The Global South Asian Diaspora in the 21st Century: Antecedents and Prospects
The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
June 1-4, 2011

PROGRAMME
THE CONCEPT

An Exodus of South Asians

Disperse to different spaces around the globe,

A woman is adorned with tilak, nose ring and body jewellery,

She stands in front of her homeland as she bids it farewell...

Arrows symbolise movement to other places,

The arrow at the top incorporates a musical wind instrument
to denote South Asian ancestral traditions into other nations.

Eyes are closed to symbolise the hope of a Dreamspace
of opportunity and goodwill.

Curls and abstract symbols resonate like script or static
as the arrivants' culture may be perceived with much difficulty
as they too adapt to their new environment.

Artwork: *Moving Beyond Boundaries* ©Shalini Singh
THURSDAY 2ND JUNE (Learning Resource Centre, UWI)

9:00 A.M.-10:30 A.M.

PANEL 1: The Civilizational Heritage (LRC 1)
Chair: Prof. John La Guerre

1. Title: Notes Toward an Indo-Caribbean Philosophy
   Presenter: Burton Sankeralli
   Affiliation: Trinidad and Tobago Philosophical Society

2. Title: The Salience of Surinamese Hindostanis
   Presenter: Ruben Gowricharn
   Affiliation: Tilburg University, The Netherlands

3. Title: Outsider-Insider: Views of Indo Guyanese Culture from a close colonial distance
   Presenter: John Mair
   Affiliation: The University of Coventry and Yesu Persaud Centre for Caribbean Studies, Warwick University, United Kingdom.

4. Title: Challenge to teach Hindi in Guadeloupe
   Presenter: Fred Négrit
   Affiliation: Guadeloupean Council for Indian Languages, Guadeloupe

9:00 A.M.-10:30 A.M.

PANEL 2: The Historical Context (LRC 2)
Chair: Dr. Sherry-Ann Singh

1. Title: A Passage From India: Up-country Tamils as a Diaspora Next-Door in Sri Lanka
   Presenter: Daniel Bass
   Affiliation: Department of Anthropology & Religious Studies, Lynn University, Florida, USA

2. Title: Museums in India
   Presenter: Mohan Gautam
   Affiliation: Asian Studies, Leiden University, The Netherlands

3. Title: Forging a New Community: The Indian Diaspora in Saint Lucia, 1859-1903
   Presenter: Kyneata Joseph
   Affiliation: University of the Southern Caribbean, Trinidad and Tobago
4. Title: ‘Absent without leave’: East Indians on the Spanish Main in the late nineteenth century
Presenter: Michael Toussaint
Affiliation: Department of History, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

10:30 A.M.-10:45 A.M.
TEA BREAK (for registered participants)

10:45 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

PANEL 3: Cultural Reconstruction in Diasporic Communities: resistance, accommodation and survival (LRC 1)
Chair: Dr. Gabrielle Jamela Hosein

1. Title: Ethnic Histories: The Development of an Indocentric Narrative of Trinidad & Tobago's History
Presenter: Bridget Brereton
Affiliation: Department of History, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

2. Title: Artifacts of East Indians in Belize: Remembering the Past to Secure the Future
Presenter: Sylvia Gilharry Perez* and Kumar Mahabir**
Affiliation: Corozal Organization of East Indian Cultural Heritage (COEICH)* and University of Trinidad and Tobago**

3. Title: Caste-Based Communal Organizations: Promoting a Cultural Identity or Segregation?: A Case Study of the Natal Rajput Association in Kwazulu/Natal
Presenter: Kalpana Hiralal
Affiliation: Historical Studies, School of Anthropology Gender and Historical Studies, Howard College, University of Kwazulu/Natal, South Africa

4. Title: Dr. Kean Gibson’s provoking polemic on Hinduism and Indians in Guyana
Presenter: Veda Mohabir
10:45 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

PANEL 4: Embodied Rhythms and Poetics (LRC 2)
Chair: Professor Funso Aiyejina

1. Title: Calypso and Krishna’s Flute: The Woman’s Moving Body in Indo-Caribbean Rhythm Culture
Presenter: Ananya Jahanara Kabir
Affiliation: School of English, University of Leeds, UK

2. Title: Chutney Bacchanal: Reconstructing South Asian Culture in the Key of Rum
Presenter: Darrell Baksh
Affiliation: The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

3. Title: Pichakaaree: Creating an Indo-Trinidadian poetic tradition
Presenter: Sharda Patasar
Affiliation: The University of Trinidad and Tobago

4. Title: Retention and Invention in Bhojpuri Diasporic Music Culture: Perspectives from India, Fiji, and the Caribbean
Presenter: Peter Manuel
Affiliation: Department of Music, Graduate Center of the City University of New York, USA

1:15-3:00 P.M.

