

# **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

## **THE GLOBAL SOUTH ASIAN DIASPORA (June 1-4, 2011)**

**The University of the West Indies**

### **PROGRAMME**

Further Information: <http://sta.uwi.edu/conferences/11/gsad/>

# **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)**

**1. Title:** Notes Toward an Indo-Caribbean Philosophy

**Presenter:** Burton Sankeralli

**Affiliation:** Trinidad and Tobago Philosophical Society

**2. Title:** The Saliency 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)**

**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:** Diasporic Bridges: Reciprocity and the Indian indentured labor diaspora

**Presenter:** Amitava Chowdhury

**Affiliation:** Department of History, Queen's University, Ontario, Canada

**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)**

**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:** In respect of Kean Gibson's essays on Hinduism and Hindus 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)**

**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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**LUNCH 12:15 P.M.-1:00 P.M. (For Paper Presenters, Faculty of Social Sciences Lounge)**

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**1:15-3:00 P.M.**

**PANEL 5: Micro-Histories: Family and Individual Biographies (LRC 1)**

**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:** 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:** What's in an Indian Diasporic name?

**Presenter:** Primnath Gooptar

**Affiliation:** University of Trinidad and Tobago

**1:15-3:00 P.M.**

**PANEL 6: Leadership and Power Relations in the South Asian Diaspora (LRC 2)**

**1. Title:** East Indian Leadership in the 1930s

**Presenter:** Ferial Nissa Kisooson

**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:** Department of Government, The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine

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## **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)**

**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.

**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: Islam in the South Asian Diaspora (LRC 2)**

**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

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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 9: Voices from the South Asian Diaspora (LRC 1)**

**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)**

**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

**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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**LUNCH 12:15 P.M.-1:00 P.M. (For Paper Presenters, Faculty of Social Sciences Lounge)**

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**1:15-3:00 P.M.**

**PANEL 11: South Asian Religions in the Diaspora (LRC 1)**

**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)**

**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 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)**

**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)**

**1. Title:** '*Cannot be Mended but Ended*': Indian Nationalists and the Abolition of Indenture System

**Presenter:** Amit Kumar Mishra

**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, *Dhalporie 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)