Dear SALA Members:

Happy New Year to all! The main reason of SALA 2019 is to address the move in academia away from the Eurocentric emphasis in conceptualizations of “globalization,” and towards what our call for papers describes as a thinking through of “South-South affinities, affiliations, and antagonisms.” Thanks to Madhurima Chakraborty and Nalini Iyer for this great theme, and for their organizational skills in pulling this together. This conference will investigate “the cultural production of South Asian identity as a global phenomenon,” asking “how such production is generated globally, through international relationships, and in concert with production of identities of other nations and collective identities.” This promises to be a wonderfully imaginative set of papers that will enrich the published research of our members.

Chicago is an excellent site for such discussions. By the close of the 19th century, it was the fifth largest city in the world and much of the population was made up of immigrants. Always imagined as a tough place of give and take, Carl Sandburg famously wrote of Chicago: “Come and show me another city with lifted head singing so proud to be alive and coarse and strong and cunning. / Flinging magnetic curses amid the toil of piling job on job, here is a tall bold slugger set vivid against the little soft cities.” But speaking of “little soft cities,” two topics that I think we need to continue talking about quite seriously are the venue and timing of our annual conference—regardless of what the MLA may plan for its future (and we know that it meets in Seattle next year, as do we, and then in Toronto), perhaps SALA should consider 1) in the early Fall, or the Spring or early summer, when transportation is surer, and 2) on a college campus, where we might make a happier financial arrangement than is possible in city hotels these days.

Finally, on behalf of the executive committee I wish to thank Dr. Pradyumna Chauhan for his able editorship of the South Asian Review over these past five years, and heartily welcome our new editor, Dr. Nalini Iyer. Having now transitioned to the publication services of Taylor & Francis, and with our entire archive now digitized, we are well poised to embark on an increasingly firm academic footing. And thank you all for allowing me to serve as President of this wonderful organization. Excelsior!

— John C. Hawley, President of SALA
SALA 2019 | CHICAGO

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTH ASIAN LITERARY ASSOCIATION (SALA)

SOUTH ASIAN LITERATURES IN THE WORLD
January 6-7, 2019
TheWit Hotel, Chicago
201 N. State St. Chicago, IL 60601
USA

** Any real time changes to this program will be uploaded on the official SALA website **

Conference Co-Chairs: Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia College Chicago
Nalini Iyer, Seattle University

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2019

5:00—7:00 PM Lincoln: Executive Committee Meeting

DAY 1: SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019

7:30 AM: REGISTRATION DESK OPENS

8:00-8:20 AM: CONFERENCE COMMENCEMENT

Wilde
John C. Hawley, SALA President
Madhurima Chakraborty, Conference co-chair. “South Asian Literatures in the World.”

SESSION 1: 8:30-9:45 AM

Wilde
Locating the Inventions of South Asia—Opening Plenary (Roundtable)
Chair: Nalini Iyer, Seattle University
Neilesh Bose, University of Victoria
Rajani Sudan, Southern Methodist University
Susan Andrade, University of Pittsburgh
Ana Cristina Mendes, University of Lisbon, Center for English Studies
Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College, Lahore

SESSION 2: 10:00 -11:15 AM

2A Wilde
Gender, Environment, and Crisis in South Asian Graphic Narratives (Roundtable)
Chair: Kavita Daiya, George Washington University

Anuja Madan, Kansas State University, “The Art of Anuruta Patil.”
Lopamudra Basu, University of Wisconsin-Stout. “Postcolonial Masculinities in Sarnath Banerjee’s Novels.”
Sukanya Gupta, University of Southern Indiana. “Sarnath Banerjee’s All Quiet in Vikaspuri as Text/Image Activism & Cli-Fi.”
Nidhi Shrivastava, University of Western Ontario. “Priya’s Shakti, Recasting of Familiar Mythological Constructs in Order to Criticize Rape Culture.”

2B Cibo Matto
The Politics of Kashmir
Chair: Abdollah Zahiri, Seneca College

Prithwa Deh, Debraj Roy College, Golaghat, Assam. “Nation, Identity and Body: Reading the Disputed Boundaries in Contemporary South Asian Graphic Narrative.”

2C Churchill
Aravind Adiga and the Contours of South Asia
Chair: Waseem Anwar, Forman Christian College, Lahore

Md. Rezaul Haque, St. John’s University, New York. “Going beyond the Binary of Self and Other: The Case of South Asian English Fiction.”
Matthew Nelson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “My Shanghai”: China and Fantasies of Futurity in Adiga’s Last Man in Tower”

SESSION 3: 11:30 AM-12:45 PM

3A Wilde
The Indian Ocean and the Past Present of Empire
Chair: Pallavi Rastogi, Louisiana State University

Nienke Boer, Yale-NUS College. “Oceanic Tales, Imperial Legacies: Robinson Crusoe in the Indian Ocean.”
Sean M. Kennedy, CUNY-Grad Center. “Corruption: A Pre-History From Fanqui-Town.”
Nelofer Qadir, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. “Kifa Urongo’: Structures of Unfreedom in Paradise.”

3B  Cibo Matto
South Asia in Conflict: The Ethics and Politics of Postcolonial Witnessing
Chair: Kavita Daiya, The George Washington University

Purnima Bose, Indiana University. “History and Rumor in Mohammed Hanif’s A Case of Exploding Mangoes.”
Saumya Lal, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. “Precarious Empathy and the Crisis of Witnessing in Mirza Waheed’s The Collaborator.”

3C  Churchill
South Asian Waterways: Contemporary Migratory and Sexual Flows
Chair: Christopher Ian Foster, Jackson State University

Christopher Ian Foster, Jackson State University. “From A. R. F. Webber’s Sunlit Western Waters to Shani Mootoo’s Gulf of Paria: On the Intersection of Migration and Sexuality in South Asian Caribbean Literature.”
Rahul K. Gairola, Murdoch University. “Peering Outside of the Pink Tent: Postcolonial DH along the Queer Rim of the Indian Ocean.”
Respondent: TBA.

1:00-2:00 PM—LUNCH

SESSION 4: 2:15-3:30 PM
Wilde

Professionalization Panel I: Publications: Challenges and Opportunities (Roundtable)
Chair: Nalini Iyer, Incoming Editor, South Asian Review

John C. Hawley, Professor, Santa Clara University
Ranjit Arab, Senior Acquisitions Editor, University of Iowa Press
Rebecca Guest, Managing Editor, Arts & Humanities Journals, Taylor & Francis
Sage Milo, Development Editor, Digital Resources, Taylor & Francis

SESSION 5: 3:45-5:00 PM
**Wilde**

The World of South Asian Literature: A Creative Writing Panel
Chair: Madhurima Chakraborty, Columbia College Chicago
Mary Anne Mohanraj, University of Illinois Chicago. “Putting Sri Lankans in Space.”
S. Shankar, University of Hawai’i. “Challenges of Literary Invention: Writing in English What is Outside English.”
Samrat Upadhyay, Indiana University. “Translating South Asia”
Amin X. Ahmad, Northwestern University. “Sex, Lies, and Bad Guys: Writing the Immigrant Suspense Novel.”
Oindrila Mukherjee, Grand Valley State University. “This or That?: The Conundrum of Writing Contemporary South Asia.”

5:15-6:15 PM: GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING, Wilde

6:15-7:30 PM: DINNER ON YOUR OWN

7:30-9:30 PM: HUMARA MUSHAIRA

Wilde
Chair: Amritjit Singh, Ohio University

---

**DAY 2: MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019**

7:30 AM: REGISTRATION DESK OPENS

SESSION 6: 8:00-9:15 AM

6A Wilde
Professionalization Panel II: Altered Expectations in Uncertain Times (Roundtable)
Chair: Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University; Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, Texas A&M University-Kingsville
Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, Texas A&M University-Kingsville. “Going on the Job Market as an International Grad Student.”
Anuja Madan, Kansas State University. “My First Two Years on the Tenure-Track.”
Cynthia Leenerts, East Stroudsburg University. “Stickin' to the Union: Solidarity in the Face of Uncertain Times.”
Robin E. Field, King’s College. “Planning your Long-Term Career Arc.”
Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University. “A New Professor’s Changing Expectations for New Faculty.”

6B Cibo Matto
South Asia and Diasporas before World War II
Chair: Nalini Iyer, Seattle University

Prabhjot Parmar, University of the Fraser Valley. ““The corner of a picture”: Literary Representations of Indian Soldiers in the Great War.”

Abdollah Zahiri, Seneca College (King Campus). “South by the Southwest: Ghadar Activists in Iran in the 1930’s and 1940’s.”

Amrita Mishra, University of Texas at Austin. “Indenture’s Intimacies: Effects of early Indian Nationalism in *Raise the Lanterns High* and *Sea of Poppies*.”

**6C Churchill**

**Transnational Circulations of South Asia**

Chair: Maryse Jayasuriya, University of Texas at El Paso


Bhavya Tiwari, University of Houston. “Going Beyond English: World Literature and South Asian Literature.”


