



*Canadian South
Asian Studies
Association*

Congress 2024 Programme

McGill University, Montréal

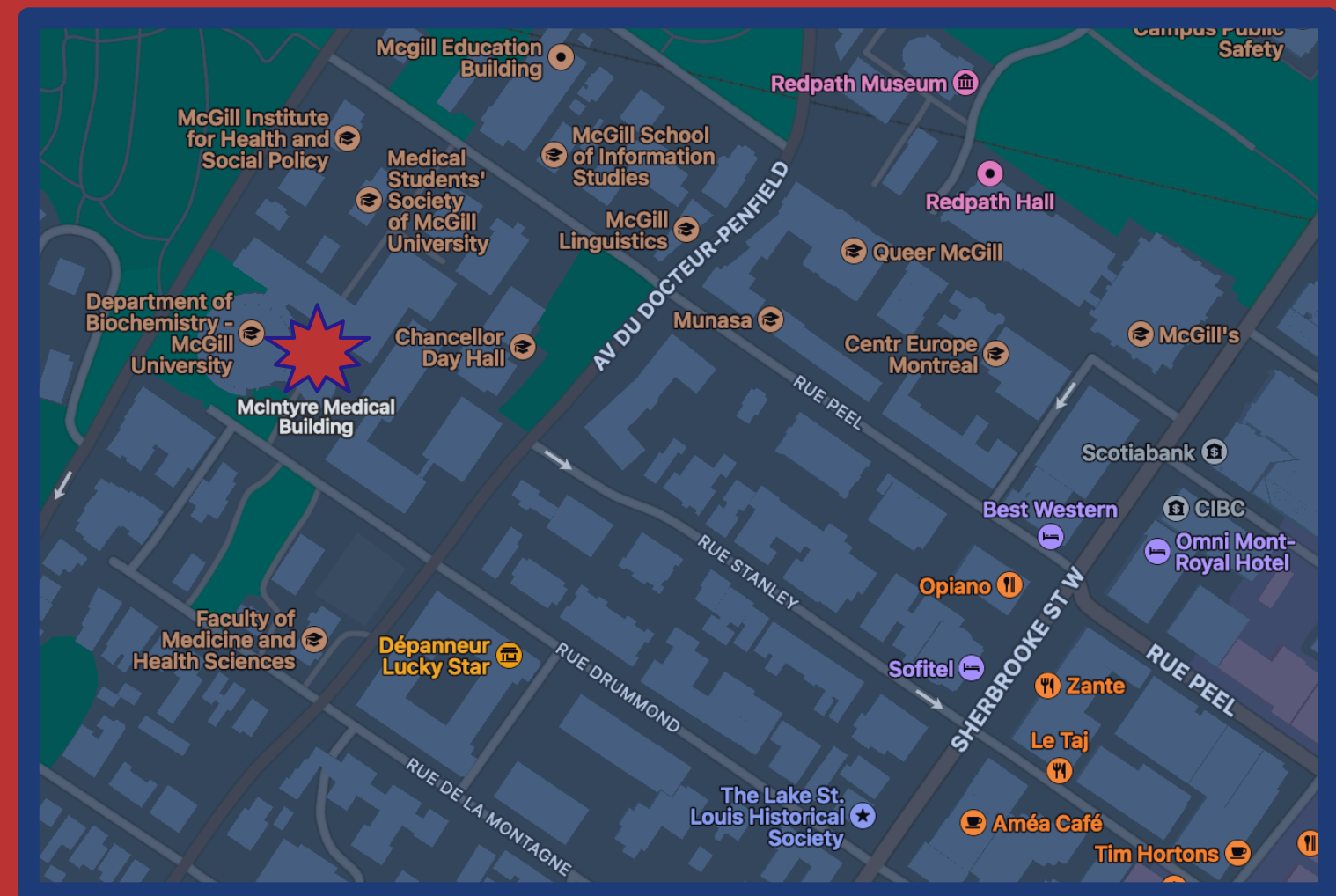
June 15-17th

*Association
canadienne d'études
sud-asiatiques*

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CSASA-ACESA Conference Location



Acknowledgements

The Canadian South Asian Studies/ Association canadienne d'études sud-asiatiques is indebted to various scholars and institutions who have helped support the association over the year.

