SALA 2015

Borders, Boundaries, and Margins
The 15th Annual South Asian Literary Association Conference
6 -7 JANUARY 2015
Listel Hotel, 1300 Robson St. Vancouver, Canada

Conference Schedule

	MONDAY, 5 JANUARY
5:00-7:00pm ***Sculpture Gallery***	**MEETING: Executive Committee**
DAY 1:	**TUESDAY, 6 JANUARY**
8: 00 a.m. onward ***Lobby***	**REGISTRATION**
9:00-9:30 a.m.	**CONFERENCE WELCOME**: Moumin Quazi, SALA President
Impressionist Gallery	**OPENING**: Prabhjot Parmar & Sharanpal Ruprai, Conference Co-Chairs
9:45-11:00 a.m.	**SESSION 1 (PANELS 1A, IB, & 1C)**
Panel 1A ***Sculpture Gallery W***	**AMITAV GHOSH: SEAS, RIVERS, GIRMITIYAS** *Panel Chair: John Hawley, Santa Clara University*

1. **Seas and Rivers as Borders/Boundaries: Shaping Identities of the South Asian Indians**
   Jayshree Singh, Bhopal Noble Post Graduate College
2. **Can the Sublime Be Postcolonial: Aesthetics, Politics and Ethics in Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide***
   Jana M. Giles, University of Louisiana
3. **"Words Do Not Stop at Borders": The Chrestomathy and Global Literature in Amitav Ghosh's *Ibis Trilogy***
   Jim Hannan, Moyne College

Panel 1B
Impressionist Gallery

DIASPORIC BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES
Panel Chair: Bonnie Zare, University of Wyoming

1. **Diasporic Epic Heroines: Nina Paley's *Sita Sings the Blues* and Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's *The Palace of Illusions***
   Cynthia A. Leenerts**,** East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania
2. **Negotiating Caste and Gender Across Borders: Migration, Indenture and Freedom in Gaiutra Bahadur's *Coolie Woman***
   Ruma Sinha**,** Syracuse University
3. **"Stick[ing] to their own kind": Melancholia, Migration, and Anti-Black Racism in Mira Nair's *Mississippi Masala***
   Nisha Eswaran, McMaster University

Panel 1C
Sculpture Gallery E

UN/CERTAIN BOUNDARIES: ANIMAL, HUMAN, ILLNESS
Panel Chair: Moumin Quazi, Tarleton University

1. **"I Used to be Human Once": Bodies and Boundaries in Indra Sinha's *Animal's People***
   J. Edward Mallot**,** Arizona State University
2. **Being Boundless: Reading Trauma, Animals, and Relations through South Asian Epistemologies**
   Nandini Thiyagarajan**,** McMaster University
3. **Contagions, Computer Viruses, and Infectious Agents: Transnational Memory in Hari Kunzru's *Transmission***
   Jessica Young, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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

Panel 2A
Sculpture Gallery E

ETHICS, AESTHETICS, CROSSING BORDERS
Panel Chair: Pradyumna S. Chauhan, Arcadia University

1. **Social Plurality and Cohabitation: A Critique of State-Sponsored Nationalism**
   Navneet Kumar, Medicine Hat College
2. **Performance, Stereotype and Protest in Contemporary Indian Theatre**
   Henry Schwarz, Georgetown University
3. **Means of Escape, Means of Invention: Hindu Figures and Black Pop Culture in Rakesh Satyal's *Blue Boy***
   Asha Jeffers, York University
4. **"Yeah, That's What Ed Said": Das Racist and the Postcolonial Theory Generation**

Liam O'Loughlin**,** University of Pittsburgh

Panel 2B **NEGOTIATING BORDERS AND BOUNDARIES**
Sculpture Gallery W *Panel Chair: J. Edward Mallot, Arizona State University*

1. **Liminalities of the "Third Sex" in Contemporary Indian Discourse: Hijras and LGBT in the Gendered Sexual Economy of India**
   Nisha Tiwari, University of Delhi
2. **"Migrants with Attitude": On the Politics of Shailja Patel's Migritude and Afro-Asian Diasporas**
   Christopher Ian Foster, The Graduate Center, CUNY
3. **The Place of Transcategorical Fictions in American Literary Studies**
   Binod Paudyal, University of Utah

Panel 2C **HOME: PLACE, MYTHS, REALITIES, & RETURNS**
Impressionist Gallery *Panel Chair: Sharanpal Ruprai, University of Calgary*

