

## REGISTERING GLOBALIZATION: READING SOUTH ASIAN LITERATURE

Fall 2016

[www.facebook.com/groups/harfreading/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/harfreading/)

Time: Monday, 5:30-7pm

Room: Room 21-2 at IPLAI (3610 McTavish)

Engaging with several short novels, stories and essays from South Asia, this reading group will investigate the historical impact of decolonization and nationalism on India and Pakistan. By placing the societal upheaval and violence in the aftermath of partition in the context of globalization, we examine the links between local and international structures of domination. Thus, we complicate the spatio-temporal conceptualization of globalization in order to arrive at a more nuanced understanding of the process of combined and uneven development.

The goal in this respect is to explore the persistent implications of modernization and globalization for South Asia in order to create links with other, similar struggles for self-determination, land and human rights across the globe. We aim for a multi-disciplinary approach – addressing issues such as land rights, space, resistance movements, policy making and modernization – which brings anthropology, history, law, economics, political science, international development and cultural studies into conversation, and raises questions regarding the cultural and economic impact of globalization on nation-building and development.

We further aim to offer a space for discussion and the exchange of ideas between undergraduate, graduate students and faculty while engaging political and historical questions from a cultural point of view.

### Syllabus

The syllabus includes the following novels, stories and essays. We aim for easy readability and try not to add substantially to student work load. Except for Adiga's *The White Tiger*, which is 300 pages in length, all novels are between 180 and 230 pages. Longer readings are split between 2-3 weeks.

Sept. 26	Raja Rao, <i>Kanthapura</i>
Oct. 3	Khushwant Singh, <i>Train to Pakistan</i>
Oct. 24	Abdullah Hussein, <i>The Weary Generations</i>
Nov. 7	Mahasveta Devi, "Douloti the Bountiful" ( <i>Imaginary Maps</i> )
Nov. 14	Arundhati Roy, "Walking with the Comrades"
Nov. 28	Aravind Adiga, <i>The White Tiger</i>

**ALL texts will be provided as scans via Facebook Group!**

## List of Supplementary News Articles and Essays (recommended, but optional)

### *Kanthapura:*

- Sotosay Blog, "[Raja Rao's Kanthapura, Nationalism and Caste](#)"

### *Train to Pakistan:*

- Richard McGill, "Performing Partition in Lahore" (from *The Partitions of Memory*)
- Urvashi Butalia "An Archive with a Difference: Partition Letters" (from *The Partitions of Memory*)

### *The Weary Generations:*

- Muthiah and Ranjitha Ashok, "[Learning to Be the Colonised: The Experience of Indians Working Under Expats in the Mid-1900s](#)" (*The Wire*)
- Muhammad Umar Memon, "[Abdullah Hussein — Living in Exilic Mode](#)" (*Dawn*)

### *Imaginary Maps:*

- Ghazala Jamil, "[Resurrecting Century-Old Muslim Women's Voices From Urdu Magazines](#)" (*The Wire*)
- Women's Feature Service, "[Remembering Mahasweta Devi and Her Powerful Tales about the Struggles of Tribal Women](#)" (*The Better India*)

### *Walking with the Comrades:*

- Yashica Dutt, "[Why I finally 'came out' as Dalit — and what happened next](#)" (*PRI*)
- Praveen Donthi, "[A Million Mutinies: Common ground between the Kashmir and Dalit struggles](#)" (*The Caravan*)
- Ayesha Siddiqi, "[Sorry, India, This is Not the Way to Help the People of Balochistan](#)" (*The Wire*)

### *The White Tiger:*

- Hartosh Singh Bal, "[Fiction Written In India In English: Dispatches From A Gated Community](#)" (*The Wire*)
- Haseeb Asif, "[What lies behind the gates of Pakistan's elite communities?](#)" (*Herald*)

If participants are interested, we can provide recommendations for further reading like, for example, Frantz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth*, Aijaz Ahmad's *Communalism and Globalization*, Neil Smith's *Uneven Development* and Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's *An Aesthetic Education in the Era of Globalization*.

## Committed Seminar Leaders

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