**SESSION 7: 9:30-10:45 AM**

**7A Wilde**

**Situating South Asian Anglophone Literature in the World: The Oxford History of the Novel in English, Volume 10. (Roundtable)**

Chair: Alex Tickell, The Open University


Ruvani Ranasinha, King’s College. “Novels of Sri Lanka: Feminist Readings of Conflict within the ‘Global’ Economy of South Asian Fiction.”

Kavita Daiya, George Washington University. “Gender, Sexuality, and the Family in South Asian Fiction.”

Charlotta Salmi, Queen Mary, University of London. “Picturing South Asia: The Rise of the Regional Graphic Narrative.”

**7B Cibo Matto**

**Interrogating the Space of Transnationalism**

Chair: Robin E. Field, Kings College

Sagnika Chanda, University of Pittsburgh. “The Mexican and South Asian Telemigrant: Transnational Immigrant Labor and Internet Utopianism in *Sleep Dealer* and Digital India.”

Sritama Chatterjee. “As if a map had been redrawn in front of us’: Reading Spatiality, Aesthetics of Slowness, and Ethics of ‘Worlding’ in Benyamin’s *Goat Days*.”

Robin E. Field, King’s College. “Space and Temporality in Jhumpa Lahiri’s ‘Third and Final Continent’.”

Kay Sohini Kumar, Stony Brook University. “Across Borders and In-Between Spaces.”

**7C Churchill**

**Connecting in Margins**

Chair: Meghan Gorman-DaRif, University of Texas at Austin
Meghan Gorman-DaRif, University of Texas at Austin. “Decentering Division: Representations of Indian-Kenyan Solidarity in Contemporary Anglophone Fiction”

Muhammad Waqas Halim, Information Technology University, Lahore & Asad Ahmad Khan, Heidelberg University. “The Untold Story of Resistance in Balochistan: Voices of dissent in Balochi Short Stories of Anees Sharif.”

Amelie Daigle, Boston College. “Tangible Gains and Intangible Losses: Global Inequity and Labor Migration in Ratika Kapur’s *The Private Life of Mrs. Sharma* and Laila Lalami’s *Hope and Other Dangerous Pursuits*.”

Jessica K. Young, New College of Florida. “This is a Dirge for the World...This is Saga for a Nation’: The Air India Tragedy and (Trans)national Recognition.”

SESSION 8: 11:00 AM-12:15 PM

8A Wilde
Cosmopolitanism and South Asian Identity
Chair: John Hawley, Santa Clara University


Sarah Beth Mohler, Truman State University. “Russian Literary Imagination’s Influence on South Asian Literature: A Close Analysis of Tolstoy’s Influence on Seth and Mueenuddin.”


Maswood Akhter, Fulbright Scholar, Regis College. “Universal or ‘Culture-Specific’?: Raising the Issue of Critical Injustice (and Academic Apartheid) in the Reception of South Asian/ Postcolonial Literature.”

8B Cibo Matto
The Unwanted
Chair: Anuja Madan, Kansas State University

Tavleen Purewal, University of Toronto. “Final Humiliation’: Opaque Relations of Shame in Kiran Desai’s *The Inheritance of Loss*.”

Binod Paudyal, Northern Arizona University. “Undesirability: Refugees and the Undocumented in South Asian Diasporic Literature.”


Sreyashi Ray, University of Minnesota. “Pachyderms, Tribals and the Precarity of Postcolonial Animality: A Comparative Reading of Mahasweta Devi’s Fiction.”

8C Churchill
Resistance, Borders, Conflict in South Asian Literature
Chair: Rahul K. Gairola, Murdoch University


Md. Alamgir Hossain, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. “University, Neoliberalism, and the Undercommons: Resistance in Mohsin Hamid’s *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.”
Asif Iqbal, Michigan State University. “Partition of East Bengal in Shahidulla Kaiser’s *Sangsaptak.*”

Arun Kumar Pokhrel, Oklahoma State University. “Global Subaltern Spaces: Landscape, Community, and Historical Memory in Kiran Desai’s *Inheritance of Loss.*”

12:15 -1:15 PM LUNCH

Discussion group on Neil Lazarus’s *The Postcolonial Unconscious* (Wilde)
Open session lunch (Cibo Matto)

SESSION 9: 1:30- 2:30 PM

9A Wilde
Pakistani Literatures in the World
Chair: Amritjit Singh, Ohio University


Zakia Resshid Ehsen, Riphah International University, Pakistan “Falling Through the Cracks: Neoliberalism and Power Constructs in Nadeem Aslam’s novel *A Blind Man’s Garden.*”

Sushil Sivaram, Rutgers University. “(Re)Staging the Postcolonial in the World: The Jaipur Literature Festival and the Pakistani Novel.”

Masood Raja, University of North Texas. “National Expectations, Metropolitan Market and Pakistani Writing in English.”

9B Churchill
Genre Innovations
Chair: Cynthia Leenerts, East Stroudsburg University

Hans-Georg Erney, Georgia Southern University. “Stung by a Charso-Bee: Daljit Nagra’s Transnational *Ramayana* Retelling.”


SESSION 10: 2:30- 3:45 PM

10A Wilde
The Subaltern in Context
Chair: Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, Texas A&M University-Kingsville


Anjali Singh & Rajiv Ranjan Dwivedi. Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University. “Studying Postcolonialism in
Dalit Narrative: A Critical Take on Sushila Tabhoura’s Autobiography *Shikenje Ka Dard.*

Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, Texas A&M University-Kingsville. “Disconcerting Dalit Masculinity in Daya Pawar’s *Baluta*.”

10B *Cibo Matto*

**The Global Salman Rushdie**

Chair: Moumin Quazi, Tarleton State University

Ana Cristina Mendes, University of Lisbon. “Globetrotting Shakespeare: The *King Lear* Intertext in Preti Taneja’s *We that are Young* and Salman Rushdie’s *The Golden House.*”


10C *Churchill*

**Community and Belonging**

Chair: Prathim-Maya Dora-Laskey, Alma College


Ruma Sinha, Syracuse University. “Living Among the Dead: The Graveyard as Site of Affiliation and Antagonism in *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness.*”

Manju Dhariwal, LNM Institute of Information Technology. “Gender, Narration and Nation: A Critical Rereading of Alka Sarawgi’s *Kali katha: Via Bypass.*”

4:00-5:00 PM *Cibo Matto*

Graduate Student Caucus

5:00-6:30 PM: CONFERENCE KEYNOTE & AWARDS CEREMONY

**Wilde**

John Stratton Hawley, Barnard College, Columbia University. “Verbal Icon, Iconic Word: Surdas Between Poem and Painting”

7:00-9:00 PM CONFERENCE BANQUET (TICKETS REQUIRED)

Venue: Gaylord Restaurant 100 E Walton St, Chicago, IL 60611

** The most updated version of the program will be posted on the official SALA website **

*SPECIAL THANKS TO SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY AND COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHICAGO FOR GENEROUSLY SUPPORTING SALA 2019*
Hearty congratulations to our colleagues & allies for their accomplishments in 2018!

Chandrima Chakraborty, Department of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University, was promoted to full Professor on July 1, 2018.

Madhurima Chakraborty, Department of English and Creative Writing, Columbia College Chicago, was selected as the new Honors Program Faculty Fellow for a one-year appointment during the 2018-19 academic year.

Rahul K. Gairola was awarded two research grants from the Asia Research Centre and two from the School of Arts, Murdoch University, Western Australia. He also received a DAAD scholarship from the German Academic Exchange Service at the 2018 ESUDH in Leipzig, Germany, and grants from DHSI at the University of Victoria, Canada, and the LNUC Centre for Concurrences at Linnaeus University, Sweden. In April and December 2018, he delivered plenary talks at Emory University, USA; DAV Postgraduate College, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), India; the State Theatre of Western Australia; and the Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Western Australia, respectively. He was recently interviewed by The Wire: Community and Indigenous Radio (Sydney, Australia) on the new Khatarpur border crossing between India and Pakistan, and was voted onto the Program Committee of DH 2020/ Ottawa, the international convention of the Association of Digital Humanities Organizations (ADHO), and the Executive Committee of the Digital Humanities Alliance of India (DHAI).

Moumin Quazi was promoted to full Professor at Tarleton State University. He was also elected to the Board of Directors of the College English Association, starting this Spring. He also was awarded the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award.

Pallavi Rastogi has been appointed to the Publishing Committee (2019-2022) of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA). The film Peace Haven, which she serves as a co-producer of, has just been acquired by Netflix for global distribution.

Kamal D. Verma recently published Understanding Mulk Raj Anand: His Mind and Art (New Delhi: Vision Books, 2017) and the following reviews of the book are available: authored by Professor Delice Williams, appeared in the 2017 regular issue of the South Asian Review, Volume 38, Number 2, pp. 116-19; authored by Professor Malashri Lal, appeared on page 20 in the May 2018 issue of the Confluence South Asian Perspectives; authored by Dr. Rajender Kaur, appeared in the November 2018 issue of The Literary Criterion; and authored by Professor Rumina Sethi, appeared in the 15 April 2018 issue of The Tribune, Spectrum in India. In addition, The Sahitya Akademi (The Indian Academy of Letters) has accepted his proposal to revise and edit the three novels of Mulk Raj Anand in The Seven Ages of Man series, and he is moreover an Editor of The Encyclopedia of Hinduism.