1. **No Place Like Home in Srinivas Krishna's *Masala***
   Manjeet Ridon, University of Nottingham
2. **Mythical Homes and Violent Realities: Reading Gujarat in M. G. Vassanji's Writings**
   Asma Sayed, Grant MacEwan University
3. **Diasporic Imaginaries, Narcissistic Nostalgia, and the Need for New Futures**
   Alia Somani**,** Centennial College
4. **Desi/Videsi Films: lndian Values and the lndian Post-Diaspora in Recent Bollywood Cinema**
   Maria-Dolores Garcia-Borron, Independent Scholar

12:30-1:30 p.m. **LUNCH: LISTEL HOTEL**

1:30-2:45 p.m. **SESSION 3 (PANELS 3A, 3B, & 3C)**

Panel 3A **REIFYING MARGINS AND BOUNDARIES**
Sculpture Gallery E *Panel Chair: Summer Pervez, Kwantlen Polytechnic University*

1. **Sympathy for the Migrant: The Rushdie Affair, Hanif Kureishi's *The Black Album* and the Emergence of the Neoliberal Novel**
   Kasim Husain, McMaster University
2. **The Identity of "Paki" versus "Pakistani" Engendering Power Boundaries in Hanif Kureishi's *My Beautiful Launderette***
   Syrrina Ahsan Ali Haque**,** Lahore School of Economics
3. **Translation Goes to Movies: Modeling Critical Discourse Analysis of Adaptation and Interpreting**

Reema Sukhija, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore

Panel 3B **DALIT IDENTITIES**
Sculpture Gallery W *Panel Chair: Prabhjot Parmar, University of the Fraser Valley*

1. **Soaring over a Literary Boundary and the Mind-Body Boundary: The Unique Stories of M. M. Vinodini**
   Bonnie Zare**,** University of Wyoming
2. **Trauma and (Story)telling: Dalit Names as Unhappy Objects in Omprakash Valmiki's *Joothan***
   Sanchari Sur, Wilfrid Laurier University
3. **The Mis/Appropriation of Dalit as a Marginal Identity: A Study of Prakash Jha's *Aarakshan***
   Alpna Saini**,** Central University of Punjab

Panel 3C **SPACES AND SPECTRES**
Impressionist Gallery *Panel Chair: Kavita Daiya, George Washington University*

1. **Mohsin Hamid's Guarded Narrative Space in *Mothsmoke***
   Shahzeb Khan**,** University of the Punjab
2. **Life and Death Borders, or the Return of Spirit in Contemporary South Asian Culture**
   Nandini Bhattacharya, Texas A&M University

2:45-4:00 p.m. **SESSION 4 (PANELS 4A, 4B, & 4C)**

Panel 4A **PUNJABI AND SIKH DIASPORA**
Sculpture Gallery E *Panel Chair: Amritjit Singh, Ohio University*

1. **Performing the *Komagata Maru:* Theatre and the Work of Memory**
   Anne Murphy**,** University of British Columbia
2. **On the Edge and Beyond: The Sikhs in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran**
   Abdollah Zahiri, Seneca College
3. **The Strength and Fragility of Boundaries in *Ocean of Pearls***
   Ruby Rana**,** University of Mumbai
4. **Punjabi Pastoral: The Poetics and Politics of a Rural Imaginary**
   Nicola Mooney, University of the Fraser Valley

Panel 4B **RESISTING, ESCAPING, REDEFINING**
Sculpture Gallery W *Panel Chair: Alpana Sharma, University of Mary Washington*

1. **The Pink Sisterhood: Rural Activist into Bandits (Gulabi Gang vs *Gulaab Gang*)**
   Imti Watitula Longkumer and Reema Sukhija**,** IIT Indore
2. **Reimagining the Margin(s), Exploring the Self: Imtiaz Ali's *Highway***
   Shreyosi Mukherjee, National University of Singapore
3. **Marginal Maternities: Surrogacy, Motherhood, and Definitions of Family**
   Holly Morgan**,** Westfaelische Wilhelms-Universitaet

Panel 4C **LIMINAL AND SENSORIAL**
Impressionist Gallery *Panel Chair: Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas at El Paso*

1. **Borders and the Liminal in *The Moor's Last Sigh***
   Savitri Ashok, Independent Scholar
2. **Embracing the Borderlands: Diasporic Identity as Border-ed in Shauna Singh Baldwin's *English Lessons and Other Stories***
   Amber Riaz, Douglas College
3. **The Immigrant Enclave as a Borderland in Monica Ali's *Brick Lane***
   Nasia Anam, UCLA
4. **The Smell of Empire: Olfactory Oppression of the Colonized Subject in *Burmese Days***
   Rebekah Renee Grado, University of Texas at El Paso

END OF SESSIONS FOR DAY 1

4:00-5:15 p.m. **GRADUATE CAUCUS**
Impressionist Gallery

5:15-6:15 p.m. **GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING**
Impressionist Gallery

6:15-8:15 p.m. **DINNER**

8:15-10:00 p.m. **HAMARA MUSHAIRA: LITERARY ARTS EVENT**
Impressionist Gallery
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 24

DAY 2: **WEDNESDAY, 7 JANUARY 2015**

8:00- 8:45 a.m **REGISTRATION**
Lobby

8:00-9:00 a.m.
Impressionist Gallery

GRADUATE STUDENT PROFESSIONALIZATION
Panel Chair: *Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida*

Nalini Iyer, Seattle University
Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University
J. Edward Mallot, Arizona State University
Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia College Chicago

9:15-10:30 a.m.

