

5th Biennial Graduate Conference on South Asian Religions
University of Toronto
October 3rd and 4th, 2019

Thursday, October 3rd 2019

8:15-8:30 Meet at 170 St. George Street, University of Toronto

8:30-9:30 Travel to University of Toronto Mississauga

9:30-10:00 Breakfast, sign-in, conference materials

10:00-10:05 Opening remarks

10:05-11:15 Early Career Panel:

Chair: Nabeel Jafri

Respondent: Luther Obrock

-Kiran Singh, Toronto, Undergraduate

-Aleesha Noreen, Toronto, Undergraduate, "The Historical Use of Indic Forms by Muslims for the Formation of an Identity and the Conveyance of Authority"

-Ambika Sharma, Toronto, Undergraduate, "India's National Pastime: A Look at Historical Means of Visual Culture and its Impact on the Modern Means of Visual Culture and its Projection of Religious Nationalism in India"

-Mayadevi Murthy, Toronto, Undergraduate, "Tamil Identity Through Tamil Devotion in Thiruvilayadal"

-Amanda Ng, Toronto, Undergraduate, "The Complicity, Comfort, and Coerciveness of Karma for Thai Buddhist Women"

PANEL 1: 11:20-1:15

Title: **Colonial Genres of Religion**

Chair: Janani Comar

Respondent: Tony Stewart

-Sujata Chaudhary, McGill, PhD, "Private versus Public Temples in India: The complexities of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act of 1863"

-Rohit Dutta Roy, Cambridge, PhD, "Reconciling the Theologian and the Historian through the works of Sivanath Sastri: Analyzing the model of Ecclesiastical Histories in Early Twentieth Century India"

-Lori Noel, Concordia, MA, "Exhibiting the Sacred: The Museum and Temple Identities of Religious Objects" Material culture

- Sahaj Patel, Vanderbilt, PhD, "Refiguring Mantra: Meaning Making in the Early Swaminarayan Community"

Lunch: 1:15-2:15

PANEL 2: 2:15-3:45

Title: **Anthropology of South Asian Religions**

Chair: Stephanie Duclos-King

Respondent: Frank Korom

- Kalpesh Bhatt, Toronto, PhD, "Theistic Hope in Everyday Precarity: Secular Apprehensions in the BAPS Swaminarayan Hindu Tradition"

- Helena Reddington, McGill, PhD, "Eighteenth Century Satire for a Twenty-First Century Audience: The Tullal Performance Tradition in Contemporary Kerala"

- Nimisha Thakur, Syracuse, PhD, "River Song: Intersections of Caste, Gender, Indigeneity and Relational Citizenship in the Brahmaputra River Valley, Assam"

PANEL 3: 3:45-5:15

Title: **Early Modern Texts**

Chair: TBA

Respondent: Ajay Rao

-Rohini Shukla, Columbia, PhD, "When Krishna Writes Jani's Songs: Gendered Authorship in Early Modern Maharashtra"

- Anusha Rao, Toronto, PhD, "Madhva's Draupadī: Deification and The Question of Qualification in Madhva's Theology"

- Anna Lee White, McGill, PhD, "Rāmānand's Sanskrit Texts and Debates on Social Reform"

5:15 Travel to dinner place

6:00 Dinner

8:00 Travel back to University of Toronto St. George

Friday, October 4th, 2019

8:30 Meet at 170 St. George Street, University of Toronto

8:30-9:00 Breakfast (Room 317)

PANEL 4: 9:05-11:00

Title: **Pre-Modern Texts and their Afterlives**

Chair: Jesse Pruitt

Respondent: Srilata Raman

- Heleen De Jonckheere, Ghent, PhD, "Laugh and Learn: Humor at the center of a Jain didactic narrative"
- Mirela Stosic, Toronto, PhD, "Caste Representations of Alvars"
- Jason Smith, Harvard, ThD, "Model Readers: Ethics, Audience, and the Tirukkural"
- David Narayana, Yale, MA, "Of pots and skies: on the study of conceptual metaphors in Indian thought"

Coffee Break 11:00-11:15

PANEL 5: 11:15-1:10

Title: **Sikhism**

Chair: Jonathan Peterson

Respondent: Julie Vig

- Brittany Puller, Michigan, PhD "Reimagining the 'Archive:' State History as Sikh History"
- Sukhbinder Singh Sandhu, Leeds, MA "The Digital Guru: How does Digitalised Gurbani Affect the Religious Practices of Sikhs?"
- Damanjit Singh Gill, UPenn, MA "Paintra: The Mobilization of Bodies through Gatka in the Late 19th Century"
- Manvinder Gill, McMaster, MA "For the Culture: Culture, Masculinity, and the intergenerational persistence of problem drinking in Sikh-Canadians"

Lunch 1:10-2:10

PANEL 6: 2:10-3:40

Title: **New Voices in Newar Studies**

Chair: Krissy Rogahn

Respondent: Christoph Emmrich

- Ian Turner, Toronto, PhD, "Facebook Farmers and Urban Entrepreneurs: Politics of the Sacred in the Place-Making and Place-Claiming of the Kathmandu Valley"
- Andrea Wollein, Toronto, PhD, " Provincializing *Mesocosm*: Buddhism in Bhaktapur "
- Austin Simoes-Gomes, Toronto, PhD, "Decentering the Shaman: An Exploration of the Role of the Audience in Newar Healing Rituals"

Coffee Break 3:40-3:50

PANEL 7: 3:50-5:20

Title: **Encountering Rāma: The Path of the Divine**

Chair: Anusha Rao

Respondent: Arti Dhand

- Tamara Cohen, Toronto, PhD "Rāma's Virtue"

- Tarinee Awasthi, Cornell, PhD "The Quest of(for) Rāma: Adhyatma-Rāmāyaṇa and the Rāmcaritmānas of Gosvāmī Tulsidās"
- Aditya Chaturvedi, Emory, PhD "Path 'of/to' Rama : Mithila Rameśvaracarita and Tantra Caryā"

Concluding Remarks: 5:20-5:30

Keynote by **Dr. Ayesha Irani**: 5:30-6:45PM

Dinner: 6:45-8:30