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. Fragments of History and Female Silence: Discursive Interventions in Partition Narratives
   Parvinder Mehta, Siena Heights University
2. Engendering Nationalism: From Swadeshi to Satyagraha
   Indrani Mitra, Mount St. Mary's University
3. 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-Borron, 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. Revolutionary Affects: Alienation of Caste, Class and Gender in Mahasweta Devi's “Rudali”
   Puspa Damai, Marshall University
3. 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: Suparno Banerjee, Texas State University-San Marcos
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: Joya Uraizee, Saint Louis University
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 Maryland (Baltimore County)
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
   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: Pennie Ticen, Virginia Military Institute
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. Clashing Nationalisms and Corrupting Co-existence: An Analysis of the Shahbag/Hefajot Frenzy in Bangladesh  
   Asif Iqbal, University of Maine
   Ipshita 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, University of California, Los Angeles

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
3. *Bhimayana*: Graphic Narrative as a Site for Dalit Resistance and Collaboration  
   Ruma Sinha, Syracuse University
4. 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-May 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
ROOM: THE “L”
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: Rahul Gairola, University of Maryland (Baltimore County)
1. “Feeling so exotic”: Priyanka Chopra's Gendered Representations in Recent Popular Music Videos
   Rahul Gairola, University of Maryland (Baltimore County)
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. Diaspora, Culture, and Authenticity: Re-inventing Indian Identity in Jhumpa Lahiri's Interpreter of Maladies
   Bishnu Ghimire, Alabama State University

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: Pallavi Rastogi, Louisiana State University
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. Transnational Poetics of Contemporary Pakistani Diaspora Poets  
   Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College (A Chartered University), Lahore, Pakistan
3. 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. Her Memoir. Her Voice. The Khaki Memsahib Defines Herself
   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 Deb, 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
   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
   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
“Future Interrupted: The Subjunctive Nationalism of M.N. Roy”
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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