



THE INDIAN DIASPORA : IDENTITIES, TRAJECTORIES AND TRANSNATIONALITIES

**The Teaching and Learning Centre
U.W.I., St. Augustine
12 – 16 May 2015**

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 12 MAY 2015

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM

**OPENING CEREMONY
(TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTRE, U.W.I.)**

6:30 PM - 8:30PM

**RECEPTION FOR PRESENTERS
(Hosted by CAMPUS PRINCIPAL)**

WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2015

Panel

1 9:00 AM -10:30 AM

HISTORIOGRAPHY OF THE INDIAN DIASPORA

Prof. Bridget Brereton, Chair

“Trends in the Historiography of Indentured Labour”

Prof. Brij V. Lal (Australian National University)

“Historiography of Indentured Labour in Suriname”

Prof. Maurits Hassankhan (Anton de Kom University, Suriname)

“Historiography of Indentured Labour in the Indian Ocean with Focus on Mauritius”

Prof. Richard B. Allen, (Framington State University, USA)

“Indentured Indian Historiography in the Anglophone Caribbean”

Dr. Lomarsh Roopnarine (Jackson State University, USA)

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

COFFEE BREAK

Panel

2 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGES

Dr. Kumar Mahabir, Chair

“Music, Videos & Douglarization: Playing with Race & Crossing Ethnic Borders in Trinidad”

Dr. Patricia van Leeuwaarde Moonsammy (Dickinson College, USA)

“Living-in-Between: South African Indian Identity Formation, 1945-1960”

Ms. Cacee Hoyer (University of Texas, Austin, USA)

Dougla Poetics and Politics in Indo-Caribbean Feminist Thought”

Dr. Gabrielle Hosein (U.W.I., St. Augustine)

“Hindostanis in Suriname, 1873-1920: Indenture, Plantations and Beyond”

Prof. Chan Choenni (Free University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

LUNCH

Panel

3 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM
DIASPORA

LITERARY REPRESENTATIONS OF THE INDIAN

“Feminist Consciousness in Samuel Selvon’s ‘Tiger Books’”
Ms. Alfrena J. Pierre (Independent Researcher, T&T)

“Gendering the Subject of Indenture in Three Guyanese Narratives of Migration and Settlement”
Dr. Suzanne Scafe (London South Bank University, UK)

“The Mixed-Up Life of the Indo-Caribbean Woman”
Dr. Jasodra Vijay Maharaj (U.W.I., St. Augustine)

“Longing, Belonging and the Search for Identity: A Reading of Peggy Mohan’s *Jahajin*”
Ms. Nivedita Misra (U.W.I., St. Augustine)

3:00 PM - 3:20 PM

COFFEE BREAK

Panel

4 3:20 PM - 4:30 PM

SEXUALITY AND GENDER PERSPECTIVES

Prof. Patricia Mohammed, Chair

“Interrogating Gender Roles: An Exploration of Interviews with Formerly Indentured Women”
Ms. Alison Klein (City University of New York, USA)

“Perspectives of Administrators of Islamic Secondary Schools on Masculine Construction”
Dr. Stephen. Geofroy & Mr. Ashmead Ali (U.W.I., St. Augustine)

“The Quality of Life of Transnational Women: Trinidadian Migrant Women in Great Britain and the U.S.”
Ms. Dianne Prashad (University of York) & Ms. Ramrattie Prashad (U.W.I., St. Augustine)

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS (Prof. Brij V. Lal)
& CULTURAL PROGRAMME**

*(Sponsored by The Indian High Commission to Trinidad and Tobago &
The Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Co-operation)*

THURSDAY 14 MAY 2015

**Panel 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
5**

LANGUAGE, KINSHIP AND IDENTITY

Dr. Sherry-Ann Singh, Chair

“A Comparison between Modern Standard Hindi and Trinidad Hindustani”

Dr. Visham Bhimull (National Council of Indian Culture, T&T)

“Kinship and Ethnic Identity: Changing Realities of Indian Diaspora in Trinidad”

Dr. Susan J. Chand (University of the Southern Caribbean, T&T)

“Finding Distant Relatives in Ancestral India”

Dr. Kumar Mahabir (University of Trinidad and Tobago)

“Indian Identities in South America : *the Immigration from India to Argentina (First and Second Generation)*”

Dr. Lia Rodriguez de la Vega (Palermo University, Argentina)

10:30 AM -11:00 AM

COFFEE BREAK

**Panel
6 11:00AM-12:30 PM**

**INDIANS IN THE CARIBBEAN : ISSUES &
PERSPECTIVES**

Dr. Kusha Haraksingh, Chair

“The East Indians of Belize Dilemma: Ethnic Pride and Disconnectedness”

Dr. Dorian Barrow & Ms. Nicole Kent (U.W.I., St. Augustine)