This event is co-sponsored by:

- Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies (LA&PS), York University
- Dean of Arts Development Fund / Fonds de développement du doyen de la faculté des Arts, McGill University
- The Department of History, UBC
- The Centre for India and South Asia Research, UBC



Land Acknowledgement

McGill University is located on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. McGill honours, recognizes and respects these nations as the traditional stewards of the lands and waters on which we meet today.

L'Université McGill est sur un emplacement qui a longtemps servi de lieu de rencontre et d'échange entre les peuples autochtones, y compris les nations Haudenosaunee et Anishinabeg. McGill honore, reconnaît et respecte ces nations à titre d'intendant traditionnel des terres et de l'eau sur lesquelles nous nous réunissons aujourd'hui.

Hochelaga Rock

This rock commemorates the Iroquois settlement that existed where the campus McGill University now stands.

To learn more about the history of this commemorative site, visit: <https://www.mcgill.ca/branches/about-us/what-we-past-equity-projects-mcgill/hochelaga->



CSASA-ACESA Organizing Committee 2023-4



Julie Vig is Assistant Professor of Humanities, Religious Studies, and South Asian Cultures at York University. Her

research focuses on premodern Sikh and Punjabi cultural production and how it relates to wider cultural worlds and networks of premodern North India (c.1500-1850). Her particular focus is on gurbilās literature and its interactions with broader Brajhasha literature in the early modern period. She also has secondary research interests in the reception of early modern Sikh texts in the colonial period and women, gender, and sexuality within the Sikh tradition.



Anne Murphy (Ph.D. Columbia) teaches in the Department of History at the University of British Columbia. She is a cultural historian whose work focuses on the Punjab region of India and Pakistan, with interests in language and literary cultures, the history of the Punjabi language in South Asia and beyond, religious community formations in the early

modern and modern periods, oral history, commemoration, historiography, and material culture studies. Her current research concerns modern Punjabi textual production in the Indian and Pakistani Punjabs and in the broader Punjabi Diaspora, and the early modern history of Punjabi's emergence as a literary language.



Swati Chauhan is a doctoral student at the School of Religious Studies, McGill University. Her research examines how Sanskrit religious texts conceptualize divinity with attentiveness to the scholarly interpretations of new theological formulations in early modern Hinduism. As part of her doctoral research, she is reading the Panchastavi to reconstruct the religious history of Srividya tantric traditions in early modern Kashmir.



Andrea Farran is Associate Professor in South Asian Religions at McGill University in the Faculty of Arts. She first studied South Asian civilization as an undergraduate at McGill in the Faculty of Religious Studies (B.A.); then in India (Banaras Hindu University, Adv. Diploma in Hindi) and the United States (M.A., University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Ph.D., Columbia University). She has taught in India (Antioch College and S.I.T.), and Singapore (National University of Singapore); her research languages are Hindi-Urdu and Sanskrit. She serves as Vice-President of CSASA-ACESA, the Canadian South Asian Studies Association / Association canadienne d'études sud-asiatiques.



Dr. Arafat Valiani, PhD is the 2023 Killam Laureate and Visiting Scholar in Community Health Sciences in Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary. He is Associate Professor of History in the Department of History at the University of Oregon. Dr. Valiani studied postcolonial and social theory as an undergraduate at Concordia University in Montreal, African history and thought in the United Kingdom (MA School of Oriental and African Studies), and then focused on modern South Asian history in the United States (MPhil./PhD Columbia University) at the doctoral level. His research and teaching combine transdisciplinary insights from the history of science and postcolonial science studies in order to contribute to the study of genetics and science in modern South Asia, as well as biomedical ethics pertaining to the prospect of introducing precision medicine to address health inequities experienced by racialized communities in North America. His research languages are Kutchi, Urdu, Gujarati and Hindi. He serves as a member of the Executive Committee of CSASA-ACESA, the Canadian South Asian Studies Association / Association canadienne d'études sud-asiatiques.