The "Imagining Feminist Futures in South Asia" (below) at the 2018 annual convention of the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA 2018) which was organized by Nalini Iyer (far left) and featured (L to R) Iyer, Pallavi Rastogi, Debali Mookerjea-Leonard, Bonnie Zare, and Sobia Khan. We hope to see and learn from these papers when they appear in print! Photo courtesy of Debali Mookerjea-Leonard.
Meena Alexander, one of the finest postcolonial poets, passed away on November 21 in New York City after a two-year battle with endometrial cancer. She was Distinguished Professor of English and Women’s Studies at Hunter College and Graduate Center, City University of New York. Alexander is the author of numerous volumes of poetry including *House of Thousand Doors*, *River and Bridge*, *The Shock of Arrival: Reflections of Postcolonial Experience* (an anthology containing lyrical essays and poetry), *Illiterate Heart*, *Raw Silk*, *Quickly Changing River*, *Birthplace of Buried Stone* and the latest collection *Atmospheric Embroidery* (2018).

Alexander also published two novels *Nampally Road* and *Manhattan Music* and her scholarly works include *The Poetic Self: Towards a Phenomenology of Romanticism* and *Women in Romanticism: Mary Wollstonecraft, Mary Shelley and Dorothy Woodsworth*. She was the recipient of the 2009 Distinguished Achievement Award in Literature, conferred by the South Asian Literary Association. Her death has submerged postcolonial scholars, colleagues, and students in grief, but her body of work will continue to provide inspiration well beyond her mortal years.

Alexander’s poetry exemplifies the creative transformations of memory. She returns in her poems and lyrical essays to certain recurrent images and tropes, the ancestral house in Tiruvella, the stone eating girl of her childhood, the crossing of the Indian Ocean at the age of five on a ship, the dusty streets of Khartoum in her adolescence, the cityscape of Manhattan, her home since the early 1980s. Memory creates a collage of linguistic fragments of sounds and images, one of hybridity: melding and transformation of different traditions.

As I plumb into my own memories of Meena slowly unfold, as I started to write this essay. It was the rally Desis for Diallo that we attended together in Jackson Heights, New York, in April, 2000, when I was a PhD. candidate at the Graduate Center. Meena read her poem on Amadou Diallo on a flatbed truck that served as a makeshift stage for speakers, singers, and performers. There was a heavy presence of the NYPD at the scene of the rally, with aerial patrol being conducted by helicopters. Meena’s voice echoed in the large crowd of students, activists and bystanders in the market.

“Man child in the promised land you sought so hard
Amadou Diallo, what is the color of home?” (“Spring Already”)

This poem is a song of lament at the untimely death of a West African migrant who was a street vendor, brutally shot by the police who mistakenly thought that he was carrying a gun. Almost two decades before the Black Lives Matter movement, Meena Alexander’s lyric, and its public reading at a rally that day, transformed for me the lyric into a genre belonging to the public sphere. And the poet who read that elegy on a flatbed truck transformed grief into the beauty of our shared recognition of loss and our continuing quest for justice. Alexander persisted till the end in this quest for beauty and justice in our world. ☞
Lopamudra Basu, *Ayad Akhtar: The American Nation and Its Others After 9/11*, Lexington Books, 2018. Ayad Akhtar, the American Nation, and Its Others After 9/11: Homeland Insecurity examines playwright and novelist Ayad Akhtar’s contributions to multiple genres including film and theatre. This book situates Akhtar’s oeuvre within the social and political context of post-9/11 American culture, marked by the creation of the Homeland Security State and the racialization of Muslims, Arabs, and South Asians. It departs from many traditional studies of 9/11 literature by challenging the binary of victim and perpetrator and examining the continuing impact of the event on questions of American nationalism and belonging. Tracing a literary genealogy for Akhtar, it explores a broad range of issues represented in Akhtar’s works such as globalization, the decline of American industry, terrorism, torture, generational conflicts, interracial love, gender and violence, the conflict between secular and religious values—all issues which affect American nationalism both within and outside the nation’s borders, and shape the lives of South Asian American Muslims.

Alison Klein, *Anglophone Literature of Caribbean Indenture: The Seductive Hierarchies of Empire*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2018. This book is the first comprehensive study of Anglophone literature depicting the British Imperial system of indentured labor in the Caribbean. Through an examination of intimate relationships within indenture narratives, this text traces the seductive hierarchies of empire—the oppressive ideologies of gender, ethnicity, and class that developed under imperialism and indenture and that continue to impact the Caribbean today.

Lomarsh Roopnarine, *The Indian Caribbean: Migration and Identity in the Diaspora*, University Press of Mississippi, 2018. This book tells a distinct story of Indians in the Caribbean—one concentrated not only on archival records and institutions, but also on the voices of the people and the ways in which they define themselves and the world around them. Through oral history and ethnography, Lomarsh Roopnarine explores previously marginalized Indians in the Caribbean and their distinct social dynamics and histories, including the French Caribbean and other islands with smaller South Asian populations. He pursues a comparative approach with inclusive themes that cut across the Caribbean.

Parag Khanna, *The Future is Asian: Commerce, Conflict and Culture in the 21st Century*, Simon and Schuster, 2019. Dr. Parag Khanna’s latest book *The Future is Asian* presents this irrepresible global Asianization through detailed analysis, data and maps of Asia’s major markets and their combined impact on global economy, society and governance. With his trademark conceptual clarity and on-the-ground reportage, Khanna provides essential guidance for executives as they look to hedge their China exposure and capture the next big commercial opportunities across Asia from real estate and retail to finance and technology, and attract Asian capital and talent into their operations at home and abroad. With his intimate knowledge of Asian history and geopolitics, he also paints a compelling vision of a balanced global system of shared responsibilities across America, Europe and Asia.

Gayatri Gopinath, *Unruly Visions: The Aesthetic Practices of Queer Diaspora*, Duke University Press, 2018. In *Unruly Visions* Gayatri Gopinath brings queer studies to bear on investigations of diaspora and visuality, tracing the interrelation of affect, archive, region, and aesthetics through an examination of a wide range of contemporary queer visual culture. Spanning film, fine art, poetry, and photography, these cultural forms—which Gopinath conceptualizes as aesthetic practices of queer diaspora—reveal the intimacies of seemingly disparate histories of (post)colonial dwelling and displacement and are a product of diasporic trajectories. Countering standard formulations of diaspora that inevitably foreground the nation-state, as well as familiar formulations of queerness that ignore regional gender and sexual formations, she stages unexpected encounters between works by South Asian, Middle Eastern, African, Australian, and Latinx artists such as Tracey Moffatt, Akram Zaatari, and Allan deSouza. Gopinath shows how their art functions as regional queer archives that express alternative understandings of time, space, and relationality.

Vijay Mishra, *Annotating Salman Rushdie: Reading the Postcolonial*, Routledge India, 2019. How does one read a foundational postcolonial writer in English with declared Indian subcontinent roots? This book looks at ways of reading, and uncovering and recovering meanings, in postcolonial writing in English through the works of Salman Rushdie. It uses textual criticism and applied literary theory to resurrect the underlying literary architecture of one of the world’s most controversial, celebrated and enigmatic authors. It sheds light upon key aspects of Rushdie’s craft and the literary influences that contribute to his celebrated hybridity. It analyses how Rushdie uses his exceptional mastery of European, Anglo-American, Indian, Arabic and Persian literary and cultural forms to cultivate a fresh register of English that expands Western literary traditions. It also investigates an archival modernism that characterizes the writings of Rushdie. Drawing on the hitherto unexplored Rushdie Emory Archive, this book will be essential reading for students of literature, especially South Asian writing, postcolonial studies, cultural studies, linguistics and history.
Kamal D. Verma, *Understanding Mulk Raj Anand: His Mind and Art*, Vision Books, 2017. This new study examines Anand as a novelist, an art critic and a thinker in a broad cultural context of the 20th century critical theories of postmodernism, postcoloniality and new historicism. This study explores the significance of Anand’s 20-year stay in England, especially the making of Anand the novelist, and also of Anand of the post-1945 era. Anand had gone to England for a Ph. D. in philosophy at the University of London, but he stayed in England for twenty years. While in England, he worked for T. S. Eliot and came into close contact with Leonard and Virginia Woolf. Anand was also a good friend of most of the English writers of the twenties and the thirties. As an author of *Untouchable*, *Coolie* and several other novels, Anand returned from England as a well-established revolutionary novelist, but his literary and cultural achievements in the post-independence India are no less rewarding. As an avid proponent of liberty, equality, social justice, the human values and the truth of the human condition, Anand vehemently and uncompromisingly fought against European/British imperialism and colonialism. Anand firmly believed that India, a rural colony of the British Empire, was not developed.

