

*Workshop on
The Visibility of Cultures: Identity, contact and circulation in
the Indian Ocean"*

organized by

*The University of the Witwatersrand & the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society
co-hosted by the Centre for Contemporary Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore*

during 13-14, January 2007

*JNC Lecture Hall (on Indian Institute of Science Campus), Indian Institute of Science,
Bangalore 560 012*

January 13

10: 30 a.m.

Welcome address:

Dr. Tejaswini Niranjana (Director, CSCS),
Prof Raghavendra Gadagkar (Chairman, Centre for Contemporary Studies)
Prof. Isabel Hofmeyr (Professor of African Literature, Wits)

11:15 a.m.

TEA

11.30 a.m.

The Indian Ocean as a conceptual space: historical perspectives

Introductory address by Sugata Bose

12:30 p.m.

Lakshmi Subramaniam: Commerce, circulation and consumption: Indian Ocean
communities in historical perspective

This paper has as its focus the changing profile of Indian Ocean trading communities whose self-definition was tied up strongly and intimately with the experience of being trans-national with all its complex connotations. The paper will engage with the more recent attempts at looking at the Indian Ocean as a conceptual space offering a new template for examining issues of identity formation, of diasporic imagination and circulatory regimes of consumption and commercial practices.

12:30 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

DISCUSSION

1:00 p.m.

LUNCH

1:30 p.m.

Ideas of nationalism

Isabel Hofmeyr : The Idea of 'Africa' in Indian Nationalism: The Case of the *Modern Review*

The representation of 'Africa' in the Calcutta-based journal, Modern Review.

Pradip Datta : Diaspora, citizenship and the Boer war

Notions of citizenship and diasporic identity generated in the context of the Boer war, and a comparative analysis of Gandhi and Tagore's responses to the war.

Deeptha Achar : Attaining Majority: With Gandhi in South Africa

Narrative structure, evolutionary time and adventure fiction in the writing of Gandhi's Satyagraha in South Africa

3:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

DISCUSSION

3:45 - 4:00 p.m.

TEA

4.00 p.m.

Fiction, narrative, and the production of identity

Dan Ojwang: Literary representations of the Ugandan Asian expulsion; the works of Peter Nazareth and Jameela Siddiqi

Michael Titlestad : The literary legacy of shipwreck narratives

By drawing on the literary legacy of eighteenth-century East India Company shipwreck narratives, this paper will consider the ways in which the violent dismembering of the imperial enterprise represented in contemporary accounts is endlessly translated into the terms of various historical, that is ideological, horizons.

Peter Simatei : Diasporic Subject(ivities) in East African Asian Writings

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION

January 14

10:00 a.m.

Migration and religion in the politics of the Indian Ocean

Ratheesh Radhakrishnan: Narratives of migration and the experience of the ‘Gulf’ in Kerala

Preben Kaarsholm: African and Indian Islam in Post-Apartheid KwaZulu-Natal

The paper is part of a broader exploration of ‘really existing civil society’ in townships and informal settlements on the outskirts of Durban. Following the end of apartheid representations of difference have tended to shift into the field of informal politics. In this paper, the focus is on the contribution to debates by Muslim voices.

Farhana Ibrahim: Cosmopolitanism and Locality along India's Western Coast: Maritime Histories from Kachchh, Gujarat

11:30 p.m. – 12:00 noon
DISCUSSION AND TEA

12:00 noon

Law and policy between South Africa and India

Sitharamam Kakarala: Two Trajectories of Indian Constitutionalism: Revisiting Gandhi’s “South African Problem”

Mrinalini Sebastian : Outline for a comparative project on curriculum and higher education in India and South Africa

1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.
DISCUSSION

1:15 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
LUNCH

2:00 p.m.

Iberian colonialism and subjectivity

Pamila Gupta: (Un)Imagined Communities: Mapping Portuguese Decolonization in Postcolonial Goa and Mozambique

In relation to the Goan diasporic community in Mozambique this paper explores both the uniquely itinerant quality of Portuguese (post)colonial subjectivity and the (future) potential of studies of decolonization from an ethnographic perspective.

Rochelle Pinto: An uneasy science – race and anthropometry in Portuguese colonialism

3:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
DISCUSSION

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

TEA

3:30 p.m.

Cultural products and circulation - Chaired by Tejaswini Niranjana

Haseenah Ebrahim : The "Bollywood phenomenon" in
the South African context

Lavanya Mani : 'Travellers' Tales' – Textiles and Imperialism

4:30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

DISCUSSION