



The Nation and Its Discontents
South Asian Literary Association
2014 Annual Conference Program
JANUARY 8-9, 2014

ALOFT HOTEL (CITY CENTER)
515 NORTH CLARK STREET; CHICAGO, IL 60654
312-661-1000

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING - "THE YELLOW LINE" ROOM

6-8 p.m. Executive Committee

DAY 1: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

8:00 a.m. onward REGISTRATION

Lobby

9:00-9:30 a.m. CONFERENCE WELCOME

ROOM: THE L

Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University

SALA President

OPENING:

Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia College Chicago

Umme Al-wazedi, Augustana College

Conference Co-Chairs

9:45-11:00 a.m. SESSION 1 (PANELS 1A, 1B, AND 1C)

1A: INTERROGATING INDEPENDENCE AND NATIONALISM

ROOM: THE RED LINE

Panel Chair: Henry Schwarz, Georgetown University

1. Nationalism and Gender in *Cracking India*
Anil H. Chandiramani, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
2. Fragments of History and Female Silence: Discursive Interventions in Partition Narratives
Parvinder Mehta, Siena Heights University
3. Engendering Nationalism: From Swadeshi to Satyagraha
Indrani Mitra, Mount St. Mary's University
4. Unhomed and Deterritorialized: Quest for National Identity in Indira Goswami's *Ahiran*
Kumar Sankar Bhattacharya, Birla Institute of Technology and Sciences (BITS), Pilani

1B: EUROPE IMAGINES SOUTH ASIA

ROOM: THE BLUE LINE

Panel Chair: J. Edward Mallot, Arizona State University

1. From Somebodies to Nobodies: The Dilemma of National Belonging for Poor Whites in India and Britain
Suchismita Banerjee, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
2. White Elephants and Discontents
Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University
3. Social Outcasts in Melodrama: Cross-Cultural Comparisons between Indian and Spanish Melodrama in Film
Maria Dolores Garcia-Borrón, Independent scholar
4. Women as India: Gendered Metaphors of Nation in Indo-Caribbean Indenture Narratives
Alison Klein, CUNY Graduate Center

1C: THE DALIT QUESTION

ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE

Panel Chair: Maya Sharma, Eugenio de Hostos Community College/CUNY

1. From Worse than Dogs to Heroic Tigers: Situating the Animal in Dalit Autobiographies
Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida
2. Urban Dialectics of Caste in Modern India: Reflections from Select Dalit Autobiographical Narratives
Bijay Kumar Sethi, Indian Institute of Technology Indore
3. Revolutionary Affects: Alienation of Caste, Class and Gender in Mahasweta Devi's "Rudali"
Puspa Damai, Marshall University
4. Narrative Arrangement and Radical Politics in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*

Gaura Shankar Narayan, Purchase College, SUNY

11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. SESSION 2 (PANELS 2A, 2B, & 2C)

2A: TERROR, VIOLENCE, AND WAR

ROOM: THE RED LINE

Panel Chair: Namrata Mitra, John Carroll University

1. *Magical Killings: The Occult Real and the Representation of State Terror in Two Assamese Fictions*
Amit Rahul Baishya, Ball State University
2. *Mani Ratnam's Dil Se and the Pyrotechnics of the Body*
Jason Howard Mezey, Saint Joseph's University
3. *Scattered Voices: Diasporic Reflections on the Nation in Turmoil in The Assassin's Song*
Melanie R. Wattenbarger, University of Mumbai
4. *India, Geopolitics, and Specters of Future War*
Suparno Banerjee, Texas State University- San Marcos

2B: SRI LANKAN NATIONALISM AND INSURGENCY

ROOM: THE BLUE LINE

Panel Chair: Roksana Badruddoja, Manhattan College

1. *Shyam Selvadurai's Toronto: The Role of the City in The Hungry Ghosts*
Asha Jeffers, York University
2. *Fragments of the Nation in Beate Arnestad's My Daughter the Terrorist*
Joya Uraizee, Saint Louis University
3. *Burgher (Trans)Nationalism and the Discontents of Hybridity*
Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas- El Paso

2C: CONTENTIOUS FRAGMENTS

ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE

Panel Chair: Rahul Gairola, University of Washington and Seattle University

1. *The Impossibility of the Nation-State in Kashmir in Meena Arora Nayak's Endless Rain*
Robin Field, King's College
2. *Human Condition in Kashmir*
Priyanka Thakur, Panjab University, Chandigarh, India
3. *Hyphenated Existence in-Exile: Transnationalism, Transculturation in Tibetan Poetry*
Rashmi Ramaul, Government College of Teacher Education, Dharamshala.