Roopika Risam, *New Digital Worlds: Postcolonial Digital Humanities in Theory, Praxis, and Pedagogy*, Northwestern University Press, 2018. The emergence of digital humanities has been heralded for its commitment to openness, access, and the democratizing of knowledge, but it raises a number of questions about omissions with respect to race, gender, sexuality, disability, and nation. Postcolonial digital humanities is one approach to uncovering and remediating inequalities in digital knowledge production, which is implicated in an information-age politics of knowledge. *New Digital Worlds* traces the formation of postcolonial studies and digital humanities as fields, identifying how they can intervene in knowledge production in the digital age. Roopika Risam examines the role of colonial violence in the development of digital archives and the possibilities of postcolonial digital archives for resisting this violence. Offering a reading of the colonialist dimensions of global organizations for digital humanities research, she explores efforts to decenter these institutions by emphasizing the local practices that subtend global formations and pedagogical approaches that support this decentering.

Jasbir Puar, *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* (Tenth Anniversary Expanded Edition), Duke University Press, 2017. Ten years on, Jasbir K. Puar’s pathbreaking *Terrorist Assemblages* remains one of the most influential queer theory texts and continues to reverberate across multiple political landscapes, activist projects, and scholarly pursuits. This Tenth Anniversary Expanded Edition features a new foreword by Tavia Nyong’o and a postscript by Puar entitled “Homonationalism in Trump Times.” Nyong’o and Puar recontextualize the book in light of the current political moment while reposing its original questions to illuminate how Puar’s interventions are even more vital and necessary than ever.
Deepika Bahri, *Postcolonial Biology: Psyche and Flesh After Empire*, University of Minnesota Press, 2017. European colonizers brought new ways of seeing the body in matters as basic as how to eat, speak, sit, shit, or spit. As nations decolonized, these imperialistic ideas remained, becoming part of the global economy of the body. Bahri argues that the political challenges of the twenty-first century require that we deconstruct these imperial notions of the body, as they are fundamental to power structures governing today’s globalized world. *Postcolonial Biology* investigates how minds and bodies have been shaped by colonial contact, to create deeply embedded hierarchies among the colonized. Moving beyond “North/South” thinking, Bahri reframes the questions of postcolonial bodies to address all societies, whether developed or developing. Engaging in innovative, highly original readings of major thinkers such as Adorno, Horkheimer, Derrida, and Fanon, this book brings an important new focus to the field of postcolonial studies—one that is essential to understanding the ideas and conflicts that currently dominate the global order.

Paul Sharrad and Meeta C. Padmanabhan, editors. *Of Indian Origin: Writings from Australia*, Orient Blackswan, 2018. *Of Indian Origin* is a dazzling collection of short stories and poetry by Australian writers of Indian origin. Cultures collide as children encounter racism in the playgrounds of Canberra, migrant women scrounge for a living nursing Melbourne’s elderly, and a young author moves to a strange and unfamiliar country where she suffers from dreamlessness. These searing works bring new meaning to the field of ‘Asian-Australian writing’ and new perspectives on the Indian diasporic experience. Though the field of Indian-Australian writing is still small, this vibrant mix of emerging and established writers shows it is by no means a homogenous entity. Bold, experimental and wildly original, *Of Indian Origin* unapologetically tackles issues of home and provides a unique overview of how Indian-Australian literary writing has developed over half a century.

Radhika Gajjala, with contributions by Hannah Ackermans; Erika Behrmann, Anca Birzescu; Jeanette M. Dillon, and Dinah Tetteh. *Online Philanthropy in the Global North and South*, Rowman and Littlefield, 2017. *Online Philanthropy in the Global North and South: Connecting, Microfinancing, and Gaming for Change* offers a critical examination how online philanthropy operates through digital connectivity, affective networks of well-meaning digital givers, and the commodification of poverty through what is conceptualized as the “digital subaltern.” Chapters examine a range of online philanthropy settings such as online microfinance platforms and games for change, with case studies revealing unseen problems in how digital inclusion and financialization are attempted through the joint forces of NGOization and ITization. This work builds on Gajjala’s previous research, including *Cyberculture and the Subaltern: Weavings of the Virtual and Real*.
It was a chilly afternoon in Washington, D.C., in December 2000 when I first met Professor P.S. Chauhan (Arcadia University), the outgoing Editor of *South Asian Review* (SAR), SALA’s award-winning scholarly journal. He was sitting in the front row of the conference room in which I was delivering my first conference paper at the inaugural conference of SALA held alongside the annual MLA convention. As per his characteristic encouragement of junior scholars, Chauhan said to me with an upraised brow: “You should consider publishing this. Perhaps you can revise it and submit it to *South Asian Review*.” Although we had just met and was I was unfamiliar with SALA’s official journal at that time, this interaction inaugurate me, as it has many before and after, into a professional and intellectual relationship that has indelibly impacted the way in which scores of scholars mediate on our field — and then return to it again and again — as history and those around us keep in flow the thoughts that guide us from within. Since that initial meeting many years ago, the journal has served as a intellectual gazetteer for me, a kind of cognitive map of the field.

Today, the *South Asian Review* is firmly perched on the exciting cusp of formative change with Professor Nalini Iyer (Seattle University) recently voted in to take the formidable helm of the editorship of *SAR* as it continues its transition from independent publishing by the organization to the widely respected Taylor & Francis imprint. From the new year, Iyer will become the first woman to ever serve the journal as Editor, and will moreover bring in her own team to manage editorial duties. This tectonic shift at the journal could not emerge at a more fortuitous historical moment: with the #MeToo movement taking grip across the globe, in general, and across the USA and South Asia, in particular, Iyer promises to honour this global turn towards social justice and responsibility to scholarly praxis. “I am honored to be the first woman editor of *SAR*. I have heard from many woman scholars that they find this move both inspiring and liberating. Of course, this is a big responsibility for me as well. My editorial team will also be majority women,” says Iyer.

The journal’s transformation into and beyond the new year gives us much to celebrate when looking back and ahead. Indeed, Chauhan presides over a notably successful tenure as Editor of the journal, 2013—2018. One recent highlight occurred only a few years ago when Chauhan conducted a one-on-one interview with literary...
juggernaut Salman Rushdie, widely recognized as the most influential and studied writer of South Asian anglophone fiction. This milestone, which was commemorated by a special issue of SAR, speaks volumes to the critical global repute that South Asian Review has been gingerly amassing over the years and throughout the stewardship of Chauhan. Eminent guest speakers to address SALA’s annual conferences (which are often linked to SAR’s roster of special issues) include Gaurav Desai (UT Austin), Homi K. Bhabha (Harvard), Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak (Columbia), Timothy Brennan (Minnesota), Jenny Sharpe (UCLA), and many other respected scholars in South Asian and postcolonial studies.

In reflection, Robin Field (King’s College of Pennsylvania), Managing Editor of SAR, summarizes, “Dr. Chauhan published a number of groundbreaking special topic issues, including one on Rushdie, another on South Asian graphic narratives, and one on new directions in South Asian Studies.” Field’s observations offers a sample of the range and topics that the journal delved into beneath Chauhan’s watchful eye. Yet the vision of the South Asian Review that Chauhan has painstakingly shaped, and which Iyer will take up and mould with her unique and vast experience as a seasoned teacher-scholar, has come a long way. As per SALA’s recent report to the Modern Language Association (MLA), “SALA was founded in December 1975, at the MLA convention in Chicago, with the adoption of a constitution and the election of the first batch of its officers. In 1976, SALA was formally registered in Utah as a literary organization. The founding president of SALA, Dr. Hemant B. Kulkarni, Professor of English at Utah State University, Logan, filed in 1977 an application with the Program Committee and the Executive Council of the MLA for its affiliation as an allied organization of the MLA. This application was approved in 1978.”

Established in 1976 by Kulkarni, who also served as Founding Editor, the journal constituted a timely, historical response to the dearth of scholarship on the absence that all but justified a literary canon of the field of “English studies.” Indeed, even South Asian literatures – an absence that all but justified a literary canon of “classics” and “great books” that positioned white, straight, men as the hegemonic producers of knowledge in the field of “English studies.”

Chauhan recollects, “Its founding ‘fathers’ — there being not many ‘mothers’ for such ventures then — were Satya Sheel Pachori of North Florida University, and Kulkarni’s intuitive urgency is attested by the fact that only two years after foundational postcolonial study Orientalism drop of a decade that had previously staged identity politics and decolonial movements.