June 15th

Panel 1.1A—Environment and South Asia

June 15 @ 9:00 am–11:00 am; McIntyre 1034
Moderator: Swati Chauhan

Vineet Rathee, McGill University

Burning of Crop Residue: Entanglements of Air Pollution with Agrarian Life

Nolwen Vouiller, EHESS-Paris, France & Uliège, Belgique

Pression mondiale, gouvernementale, sociale et familiale: l'impossible soulèvement d'une population au bord de l'implosion (Parc national de Bardiya, Népal)

Jagteshwar Singh Sohi, University of Toronto

Are there Shared Futures? – A Comment on Goa's Iron-Ore Permanent Fund

Khadiatou Sarr, Université de Montréal (virtual)

Les droits forestiers des communautés Adivasis vs les législations de conservation des forêts en Inde

Panel 1.1B—Foregrounding Women

June 15 @ 8:30 am–11:00 am; McIntyre 1027
Moderator: Andrea Farran

Andrea Farran, McGill University

Serving Karah Parshad at Montreal Gurdwaras

Jobeth Ann Warjri, Vidyashilp University (virtual)

Climate Justice, Gender and “Quiet” Work: The Washerwomen of Laitkor, Meghalaya

Parboti Roy, University of British Columbia

Understanding the Decolonial Approaches of Grassroots Level Indigenous Women Leaders in Addressing Violence Against Women: The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Context, Bangladesh

Foregrounding Women (continued)

June 15 @ 8:30 am–11:00 am; McIntyre 1027
Moderator: Andrea Farran

Shamika Shabnam, McMaster University

Narrating the Self: The Multifaceted Stories of Women Wartime Survivors of Sexual Violence during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War

Laurah Klepinger, Utica University

Is Gay Guy to Kothi as Intersex is to Tritya Prakriti? Global Human Rights and the Protection of Indigenous Gender Categories in South India

Break

11:00-11:30 am, Macintyre 1027

Panel 1.2A—Practices of the Body, Health, and Physical Culture

June 15 @ 11:30am –13:00 pm; McIntyre 1027
Moderator: Anne Murphy

Thomas Seibel, Concordia University (virtual)

The Inconvenient Ghost: Conjurations and Exorcisms in the Rise and Stall of BHU's 'Bhoot Vidya' Ayurveda Certificate Program

Bonita Das, York University

Looking and Sounding Right: Is Globalization Furthering Employment Discrimination within the Indian Labor Market?

Milda Graham, McGill University

The Entangled Development of Modern Postural Yoga at the Mysore Palace McGill

June 16th

Lunch

13:00–14:00 pm, Macintyre 1027

Roundtable—Teaching South Asia Today

June 15 @ 14:00–16:00pm; Macintyre 1034

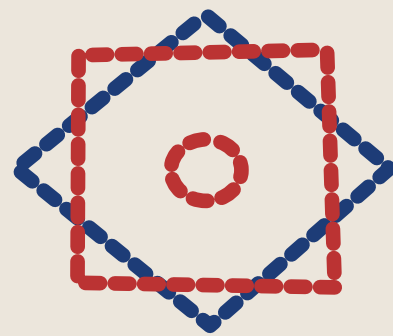
Moderator: Anne Murphy

Convenors:

Gillian McCann, Nipissing University

Nicola Mooney, University of the Fraser Valley

Arafaat Valiani, University of Oregon (virtual)



Panel 2.1A—(Post) Colonial Texts and the Literary

June 16 @ 9:30–11:00 am; McIntyre 1034

Moderator: Swati Chauhan

Ruchini Abayakoon, McMaster University

Felt on the Skin: Unveiling the Tapestry of Slow Grief in Postcolonial Sri Lankan Literature

Arastu Lenin Khan, University of British Columbia

Imagining a Bengali Muslim Literary Archive: The Puthi Sahitya Discourse, 1930s-1950s

Sarwat Viqar, John Abbott College

Alternate Geographies and Imaginaries in Colonial Karachi, 1920s-1940s

Panel 2.1B—Canadian Stories

June 16 @ 9:30–11:00 am; McIntyre 1027

Moderator: Andrea Farran

Rishma Johal, McGill University (virtual)

Transcending the Nation-State: Early South Asian Men in Canada and Family Formation

Chandrima Chakraborty, McMaster University

Remembering as Rupture: Canadian History and Public Memory of the 1985 Air India Bombing

Anne-Sophie Bentz, Université Paris Cité

Memory in Exile, Memory of Exile. The Tibetans' Chyssem Project

Break

11:00-11:30 am, Macintyre 1027

Panel 2.2A—Business Meeting

June 16 @ 11:30 am–13:00 pm; Macintyre 1034

Andrea Farran, Anne Murphy,
Swati Chauhan

Lunch

13:00–14:00 pm, Macintyre 1027

Panel 2.3B—Re-Reading Political Imaginaries

June 16 @ 14:00–15:30 pm; Macintyre 1027

Moderator: Anne Murphy

Manimugdha Sharma, University of British Columbia
Subhas Chandra Bose, the South Asian Press, and the Second World War