12:30-1:30 p.m. LUNCH AT LOWER LEVEL LOBBY

1:30-2:45 p.m. Session 3 (Panels 3A, 3B, & 3C)

3A: BANGLADESH AND ITS DIASPORA

ROOM: THE RED LINE

Panel Chair: Suparno Banerjee, Texas State University- San Marcos

1. Negotiating the Politics of Power: Tahmima Anam's *The Good Muslim* and Women's Role in Nation Building
Farzana Akhter, University of Arkansas
2. Maze of Bangladeshi Migration
Hafiza Nilofar Khan, Independent University, Bangladesh
3. Clashing Nationalisms and Corrupting Co-existence: An Analysis of the Shahbag/Hefajot Frenzy in Bangladesh
Asif Iqbal, University of Maine
4. Bonobibir Johnuranamah in the Plural Culture of the Sunderbans: A Comparatist's Thoughts on "The Nation"
Ipschita Chanda, Georgetown University/Jadavpur University

Panel 3B: AMITAV GHOSH AND NATIONAL CRITIQUE

ROOM: THE BLUE LINE

Panel Chair: Melanie Wattenbarger, University of Mumbai

1. New Currents in Subaltern Studies: Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide*, *Sea of Poppies*, and *River of Smoke*
Cynthia Leenerts, East Stroudsburg University
2. Archiving Disappearance: *Sea of Poppies* and the Historiography of Mixed Race
Nadine Attewell, McMaster University
3. The Shadow Land: The Enigma of East Bengal in Amitav Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines*
Nasia Anam, UCLA

3C: CONTESTING THE NATION IN (NON) NOVEL FORMS

ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE

Panel Chair: Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas- El Paso

1. The Nation and Its Hijra Communities: Representations of "in Between Male and Female" in Noman Robin's *Common Gender*
Jana Fedtke, Asian University for Women, Bangladesh
2. Digital Citizen Journalism and Sri Lankan Nationalisms in *Groundviews*
Brian Yothers, University of Texas at El Paso
2. *Bhimayana*: Graphic Narrative as a Site for Dalit Resistance and Collaboration
Ruma Sinha, Syracuse University
3. Acting Like a Thief: Performance as Survival

Henry Schwarz, Georgetown University

3:00-4:15 p.m. Session 4 (Panels 4A, 4B, & 4C)

4A: THE COSMOPOLIS AND THE UNDERCLASS

ROOM: THE RED LINE

Panel Chair: Nalini Iyer, Seattle University

1. Emergence of the Cosmopolitan - National in *Midnight's Children* and *Maximum City*
Payel Chattopadhyay Mukherjee and Arnapurna Rath, Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar
2. Mohsin Hamid, Frantz Fanon, and Sri Aurobindo Duke It Out in Rising Asia
John C. Hawley, Santa Clara University
3. DeHaadi Friendship & Beyond: Collapsing Our World and Theirs
Bryan Hull, Portland Community College
4. Urban Space and Terroristic Simmerings: The City Remapped in Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and Uzma Aslam Khan's *Trespassing*
Saba Pirzadeh, Purdue University

4B: ARAVIND ADIGA'S *THE WHITE TIGER* AND NATIONAL CONFRONTATION

ROOM: THE BLUE LINE

Panel Chair: Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida

1. Survival of the Hungriest
Amanda Del Signore, Arcadia University
2. The Door Was Always Open: Revising Identity in Adiga's *White Tiger*
Noreen O'Connor, King's College
3. The Postcolonial India in Aravind Adiga's *The White Tiger*
Jaclyn Gaydos, Arcadia University

Panel 4C: THE POLITICS OF ARUNDHATI ROY

ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE

Panel Chair: Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University

1. "Can we leave the bauxite in the mountain?": Posing Unwomanly Questions in *Walking with the Comrades*
Pennie Ticen, Virginia Military Institute
2. Novel Kids on the Block: Child Dissidents and Postcolonial Discontent in Shyam Selvadurai's *Funny Boy* and Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*
Prathim-Maya Dora-Laskey, University of Oxford (U.K.) and Alma College
3. Faith in Fragility: Queer Narrative Form in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*
Mary Reid, University of California, San Diego

4:30-5:45 p.m. **GRADUATE CAUCUS**
ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE

6:00-7:00 p.m. **GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING**
ROOM: THE L

7:00-8:15 p.m. **DINNER ON YOUR OWN**

8:30-10:00 p.m. **HAMARA MUSHAIRA: LITERARY ARTS EVENT**
ROOM: THE L

Chaired by Amritjit Singh, Ohio University

Invited Readers: Novelist Sonora Jha (*Foreign*), Seattle University

Poet Saleem Peeradina, Sienna Heights University

If any of you would like to read your creative writing at Hamara Mushaira, please contact Professor Singh directly at singha@ohio.edu

