



**WORLD INDIAN** **DIASPORA CONFERENCE 2020**

**WIDC2020**

(National Council of Indian Culture (NCIC) in collaboration with the University of the

West Indies (UWI) and the Indentured Labour Route Project.)

**22nd---23rd AUGUST 2020**

NCIC Nagar, 28-38 Narsaloo Ramaya Marg, Endeavour, Chaguanas 502128, Trinidad, W.I.

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**WIDC 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE UPDATE**

**PROGRAM AND PANELS**

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PLEASE FIND BELOW THE PANELS FOR THE CONFERENCE.

Kindly note that the times for the panels are noted in local (Trinidad) time and Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

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| **NAMES** | **ITEM** | **TIME**  **LOCAL TIME**  **(GMT)** |  |
| **SATURDAY 22 AUGUST 2020** | **OPENING CEREMONY**  Deoroop Teemal (Chairman, NCIC Heritage Center)  Dr. Deokinanan Sharma (President, NCIC)  His Excellency, A.K.Sahu (Indian High Commissioner to T&T)  Dr. Sherry Ann Singh (UWI)  Rep. Indenture Labour Route Project (UN)  Dr.Primnath Gooptar  Professor Brij Lal (Feature Speaker) | 9.00 AM—10.20 AM  (14:00-15:20hrs) |  |
| **SATURDAY 22 AUGUST 2020** | **PANEL PRESENTATIONS**  **FIVE PANELS**  **FILM NIGHT** | **10.25 AM—6.35 PM**  (**15:25—23:35** hrs)  **6.35 PM**  **(23.35 hrs)** |  |
| **SUNDAY 23 AUGUST 2020** | **PANEL PRESENTATIONS** | **7.55 AM.-**  (**12:55** hrs) |  |
| **DAY ONE** |  |  |  |
| **NAMES** | **PAPER** | **COUNTRY OF ORIGIN** | **TIME**  **LOCAL TIME**  **(GMT)** |
| **PANEL 1**  **Historical Perspectives, Diasporic Heritage, Culture and Archives** |  |  | **10.25 AM-11.45AM** (**15:25—16:45** hrs) |
| Chair: Jerome Teelucksingh | **Introduction of presenters by chairman** | The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. | 10.25 AM-10.30 AM (**15:25—15:30** hrs) |
| Kathleen Boodhai | Indo-Trinidadian Heritage-ness in Diaspora. | UK, Northumberland university | **10.30 AM—10.45 AM** (**15:25—15:45** hrs) |
| Dr. Manish Sinha | Chulhan Singh’s Voyage to Trinidad and After. | INDIA Magadh University, Bodhgaya | **10.45AM—11.00 AM** (**15:45—16:00** hrs) |
| Amar Trivedi | India’s ignorance of indentureship history and Indentured Hindus of Indian origin. | Varanasi, India | **11.00 AM—11.15 AM** (**16.00-16.15 hrs**) |
| Dr. Kirk Meighoo | Indian Indenture, East India Company de-industrialization and the Opium Wars. | Trinidad | **11.15 AM—11.30 AM** (**16.15-16.30 hrs**) |
| **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION** |  |  | **11.30 AM —11.45 AM** (16.30-16.45 hrs) |
| **PANEL 2**  **Historical Perspectives, Diasporic Heritage, Culture and Archives** |  |  | **11.50 AM —1.25 PM**  (16.50-18.25 hrs) |
| **Chair: Bridget Brereton** | **Introduction of presenters by chair** | Professor Emeritus  The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. | **11.50 AM —11.55 AM**  (16.50-16.55 hrs) |
| Wanita Ramnath | Landscape and Memory: Baithak Gana as cultural memory | Suriname | **11.55 AM —12.10 PM**  (16.55-17.10 hrs) |
| Drs. Halima-Sa’adia Kassim\* and Perry Polar | Inadvertently written into history II: The Muslims who arrived in Trinidad, 1892-1901. | The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. | **12.10 PM —12.25 PM**  (**17.10—17.25 hrs**) |
| Dr. Anjali Singh | The Jahajin Voices: Reclaiming Indenture Narratives from the Caribbean | Mohanlal Sukhadia  University, Udaipur Indian | **12.25 PM —12.40 PM**  (**17.25—17.40 hrs**) |  |
| Jafreen Khan | Unconscionable Indenture Contracts. | University of Fiji | **11.40 PM —11.55 PM**  (**17.40—17.55 hrs**) |
| Satyendra Peerthum | Daughters of Indenture. | **Mauritius** | **12.55 PM —1.10 PM**  (**17.55—18.10 hrs**) |
| **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION** |  |  | **1.10 PM —1.25 PM**  (**18.10 --18.25hrs**) |
