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 University, Lahore

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

### 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. Re-feudalization 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

4. Sitthani—Verbal Porn Performed in the Public Sphere during a Pious Ceremony  
Rajnish Dhawan, University of the Fraser Valley

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  
Nalini Iyer, Seattle University  
Others TBD
### SESSION 4 (PANELS 4A, 4B, & 4C)

**Panel 4A**  
**Lake Austin**  
**Travel Narratives, Food Blogs, and the Digital Public Sphere**

*Panel 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. **“We Are All Untouchable Until No One Is”: Dalit Women, Dissidence, and the Digital Public Sphere**  
   Ruma Sinha, Syracuse University

**Panel 4B**  
**Executive Learning Center**  
**Phantasms of Neoliberalism and the South Asian Public Sphere**

*Panel 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**  
**San Gabriel**  
**Public Spaces in Novels of the South Asian Diaspora**

*Panel Chair: Summer Pervez, Forman Christian College University, Lahore*

1. **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

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

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

**END OF SESSIONS FOR DAY 1**

**4:30-5:30 PM**  
**GRADUATE CAUCUS**  
**Lake Austin**
DAY 2: WEDNESDAY; JANUARY 6, 2016

8:00-8:45 AM  REGISTRATION  Lobby

8:00-9:00 AM  GRADUATE STUDENT PROFESSIONALIZATION
   Panel Chair: Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida
   This panel is designed to benefit graduate student members of the South Asian Literary Association by providing them with professionalization advice from more experienced members of the organization. The panel eschews formal presentations and instead uses three brief 5 minute contributions from experts in the field to allow for a more robust discussion session.

1. **Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay** (University of Florida) – Panel Chair
2. **Moumin Quazi** (Tarleton State University) – will speak on the importance of service experience to a candidate’s marketability
3. **Cynthia Leenerts** (East Stroudsburg University) – will speak on the ways in which young scholars can expand their research and teaching horizons beyond their specializations
4. **Melanie Wattenbarger** (University of Mumbai) – will speak on the challenges of doing international research in the field of South Asian Studies, particularly as a woman

9:15-10:30 AM  SESSION 5 (PANELS 5A, 5B, & 5C)

Panel 5A  A New Feminist Public Sphere
   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 Executive Learning Center | Islamophobia: The Public Muslim and the Critical Muslim  
 *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 McNamaara, 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 |

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<th>10:45 AM-12:00 PM</th>
<th>SESSION 6 (PANELS 6A, 6B, &amp; 6C)</th>
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| 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 University |
| 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
San Gabriel

**Graphic Novels, Young Adult Fiction, and Film in South Asian Diasporic Spaces**  
*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
Lake Austin

**Myths and Spirituality**  
*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
Executive Learning Center

**Imagining the South Asian Body**  
*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

4. **Cinema and Social Space: A Perspective on Images of Femininity and Practices of Viewership in Hindi Cinema**  
   Nisha Tiwari, Independent Scholar

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

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 University, 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 an Imperial Public Sphere in Alex Strick van Linschoten and Felix Kuehn’s Poetry of the Taliban**  
   Yubraj Aryal, University of Montreal
3. 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. Challenging the Colonial Narrative: An Exploration of Interviews with Formerly Indentured Women
   Alison Klein, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

3. Indo-Trinidadian Women and the Indian Public Sphere: Women under the Influence?
   Delphine Munos, University of Liège

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

END OF SESSIONS FOR DAY 2

4:30-5:45 PM
Lake Austin

RECEPTION

6:00-7:15 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

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)