



ICSC - Virtual International Conference
Space, Narratives, and South Asian Canadian
Diasporic/Transnational Experiences



Report

Under Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute's Golden Jubilee Conference and Lecture Series Grant (GJCLSG) 2020-21 the Indo-Canadian Studies Centre, University of Mumbai (UoM-ICSC) in collaboration with the International Society for Educational Leadership (ISEL) organised a two-day virtual international conference on "Space, Narratives, and South Asian Canadian Diasporic/Transnational Experiences" on the 4th and 5th of March, 2021.

The first day began with an inaugural session with Prof. Dr. Ravindra Kulkarni, Hon'ble Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai as the Chief Guest and Dr. Prachi Kaul, Director, SICI, New Delhi as the Guest of Honour. It was followed by the keynote address on "The perennation of Diaspora: loss, survival, recovery, recollection and response" by Dr. Satwinder Kaur Bains, Director, South Asian Studies Centre, University of Fraser Valley. The first plenary session included a talk by Prof. Dr. Nandi Bhatia on "Migration, Mobility, and the 1947 Partition in South Asian Canadian Literature" and a talk by Dr. Paromita Chakrabarti on "Culinary Diaspora: Food, Gender, Culture". The day ended with the second plenary session, including a talk by Prof. Dr. B. Hariharan on "Canada, or the Discovery of Space Continuous" and by Dr. Manpreet J. Singh on "Repositioning Priorities: Shifts within Sikh Diaspora in Canada".

The second day began with the third plenary session with Prof. Dr. Chandrima Chakraborty on, followed by a Rendezvous with Canadian authors of South Asian origin, Farzana Doctor and Derek Mascarenhas. The day came to an end with a Panel Discussion with Prof. Dr. Mala Pandurang, Dr. Preeti Shirodkar, Dr. Sudhir Nikam, and Anmol Dutta as the panelists and a valedictory session with Prof. Dr. Nilufer Bharucha, Director, CoHaB IDC, University of Mumbai, as the Chief Guest and Prof. Dr. Manjiri Kamat, Associate Dean, Faculty of Humanities, University of Mumbai, and Professor, University Department of History as the Chairperson. Over the two days, 9 technical sessions with a total of 45 presenters were conducted.

The conference has attempted to enrich academic work and deliberate on theoretical frameworks with which one can understand and critically engage with notions of nation, diaspora and the transnational from an interdisciplinary perspective, with a focus on South Asian Canadian communities. The conference opened up possibilities of collaborative research with members of the academic community, government, and other relevant organizations in India and Canada, especially based on some of the suggestions made in the valedictory session.

Dr. Sachin Labade
Conference Director
Hon. Coordinator, ICSC,
University of Mumbai