As such, the evolution of South Asian Review occurred along with shifts not only in the organization, but also along with the wave of socio-political changes in thought about literary production and culture often credited to the 1960s and 1970s – an era that also witnessed the decolonization of a number of former colonies (Jamaica, The Bahamas, Antigua,
The Maldives, Brunei, and Hong Kong to name a few) that are to this day very important to members of the South Asian diaspora. The journal has weathered the bitter cultural wars of the 1980s that attended the rise of neoliberal capitalism, the institutionalized racism that attended 9/11, and the merciless assault on higher education that arguably advanced as global capitalism sparked the catastrophic Recession of 2008. Rather than capitulating to these threats to its existence and mission, *South Asian Review* has persevered as an intellectual bastion for South Asianists around the globe. And now, perhaps most importantly, SAR will become more accessible to scholars and students around the globe than ever before with its migration to a digital platform.

The journal’s recent shift to the *globally reputable online and print platform* of Taylor & Francis (Routledge) promises to further expand the socio-political, theoretical, and historical impacts of the *South Asian Review* for decades to come. This shift also allows SAR to establish a digital archive of all of the past issues of the journal and will moreover certainly increase accessibility to SAR’s world class scholarship for scholars in and beyond the so-called Global South. It will set up an archive that is accessible around the globe. If this is the kind of “talking back” to Empire and injustice based on gender, race, class, sexuality, nationality, colour, etc. that Kul-karni hoped for, then SAR is favorably positioned to take on this mantle.

I am personally delighted to have worked with both Chauhan and Iyer in myriad editorial contexts. In December 2011, I eventually gave in to Chauhan’s request for an essay, and SAR published “A Critique of Thatcherism and the Queering of Home in Hanif Kureishi’s *Sammy & Rose Get Laid*.” This short essay gradually formed a chapter in my monograph *Homelandings: Postcolonial Diasporas & Transatlantic Belonging*, and I can say without pause that working with SAR through revisions and reviews in the previous years enabled me to apply commensurate scrutiny on my own work. Serving the organization as a regular blind peer and book reviewer for *South Asian Review* has sharpened my critical acumen while keeping me abreast of new research trends in the field.

I have had the unique pleasure of working with both Chauhan and Iyer as editors. In all of my interactions when publishing that essay with the journal, Chauhan and his team were meticulous and methodical, and I soon after agreed to serve as a Reviewer for the journal. Working with Iyer on my first book project harkened back to her staunch and careful support of me when I worked at Seattle University and when our book project congealed. Both editors are exceptionally open to junior scholars, treat us with dignity and respect, and mentor those who are coming after them with patience and compassion. These are, I would say, characteristics of exceptional leaders and teachers.

The journal is moving from dependable and visionary hands to those that will imbibe these very values while further advancing *South Asian Review* into innovative directions ready to tackle the millennium’s approach into and beyond 2019. This is perhaps most strongly signified today by Guest Editor Pallavi Rastogi’s (Louisiana State University) “Precarity, Resistance, and Care Communities” special issue of SAR featuring a Forward by postcolonial studies juggernaut Homi K. Bhabha (Harvard University) along with emerging and seasoned voices. These are indeed signs taken for wonderful directions on the path ahead for the *South Asian Review* and its symbiotic relationship with SALA.

*Please join me in warmly thanking Professor P.S. Chauhan for his service to the South Asian Review during his 5-year tenure, and heartily congratulating Professor Nalini Iyer as its new, incoming Editor – and the first woman to be thus! Happy reading, and please order SAR for your library!*
In His Own Words:
A History of the South Asian Review
by P.S. Chauhan, Ph.D. (Duke)

I have rather fond memories of the beginnings of South Asian Review, when, in the mid 1970s, it was still wobbly on its legs...

Satya Pachori, the editor, was also the crier for the journal. One morning, at an MLA conference, while I sat at a table in the lobby, waiting for my breakfast, Satya came up to the table, asking if he could join me. Of course, he was welcome. After our self-introductions, he pushed a copy of a glossy white and blue journal across the table, asking if I had ever read it. Unfortunately, I hadn’t. So would I like to get to know it better, subscription just $10. I could pay cash, if I didn't have a checkbook on me. Pay, I did, with a crisp $10 bill. SAR’s interest promoted, Satya couldn't wait for the breakfast to arrive; he had to meet someone else—perhaps, another unsuspecting subscriber to be enlisted in the cause! Satya Pachori was a driven editor, even though the outcome looked more like a large print version of Reader's Digest than a scholarly literary journal.

The journal’s format suddenly changed when Gita Rajan put out the SALA 2000 conference issue of SAR. The new avatar came with some of the trappings of a serious journal. In earnest, though, South Asian Review began to take shape as a scholarly publication only after Kamal D. Verma took over its editorship in 2001. There were to be three issues now onwards, all to be published on a regular basis. Too, with his wide contacts, Kamal Verma was able to enlist many U.S. and Canadian university libraries as regular subscribers. The journal was off to a promising start. After 12 years’ run under Kamal Verma, when I served as a book review editor, the executive editorship came to me, in fall of 2013.

I was aware of the rich contributions that special issue editors—Amritjit Singh, John Hawley, Pradyumna Chauhan, and Vijay Lakshmi—had made to the reputation of the journal. During the first four years, I imposed rigorous standards on the selection of publishable material, demanding fresh scholarship, uncluttered writing, and precision of thinking. Since few submissions met the standards, editing, revising, proofing, and, in some cases, reformatting grew into a formidable job for one person.

Arcadia University came to my rescue by granting two Graduate Assistants to the Editor’s office. Help and money available, we made a concerted effort to reach many more universities—especially in Europe and South Asia. In the four years, we pushed our library subscriptions, the backbone of a journal, by nearly 20%. The journal also evolved to parallel the inner organization of PMLA, minus the latter’s ads and readers’ column. Consequently, the journal grew in stature and reputation, and, indeed, in the quality of its content. The guest editorship of Alpana Sharma, Nalini Iyengar, Robin Field, and Chandrima Chakraborty added a wider range to our usual coverage.

Four of its contributors went on to win national awards for the essays they had submitted; the works of several others were sought by book publishers for inclusion in their anthologies, earning copy right fees for the journal. Ultimately, large international publishers of scholarly journals began to vie for the publishing rights of the journal. John Hawley, with the support of the majority of SALA Executive, reached an arrangement with Taylor & Francis to publish both an on-line and print version of the journal.
The fifth year of my tenure, year 2018, was devoted mostly to gathering and transferring the whole series of journal issues to T & F, and to adapting to the new ways of a larger overseas organization. All the same, we were able to collect and edit, format and deliver to T & F excellent material for the four 2018 issues, thanks to the indefatigable efforts of my dear colleagues and friends Kavita Daya and Pallavi Rastogi. Their collaboration was easily the high-water mark of my editorial experience. Their efforts as guest editors, and Robin Field’s gentle and persistent mediation enabled the South Asian Review to keep to its side of the bargain with the new publishers.

My term ends with the end of the year. It has been, on the whole, a good journey, rewarding especially in the discovery of fresh talents and new friends. Old friends can, at times, be tedious and trying, and I have had my fair share of them as well. But I leave the journal with thanks for what its stewardship has taught me, and with the renewed expectation that the new hands will only steady and strengthen the future course of the South Asian Review.

I may be finished with the assignment I took up five years ago, but my goodwill for the journal is by no means dead, or exhausted. I shall always be glad to do what I can to see the sapling planted four decades ago grow into a spreading and strong tree.  

“I may be finished with the assignment I took up five years ago, but my goodwill for the journal is by no means dead, or exhausted. I shall always be glad to do what I can to see the sapling planted four decades ago grow into a spreading and strong tree.” — P.S. Chauhan

NEW BOOKS, cont’d…

Amy Bhatt, *High-Tech Housewives: Indian IT Workers, Gendered Labor, and Transmigration*, University of Washington Press, 2018. Tech companies such as Google, Amazon, and Microsoft promote the free flow of data worldwide, while relying on foreign temporary IT workers to build, deliver, and support their products. However, even as IT companies use technology and commerce to transcend national barriers, their transnational employees face significant migration and visa constraints. In this revealing ethnography, Amy Bhatt shines a spotlight on Indian IT migrants and their struggles to navigate career paths, citizenship, and belonging as they move between South Asia and the United States. Through in-depth interviews, Bhatt explores the complex factors that shape IT transmigration and settlement, looking at Indian cultural norms, kinship obligations, friendship networks, gendered and racialized discrimination in the workplace, and inflexible and unstable visa regimes that create worker vulnerability. In particular, Bhatt highlights women’s experiences as workers and dependent spouses who move as part of temporary worker programs. Many of the women interviewed were professional peers to their husbands in India but found themselves "housewives" stateside, unable to secure employment because of visa restrictions.