| **PANEL 3**  **The Emergence of multi-ethnic Nations and Societies** |  |  | 1.30 PM-2.50 PM  (**18.30 --19.50hrs**) |
| **Chair: Sherry Ann Singh** | **Introduction of presenters by chair** |  | **1.30 PM —1.35 PM**  (**18.30 --18.35hrs**) |
| Vashti Singh | The Response of The Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha to The Proposal for Compulsory National Service In Trinidad And Tobago(1990). | Trinidad | **1.35 PM —1.50 PM**  (**18.35 --18.50hrs**) |
| Shalima Mohammed | East Indian Friendly Societies: History, Impact and Future | Trinidad | **1.50 PM —2.05 PM**  (**18.50 –19 .05hrs**) |
| Dr. Sadananda Sahoo | Construction of “Home” in the colonial Diaspora Ethnographic study of Little India in Malaysia. | Indira Gandhi National Open University New Delhi, India | **2.05 PM —2.20 PM**  (**19.05 --19.20hrs**) |
| Dr Vishnu Bisram | Role of Indo-Caribbean Diaspora in Combating an Ethnic Dictatorship & Restoring Voting Rights in Guyana | USA/GUYANA | **2.20 PM —2.35 PM**  (**19.20 --19.35hrs**) |
| **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION** |  |  | **2.35 PM —2.50 PM**  (**19.35 --19.50hrs**) |
| **PANEL 4**  **Entrepreneurship, Emergence and Consolidation of Identities** |  |  | **2.55 PM-4.30 PM**  (**19.55 --21.30hrs**) |
| **Chair: Brinsley Samaroo** | **Introduction of presenters by chairman** | **Professor Emeritus**  University of The West Indies, St. Augustine,Trinidad. | **2.55 PM —3.00 PM**  (**19.55 --20.00 hrs**) |
| Jennifer Khan-Janif  Nazreen Shaban, | Fiji Hindi; Our Language, Our Identity for Fiji Indians Living in New Zealand. | New Zealand | **3.00 PM —3.15 PM**  (**20.00 –20.15 hrs**) |
| Anu M. Mitra | Ideas of self: visual culture in South Asian/Indian communities in the Caribbean. | Union Institute & University, Cincinnati, Ohio | **3.15 PM —3.30 PM**  **(20.15 –20.30 hrs)** |
| Pawan Upadhyay   |  |  | | --- | --- | |  |  | | Challenges in searching root & families of Girmits. | India | **3.30 PM —3.4**()**5 PM**  **(20.30 –20.45 hrs)** |
| Kumar Mahabir | Walking without legs in the diaspora: Stories of diabetic amputees in Trinidad. | Indo-Caribbean Cultural Centre, Trinidad | **3.45 PM —4.00 PM**  **(20.45 –21.00 hrs)** |
| Manpreet Kaur and Dr. Kamala Naiker | Changing Identities and Shifting Trends. | The University of Fiji, Fiji | **4.00 PM —4.15 PM**  **(21.00 –21.15 hrs)** |
| Heidi McKenzie | Liminal Lives: Documenting the Inheritance of Post-Indentureship | Canada | **4.15 PM —4.30 PM**  **(21.150 –21.30 hrs)** |
| **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION** |  |  | **4.30 PM —4.45 PM**  **(21.30 –21.45 hrs)** |
| **PANEL 5**  **Entrepreneurship, Emergence and Consolidation of Identities** |  |  | 4.45 PM - 6.20 PM  **(21.35 –23.20 hrs)** |
| **Chair: Deoroop Teemal** | **Introduction of presenters by chairman** | NCIC | **4.35 PM —4.50 PM**  **(21.35 –21.50 hrs)** |
| Dr Satish Rai | Shifting homes and identities in the global village-A personal narrative. | Australia | **4.50 PM —5.05 PM**  **(21.50 –22.05 hrs)** |
| Gajendran Ayyathurai | Inclusive or Exclusive Religious Traditions? Brahmin and Non-BrahminTemples, Priests, and Publics of the Indian Diaspora in the Caribbean. | Göttingen University, Germany | **5.05 PM —5.20 PM**  **(22.05 –22.20 hrs)** |
| Mansraj Ramphal | Beyond the Indenture Experience: Portuguese and Indians in Trinidad and British Guiana. | University of The West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad. | **5.20 PM —5.35 PM**  **(22.20 –22.35 hrs)** |
| Hemraj Ramdath | From indentureship to entrepreneurship- pioneers of entrepreneurship in Trinidad. The spirit of enterprise. | Trinidad/Canada | **5.35 PM —5.50 PM**  **(22.35 –22.50 hrs)** |
| **Sarita Nandmehar** and **Rishi Gupta** | Political Transition in Nepal and Indian Diaspora: Changing Identity and Narratives | Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. | **5.50 PM —6.05 PM**  **(22.50 –23.05 hrs)** |