Subho Basu, McGill University
Global Sixties and the Changing Political Landscapes of Two Bengals

Nipesh Palat Narayanan, Institut national de la recherche scientifique, Montréal

Towards a Pluriversal Politics of Knowledge Production: Reading Street-Food Vending in Colombo and Delhi

Panel 2.3A—Texts and Images

June 16 @ 14:00–16:00 pm; Macintyre 1034

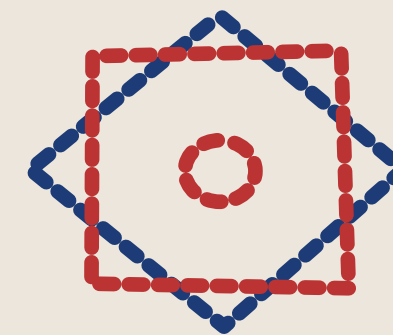
Moderator: Swati Chauhan

Maria Casadei, Jagiellonian University, Poland (virtual)
Social reform in Telugu plays: Gurajada Apparao's *Kanyasulkam*

Christopher Austin, Dalhousie University
The *Kālanemivadhā* in the *Harivaṃśa* and *Bhāratamañjarī* of Kṣemendra

Seyed Abbas Zahabi, University of Toronto
Buddhist Influence on Islamic Concepts of Reincarnation

Amber Elisabeth Peters, Ca'Foscari University of Venice and Heidelberg University
Re-stitching Text and Image in the Study of South Asian Illustrated Manuscripts



June 17th

Panel 3.1A—New Work in the Textual Studies of Punjab

June 17 @ 9:00–11:00 am; McIntyre 1034
Moderator: Andrea Farran

Jvala Singh, University of California at Berkeley (virtual)
The All-Metal Text (Sarbloh Granth), A Sikh Retelling of a Jain Text?

Fatima Afzal, University of British Columbia
Punjabis Against Punjabi: Muslim Nationalism in the Punjabi-Urdu Debate

Anne Murphy, University of British Columbia
A Magazine for Change: Prītlārī and the Vision of a New India in Late Colonial India

Respondents:

Robin Rinehart, Lafayette College (virtual)
Guriqbal Singh Sahota, University of California, Santa Cruz

Panel 3.2A—Thinking through Kashmir: Experiments in Theology, Philosophy, and Aesthetics

June 17 @ 11:30 am–1:30 pm; McIntyre 1034
Moderator: Anne Murphy

Sloane Geddes, University of Toronto/University of Hamburg (virtual)
Śaiva Descriptions of King Kapphaṇa in Śivasvāmin's Rise of Kapphaṇa

Aditya Guntoori, McGill University
Abhinavagupta and the Ontology of Artworks

Swati Chauhan, McGill University
Opening the Knots: Mapping Pañcastavī Manuscripts Across Linguistic Thresholds

Respondent:

Hamsa Stainton, McGill University

Panel 3.2B—Panel: Technologies of Governance

June 17 @ 11:30 am–1:30 pm; McIntyre 1027
Moderator: Andrea Farran

Arafaat Valiani, University of Oregon (virtual)
Technological Innovation and Performing Transparency: Secrecy, Data Design and Postcolonial India's Electronic Voting Machines

Chiara Letizia, Université de Québec à Montréal
Religion at the Supreme Court in Secular Nepal: a Reflection on Selected Cases

Aarushie Sharma, York University
The Contractual City: Nature of Work and the Infrastructure of Urban Sanitation in Delhi-NCR

Jay Ramasubramanyam, York University (virtual)
From Brussels to Bandung: Foregrounding India's Role in Anti-Colonial Solidarity

Lunch

13:30–14:30 pm, Macintyre 1027

Roundtable—Transnational Dimensions of Hindutva—Hinduphobia Discourse and Politics in India and Canada (virtual)

June 17 @ 14:30–16:30 pm; McIntyre 1034
Moderators: Swati Chauhan, Andrea Farran, Anne Murphy

Moderators:

Sailaja Krishnamurti, Queen's University
Ajay Parasram, Dalhousie University

Contributors:

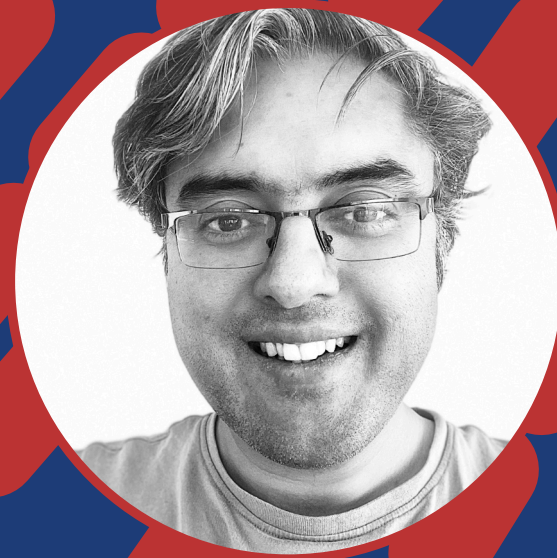
Nissim Mannathukkaren, Dalhousie University
Shana Sippy, Centre College
Nishant Upadhyay, University of Colorado, Boulder
Harshita Yalamarty, Queen's University



Khadiatou Sarr est actuellement doctorante à l'UQAM et prépare une thèse intitulée "Le rôle de la Cour suprême de l'Inde dans l'élaboration du principe de justice sociale dans les terres des Adivasis". Depuis le début de ses études, et par la suite dans tous ses engagements associatifs et professionnels, elle s'est particulièrement intéressée aux droits des peuples autochtones. Elle aborde ces questions sous l'angle juridique, grâce à sa formation universitaire en droit, commencée à la Faculté de droit d'Aix-en-Provence, en France, et poursuivie au Département des sciences juridiques de l'UQAM. Elle a travaillé comme assistante de recherche pour le projet action climatique féministe en Afrique de l'Ouest depuis mai 2023, ainsi que coordinatrice du réseau Peuples autochtones d'Afrique de décembre 2021 à juillet 2023, et coordinatrice étudiante du Centre interuniversitaire d'études et de recherches autochtones d'études et de recherches autochtones. Elle est également membre étudiante du centre d'études et de recherches sur l'Inde, l'Asie du Sud et sa diaspora.

Vineet Rathee is currently a PhD candidate in Anthropology at McGill University. His PhD dissertation (submitted in Fall 2023) examines how the politico-juridical institution of the 'khap panchayat,' a centuries-old multi-village organizational framework of clan councils among the Jats of north India, has recalibrated and adapted to modern forms of society and politics. His most recent research focuses on how present-day practices of cultivation have engendered an array of ecological crises ranging from rapid depletion of groundwater to open burning of crop residue.

Nolwen Vouiller has a Psychomotrician State Diploma (Medicine Sorbonne University, Paris VI, France) as well as an Anthropology Master degree (University Catholique of Louvain, Belgium). At the time of writing, she is a PhD student in anthropology, on a codirection between the School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS, Paris, France) and the University of Liege (ULiege, Liege, Belgium), which is funding it. After an initial work and several publications on the Khauraha river (a section of the Karnali), on its ambivalence (vital and dangerous, pure and impure) and its impact as a mediator between humans and non-humans (a boundary which both joins and separates), she is now studying 'sudden encounters' between humans and animals (leopards, tigers, elephants, rhinoceros, crocodiles) on the same spot, in south-west Nepal (Bardiya National Park), with a special attention on feelings and body reactions. Also singer and musician, Nolwen developed a keen interest in artistic practices, both in terms of data capture and restitution (especially exhibitions). To complete, she is a member of the Multispecies Ethnography and Artistic Methods (MEAM) Network and numerous other institutions, associations and laboratories (LASC, LAS, Rés-EAUx, RCN, APP, CESA, RICEVE).



