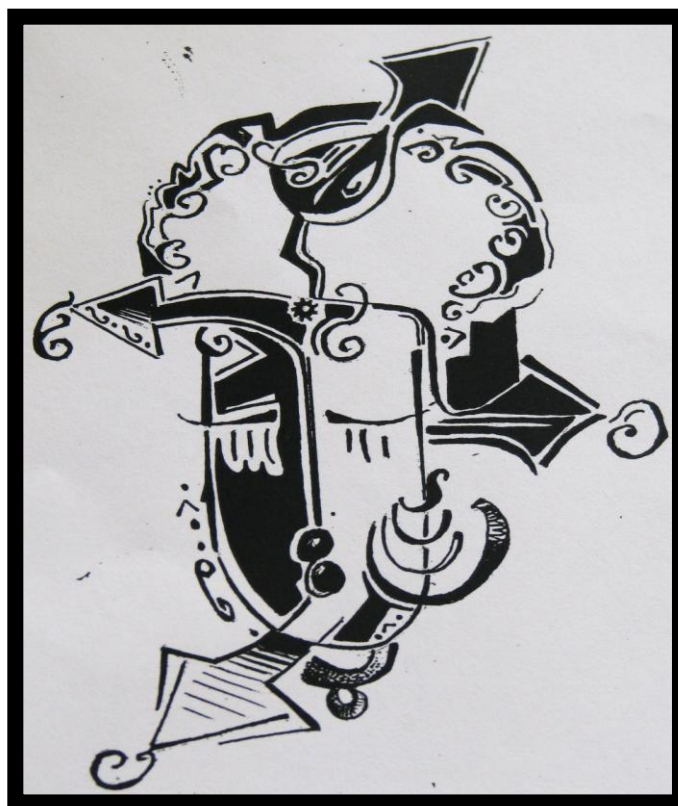


# The Global South Asian Diaspora in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Antecedents and Prospects

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 2<sup>ND</sup> 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

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**10:30 A.M.-10:45 A.M.**

**TEA BREAK** (for registered participants)

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**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 Hirallal

**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

**Affiliation:** The Canadian Guyanese Centre for Human Rights and Social Justice.



**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: Re-constructing 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

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**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



## *The Global South Asian Diaspora in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

**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

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**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), Lelawattie Manoo-Rahming (The Bahamas) and Peter Jailall (Canada)

**FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> 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 Ministry 1892-1960

**Presenter:** H Joy Norman nee Sankarsingh

**Affiliation:** Independent, Essex, UK

**3. Title:** What's in an Indian Diasporic name?

**Presenter:** Primnath Gooptar

**Affiliation:** University of Trinidad and Tobago

**10:30 A.M.-10:45 A.M.**

**TEA BREAK** (for registered participants)

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**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





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**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

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### **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 Haricharan

**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

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## **SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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-Mudaliar

**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)



## **CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

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