

[Conference Program: South Asian Mobilities, March 5-6, 2015](#)

Discussion published by Malarvizhi Jayanth on Tuesday, February 24, 2015

The Twelfth Annual South Asia Graduate Student Conference, South Asian Mobilities University of Chicago, 5-6 March, 2015

The conference schedule is [now available online](#). Panels run all day from 8.30 a.m. on both days. This conference is open to the public. All are welcome to attend.

Thursday, March 5 2015

Swift Hall

8:30 am: Opening Remarks

8:45 am - 10:15 am: Immigration and Diasporas

Chair: Thibaut d'Hubert, South Asian Languages & Civilizations (SALC)

Anjanette M. Chan Tack, UChicago: "Unpacking Diversity within Immigrant Streams: The Case of Indo-Caribbean Immigrants in the United States."

Taapsi Ramchandani, Syracuse University: "Re-introducing the Colonial Past: A Narrative Analysis of Indian Ethnic Identity and Local Economic Development in Trinidad and Tobago."

Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan, UC Berkeley: "The Rhetoric of Returns: Diasporic Homecoming and the New Indian City."

Yoshina Hurgobin, Syracuse University: "Indentured Workers and the Colonial State in Mauritius: Petitioning in one Indian Ocean Context, 1842-1875."

10:30 am - 12:00 pm: Keynote Address

"Local Terrains and Transnational Exchange: Muslim Mobilities from South Asia to the World": Nile Green, UCLA

Introduction: Muzaffar Alam, SALC

1:30 pm - 2:45 pm: Identity, Citizenship, and the State

Chair: Paul Staniland, Political Science

Maria Ritzema, UIC: "'Everybody was leaving': Sri Lankan Migration Post-Independence."

Nabila Islam, McGill University: "Citizenship in the Margins: The Case of the Rohingya in Burma and Bangladesh."

Sanobar Umar, Queen's University: "Mapping the Borders of Communal Identity and Citizenship in Post-Colonial India."

3:00 pm - 4:15 pm: Social Formations of Wealth & Property

Chair: Whitney Cox, SALC

Sohaib Khan, Columbia University: "Provincializing Financial Capital in South Asia: The Deobandis and Textual Hermeneutics of Islamic Banking and Finance."

Sudev Sheth, University of Pennsylvania: "Elite business households and state formation in western India: The Haribhakti family and the social world of Gujarati bankers, c. 1750-1908."

Samana Gururaja, University of Pennsylvania: "Wealth, Mobility and Unfreedom: 'Courtesan' Households in Early-medieval South India."

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm: Networks of Cultural Production

Chair: Sascha Ebeling, SALC & Comparative Literature

Adhira Mangalagiri, UChicago: "Journeying through Literary Space: Travels of Lehna Singh in Hindi and Chinese Literature."

Jeena Sarah Jacob, JNU: "Europe through 'Keralan' Eyes: Reading of the *Varthamanapustakam* by Paremakkal Thoma Cathanar."

Yunush Ahamed Mohamed Sherif, EFLU Hyderabad: "Contact between the Mideast and the South: A Case-Study of Arabu-Tamil."

Deepthi Murali, UIC: "Tell-tale Beds: Translocal Practices and Transcultural Negotiations in Early Modern Malabar."

Friday, March 6 2015

Swift Hall

8:30 am - 9:45 am: Contemporary Social Mobilities

Chair: Kathleen D. Morrison, Anthropology

Kimberly Walters, UChicago: "Humanitarian Truths: The Shifting Sands of Transnational Sympathy and the Knowing of Commercial Sex."

Leya Mathew, University of Pennsylvania: "The politics of hope: The affective and moral contours of school "choice", English, and (in)equality in liberalizing Kerala."

Karthikeyan Damodaran, University of Edinburgh: "From Cemeteries to the Televisual Space: Mapping the Travel of *Gaana* Songs as a Subaltern Musical Tradition."

10:00 am - 11:30 am: Early Modern Genres, Languages, and Texts

Chair: Wendy Doniger, Divinity School & SALC

Jazmin Graves, UChicago: "Perso-Arabic and Sanskrit Literary Tributaries of the Awadhi Sufi Romance *Madhumālātī*."

Kristina Rogahn, UC Berkeley: "Genres in and of History: *Tamiḷ Nāvalar Caritai* and Tamil Literary History"

Subah Dayal, UCLA: "Conqueror, Poet and Patron: The pursuits and conquests of Mustafa Khan Lari (d. 1648)"

Naveena Naqvi, UCLA: "Marathas on the Move: Ali Ibrahim Khan's *Tārīkh-i-Bhāv Jhankū*."

11:45 am - 1:00 pm: Trajectories of Political Thought

Chair: Dipesh Chakrabarty, History & SALC

Abhishek Bhattacharya, UChicago: "Prefatory Notes towards an Understanding of Naxalite Mobilities."

Klaas Stutje, University of Amsterdam: "Cultural and political exchange of concepts and power between Indian and Indonesian political elites in the interwar era."

Silas Webb, Syracuse University: " 'The Tattered Rag of Non-Alignment': Mao Zedong's Thought in Indian Diaspora Politics, 1966 - 1986."

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm: Religion and Transnationalism

Chair: Steven Collins, SALC

Alexander McKinley, Duke University: "Sacred Sole on *Makkama* Sands: Transoceanic Myth Making & Sinhala Buddhist Visions of Mecca."

Sohaib Baig, UCLA: "A Shaykh of Shaykhs: Hajji Imdadullah and Religious Reform across the Nineteenth Century Indo-Hijaz."

Mallory Hennigar, Syracuse University: "Navayana Buddhism beyond Ambedkar: Global Interventions in a Postcolonial Religion."

Ross Freedenberg, Syracuse University: "Transnational Sympathy: Indo-Guyanese Hinduism between Guyana and Queens."

4:15 pm - 5:45 pm: Keynote Address

"Corporate Culture, Enterprise and the Politics of Self in Contemporary India": Nandini Gooptu, University of Oxford.

Introduction: Ulrike Stark, SALC

6:15 pm - 7:15 pm: Dance Performance

Performance Penthouse, Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts

Madhumalati Adaptation

Choreographer: Anagha Sundararajan

Dancers: Anagha Sundararajan, Sunameeka Panigrahy, Sutikshna Veeravali, Sindhura Pisipati, Jayanthi Sundararajan

"Madhumalati" is an adaptation in classical Indian dance of an Indian Sufi romance poem of the same name, composed by the Sufi sheikh Mir Sayyid Manjhan Rajgiri in Awadhi, a Eastern dialect of Hindi, in 1545.