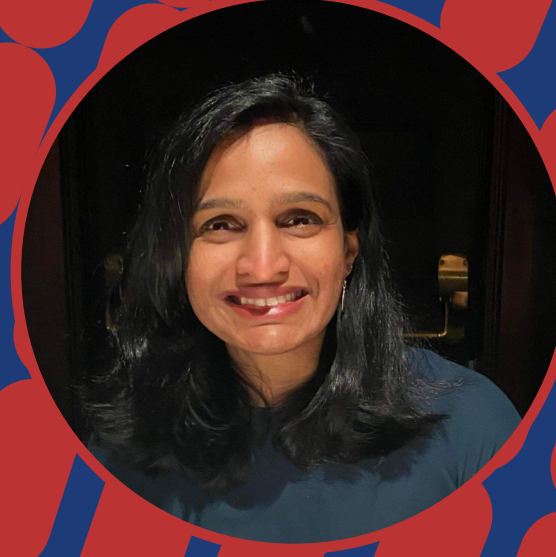
Jagteshwar Singh Sohi is a fourth-year doctoral student currently writing up his dissertation titled ‘Environmental justice struggles in India: extractive industries, marginalized communities, and the law.’ He is a Joseph–Armand Bombardier CGS-Doctoral scholar, Martin Cohnstaedt scholar for studies of non-violence, Abella scholar for studies in equity, and Harley D. Hallett scholar at Osgoode Hall Law School, York University.

He will be joining Department of Law at Goldsmiths in London as a visiting researcher in 2024. He has previously taught Constitutional and Environmental Law at NALSAR, Hyderabad between 2013 and 2021. He was a visiting professor at Tel Aviv University in 2020.

Jobeth Ann Warjri is a writer and researcher from Laitkor, Meghalaya with an interest in gender studies, performance studies, gendered ethnography, African American Literature and Culture and Writing in English from Northeast India. She received her doctoral degree from the Department of English, University of Hyderabad. She is a two-time recipient of the Zubaan Research Grant for Young Researchers from the Northeast. She currently teaches writing at Vidyashilp University, Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Laurah Klepinger is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Utica University. She holds a Ph.D. and MA in Anthropology from Syracuse University and a Master of Fine Arts and Master of Arts in Dance from UCLA’s Department of World Arts and Cultures. Her 2022 book, *Transnational Yoga at Work: Spiritual Tourism and its Blind Spots*, is a study of workers in the South Indian branches of a transnational yoga institution whose mission is “to spread peace, health and joy through yoga.” In addition to this work on gender activism, other new projects include ethnographic research on integrative healthcare and “natural parenting.”

Shamika Shabnam (she/her) holds a PhD in English and Cultural Studies, with a focus on South Asian Studies, from McMaster University. Her doctoral dissertation explores nationalism and gender formations during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. She examines how government chronicles of the Liberation War systemically erase from nationalist discourse personal war memories and traumas of marginalized populations (women; children; refugees) who have endured the war. Shamika has multiple publications on South Asian history, literature, and culture. Her most recent publication, “Speaking in Fragments,” delves into how wartime women survivors of sexual violence recount their personal narratives in postwar Bangladesh.



Thomas Seibel is a first year PhD student in the Department of Religions and Cultures at Concordia University. His current research interests include political hauntologies and the afterlives of Covid-19 in relation to ritual practices of medicine and religion. His previous research centered on media discourses surrounding emergent deities and ritual practices associated with the novel Coronavirus in South Asia, as well as the political theories of Chantal Mouffe. Thomas is a student member of the Centre for Sensory Studies at Concordia University.

Milda Graham She has a deep interest in modern postural yoga, and its historical relationship with gymnastics systems as forms of “muscular Hinduism” and “muscular Christianity” respectively. Her historical inquiry into the Mysore era gymnastics texts has led to a Montreal archival and ethnographic based thesis exploring both systems and their cultural hybridization in modernity. More broadly, she inquires into the place of religion within secularity and its relationship with science.

Ruchini Abayakoon is a 3rd year PhD student in the Environmental Humanities at McMaster University, Canada. She graduated with a B. A Honours in English from the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka, and an M.A in English and Writing Studies from the University of Western Ontario, Canada. Her areas of academic interest are South Asian studies, environmental humanities, postcolonial literature, political ecology, and postcolonial feminism. For her PhD research project, she looks at a variety of Sri Lankan works of literature to tease out the ways in which slow grief is intricately woven into the fabric of every day life.

Dr. Sarwat Viqar is an urban anthropologist and her work focuses on struggles over space and resources in urban Pakistan. She has published articles on Karachi’s postcolonial history, contemporary struggles over access to land and resources, as well as the gendered geographies of the uses of public space. Her work is also informed by her original training as an architect when she worked as a housing consultant on projects to improve conditions in urban informal settlements in Pakistan, Thailand and Mexico. She is a faculty member and co-chairperson in the Humanities, Philosophy & Religion department at John Abbott College in Montreal.



