writing the Modern, Re-writing the Social: Communist Aesthetics and the Early Public Sphere in Kerala
   Ardra N.G., Jawaharlal Nehru University

3. Diasporic Agency: Deepa Mehta’s Centripetal Reading of Caste/Indigenous Colonialism in Water
   Abdollah Zahiri, Seneca College
Panel 6C  Graphic Novels, Young Adult Fiction, and Film in South Asian Diasporic Spaces
San Gabriel
Chair: Kathleen Hewett-Smith, American University of Sharjah

1. Marvel's No Normal, Religion, and the Public Sphere
   Umme Al-wazedi, Augustana College

   PrathimMaya Dora-Laskey, Alma College/ University of Oxford

3. Speaking for Diasporic Youth: Tanuja Desai Hidier’s Young Adult Novels
   Nalini Iyer, Seattle University

12:00-1:30 PM  LUNCH on your own

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

Panel 7A  Myths and Spirituality
Lake Austin
Panel Chair: Umme Al-wazedi, Augustana College

1. The Cultural Manifestation of Surpanakha and Her Necessary Promiscuity
   Devaleena Das, University of Wisconsin Madison

2. Re- visiting the ‘Epic Sphere’ from ‘Other’ Perspective(s)
   Shaweta Nanda, Delhi University

3. Spirituality and Public Space
   Asha Sen, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Panel 7B  Imagining the South Asian Body
Executive Learning Center
Panel Chair: Kanika Batra, Texas Tech University

1. The Neo-Intimate Hindu Sphere: Sexual ‘Purity’ in the Neometropolitan Indian City
   Debojoy Chanda, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2. Egocentric Monitoring within the Public Sphere: Imagining the South Asian Body
   Mayuri Deka, The College of the Bahamas

3. “That Turning Blur is Me”: The Photographed Body in Mukul Kesavan’s Looking Through Glass and Hari Kunzru’s The Impressionist
   J. Edward Mallot, Arizona State University
### Panel 7C
**San Gabriel**

**Urban Spaces, Borders, and Boundaries**

*Panel Chair:* Asha Jeffers, York University

1. **Rural/Urban Imagination**
   Sarika Chandra, Wayne State University

2. **The Heterogeneous Realm of South Asian Literature in Determining the Public Sphere of Partition of India**
   Syrrina Ahsan Ali Haque, Lahore School of Economics; Kinnaird College for Women

3. **Engendering Urban Spaces in Aditya Vikram Sengupta’s Asha Jaoar Majhe**
   Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida

#### 3:00-4:15 PM

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

### Panel 8A
**Lake Austin**

**Theory in Contexts: Travel, Ecology, and Politics**

*Panel Chair:* Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College, Lahore

1. **Disinherited Migrant Refugees: Neither the Past, the Present nor the Future Belongs to the Silenced Lives of the Tide Country**
   Hema Chari, California State University, Los Angeles

2. **A Strange Encounter of Aesthetics with a an Imperial Public Sphere in Alex Strick van Linschoten and Felix Kuehn’s Poetry of the Taliban**
   Yubraj Aryal, University of Montreal

3. **Mark Twain’s India: The Private-Public Divide in Following the Equator**
   Seema Sharma, Jai Hind College, University of Mumbai

4. **Sites of Encounter - Sites of Exchange**
   Dorothy Lane, Luther College, University of Regina

### Panel 8B
**Executive Learning Center**

**Gender in South Asia and the Caribbean Diasporas**

*Panel Chair:* Melanie Wattenbarger, University of Mumbai

1. **Publicity of the Privacy of Purdah: Studying a Memsahib’s Depiction**
   Susmita Roye, Delaware State University

2. **Un/Veiling and the Politics of Resistance in the Public Sphere: A Critical Study of Mumtaz Shahnawaz The Heart Divided**
   Khurshid Alam, The Punjab University, Lahore
Panel 8C
San Gabriel

Transnational Public Spheres
Panel Chair: Sobia Khan, Richland College, Dallas

1. Theorizing the “Global” Public Sphere Aravind Adiga’s The White Tiger
Srigowri Kumar, St. John's University, Queens, NY

2. The Diasporic South Asian Public Sphere: Disconnections and Connections in Kiran Desai’s "The Inheritance of Loss"
Joya Uraizee, Saint Louis University

3. The Orient Writes Back: Hamid’s The Reluctant Fundamentalist as a Counter-orientalist Narrative
Binod Paudyal, University of Utah

4. An Ear to the Spheres: Attending to National and Transnational Political Communities in Three Novels of the South Asian Diaspora
Josna Rege, Worcester State University

END OF SESSIONS FOR DAY 2

4:30-6:00 PM
Lake Austin

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE ADDRESS: “IN THE AGE OF UAVS: TARGETED KILLINGS, COLLATERAL DAMAGE, AND DRONES IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE”
Prof. Barbara Harlow
Louann and Larry Temple Centennial Professor of English Literature at UT Austin

6:00-6:45 PM
Lake Austin

RECEPTION

6:45-7:30 PM
Lake Austin

SALA 2016 AWARDS CEREMONY
Prof. Barbara Harlow
Louann and Larry Temple Centennial Professor of English Literature at UT Austin, SALA Distinguished Achievement Awardee

8:00-10:00 PM
SALA CONFERENCE DINNER (tickets $25)
Bombay Bistro, 4200 S. Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX (512-462-7227)