SESSION 5 (PANELS 5A, 5B, & 5C)

Panel 5A
Sculpture Gallery E

VIOLENCE, COSMOPOLITANISM, TRANSCENDING BORDERS
Panel Chair: Henry Schwarz, Georgetown University

1. **Burning Borders: Migration and Violence in South Asia**
   Sajaudeen Nijamodeen Chapparban**,** University of Hyderabad
2. **Rebels Without Borders: The Ghadar Party on Ireland and China**
   Pranav Jani, Ohio State University
3. **The Boundary of Faith: Alexandra David-Neel's *Anti-Intellectual Pursuit in Tibet***
   Hui-Chu Yu, National Pingtung University, Taiwan

Panel 5B
Sculpture Gallery W

CONTESTED BOUNDARIES, ETHNIC TRANSFORMATION
Panel Chair: Savitri Ashok, Independent Scholar

1. **Temporal and Spatial Boundaries in Romesh Gunesekera's *Noon Tide Toll* and Lal Medawattegedera's *Playing Pillow Politics at the MGK***
   Maryse Jayasuriya**,** University of Texas at El Paso
2. **The Tiger and the Chameleon: The Legacy of Ethnic Difference in K. S. Maniam's *In a Far Country* and *Between Lives***
   Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay**,** University of Florida
3. **Radical Politics and Model Diasporas: South Asians in Malayan Anglophone Literature**
   Christopher B Patterson, New York Institute of Technology

Panel 5C
Impressionist Gallery

MOHSIN HAMID: *THE RELUCTANT FUNDAMENTALIST*
Panel Chair: Amber Riaz, Douglas College

1. **The Cosmopolitan Oppression: Ambiguity and Alienization in Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist***
   Priyadarshini Gupta**,** Ohio University
2. **Destabilizing the Border: Shifting Cultural Identities in Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist***

Joya Uraizee, Saint Louis University

3. **Transnational Identity in Crisis in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist***
   Sobia Khan, Richland College

10:45 a.m.-12:00p.m. **SESSION 6 (PANELS 6A, 6B, & 6C)**

Panel 6A **PARTITION: BORDERLANDS, BELONGING AND CITIZENSHIP**
Sculpture Gallery E *Panel Chair: Amrita Ghosh, Seattle University*

1. **Multiple Migrations: Partition Narratives in the South Asian Diaspora**
   Nalini Iyer, Seattle University
2. **Border Crossings and Women's Recovery Bill in Bengali Partition Narratives**
   Amrita Ghosh, Seton Hall University
3. **Looking East: Frames for Studying Partition Narratives from North-East India**
   Amit R. Baishya, University of Oklahoma

Panel 6B **MARGINS, BRIDGES, AND INTERSECTIONS**
Sculpture Gallery W *Panel Chair: Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia College Chicago*

1. **Re-Imagining the Narratives of the Gulf Diaspora in Literature**
   Maya Vinai, Birla Institute of Technology & Science
2. **New 'Legendary Histories' in the South Asian Anglophone Novel: Bridging Postcoloniality, Contemporaneity, and Transnationalism in Rao, Joshi, and Kunzru**
   Michaela M. Henry, Brandeis University
3. **Boundaries as Kaleidoscopes of Intersection: Crossroads of Memory and Resistance in the Film *Bombay***
   Smithi Mohan J S., University of Kerala
4. **Breaking Borders: Towards an Exploration of North East Indian Literature**
   Imti Watitula Longkumer, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore

Panel 6C **ROUNDTABLE: DIGITAL SOUTH ASIA**
Impressionist Gallery *Chair: Alex Gill, Columbia University*

Deepika Bahri, Emory University
Rahul Gairola, Queen's College and York College, CUNY
Sonora Jha, Seattle University
Roopika Risam, Salem State University

12:00-1:00 p.m. **LUNCH: LISTEL HOTEL**

1:00-2:15 p.m. **SESSION 7 (PANELS 7A, 7B, & 7C)**

Panel 7A **WOMEN, BORDERS, AND BOUNDARIES**
Sculpture Gallery E *Panel Chair: Melanie Wattenberger, University of Mumbai*