Rishma Johal is a Ph.D. Candidate under the supervision of Dr. Elizabeth Elbourne. She recently completed research work in the United States as a Fulbright Research Award recipient based at the University of Washington. Last fall, she completed the Eccles Centre Visiting Fellowship at the British Library. Rishma is also the recipient of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Award, Fonds de Recherche du Québec Doctoral Award, MITACS Graduate Research Award, and several other awards, which supported her research activities throughout Canada, the United States, and Britain. Her research interests include Migration and Settlement in Canada and the United States, Indigenous-Settler Relations, the British Empire, and South Asian Diaspora. Rishma's current research examines intersections among early South Asian migrants and Indigenous communities of the Pacific Northwest between 1857 and 1947. Previously, Rishma completed her MA in the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University. She also worked as a reporter for a major South Asian network covering a variety of social, cultural, and political events daily. She has published several articles and worked as a freelance writer for a few popular publications. Furthermore, Rishma has been actively involved within the McGill community serving in distinct leadership positions, such as Academic Director of the History and Classics Graduate Student Association as well as Social Media Representative for GradLife McGill. Rishma has also been actively giving talks based on her research including most recently at the Centre for the Study of the Pacific Northwest and Bishop's University as well as being featured on Global News and the Ramblings of A Sikh Podcast.

Chandrima Chakraborty is a Professor in the Department of English and Cultural Studies and Director of the Centre for Peace Studies and the Global Peace and Social Justice Program at McMaster University. She held the honorary title of University Scholar at McMaster (2017-21) and was elected to the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists in 2019. Her research is on public memory, nationalist history, masculinity and religion, with a focus on the literatures and cultures of South Asia and its diaspora.

She is creating a memory archive of the 1985 Air India bombings: <https://airindiaflight182.humanities.mcmaster.ca>

Anne-Sophie Bentz is Associate Professor of South Asian History at Université Paris Cité (since 2012) and Fellow at IC Migrations (since 2018). She received her PhD from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva (2009). Her thesis focused on the relations between nationalism and exile by means of a case study on Tibetan refugees in India. She is also the author of several articles and book chapters on other refugee communities in India (Afghan, Burmese and Sri Lankan) and on South Asian refugees in the West (Canada and France).



Maria Casadei is a PhD candidate at the Jagiellonian University (Krakow, Poland), with a specialization in Urdu and Telugu language. During her academic experience obtained in Italy and France, she has been deeply involved in studying Indian languages and literature, philosophy, and religion. Her interests involve sociolinguistics, language and technology, media, and cultural studies. Since October 2021, Maria has been working on the linguistic landscape of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and the preservation of Dakhni Urdu literary and oral traditions.



Christopher Austin completed his BA and MA degrees in Religious Studies at Concordia University in Montreal, and PhD at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. He is presently an Associate Professor of Religious Studies in the Department of Classics at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he teaches widely across all major religious traditions of South and East Asia. His principal areas of research are in the Sanskrit epic Mahābhārata and particularly its supplement the Harivaṃśa, the biographical traditions of Kṛṣṇa's life and his son Pradyumna, and early Vaiṣṇavism.



Amber Elisabeth Peters is a doctoral student in the double-degree program at Heidelberg University and Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Her research centres on the text and illustration of the seventeenth century Dakhni Urdu Sufi romance, the Gulshan-i Ishq, by Bijapur court poet, Nusrati. She focuses on the depiction of a sea serpent in the physical and spiritual journey of the protagonist, seeking to explore how the authors and artists of illustrated manuscripts used language and form to explore the complexities of their multiple linguistic, cultural, and religious communities.



Jvala Singh is a lecturer of Punjabi at UC Berkeley and a PhD candidate at the University of British Columbia, where he is examining pre-colonial Sikh historical narratives. This examination explores literature in Punjabi and Brajbhasha from the 18th and 19th centuries, building off his previous M.A. research at the University of Toronto, which focused on the Sikh Brajbhasha version of the Ramayana. In furthering accessibility of pre-colonial texts, he created the Suraj Podcast, a chapter-by-chapter summary in English of the Suraj Prakash [1843], a historical narrative covering the lives of the ten Sikh Gurus. written by Santokh Singh [1787-1844].