DAY 2: THURSDAY, 9 JANUARY

8:00 a.m. onwards **REGISTRATION**
Lobby

8:00-9:00 a.m. **PLENARY PROFESSIONALIZATION PANEL**
Demystifying the Job Market
Panel Chair: Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida
Panelists: Nalini Iyer, Seattle University
Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University
Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas- El Paso
J. Edward Mallot, Arizona State University

9:15-10:30 a.m. **Session 5 (Panels 5A, 5B, & 5C)**

5A: SOUTH ASIAN DIASPORA AND FEMALE INTERVENTIONS
ROOM: THE RED LINE

Panel Chair: Lopamudra Basu, University of Wisconsin-Stout

1. The Doubly Marginalized Female Diasporic Subaltern: Dimple and Jyoti in Bharati Mukherjee's *Wife and Jasmine*

Priyadarshini Gupta, Ohio University

2. Diasporic Fiction: Project of Empire and Consolidation of the Nation-State

Roksana Badruddoja, Manhattan College

3. "The Remnant is the Whole": Self-Representation through Collage in Meena Alexander's *The Shock of Arrival*

Umme Al-wazedi, Augustana College

4. The Diaspora's Audacity: Deepa Mehta's Reading of Caste/Indigenous Colonialism in *Water*
Abdollah Zahiri, Seneca College

5B: STEREOTYPES & RESISTANCE IN SOUTH ASIAN REPRESENTATIONS INTO THE TWENTY FIRST CENTURY

ROOM: THE BLUE LINE

Panel Chair: Pennie Ticen, Virginia Military Institute

1. "Feeling so exotic": Priyanka Chopra's Gendered Representations in Recent Popular Music Videos

Rahul Gairola, University of Washington & Seattle University

2. Against Muslim Monoliths: Locating Agency and Resistance in Mirza Waheed's *The Collaborator*
Amrita Ghosh, Seton Hall University

3. Creating Alternative Places to Meet in *36 Chowringhee Lane* and *Rang De Basanti*
Arundhati Sanyal, Seton Hall University

5C: RECASTING 20TH CENTURY NATIONALISM FROM THE MARGINS

ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE

Panel Chair: Hena Ahmad, Truman State University

1. "Discontent" in the Aesthetics of I. Allan Sealy's *The Trotter-Nama: Nationalism and Marginalization of the Anglo-Indian Community*

Roger McNamara, Texas Tech University

2. Airing Domestic Dirt: Modernity, Mobility, Education, and Education in Sulekha Sanyal's *The Seedling's Tale (Nabhankur)*

Kathleen Fernando, Kenyon College

3. *Ecriture Feminine: An Approach to Kamala Das and Sara Joseph*
Smita Jha, Indian Institute of Technology

10:45 a.m.-12:00N Session 6 (Panels 6A, 6B, & 6C)

6A: MEMORY, TRAUMA, AND REFRAMING THE NATION

ROOM: THE RED LINE

Panel Chair: Prabhjot Parmar, University of Fraser Valley

1. Neoliberal Development and Conflict: Ambalavaner Sivanandan's *When Memory Dies*
Nicola Robinson, University of York, UK
2. Tsunami Stories: Narrating the Oceanic Disaster

Pallavi Rastogi, Louisiana State University

3. Remembering Air India: The Politics of the Apology

Chandrima Chakraborty, McMaster University

4. South Asian Diasporic Identity Conflict in the Aftermath of 9/11 in South Asian American Young Adult Fiction

Hena Ahmad, Truman State University

6B: RELIGIOSITY AND SOUTH ASIAN NATIONALITY

ROOM: THE BLUE LINE

Panel Chair: Amritjit Singh, Ohio University

1. Indian National Identity in Salman Rushdie's *The Moor's Last Sigh*

Maya Sharma, Eugenio de Hostos Community College/CUNY

2. Islamism, Neo-liberalism and Terror: Fixing Fixity in Tabish Khair's *How to Fight Islamist Terror from a Missionary Position*

Afrin Zeenat, University of Arkansas

3. The Inbetweeners: The Construction of Moderate Muslim Identities in the Works of Tabish Khair and Mohsin Hamid

Maryam Fatima, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

4. Many Falls: Rewriting Camus in Postcolonial South Asia

Matthew Nelson, University of Illinois

6C: POETICS, POLITICS, AND AFFECT

ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE

Panel Chair: John C. Hawley, Santa Clara University

1. Samrat Upadhyay's Compassionate Gaze

Ubaraj Katawal, Valdosta State University

2. A View of Postcolonial Sri Lanka Through Popular Culture: Reading Mani Ratnam's *Kannathil Muthamittal*

Vasugi Kailasam, National University of Singapore

3. Transnational Poetics of Contemporary Pakistani Diaspora Poets

Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore, Pakistan

4. No Recourse But to the Nation: A Reading of Shonali Bose's *Amu*

Alpana Sharma, Wright State University

12:00-1:00 p.m. LUNCH AT LOWER LEVEL LOBBY

1:00-2:15 p.m. Session 7 (Panels 7A, 7B, & 7C)