PANEL 5: Islam in the South Asian Diaspora (LRC 1)
Chair: Mr. Shamshu Deen

1. Title: Seeking a Space in the Politics: Muslim Efforts to Join the Political Process in Pre-Independent Guyana and Trinbago
Presenter: Brinsley Samaroo
Affiliation: University of Trinidad and Tobago

2. Title: Religio-Cultural and Social Dynamics among Indo-Caribbean Muslims
Presenter: Abdul Nafey
Affiliation: Centre of Canadian, US and Latin American Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
3. Title: Institutionalizing Islam: Conflict and Community Building in the South Caribbean 1920-1950  
**Presenter:** Halima Sa’adia Kassim  
**Affiliation:** Institute of Critical Thinking, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

4. Title: One Woman, One Vote?: Islam, Democracy and Gender in Trinidad  
**Presenter:** Gabrielle Jamela Hosein  
**Affiliation:** Institute for Gender and Development Studies, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

1:15-3:00 P.M.

**PANEL 6: Leadership and Power Relations in the South Asian Diaspora (LRC 2)**  
**Chair:** Dr. Hamid Ghany

1. Title: East Indian Leadership in the 1930s  
**Presenter:** Feriel Nissa Kissoon  
**Affiliation:** King's College, University of London, UK

2. Title: The East Indian problem and the British political agenda for the independence of Trinidad and Tobago in 1962  
**Presenter:** Darius Figueira  
**Affiliation:** Department of Behavioural Sciences, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

3. Title: Rise of Caribbean Leaders, Governance and Relations with the Electorate in Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago  
**Presenter:** Kerry Sumesar-Rai  
**Affiliation:** Independent

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**An Evening of Book Launches and Poetry Readings**

The Lloyd Best Institute of the West Indies  
91 Tunapuna Road, Tunapuna

7:00 p.m.

Readings and Launches by: Cyril Dabydeen (Canada), Lelawattee Manoo-Rahming (The Bahamas) and Peter Jailall (Canada)
FRIDAY 3\textsuperscript{rd} JUNE (Learning Resource Centre, UWI)

9:00 A.M.-10:30 A.M.

PANEL 7: Gender Issues in the South Asian Diaspora: critical challenges of feminism and masculinity (LRC 1)
Chair: Dr. Jane Parpart

1. Title: Beyond Bollywood – Alternative female subject positions in the context of Hindi film reception in Trinidad
Presenter: Hanna Klien
Affiliation: University of Vienna, Austria

2. Title: From Indianisme to Creolité: The transition from chutney to chutney-soca.- soca and its effect on behaviour
Presenter: Brenda Gopeesingh
Affiliation: The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

3. Title: Up Against a Wall: Muslim Women’s Struggle to reclaim Masjid space in Trinidad and Tobago
Presenter: Rhoda Reddock
Affiliation: The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

9:00 A.M.-10:30 A.M.

PANEL 8: Micro-Histories: Family and Individual Biographies (LRC 2)
Chair: Prof. Mohan Gautam

1. Title: The 1896 Non-Pariel Uprising in British Guiana- The Unknown Story
Presenter: Rampersaud Tiwari
Affiliation: Independent, Ontario, Canada.

2. Title: Reverend Samuel Ramsaran –His Life and Ministry1892-1960
Presenter: H Joy Norman nee Sankarsingh
Affiliation: Independent, Essex, UK

3. Title: What’s in an Indian Diasporic name?
Presenter: Primnath Gootar
Affiliation: University of Trinidad and Tobago
10:30 A.M.-10:45 A.M.
TEA BREAK (for registered participants)

10:45 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

PANEL 9: Voices from the South Asian Diaspora (LRC 1)
Chair: Dr. Giselle Rampaul

1. Title: Migration in the Fiction of Rabindranath Maharaj
Presenter: Frank Birbalsingh
Affiliation: York University, Canada

2. Title: *Hum na Jani, Kuch na Bol: Being and Becoming IndoCaribbean in Like Heaven*
Presenter: J. Vijay Maharaj
Affiliation: Department of Liberal Arts, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

3. Title: Kahe gaile bidesh – Why did you go overseas?: A people’s history of Indian migration on both sides of the ocean
Presenter: Maurits S. Hassankhan
Affiliation: IMWO/Dept. of History, University of Suriname.

10:45 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

PANEL 10: South Asians in Popular Culture, Media and Material Culture (LRC 2)
Chair: Dr. Indira Rampersad

1. Title: Mira Nair’s Diaspora Aesthetic
Presenter: Amardeep Singh
Affiliation: Department of English, Lehigh University.