1. **Stretching the Bounds: Women's Experience of Indenture in Peggy Mohan's *Jahajin***
   Alison Klein, CUNY Graduate Center
2. **The M(O)ther/Monster in Mahasweta Devi's *Bayen***
   Sobia Mubarak**,** University of Arkansas

Panel 7B **MOBILITY, DIASPORA, AND CINEMA**
Sculpture Gallery W *Panel Chair: Nicola Mooney, University of the Fraser Valley*

1. **Mother India and Her Others: Occidentalism in *Kabhi Khushie Kabhi Gham***
   Oliver Ross, University of Cambridge
2. **Adaptation and the Reassertion of Boundaries: Deepa Mehta's *Midnight's Children***
   Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia College Chicago

Panel 7C **RACIAL AND PEDGOGICAL BOUNDARIES**
Impressionist Gallery *Panel Chair: Rahul Gairola, Queen's College and York College, CUNY*

1. **American Dream: A Myth of Success or Mirage; An Investigation into Lahiri's *The Namesake* and *Unaccustomed Earth***
   Khandakar Ashraful Islam**,** Metropolitan University
2. **What Is My Color?: The Problems of Racial Boundaries**
   Qianqian Li, Philipps-University of Marburg in Germany
3. **Multicultural Pedagogy: Teaching *The Namesake* and "Hell-Heaven" to a Freshman Class**
   Saiyeda Khatun**,** Johnson & Wales University
4. **Texture as Substance: Reading Homi Bhabha Re-Membering Fanon**
   Henry Schwarz, Georgetown University

2:15-3:30 p.m. **SESSION 8 (PANELS 8A, 8B, & 8C)**

Panel 8A
Sculpture Gallery E

NOSTALGIA, MEMORY, BORDERS AND BEYOND
Panel Chair: Sharanpal Ruprai, University of Calgary

1. **Alter-geography, Revisionary Historiography and Cultural Identity in the Novels of Khaled Husseini and Kamila Shamsie**
   Naila Sahar, University of New York
2. **Partitions of Memory: Trauma and Narrative in Jyotirmoyee Devi's *The River Churning***
   Shumona Dasgupta, University of Mary Washington
3. **Borders, Boundaries and the Blur in-between : A Reading of Saadat Hasan Manto's "Toba Tek Singh"**
   Jaskiran Tiwana, GGDSD College, Chandigarh
4. **Beyond Borders: From Cartographic Distances to Cosmopolitan Agency in Bapsi Sidhwa's *Ice-Candy-Man* and Amitav Ghosh's *The Shadow Lines***
   Prathim Maya Dora-Laskey, Alma College, University of Oxford

Panel 8B
Sculpture Gallery W

BORDERS, BOUNDARIES, AND IN-BETWEEN
Panel Chair: Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, University of Florida

1. **Whose Home and How? Understanding the case of "Indian Muslim" through Cultural Productions**
   Bhumika Rajan, Jawaharlal Nehru University
2. **Being Modern in Bhakkar: A Gated Community in Rural Pakistan**
   Tariq L. Rahman, University of Oregon
3. **Pakistani *Trans*-national Poetics: A Disaporic Reconfiguration of the Ideological Boundaries**
   Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College

Panel 8C
Impressionist Gallery

SEXUAL IDENTITIES: POLITICS, PLEASURES, DISTINCTIONS
Panel Chair: Nalini Iyer, Seattle University

1. **Crossing the Threshold: Queer Identity and the Politics of Public and Private Spheres in Farzana Doctor's *Six Metres of Pavement***
   Melanie R. Wattenbarger, University of Mumbai
2. **Queer Pleasures of the 90s Desi Party**
   Swathi Sreerangarajan, University of Pittsburgh
3. **The Marginalized Sexual Identities of Hijras in Ash Kotak's *Hijra***
   Jeremy Gillette-Newman, Arizona State University

3:30-4:45 p.m. **ROUNDTABLE: POETS AND CREATIVE WRITERS**
Impressionist Gallery

END OF SESSIONS FOR DAY 2

4:45-5:45 p.m. **RECEPTION**
Lobby

5:45-6:30 p.m. **SALA 2014 AWARDS CEREMONY**
Impressionist Galler **Homi Bhabha (via skype from India)**
University Professor, Harvard University
SALA Distinguished Achievement Awardee

6:30-7:45 p.m. **CONFERENCE KEYNOTE ADDRESS: "A RIVER'S JOURNEY"**
Impressionist Gallery **Sadhu Binning**
Poet and Creative Writer

8:15 p.m. **SALA CONFERENCE DINNER**
Salam Bombay, 755 Burrard St., Vancouver (Tel: 604-681-6300)