Amit R. Baishya, *Contemporary Literature from Northeast India: Deathworlds, Terror, and Survival*, Routledge, 2018. This book is the first to consider the representations of the effects of political terror and survival in contemporary literature from Northeast India. Fictions from this polyglot region offer alternative representations that show the post-colonial nation-state to engage in acts of aggression that parallel colonial regimes. The militarization of everyday life and the subsequent growth of cultures of impunity has left a lasting impact on ordinary existence in this border zone. Like in the much more widely discussed case of Kashmir, the governance of the Northeast region is not characterized so much by the management of life, the domain of what Michel Foucault calls biopolitics, but rather around the preponderance and distribution of death, what the postcolonial critic Achille Mbembe calls necropolitics. Not surprisingly, along with Mbembe’s theorizations, the influential works of the Italian philosopher, Giorgio Agamben, on 'bare life' have provided fruitful pathways to a study of the sovereign politics of death and political terror in this region. The author draws upon the conceptual literature on political terror and sovereign power through a reading of Anglophone fictions alongside Assamese fictional narratives (all published after 1990), but shifts the onus from the 'why' of violence to the 'how' of lived experience.
Professor Amritjit Singh honored at Inaugural Langston Hughes Lecture
Submitted by Christopher Ian Foster

The Ohio University Langston Hughes Professor of English and African American Studies Dr. Amritjit Singh was honored last November at the inaugural Langston Hughes Lecture at the Ohio University. The speaker, Dr. Martha J. Cutter, professor of English and Africana Studies at the University of Connecticut, presented a lecture titled “Crossing Borders: The Many Lives of Henry Box Brown.”

According to George E. Mauzy Jr., “Dr. Singh told the audience during his introduction of Dr. Cutter that he appreciated the fact that she teaches in both African- and Asian-American Studies and that the spirit of Langston Hughes is open borders – to be able to reach across races, ethnicities, nations and boundaries because there is so much that we share across them.”

SALA Officers et al eligible for election at GBM 2019
Submitted by Moumin Qazi

President: Cynthia Leenerts
VP: Pallavi Rastogi
Secretary: Sukanya Gupta
Councilor (South Asian-based): Waseem Anwar
Councilor (At-large): Masood Raja
Councilor (At-large): Shahzeb Khan
Co-Chairs for 2020: Moumin Quazi, Ani Mukhopadhyay, and Pennie Ticen
Editor, South Asian Review: Nalani Iyer
Advisor: P.S. Chauhan

NEXT PAGE FOR OFFICER DUTIES & CANDIDATE PROFILES...
President: Cynthia Leenerts (longtime member; has served as VP in the past; East Stroudsburg University)

President: 2-year term expires 2021 (from the Constitution: The President of SALA shall preside over all the general body and Executive Committee meetings; present an agenda in consultation with the Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Association, preferably two weeks earlier; and try to seek a consensus on major issues affecting the operation of the Association. Consensus shall be the norm, not an exception, in all its deliberations. In the event that a consensus does not appear possible, the issue shall be put to a vote by the President and a simple majority shall prevail. A three-fourth majority of the membership shall force the President to bring any matter to a vote. Above all, the President shall be responsible and accountable for the overall image, name, and prestige of the Association.) [John Hawley is eligible for re-election, but has indicated that at this time, he does not intend to reapply.]

VP: Pallavi Rastogi (current Secretary; Louisiana State University)

Vice President: 2-year term expires 2021. (from the Constitution: The Vice President shall assist the President with the logistical details of leading the Association, running the annual conference, assisting with the Association’s publications and web presence, and will perform other duties as necessary, which now include receiving filed complaints from any person alleging harassment, in accordance with the recently passed (2018) Code of Conduct. He or she will also assist conference co-chairs in preparing the annual conference program. The Vice President shall also chair the committee with the conference co-chairs, which decides the “Best Graduate Student Paper” prizes.) [Nalini Iyer is eligible for re-election, but has indicated that at this time, she does not intend to reapply.]

Secretary: Sukanya Gupta (member for several years; University of Southern Indiana)

Secretary: 2-year term expires 2021. (from the Constitution: The Secretary shall be responsible for conducting all the important correspondence with the members, non-members, the MLA, and any other organizations in the country and abroad. He or she shall pass on any valuable information pertaining to the members’ achievements and any professional announcements to the editor of the Newsletter for publication. He or she shall assist the President in conducting the annual business meeting and prepare minutes for the General Business and Executive Committee meetings.) [Pallavi Rastogi is eligible for re-election, but is a candidate for VP.]

Councilor (South Asian-based): Waseem Anwar (longtime member; current councilor; based in Pakistan at Forman Christian College-University Lahore)

Councilor (South Asian-based): 2-year term expires 2021. (from the Constitution: This executive committee member shall be based in South Asia and “shall review, deliberate, and vote on all the issues and policies affecting the operation of the Association.” [Waseem Anwar is eligible for re-election.]

Councilor (At-large): Masood Raja (member for several years; University of North Texas)

Councilor (at large): 2-year term expires 2021. (from the Constitution). This executive committee member “shall review, deliberate, and vote on all the issues and policies affecting the operation of the Association” [Madhurima Chakraborty is not interested in running for re-election.]

Councilor (At-large): Shahzeb Khan (member for several years; University of the Punjab)

Councilor (at large): 2-year term expires 2021. (From the Constitution). This executive committee member “shall review, deliberate, and vote on all the issues and policies affecting the operation of the Association.” [Pranav Jani is ineligible for re-election.]

Co-Chairs for 2020: Moumin Quazi, Ani Mukhopadhyay, Pennie Ticen (Moumin has co-chaired several conferences and will serve as an advisor; Ani has chaired a Texas conference; Pennie is a longtime member)

Conference Co-Chairs: proposals accepted for the 2020 (Seattle) and 2021 (Toronto) conferences. (from the Constitution: The Conference Co-chairs (up to three per year) will be appointed by the Executive Committee itself in advance of the General Business Meeting. The Secretary will advertise that any interested parties should contact the Secretary for
details about the responsibilities of the co-chair position. Once that person has understood and agreed to the responsibilities, the Committee will vet this person’s qualifications to be Co-Chair and then appoint the best qualified candidate. If there are more than three interested persons, the Executive Committee will start a list for coming years. If no one expresses interest, the Executive Committee will solicit responsible people for the position. A person does not need to be at the current year’s conference to co-chair the next year’s conference, but the person must be SALA member. Co-chair teams may be chosen up to two years in advance. The Co-Chairs are voting members of the executive committee during their term.

Editor: Nalani Iyer (current VP; has edited SAR special issue; Seattle University)
**Editor, South Asian Review:** The Editor will be appointed by the Executive Committee of SALA for a five-year term expiring in 2024. The Editor may be reappointed for a second consecutive term. Editor oversees the editing of 4 issues per year of the journal. Editor also manages the finances of the journal. The Editor nominates up to three Associate Editors and a Book Review Editor, who are then approved by a committee that includes the officers of SALA (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer). The Editor also hires and supervises any Editorial Assistants. The Editor nominates Members of the Editorial Advisory Board and tracks whether they are fulfilling their responsibilities. The Editor receives paper submissions from the online submission system (‘Editorial Manager,’ created and maintained by Taylor & Francis (T&F)). They will make a decision within 30 days to send the submission for peer review or to desk-reject the submission; alternately, the Editor will ask an Associate Editor to make this first-round decision within 30 days of the receipt of the submission. The Editor (or an assigned Associate Editor) will send the submission to two reviewers, who will have 4-6 weeks to return their feedback. Should the reviewers not return their feedback on time, the Editor will secure a new reviewer with all possible speed. Editor will maintain a roster of potential peer reviewers with their areas of expertise and contact information readily available. The Editor will use the reviewers’ feedback to accept, reject, or request a revise-and-resubmit for each submission. Ideally, this decision will come within 12 weeks of the receipt of the submission. The Editor may allow Associate Editors to follow this same process, or they may review the Associate Editors’ decision and make a different recommendation. The Editor’s decisions are final. The Editor will solicit proposals for special issues of the journal. These proposals should include a rationale for the topic, a list of any recent issues of competing journals on similar topics, and a timeline for potential publication. These proposals will be vetted by the Editor and Associate Editors. Should any significant disagreements occur, the proposals will be further vetted by the committee comprised of the SALA officers (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer). Each proposal should receive a decision within six weeks. The Editor will provide the Associate Editors and the SALA officers with a timeline of upcoming special issues and general issues. The Editor will fulfill the requirements of the contract between South Asian Review and Taylor & Francis.

Advisor: P.S. Chauhan (past president; current editor of SAR; founding member of SALA)
**Advisor:** 3-year appointment expires 2022. (from the Constitution: This appointment is ex-officio [former officer]. He or she will advise the officers and Executive Committee on all aspects of the organization, from organizing the annual conference to maintaining the solvency of the Association via fundraising).

---

Please contact the conference co-chairs, Nalini Iyer and Madhurima Chakraborty, if you are interested in volunteering at SALA 2019 | Chicago at sala2019conference@gmail.com with “Volunteer” in the subject line. Thanks for your service to SALA! Seeking volunteers for:

- Alternative session chairs
- the Registration Desk
- Session A/V support
CALL FOR PAPERS

Miraji and South Asian Aesthetics, Poetics, and Politics

The prolific poet, critic, and translator Muhammad Sana Ullah Dar 'Miraji' (1912-1949) is among the most prominent and controversial literary figures in late-colonial Urdu, yet his work remains largely unknown outside of Urdu literary communities. This special issue will capture renewed scholarly interest in Miraji's life and works, using contemporary critical frameworks to reexamine his writings and present them to a broader audience.