7A: PERFORMANCE OF GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

ROOM: THE RED LINE

Panel Chair: Kanika Batra, Texas Tech University

1. Fashioning Citizenship: Cosmopolitanism in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*
Pia Sahni, Brown University
2. Nearly Home: Gender, Citizenship, and Belonging in Anita Rau Badami's *Can You Hear the Nightbird Call?*
Nalini Iyer, Seattle University
3. Karma Cola Nation: Between History and Mythology in Anita Desai's *Journey to Ithaca*
Stephanie Stonehewer Southmayd, University of Toronto
4. Khaki Sahibs and the Indian Nation
Sukanya Gupta, University of Southern Indiana

7B: GLOBALIZING THE CALL CENTER

ROOM: THE BLUE LINE

Panel Chair: Chandrima Chakraborty, McMaster University

1. Call Centre Cosmopolitanism: Global Capitalism and Local Identity in Bangalore Fiction
Anna Guttman, Lakehead University
2. Disaster Normalized: The Poetics of Bureaucracy
Liam O'Loughlin, University of Pittsburgh
3. Is There a Call Center Literature?
Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan, University of California- Berkeley

7C: THE POLITICS OF FILM

ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE

Panel Chair: Summer Pervez, Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Vancouver Film School

1. Bollywood and the Formal Aesthetics of a Global Nation
Koel Banerjee, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
2. The Objective and the Immersed: Cinematic Lenses for Caste and the Contemporary Rural in *Bawandar* and *Omkara*
Arunima Paul, University of Southern California
3. By the Glow of the Campfire: Interrogating Indian Summer
Anu Chatterjee, Clermont College, University of Cincinnati
4. Rituparno Ghosh: Queer Aesthetics and Political Drag in the Discontented Nation
Basuli Dev, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

2:30-3:30 p.m. Session 8 (Panels 8A, 8B, & 8C)

8A: PERFORMANCE OF GENDERED CITIZENSHIP

ROOM: THE RED LINE

Panel Chair: Afrin Zeenat, University of Arkansas

1. Material Girls Living in a Material World: Gender and the Nation State in *Rising Asia*
Nira Gupta-Casale, Kean University
2. Re-mapping the Nation: Gender, Identity and Domestic Space in Anita Desai's *Fire on the Mountain*
Sreya Chatterjee, West Virginia University
3. War on Women: South Asian Women, Violent Event and the Concept of "Ethnicity"
Tehmina Pirzada, Purdue University
4. The Myth of Gender Equality: The H4 Visa and the West
Parmita Kapadia, Northern Kentucky University

8B: NEW DIRECTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS

ROOM: THE BLUE LINE

Panel Chair: Maria-Dolores Garcia-Borron, Independent Scholar

1. Schema Theory and the South Asian Literature classroom: Strategies for Creating a Secure, Prosocial Identity
Mayuri Deka, The College of the Bahamas
2. The Disruption and Restructuring of Social Schema in the Classroom Using Bollywood Film to Create Counterstereotypical Exemplars
Sarah Mohler, Truman State University
3. Translating Landays: Using Schema Theory to Teach New Poetic Forms
Zeeshan Riyaz Reshamwala, Moberly Area Community College

8C: THE BRITISH DIASPORA

ROOM: THE YELLOW LINE

Panel Chair: Cynthia Leenerts, East Stroudsburg University

1. "This is a Text Nobody Likes": Hanif Kureishi and the Subversive Spaces of British Nationalism
J. Edward Mallot, Arizona State University
2. Religious Fundamentalism, Nationalism, and Transnational Modernity in Salman Rushdie's Novels
Tawnya Ravy, The George Washington University
3. The Subversive Sketch Comedy of Meera Syal and Sanjeev Bhaksar
Summer Pervez, Kwantlen Polytechnic University and Vancouver Film School

4:00-5:00 p.m. **RECEPTION**
Lobby

5:00-6:00 p.m. **CONFERENCE KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

ROOM: THE L
Professor Timothy Brennan, University of Minnesota

6:00-7:00 p.m. **SALA 2014 AWARDS CEREMONY**
ROOM: THE L
Graduate Student Paper Prizes
M. G. Vassanji, Distinguished Achievement in Writing Award
Professor Amritjit Singh, Distinguished Achievement in Scholarship Award

7:30-8:15 p.m. **SALA CONFERENCE DINNER**
INDIAN GARDEN RESTAURANT
247 E ONTARIO STREET
CHICAGO, IL 60611
Thanking Kris Stokes, Web and Design Services to SALA

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