

# India and the Indian Diasporic Imagination

## *L'Inde et l'imagination diasporique*

*Écrivains invités*

Lakshmi Persaud

Khal Torabully

Romesh Gunsekera

1<sup>er</sup>-4 avril 2009

*Conférenciers invités*

Vijay Mishra

Clem Seecharan

Maison des relations internationales,  
Auditorium du musée Fabre,  
Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier III

Colloque organisé par le Cerpac, Université Paul-Valéry (É.A. 741, Montpellier III).

En partenariat avec RIRRA 21 (É.A. 4209, Montpellier 3), Desi (É.A. 4196 Climas, Bordeaux 3), Caribbean Studies Centre (London Metropolitan University, UK), Purdue University (USA), et la librairie Sauramps.

Avec le soutien de l'Ambassade de France en Inde, la ville de Montpellier, la région Languedoc-Roussillon, et la collaboration du Club international universitaire.

Responsables: Rita CHRISTIAN <r.christian@londonmet.ac.uk> et Judith MISRAHI-BARAK <judith.misrahi-barak@univ-montp3.fr>  
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## WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2009

### *Maison des relations internationales*

10-12 am Registration

### *Auditorium du musée Fabre*

1:30 pm Official opening by M<sup>me</sup> **Anne Fraïsse**, President of Paul-Valéry Montpellier III University

2 pm Plenary session on cinema

**Chair: Pr Jean-François Baillon** *Bordeaux III*

- ▶ **Binita J. Mehta** *Manhattanville College, Purchase, USA*  
*Bhaji, Curry, and Masala: Food and/as Identity in South Asian Diasporic Cinema*
- ▶ **Rosa Maria Garcia Periago** *University of Murcia, Spain*  
*A Part of Oneself Dies Abroad, and One Is Eternally in Search of it: Hybridity and Diaspora in Pseudo Bollywood film Bollywood Queen*
- ▶ **Soraya Santamaría-Navarro** *University of Oviedo, Spain*  
*Earth: the Narrative of Partition Relived from the Distance of the Diaspora*

### *Coffee-break*

- ▶ **Zeenat Saleh** *Besançon University, France*  
*Mississippi Masala: a Case Study in Forced Hybridity*
- ▶ **Paul Daniel Veyret** *University of Bordeaux III, France*  
*I See Dead People: M Night Shyamalan's cinema*

4.30 to 5.30 pm Cinema round table chaired by Jean-François Baillon, Harsh Kapoor, Vijay Mishra and Christian Viviani

6 pm Welcoming cocktail dinner

### *Auditorium du musée Fabre*

7 to 9 pm Screening of *Masala*

## THURSDAY 2 APRIL 2009

### *Maison des relations internationales*

9 am Plenary session on Representations and Modes

**Chair: Dr David Howard** *University of Edinburgh*

- ▶ **Tithi Bhattacharya & Bill Mullen** *Purdue University, USA*  
*Locating the Local in Diaspora*
- ▶ **Catherine Pessa-Miquel** *University of Lyon II, France*  
*Unseen Cities : Representations of the Diasporic Experience in Nadeem Aslam's Maps for Lost Lovers*
- ▶ **Guillaume Cingal** *François Rabelais University, Tours, France*  
*Epistolary Modes & Diasporic Nodes in C.B. Divakaruni's "Mrs Dutta Writes a Letter"*

### *Coffee-break*

**Chair: Dr Judith Misrahi-Barak** *Montpellier III*

▶ **Florence Cabaret** *Rouen University, France*

*From the page to the screen: Diasporic Variations on India in The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahiri (2004) and Mira Nair (2007)*

▶ **Deepika Bahri** *Emory University, USA*

*A Tale of Two Cities: The Aesthetics of Diasporic Space in Mira Nair's The Namesake*