Miraji's lifestyle, beliefs, and poetry have produced equal parts ire and fascination. Extraordinarily prolific over his short lifetime, he wrote numerous collections of poetry across several genres, extensive translations from South Asian and world literature, and a vast number of critical essays and editorials. After achieving prominence as an editor and tastemaker, he was censured as an "art for art's sake" retrograde and sexual pervert by ideologues of the Progressive Writers Association, the foremost literary movement of his time. A number of prominent Pakistani Urdu critics later condemned his poetry as un-Islamic for its embrace of Indic elements, "Hindi" rhythms, and sexual themes. Yet his hybrid poetry and personality have been the subject of numerous Urdu-language studies and recent novels, and many contemporary Urdu poets still trace their artistic and intellectual lineage back to Miraji.

Despite Miraji’s stature in Urdu letters—built upon his radical innovations in literary form, his hybrid use of Urdu, Hindi, Braj, and Awadhi language, and the deep and complex subjects of his poetry—very little scholarship in English has assessed the historical significance of his work. Geeta Patel’s pioneering study, *Lyrical Movements, Historical Hauntings: On Gender, Colonialism, and Desire in Miraji’s Urdu Poetry* (2002), remains the only English-language book on the subject. Addressing the resurgence of interest in Miraji’s poetry in recent years, this special issue highlights a new body of emergent scholarship on Miraji’s aesthetics, poetics, and politics. The issue would consider some of the following questions:

- What might be the politics of Miraji’s poetry? How does it contest the dominance of the Progressive Writers’ Association in modern South Asian literature?
- How does Miraji figure in cross-lingual literary and intellectual networks, both cosmopolitan and local?
- How does Miraji's writing address questions of translation, and what problems in turn does his poetry present for translators?
- What is unique about Miraji's poetic voice(s)? How does his poetry inhabit multiple languages? How does it expand notions of interiority and subjective experience?
- How does Miraji’s poetry rethink sexual desire, gendered voices, and subjectivity? What relationship does Miraji’s poetry forge between gender and sexuality?
- How can contemporary interdisciplinary perspectives—affect studies, gender and sexuality studies, new modernist studies, sound studies, and translation studies—help us understand and contextualize Miraji's poetry and life?
- Why does Miraji remain such a central figure today? What lost futures does his poetry and writing still hold?

Please send a title, 300-word abstract, 3-6 keywords describing the content, and your contact details (name, institutional affiliation, email address) to Krupa Shandilya (kshandilya@amherst.edu) and A. Sean Pue (pue@msu.edu) by February 2.

Following the acceptance of article proposals, completed articles should be submitted by June 1. Accepted articles will be sent out for double-blind peer-review. Articles can be up to 7500 words in length.

Please see the website https://miraji.hcommons.org for further and future details.
Recalibrating Diasporas: Asia Pacific and the Spaces Beyond

An Interdisciplinary, International Conference organised by
The School of Arts, Murdoch University, in cooperation with the
Linnaeus University Centre for Concurrences in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies

June 27-28, 2019
Murdoch University, Perth Campus, Western Australia

** NEW ABSTRACT DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 1, 2019 **

Keynote Speakers:

**Professor Paul Arthur**
Chair in Digital Humanities and Social Sciences, and Director of the Centre for Global Issues, in the School of Arts and Humanities. Edith Cowan University, Australia

**Professor Dipesh Chakrabarty**
The Lawrence A. Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor of History, South Asian Languages and Civilizations. University of Chicago, USA

**Professor Gunlög Fur**
Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Founder of the Linnaeus University Centre for Concurrences in Colonial and Postcolonial Studies. Linnaeus University, Sweden

**Professor Ann McGrath**
Director of the Australian Centre for Indigenous History and Professor of History. Australian National University, Australia

Call for Submissions:
Recalibrating Diasporas critically interrogates the geopolitical recalibrations and power formations that produce diaspora today throughout environmental, socio-economic, geopolitical, and technological shifts. Such shifts have widely affected the culture, literature, philosophy, and identity of spaces linked to diasporic affiliations. Robust debates concerning immigration, citizenship, indigenous versus hegemonic cultures, gender and sexuality, legacies of racism, global ecosystems, and the definition of "The Global South" warrant a rigorous return to the term 'diaspora'.

This return is especially significant in the frame of diaspora's relation to particular global pathways and spaces. It is perhaps more important now than ever before with respect to the Indian Ocean and its conjunction with other waterways such as the Arabian Sea, the Persian Gulf, Southern Ocean, Tasman Sea, South China Sea, and the Pacific Ocean. We welcome interdisciplinary scholarship on race, space, power, the Anthropocene, and diaspora in the wake of decolonisation movements into and beyond the 21st century around the theme of Re-Thinking Diasporas in the broadest possible sense.

Please submit a 300-word abstract along with a 50-100 word bio as one document by 1 February, 2019 to: RecalibratingDiasporas@gmail.com. Any queries can be directed to the same email address.
Call for Papers

Critical Reflections on Contemporary Muslim Thought and Human Rights

Journal of Contemporary Poetics
Vol. 2, Issue. 2

Journal of Contemporary Poetics is published by the Department of English, Faculty of Languages and Literature, International Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan. This interdisciplinary journal welcomes articles and book reviews from various disciplines in Literature, Linguistics and other disciplines in Social Sciences and Humanities.

The fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War ushered a new global world order and initiated a new wave of violence. Since 9/11, in particular, various forms of geopolitical conflicts, wars and neo-colonial enterprise have resulted in unprecedented human suffering, massive dislocation of human population and has left a huge question mark for the humanity to ponder over. The rising number of migrants and stateless persons worldwide has exacerbated human rights crisis which necessitates urgent review of existing laws, conventions, moral order, ethical conceptions and theoretical perspectives on human rights. It is no coincidence that, except for the Rwandan genocide of the 1990’s, Islam and the Muslim world figure in all the other conflicts and wars.

Religion, Islam in particular, as a source of foundational beliefs in human rights often finds itself at odds with the secular and juridical sources of human rights. The interdisciplinary boundaries between religion as an ethical guide to billions of people and the legal and political debates in the age of nation states and multinational capital have become sites of a vital dialogue between the two epistemic models: on the one hand, the nation states have failed to guarantee the human rights promised by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), and on the other hand, political theorists point to discriminatory practices implicit in ethical models of religious and natural laws. It is precisely against this backdrop that this themed issue of Journal of Contemporary Poetics invites scholars working in the fields of history, cultural studies, political science, psychology, religious studies, critical theory, film and media studies, literature and languages, postcolonial studies, and law to present fresh insights into the debate.

Some possible topics can be, though not limited to, the following:

Borders, Citizenship and Human Rights
Peace Debates and Human Rights
Gender, Identity and Human Rights
Democracy, Hegemony and Human Rights
Neoliberal Economies and Human Rights
Genealogy of Human Rights
Human Rights in the Age of Surveillance and Privacy
Slavery in the Digital Age
Prisons, Torture, Police Violence and Human Rights
Dehumanization of the Enemy and the Limits of Human Rights
Textuality of Human Rights Laws
Narratives of Atrocity and Human Rights
Story Telling and Human Rights
Ethics and Religion in Human Rights Discourse
Sustainable Development, Environment and Human Rights
Organized State Violence and Human Rights
Minorities and Human Rights
Emerging Theoretical Perspectives on Human Rights Discourse
Children and the Borderless Imagination
Universal Rights and Personal Imaginaries
Human Rights in an Age of Terror
After Human Rights: The Case for Higher Laws
Comparative Ethics and Human Rights Discourse
Islamic Jurisprudence and Human Rights Laws

The journal is double-blind peer reviewed. Please send your papers (6000-8000 words) in MS Word format in the form of attachment to jcp@iiu.edu.pk or submissions@jcp.com.pk by January 15, 2019.