Fatima Afzal's research focuses on Punjabi literary translations published in the early twentieth century. These translations serve to expand scholarly understandings of "colonial translations" insofar as they are currently conceived as colonizers translating vernacular texts in India. She is also interested in using these texts as a means to understand the politics of publication in colonial Punjab. Her research thus engages with the complex interplay of colonial linguistic policies, print markets and the state-patronized literary corpus on Punjabi literary and intellectual culture.

Anne Murphy (Ph.D. Columbia) teaches in the Department of History at UBC, and is a cultural and intellectual historian whose work focuses on the Punjab region of India and Pakistan, with interests in language and textual cultures, the history of the Punjabi language, religious community formations in the early modern and modern periods, oral history, commemoration, historiography, and material culture studies.

In 2023 Dr. Murphy released the results of the "Punjabi in BC" Oral History research project – on the history of the Punjabi language in British Columbia – which Dr. Murphy led with Collaborators Sukhwant Hundal and Lovneet Aujla, with the extensive research assistance of UBC undergraduates. Murphy was co-primary investigator with Dr. Suraj Yengde (Oxford) of the "Caste in Canada" oral history project, also released in 2023.

Robin Rinehart is the Richard H., Jr. '60 and Joan K. Sell Chair in the Humanities in the Department of Religious Studies at Lafayette College in Easton, PA, USA. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. Her publications include *One Lifetime, Many Lives: The Experience of Hindu Hagiography* (1999), a study of Swami Rama Tirtha; the edited volume *Contemporary Hinduism: Ritual, Culture, and Practice* (ABC-CLIO 2004); *Debating the Dasam Granth* (Oxford 2011), and articles on topics in Punjabi religious literature such as Bullhe Shah's poetry, the discourse surrounding the Dasam Granth, and Punjabi rationalist critiques of religion.

GS Sahota is associate professor of Comparative Literature and South Asian studies at UC Santa Cruz where he holds the Aurora Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies. His publications include *Late Colonial Sublime: Neo-Epics and the End of Romanticism* (Northwestern), as well as articles in *boundary 2*, *Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, and *Sikh Formations*. His writing spans the fields of literary studies, South Asian studies, Critical Theory, historiography, and film and media studies. Sahota is currently writing his second book on the question of non-identity through investigations into the history of Indo-German cultural exchange and its ramifications for transnational method.



Sloane Geddes is a doctoral candidate in the Department for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto. She works on Sanskrit poetry and is interested in poetics, gender, narrative, and wonder. Her research centres on the *Kapphiṇābhyudaya*, a 9th-century Sanskrit court epic from Kashmir. In her dissertation she investigates how discourse on wonder, sovereignty, and kingship are transformed in the process of translating religious narrative, like Sanskrit *avadāna*, for a markedly courtly audience in another Sanskrit literary genre like Śivasvāmin's *Kapphiṇābhyudaya*.

Aditya Guntoori is a second-year PhD Student in the Department of Philosophy at McGill University. He specializes in Indian Philosophy and Epistemology. He is also interested in Ancient Greek Philosophy and the History and Philosophy of Logic and Mathematics.

Swati Chauhan is a doctoral student at the School of Religious Studies, McGill University. Her research examines how Sanskrit religious texts conceptualize divinity with attentiveness to scholarly interpretations of new theological formulations in early modern Hinduism. As part of her doctoral research, she is reading the *Panchastavi* to reconstruct the religious history of Srividya tantric traditions in early modern Kashmir.

Hamsa Stainton is an Associate Professor in the School of Religious Studies at McGill University. His recent research focuses on a popular genre of Sanskrit devotional poetry in north India, the hymn of praise (*stotra*). Recent publications include *Tantrapuṣpāñjali: Tantric Traditions and Philosophy of Kashmir*; *Studies in Memory of Pandit H.N. Chakravarty* (co-edited with Bettina Bäumer) and *Poetry as Prayer in the Sanskrit Hymns of Kashmir* (Oxford University Press, 2019).



Dr. Arafaat Valiani's work focuses on bioethics and the history of the life sciences. My current intellectual interests focus on questions of decolonization regarding genetics, human genomics, difference and equity especially among racialized peoples in the Americas, and South Asians globally. He is Associate Professor in the Department of History and Global Health Program at the University of Oregon. He earned his Ph.D. at Columbia University.



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