**11.30 am** Keynote Speaker, **Pr Vijay Mishra** *Murdoch University, Perth, Australia*

*In the Arcade of Hanuman House': Ghostly Spectres in the Diaspora*

**12.30 am** Lunch

**2.30 pm Afternoon 1**  
*Maison des relations internationales*

### **Indian Diasporic spaces**

**Chair: Pr Tithi Bhattacharya** *Purdue University*

▶ **Lise Guillamon** *University Paris IV-Sorbonne*  
*The Diasporic Tongue of Amitav Ghosh's Sea of Poppies*

▶ **Delphine Munos** *University of Liège, Belgium*  
*Zigzagging Paths to Self-Transformation: Mapping Out the "Time Zones" of Diaspora in Desirable Daughters by Bharati Mukherjee*

▶ **Irma Maini** *New Jersey City University, USA*  
*Food Codes in Jhumpa Lahiri's short stories*

**2.30 pm Afternoon 2**  
*Auditorium du musée Fabre*

### **The Indian subcontinent in Canada**

**Chair: Pr Gulshan Taneja** *Delhi University*

▶ **Nancy Batty** *Red Deer College, Canada*  
*Apocalypse Then: Communal Violence and Diasporic Time in M.G. Vassanji's The Assassin's Song*

▶ **Chun Fu** *National I-lan University, Taiwan*  
*The (Im)possibility of Backtracking in M. G. Vassanji's The In-Between World of Vikram Lall*

▶ **Busolo Wegesa** *Moi University, Kenya*  
& **Godwin Siundu** *Western University College of Science and Technology, Kenya*  
*Groups, City-Spaces and the Ambivalence of Modernities: Reading Nairobi and Dar-Es-Salaam*

Coffee-break

**4 pm** *Auditorium du musée Fabre*

### **The Indian subcontinent in Canada Continued**

**Chair: Dr John McLeod** *University of Leeds*

▶ **Faith Pullin** *University of Edinburgh, UK*  
*Double Displacement in the writing of Rohinton Mistry: the Parsi community in Tales from Firozsha Baag*

▶ **Veronica Thomson** *Athabasca University, USA*  
*From Komagata Maru to Kanishka: The Indian Diaspora in Canada in Anita Rau Badami's Can You Hear the Nightbird Call?*

▶ **Pascal Zink** *Paris IV La Sorbonne*  
*The Inheritance of Hell in Michael Ondaatje's Anil's Ghost and Romesh Gunesequera's Heaven's Edge*

**6 to 7 pm** Reading by **Romesh Gunesequera**, introduced by **Judith Misrahi-Barak** and **Alexis Tadié**

9 am *Maison des relations internationales*

**Cultural Modes of Memory**

Chair: **Pr Deepika Bahri** *Emory University*

- ▶ **Amar Wahab** *York University, Canada*  
*Colonial Governmentality and Indentureship: A Genealogy of 'Coolie' subjectivity in the Early Post-Emancipation Caribbean*
- ▶ **Shubhra Tripathi** *Govt. MVM College, Bhopal, India*  
*Diasporic Ramayana: A Confluence of Cultures*
- ▶ **C.S. Biju** *St. Thomas College, Thrissur Kerala, India*  
*Indian Diaspora and the Performance of Cultural Memory-Production, Performance and the Politics of Representation in Theatres of Indian Diaspora in Britain*

Coffee-break

- ▶ **Alexis Tadie** *University of Paris-Sorbonne, France*  
*Is cricket a fictional sport?*
- ▶ **Selwyn R. Cudjoe** *Wellesley College, USA*  
*Modes of Indian Literature in the Diaspora: Trinidad and Tobago*

11.30 am Keynote Speaker, **Pr Clem Seecharan** *London Metropolitan University, UK*  
*Mother India's Shadow over El Dorado: The Shaping of the Indo-Guyanese Imagination*