The papers should be written following MLA style guidelines. The editorial team would contact you by February 28, 2019 about the acceptance of the paper. For further information, please visit our website at www.jcp.com.pk and iiu.edu.pk

The Editors of salaam wish our members and allies a Happy New Year full of happiness and success! We moreover thank Kris Stokes for his web design wizardry and Professor Moumin Qazi for stepping in as an Interim Editor of the previous issue of salaam!
**CALL FOR PAPERS**

Regular Issues of the *South Asian Review*

*South Asian Review*, the refereed journal of the South Asian Literary Association, invites submissions for their Regular Issues. SAR is a representative scholarly forum for the examination of South Asian languages and literatures in a broad cultural context. The journal invites healthy and constructive dialogue on issues pertaining to South Asia, especially to its literature and the sister arts. It welcomes critical and analytical essays on any aspect or period of South Asian literature (ancient, precolonial, colonial, and, indeed, the postcolonial). SAR is open to all ideas, positions, and critical and theoretical approaches. Recognizing the linguistic and cultural diversity of the subcontinent, the journal stays interested in essays about intercultural, comparative, and interdisciplinary studies in the humanities. For periodic publications, SAR encourages essays on music, painting, sculpture, architecture, and other related fields. The following areas are of special interest to the journal:

- South Asian Literatures
- South Asian Languages
- South Asian Studies
- South Asian Culture
- South Asian Diaspora(s)
- Comparative Aesthetic(s)
- Literary Theory
- Cultural Studies
- (Anti/ De/ Neo) Colonial Studies
- Postcolonial Studies
- Comparative Literature(s)
- Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Film, Media, and Digital Studies
- Transcultural Studies

Critical articles of 15–25 pages should be sent electronically at [https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rsoa20](https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rsoa20)

All correspondence pertaining to back and forthcoming issues should be addressed to:

**Dr. Robin E. Field,**
Managing Editor, *South Asian Review*
RobinField@kings.edu

Or

**Dr. P. S. Chauhan**
Editor, *South Asian Review*
ausar@arcadia.edu
**SAR LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION FORM**

**YOUR UNIVERSITY NEEDS THE SOUTH ASIAN REVIEW!**

For $90/year, your university library can have its own subscription to the *South Asian Review*, and for $100/year, your university can become an institutional member of SALA and receive two copies of each of the issues of *SAR*. Please consider helping to raise the presence of South Asian literature and literary criticism in your university by making this publication available to a wide and varied audience. Wouldn’t it have been great to have had *SAR* on your library shelf when you were an undergraduate?

Institution/ Organization  
Name  
Address

Telephone No.  
Fax  
Email

**Library Subscription fee for 2018:** $90  
(three issues a year)

Subscribers outside the U.S. and Canada should include $15.00 for postage

Checks should be made payable to the *South Asian Literary Association*.

Please return the completed form with payment to:

Moumin Quazi  
SALA Treasurer  
940 N Harbin Dr.  
Stephenville, TX  
76401

---

**SOUTH ASIAN LITERARY ASSOCIATION**  
**2018-2019 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL**

If you have not yet renewed your membership in SALA for calendar year 2018 (which includes the 2019 conference), please take a moment to do it now. Membership in SALA entitles you to keep receiving the SALA Newsletter, as well as to receive the refereed journal, *South Asian Review*.

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

_______________________________________________

Affiliation: _______________________________________

Office phone: _____________________________________

Home phone: ______________________________________

Fax: _____________________________________________

Email: ____________________________________________

**Dues for Conference Year 2019** (please circle the appropriate category):

- Student $35
- Part-time Faculty $35
- Instructor $45
- Independent Scholar $45
- Retired Faculty $45
- Assistant Professor: $45 ($5.00 of each membership for Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor goes toward SALA’s fund to assist Graduate Student travel to SALA’s yearly conference)
- Associate Professor: $55
- Full Professor: $65

Library Subscriptions for *SAR* (Vol. 39, Nos. 1, 2, and 3): $90

Donation to Graduate Student Travel Fund: ______

Donation to SALA: ______

Please send the above form with a check in American dollars payable to the *South Asian Literary Association* to:

Moumin Quazi  
SALA Treasurer  
940 N Harbin Dr.  
Stephenville, TX  
76401
CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

South Asian Literature, Arts, and Culture Studies
(Peter Lang International Academic Publishers)
Series Editor: Moumin Quazi

The South Asian Literature, Arts and Culture Studies series invites submissions from scholars working in the field of South Asian Studies, with a particular interest in literature, the arts (print and film), politics, religion, and society. South Asian Studies especially focuses on the Indian subcontinent, particularly India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Burma, and the diaspora of Non-Resident South Asians throughout the world.

The series welcomes a variety of approaches and theories that interrogate and explore aspects and elements of South Asian thought, life, and artistic production. The series does not only focus on contemporary, but also in special cases, on the ancient or classical studies. This series welcomes a variety of analytical approaches and theories, especially postcolonial, feminist, post-structural, new historical, psychological, Marxist, and structuralist.

Scholars working in related fields, such as philosophy, hermeneutics, and social theory, with a major interest in how these disciplines relate to South Asian Studies, are also invited to contribute manuscripts.

Fill out the query page at http://www.peterlang.com/index.cfm?cid=95, or send your manuscripts to Meagan Simpson at Meagan.Simpson@plang.com

CALLING ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS:

Are you planning to present a paper at the conference in January? Submit your papers for the SALA Graduate Student Paper Prize; it comes with a cash award!

Details on deadlines and submissions can be found Here.

DONATE TO SALA TODAY!

As a non-profit organization that is dedicated to exploring, challenging, promoting, and publishing cutting edge research in South Asian Studies, we are totally self-supporting! Your kind gift supports our conferences, graduate student travel, and the efficient publication of our recognized peer-reviewed journal, South Asian Review. To learn more and/or make a donation, please click here. Thanks!

Dear SALA members,

I am writing because our journal, South Asian Review, periodically needs reviewers from a range of disciplines - literary studies, anthropology, history, political science, and others - to submit book reviews for the many South Asia-related books we receive from presses in Europe, USA and South Asia. We are looking for folks willing to do these book reviews, ranging in length from 850-1250 words.

Doing these short book reviews is a wonderful way to contribute to the processes of knowledge building on South Asia, and is a part of the peer-review process so integral to our scholarship. I also see it as a great opportunity to curate, as it were, the conversation on the issues in which you are invested. If you would be willing to do a book review in this academic year, would you kindly write to me at kdaiya@gmail.com? Please specify which discipline or period would be of interest to you, and I can send you the list of books available for review.

I will appreciate that very much. We can forward to you a free copy of the book you choose. Alternately, if there are important new books in your areas of expertise that you believe should be reviewed, please contact me and we can slot those in for forthcoming issues. Please feel free to connect me with friends in other disciplines who might be interested in reviewing books as well. Thank you in advance.

— Kavita Daiya, Associate Editor, South Asian Review

South Asian Review
A Note from the SALA Web Manager

I wish everyone a very Happy New Year with much success in 2019! Our website continues to serve as the official portal of both our organization and our annual conference, while our Facebook page today serves as a more accessible social space for our members to share news and information online. Also, as announced on our website, our journal, the *South Asian Review*, is now a Taylor & Francis publication and has been fully digitized. So all issues can be accessed online, and our website links to the dedicated journal site hosted by Taylor & Francis.

I have exciting news! As of Dec. 29, 2018, we have updated our website's design thanks to the generous donation of time and expertise by Kris Stokes. Kris is a true friend of the organization who offered his professional skills as a web-developer to update his earlier design for our website, which served us well for over a decade. The new design brings a fresh face to our organization’s web presence and is aesthetically harmonious with our journal’s new look.

Many members may not be aware, but over the years, Kris has quietly in the background taken care of the technological needs of the website, and without him, SALA wouldn’t have the web presence it has. Please join me in extending our gratitude to Kris for his incredible contribution to our organization.

Also, our website now incorporates two images by Caroline Angelo who has kindly allowed us to use them. Many thanks to Caroline as well.

We will continue to optimize and improve the website. I also remind you to please send me information about your latest publications (journal articles and books; fiction and non-fiction), and I will be happy to include that information in the *Publications* page on the website. Also, please send me information regarding CFPs and jobs, and I will post those announcements.

Sincerely,
Aniruddha Mukhopadhyay, Texas A&M University — Kingsville

---

*salaam Newsletter Submissions*

Would you like to feature a recent event at your institution or a trend in our field? Do you have news, pictures, feature story ideas, CFPs, and/ or personal milestones you’d like to share with the SALA community of scholars, teachers, and allies? Submit it for publication in the Winter 2018 issue of *salaam*! Please send your items in .doc or .docx format to Rahul Gairola and Christopher Ian Foster at salanewslettereditor@gmail.com by June 15, 2019.
SOUTH ASIAN LITERARY ASSOCIATION

An Allied Organization of the Modern Language Association

http://www.southasianliteraryassociation.org/

SALA promotes knowledge of, and scholarly interest in, the languages, cultures, and literatures of South Asia and the South Asian diaspora. Membership in SALA is open to all individuals and libraries/institutions/organizations interested in South Asian literature, culture, languages, and philosophy, and also in comparative studies.

SALA hosts one guaranteed session, one possible non-guaranteed session, and one possible collaborative session at the Modern Language Association’s annual convention and, in addition, hosts an independent annual conference during the same week as the MLA Convention, usually 2-3 days before or afterward.

SALA publishes salaam: the newsletter of the south asian literary association. It carries announcements of its MLA sessions, scholarly activities and accomplishments of its members, new titles in the field, and other valuable information for those interested in South Asian literatures.

SALA supports graduate students through professionalization panels, mentoring, publishing opportunities, awards, and presentation opportunities.

SAR addresses a diverse audience of various disciplines, welcomes critical and analytical essays on any aspect or period of South Asian literature (ancient, pre-colonial, colonial, and postcolonial). SAR is open to all critical and theoretical approaches.

SAR Membership includes subscriptions to salaam and the South Asian Review.