2. Title: Insider-Outsider: C.N. Sharma and his role as the voice of the people on Guyanese television
Presenter: John Mair
The Global South Asian Diaspora in the 21st Century

Affiliation: The University of Coventry and Yesu Persaud Centre for Caribbean Studies, Warwick University, United Kingdom

3. Title: The Jewellery Industry among East Indians in Trinidad
Presenter: Salima Ali
Affiliation: University of Trinidad and Tobago

1:15-3:00 P.M.

PANEL 11: South Asian Religions in the Diaspora (LRC 1)
Chair: Dr. Kumar Mahabir

1. Title: Giving life to the God: Reconstruction of Hindu identity of Indian Diaspora in USA
Presenter: Annapurna Devi Pandey
Affiliation: Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz, USA

2. Title: Adaptations to Modernity: Recent Trends in Surinamese Hinduism
Presenter: Narinder Mohkamsing
Affiliation: Leiden Institute for Religious Studies, Leiden University, The Netherlands

3. Title: A Century of Roman Catholic work among East Indians in Trinidad: 1845-1945
Presenter: Thomas Harricharan
Affiliation: Independent, Trinidad and Tobago

1:15-3:00 P.M.

PANEL 12: Voices from the South Asian Diaspora: On V.S. Naipaul (LRC 2)
Chair: Dr. Shilpa Venkatachalam

1. Title: Interrogating Nation and History: Naipaul’s Journeys to India
Presenter: Nivedita Misra
Affiliation: Satyawati College (E), University of Delhi, India

2. Title: V.S. Naipaul’s Perception of India: Critical Assessment
Presenter: Chaman Lal
Affiliation: The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine
3. Title: Indian, East Indian, and Indo-Trinidadian: cultural douglarisation in Trinidadian fiction.
   Presenter: Kevin Baldeosingh
   Affiliation: Independent

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE (Learning Resource Centre, UWI)

9:00 A.M.-10:30 A.M.

PANEL 13: Economic Enterprise, Science & Technology in the South Asian Diaspora (LRC 1)
Chair: Professor Timothy Shaw

1. Title: The Commercial Banking Sector in Trinidad: The Indian Experience
   Presenter: Sean Ng Wai
   Affiliation: Cipriani College of Labour and Cooperative Studies and The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

2. Title: DIASPORA BONDS AND THE CARIBBEAN: Tapping into Innovative Financing Mechanisms
   Presenter: Jwala Rambarran* and Prakash Ramlakhan**
   Affiliation: Infinity Financial Engineering, Trinidad & Tobago* and Department of Management Studies, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine**

3. Title: Stars of Science
   Presenter: Sally Radford and Jo-Anne Sewlal
   Affiliation: Bridgefield Observatory, UK and Caribbean Academy of Sciences- Trinidad & Tobago & The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

9:00 A.M.-10:30 A.M.

PANEL 14: The Abolition of Indenture (LRC 2)
Chair: Dr. Kusha Haraksingh

1. Title: ‘Cannot be Mended but Ended’: Indian Nationalists and the Abolition of Indenture System
   Presenter: Amit Kumar Mishra
The Global South Asian Diaspora in the 21st Century

Affiliation: Centre for Study of Indian Diaspora, University of Hyderabad, India

2. Title: 'More than discourse and shame: indentured women's lives in Fiji as the progenitor of abolition worldwide'
Presenter: Emma Alexander-Mudalier
Affiliation: Department of History, University of Winnipeg, Canada.

3. Title: To be or not to be “Coolies” – The Movement towards the Abolition of Indian Indentured Labour
Presenter: Radica Mahase
Affiliation: College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago

1:00 P.M.-6: P.M. (NAPA Building, Port of Spain)

FILM COMPONENT

VENUE: NATIONAL ACADEMY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, PORT OF SPAIN

Featured Film Docs
Richard Fung, Dal Puri Diaspora (Trinidad)
Pat Mohammed, Coolie Pink and Green (Trinidad)
Peter Manuel, Tassa Thunder (USA)
Martin Raymond, Mungal Patasar (Trinidad)
Yao Ramesar, Jahaji Mai Journey to Ganga Mai (Trinidad)
Kamalo Deen, Munradin of Gasparillo (USA)
Ali Kazimi, Continuous Journey (USA)
Jordache Ellapen, Cane/Cain (South Africa)
Annapurna Pandey, Homeland in the Heart: A study of Oriya diaspora in the USA (USA)
Corozal Organization of East Indian Cultural Heritage (COEICH), Artifacts of East Indians in Belize: Remembering the Past to Secure the Future (Belize)
The Global South Asian Diaspora in the 21st Century

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