“Cultural Reformulation: Dynamics of Indian Identity and Culture in Grenada, 1857-1960”

Dr. Ron Sookram (Arthur Lok Jack School of Graduate Studies, T&T)

“The Valleys of the Shadow of Death: Environment, Disease and Indians in St. Lucia in the late 1800s”

Dr. Terencia Joseph (University of the Southern Caribbean, T&T)

“Peasants Contribution to Caribbean Societies: The Case of British Indians in Suriname”

Prof. Ruben Gowricharn (University of Tilburg, The Netherlands)

12:30 PM-1:30 PM

LUNCH

Panel

7 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

BRIDGING THE GAP: INDIA AND ITS DIASPORA

Prof. Atlury Murali, Chair

“India’s Relationship with British Guiana during the Guyanese Independence Struggle”

Dr. Robert A. Waters, Jr. (Ohio Northern University, USA)

“To India with Love’: Communication, Interaction and Identity Formation”

Dr. Radica Mahase (College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts, T&T)

“Diasporic Dissonance”: Trinidad Indians and India’s Struggle for Independence”

Dr. Uzma Quraishi (Sam Houston State University, USA)

”Cricket: Connecting Bridge Between India and the West Indies”

Mr. Aniket Bhavthankar (Society for Policy Studies, India)

3:00 PM-3:20 PM

COFFEE BREAK

Panel

8 3:20 PM-4:30 PM

ART, MUSIC AND AESTHETICS

Mr. Rawle Gibbons, Chair

“Hindu Remappings: The Ritual Art & Music of the Ganesh Utsav in Trinidad”

Dr. Sharda Patasar (Independent Researcher, T&T)

“Chandernagore Nadira: A Visual Retrospective of the East Indian Diaspora of Trinidad & Tobago”

Prof. Patricia Mohammed (U.W.I., St. Augustine)

Mr. Albert. Sydney (Philatelic Society of T&T)

6:00 PM -8:30PM

***EVENING OF FILM, FOOD & FUN
TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTRE***

FRIDAY 15 MAY 2015

Panel

9 9:00 AM -10:30 AM

PERSONALITIES AND PERSPECTIVES

Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh, Chair

“Imaging & Imagining: Varied Conceptions of the Indian Diaspora”

Ms. Christine Norton (Noel Norton Collection Limited, T&T)

“From Indian to Trinbagonian: Adrian Cola Rienzi as Trade Unionist & Politician”

Prof. Brinsley Samaroo (Lloyd Best Institute, T&T)

“Ranjit Kumar & the Hindu Maha Sabha of Trinidad”

Dr. Primmath Gooptar (Independent Researcher, T&T)

Plantation Diaspora and Global Trends”

Dr. Kusha Haraksingh (U.W.I., St. Augustine)

10:30 AM – 11:00 AM

COFFEE BREAK

Panel

10 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

**RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY IN THE INDIAN
DIASPORA**

Prof. Brinsley Samaroo, Chair

“Jagannatha between Odisha and America”

Dr. Karlie Fox-Knudtsen (Cornell University, USA)

“The Hindu Dimensions of a Cuban Revolutionary’s
Nationbuilding: José Martí & the Bhagavad-Gita”

Dr. Armando García de la Torre (U.W.I., St. Augustine)

“An Imagined Community: the Hindu Diaspora in Trinidad”

Ms. Aneela Bhagwat (Independent Researcher, T&T)

“The Traumas of Indenture and the Continuity of Ancient
Healing Remedies: A Psychosocial Analysis”

Dr. Sandili Maharaj-Ramdial, T&T

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

LUNCH

Panel

11 1:30 PM - 2:40 PM

**QUESTIONING & REDRAWING INDIAN
DIASPORA HISTORIOGRAPHY**

Prof. Maurits Hassankhan, Chair

“An Authorized Version?: The Indo-Trinidadian Narrative since
2010”

Prof. Bridget Brereton (U.W.I., St. Augustine)

“Reconstructing the History of Indian Diaspora: Issues,
Concerns & Challenges”

Prof. Kapil Kumar (Indira Gandhi National Open University, India)

“Voices from the Inside”: Locating Oral History in Diasporic
Reconstructions; Trinidad 1920-1945”

Dr. Sherry-Ann Singh (U.W.I., St. Augustine)

2:40 PM – 3:00 PM

WRAP UP & CLOSING REMARKS
Head, Department of History

6:30 PM -9:00 PM

***CLOSING RECEPTION FOR
PRESENTERS HOSTED BY & AT THE
INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION TO
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO***

SATURDAY 16 MAY 2015
TOUR/SITSEEING

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY (OPTIONAL)

SUNDAY 17 MAY 2015

Day At The Beach Cost: TT\$100.

Organised by Prof. Brinsley Samaroo