12.30 am Lunch

2.30 pm **Afternoon 1**  
*Maison des relations internationales*

**Urban spaces**

Chair: **Harsh Kapoor**

- ▶ **John McLeod** *University of Leeds, UK*  
*Hanif Kureishi and the Fortunes of Diasporic London*
- ▶ **Maria S. D. Alexandru** *University of Bucharest, Romania*  
*Provincialising London in Vikram Chandra's Novel Red Earth and Pouring Rain*
- ▶ **Sabine Lauret** *Paris III-Sorbonne Nouvelle, France*  
*The "Going Home Syndrome" in Monica Ali's Brick Lane*

Coffee-break

**There and Back**

- ▶ **Meg Samuelson** *Stellenbosch University, South Africa*  
*Crossing the Kala Pani: Citizenship and Belonging in Post-Apartheid South Africa Indian Narratives*
- ▶ **Betty Govinden** *University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa*  
*Satyagraha and The Indian Diasporic Imagination – with particular reference to South African writings on Gandhi*
- ▶ **Nalini Mohabir** *Leeds University, UK*  
*Return Journeys in the Indo-Caribbean Diaspora*

2.30 pm **Afternoon 2**  
*Auditorium du musée Fabre*

**'Coolitude'**

Chair: **Pr Jean-François Durand** *Montpellier III*

- ▶ **Felicity Hand Cranham** *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain*  
*The Construction of Indianness in the Mauritian Imagination*
- ▶ **Srilata Ravi** *University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia*  
*Indians in Mauritius: national and postnational identities*
- ▶ **Valérie Magdelaine** *Université de La Réunion*  
*Un retour du discours des origines : L'écriture ethnographique comme réparation de la perte de l'Inde dans quelques romans francophones antillais et réunionnais de l'engagisme*

Coffee-break

- ▶ **Maria Mar Garcia Lopez** *Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain*  
*Poétique du Postexotisme chez Ananda Devi : Lecture de Soupir*
- ▶ **Asha Pande** *University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, India*  
*Le corps et la souffrance dans l'écriture féminine de l'Île Maurice*
- ▶ **Véronique Bragard** *Université de Louvain, Belgium*  
*L'appel de la mer, l'appel de l'altérité : symbolique marine dans l'œuvre d'Ananda Devi*

## FRIDAY 3 APRIL 2009 (continued)

Auditorium

6 to 7 pm Reading by **Khal Torabully**, introduced by **Véronique Bragard**

8 pm Conference Dinner

## SATURDAY 4 APRIL 2009

Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier III, salle Charles-Camproux

9.15 am **Diasporic Dislocations**

Chair: **Dr Rita Christian** *London Metropolitan University*

- ▶ **Simone Alexander** *Seton Hall University, New Jersey, USA*  
*Two Bo-rat can't live in the same hole": Revis(ion)ing Indo-Caribbean Female Subjectivity*
- ▶ **Adlai Murdoch** *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA*  
*Doubling Difference: Writing the Franco-Indo-Caribbean Experience*
- ▶ **Laurel Steele** *Career diplomat, Afghanistan*  
*Writing Class with Mr Khan : No Luncheon at Longchamps for the Jumbie Bird*

Coffee-break

- ▶ **Kerstin Shands** *University College, Stockholm, Sweden*  
*Hyperfabula of Gains and Losses: Immanent-Transcendent Narrative Perspective in Kiran Desai's The Inheritance of Loss*
- ▶ **Claude Chastagner** *Montpellier III, France*  
*Bhanga, the sound of the Indian Diaspora: A new paradigm for US-Indian relationships?*

12 am Round Table: 'The Indian Writer in the Diaspora', with **Romesh Gunsekera, Lakshmi Persaud, Khal Torabully**, chaired by **Rita Christian** and **Judith Misrahi-Barak**

1 pm Lunch

2 pm **Afternoon 1**  
UPV - Salle des Commissions

### Memory, Loss & Trauma

Chair: **Pr Prudence Layne** *Elon University*

- ▶ **Sophie Croisy** *Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France*  
*Unveiling Everyday Traumas: migrations in Shani Mootoo's Cereus Blooms at Night*
- ▶ **Jennifer Yusin** *Drexel University, USA*  
*Crossing the Shadow Lines: Trauma, Fragmentation, and the Impossibility of Return*
- ▶ **Savitri Ashok** *Middle Tennessee State University, USA*  
*Anamnesis and Amnesia: Salman Rushdie's ImagiNation in The Moor's Last Sigh*

