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Report on *Re-imagining early 20th Century South Asian Migration to the United States* by Professor Nalini Iyer

The Mumbai Münster Institute of Advanced Studies (MMIAS), University of Mumbai, had organised a talk on Re-imagining early 20th Century South Asian Migration to the United States by Professor Nalini Iyer, Professor of English, Seattle University, USA, on 1st March 2023. Professor Sridhar Rajeswaran, Founding Director of Centre for Advanced Studies in India (CASII) and Member, MMIAS Advisory Board, chaired the Talk. The Talk was part of the MMIAS International Interdisciplinary Lecture Series 2023 conducted by the MMIAS.

Professor Nilufer E. Bharucha, Co-Director, MMIAS, welcomed the speaker and the participants and handed over the session to the Chairperson Professor Sridhar Rajeswaran.



Professor Nilufer E. Bharucha

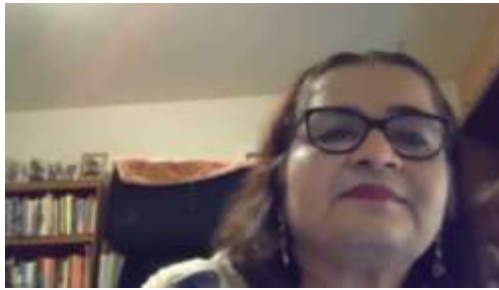
Professor Sridhar Rajeswaran introduced the speaker Professor Nalini Iyer and requested her to give her Talk.



Professor Sridhar Rajeswaran

Professor Nalini Iyer spoke about how scholars have recognised the significance of South Asian migration to the United States in the early 20th Century. She mentioned scholars such as Maia Ramnath, Vivek Bald, Amy Bhatt, Nalini Iyer, Manan Desai, Anupama

Arora and Rajender Kaur who worked and expanded the pioneering work in this area by Joan Jensen and Karen Leonard.



Professor Nalini Iyer

Professor Iyer's talk focussed primarily on the recent works like Chitra Divakaruni's *Leaving Yuba City*, Rishi Reddy's *Passage West* and Uma Krishnaswami's *Step Up to the Plate Maria Singh*. Citing examples from each book, Professor Iyer explored how these authors are raising awareness about the early history of the South Asian migration. The authors also engage with the more complex issues of race and racialization.

In her Talk for the MMIAS, Professor Iyer discussed all these texts and the issues therein in detail.

The talk was attended by participants from India and the world and ended with a vote of thanks by Ms. Kirti Risbud, Research Associate, MMIAS.

For the complete talk, please visit the link given below:

<https://youtu.be/GgZVgN77lXs>