



The Mumbai Münster Institute of Advanced Studies (MMIAS)

University of Mumbai

Invites you to an online lecture on

Diaspora and Identity: The Case of Indian Music in the Caribbean

In the **MMIAS International Interdisciplinary Lecture Series**

by

Professor Dr. Ajaya K. Sahoo

Centre for Study of Indian Diaspora, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, India

Chairperson: Professor Dr. Vidya Vencatesan

Head, Department of French & I/C Director, Centre for European Studies, University of Mumbai

Date: 17th February 2023 | Time: 3:00 PM IST

Indian folk songs and traditional North-Indian music of India have played a crucial role in creating a distinct identity for Indians in the Caribbean since the migration of the first indentured labor in 1838. The usage of temple and wedding ritual songs to aid their connection with the homeland is widely acknowledged. Creolization is indisputable in Caribbean music which was a result of merging Indian music with local Caribbean music; giving rise to two different styles of music, i.e., Chutney and Chutney Soca. This paper examines diasporic metamorphoses as a means to understand how immigrants from the subcontinent asserted their ethnic identity through such metrics of music. Furthermore, using qualitative research techniques, the paper explains how geographical mobility leads to cultural mutation thereby challenging Indians to preserve their community identity.



Professor Dr. Ajaya K. Sahoo teaches at the Centre for Study of Indian Diaspora, University of Hyderabad, India. His research interests include immigration, diaspora, identity, and transnationalism. Some of his recent publications include *Routledge Handbook of Asian Transnationalism* (2023), *Routledge Handbook of Asian Diaspora & Development* (2021), *Routledge Handbook of the Indian Diaspora* (2017), and *Indian Transnationalism Online: New Perspectives on Diaspora*. He is the Editor of journal *South Asian Diaspora* (Routledge, London).

Professor Dr. Vidya Vencatesan is Head, Department of French, and I/C Director, Centre for European Studies, University of Mumbai. Her research areas include a comparative study of medieval French and Indian epic traditions and contemporary French and Francophone literature. Some of her publications include a French translation of Javed Akhtar's poetic oeuvre, *D'autres mondes* and an English translation of Raphael Confiant's *La Panse du Chacal*. She is the editor in chief of the only francophone university research journal *Synergies Inde* published in France since 2006.



Zoom details

Meeting ID - 830 0683 2626 | Passcode - 246869

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83006832626?pwd=OGewTmJPMey4M1o4OUY3S0YxQ2lwdz09>

Hosted by: Professor Dr. Nilufer E. Bharucha, Co-Director, MMIAS, University of Mumbai