2 pm **Afternoon 2**  
UPV - Salle Charles-Camproux

### Other Spaces, Real and Virtual

Chair: **Dr Binita Mehta** *Manhattanville College, Purchase*

- ▶ **Louise Harrington** *SOAS, UK*  
*An-Other Space: Diasporic responses to Partition in Bengal*
- ▶ **Corinne François-Deneve** *University of Liverpool, UK*  
*Vijay Singh or Choosing Paris*
- ▶ **Pia Mukherji** *Independent scholar*  
*Cyberlogs, Desi Diasporas, and the Postfeminist Debate*

Coffee-break

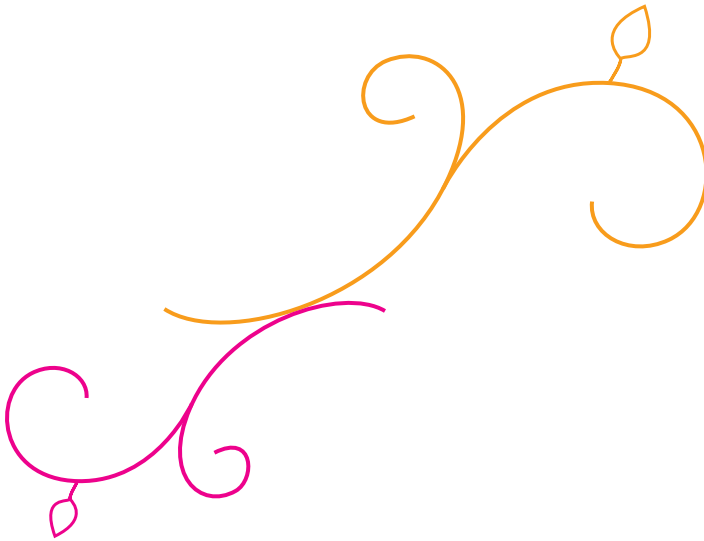
Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier III, salle Charles-Camproux

**Indo-Caribbean women in Literature/Art/Culture**

Chair: **Pr Simone Alexander** *Seton Hall University, New Jersey*

- ▶ **Mariam Pirbhai** *Wilfrid Laurier University, Ontario, Canada*  
*Re-Casting Jahaji-Bhain: A Survey of the Indo-Caribbean Women's Novel, 1990-2009*
- ▶ **Brenda Gopeesingh** *Hindu Women's Organisation (HWO) of Trinidad and Tobago*  
*Identity, Spirituality and Activism in the Art of Bernadette Persaud*
- ▶ **Joy Mahabir** *SUNY, NY, USA*  
*Silent Archives: Indo-Caribbean Women's Jewelry*
- ▶ **Myriam Moïse** *Montpellier III, France*  
*The Diasporic Gendered Subject in and out of Space in Lakshmi Persaud's Butterfly in the Wind and Sastra*

4:30 to 5:30 pm Reading by **Lakshmi Persaud**, introduced by **Rita Christian** and **Myriam Moïse**



Convenors : Dr Rita Christian (London Metropolitan University, UK)  
& Dr Judith Misrahi-Barak (Paul Valéry University, Montpellier III, France)

Co-convenors: Pr Jean-François Baillon (Bordeaux III, France)  
& Pr Tithi Bhattacharya (Purdue University, USA)

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A partnership between the Cerpac (Research Centre for the Commonwealth, EA 741, Montpellier 3), the Caribbean Studies Centre (London Metropolitan University, UK), Desi (Diasporas : Research Centre on Indian Specificities / EA 4196 Climas, Bordeaux3), RIRRA 21 (EA4209, Montpellier 3), Purdue University (USA)

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In collaboration with la ville de Montpellier, the Club international universitaire  
and the bookshop Sauramps*