| Dr. Archana Tewari | Ramayana : The Refuge of Indentured Indians in the Caribbeans | India | **6.05 PM —6.20 PM**  **(23.05-- 23.20hrs)** |
| **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION** |  |  | **6.20 PM —6.35 PM**  **(23.20-- 23.35hrs)** |
| **FILM SESSION** |  |  |  |
| **Chair: Amrica Seepersad Reemaul** | Introduction of films | Trinidad | **6.35 PM-7.05 PM**  **(23.35-23.40 hrs)** |
| Drs. Perry Polar and Sharda Patasar | Film presentation : 'Ganga dhaara: Sacred Spaces' | Trinidad | **6.35 PM-7.05 PM**  **(23.35-00.05 hrs)** |
| Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh and Ramdeo Heeralal | Film presentation : **The Curse of Indentureship**  **(Documentary)** | University of The West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad | **7.05PM—7.35 PM**  **(00.05—00.35hrs)** |
| **DAY TWO** |  |  |  |
| **PANEL 6**  **Politics and Labour in the Indian Diaspora** |  |  | **7.55 AM —9.15 AM**  **(12.55 –14.15 hrs)** |
| **Chair: Primnath Gooptar** | **Introduction of presenters by chairman** | NCIC | **7.55 AM —8.00 AM**  **(12.55 –13.00 hrs)** |
| Dr. Amba Pande | The Girmit Diaspora as a Factor in India’s Soft Power Strategy. | SIS, JNU India | **8.00 AM —8.15**  **(13.00 –13.15 hrs)** |
| Annapurna Devi Pandey | The Struggles and Challenges of H4 visa Holders in USA: An Ethnographic Study. | University of California, Santa Cruz USA | **8.15 AM —8.30 AM**  **(13.15 –13.30 hrs)** |
| Vassan Ramracha | “LOGIE” SOCIALISM | New York, USA | **8.30 AM —8.45 AM**  **(13.30 –13.45 hrs)** |
| Dr. Ujjwal Rabidas | The Diaspora Factor in India’s Caribbean Engagement . | Amity University, India | **8.45 AM —9.00 AM**  **(13.45 –14.00 hrs)** |
| **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION** |  |  | **9.00 AM —9.15 AM**  **(14.00 –14.15 hrs)** |
| **PANEL 7**  **Politics and Labour in the Indian Diaspora** |  |  | **9.20 AM —10.40 PM**  **(14.20 –15.40 hrs)** |
| **Chair: Radica Mahase** | **Introduction of presenters by chair** | COSTAATT, Trinidad | **9.20 AM —9.25 PM**  **(14.20 –14.25 hrs)** |
| Ouma Seebaluck | India’s Outreach to its Diaspora with Particular Reference to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s First Term of Office (2014 -2019). | Mauritius | **9.25 AM —9.40 PM**  **(14.25 –14.40 hrs)** |
| Brinsley Samaroo | Afro and Indian Women in the labour struggle in Trinidad | Professor Emeritus, University of The West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad | **9.40 AM —9.55 AM**  **(14.40 –14.55 hrs)** |
| Hazel Woolford | Organized labour and the Indian sugar workers, in British Guiana. | Registrar of the Guyana Institute of Historical Research, Guyana | **9. 55 AM —10.10 AM**  **(14.55 –15.10 hrs)** |
| Movindri Reddy | India’s political influence in South Africa. | Occidental College, USA | **10.10 AM —10.25 AM**  **(15.10 –15.25 hrs)** |
| **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION** |  |  | **9.25 AM —10.40 AM**  **(15.25 –15.40 hrs)** |
| **PANEL 8**  **IDENTITY ISSUES** |  |  | **10.45 AM —12.10 PM**  **(15.45 –17.10 hrs)** |
| **Chair: Mansraj Ramphal** | **Introduction of presenters by chairman** | University of The West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad | **10.45 AM —10.50 AM**  **(15.45 –15.50 hrs)** |
| Kalyani K | Role of popular culture in changing patterns of sexuality: A study of Indian Diaspora in Caribbean. | Jawaharlal Nehru University | **10.50 AM —11.05 AM**  **(15.50 –16.05 hrs)** |
| Tara Singh | Pattern and Impact of Indo-Guyanese Migration to the USA | USA/Guyana | **11.05 AM —11.20 AM**  **(16.05 –16.20 hrs)** |
| Ramchandra Joshi and Urvashi Kaushal | Emergence and Consolidation of Identities in the Narratives of Chinnidad. in the literary works of Indo-Trinidadian Canadian writers | India | **11.20 AM —11.35 AM**  **(16.20 –16.35 hrs)** |
| Chan E.S. Choenni | Indians and political exclusion: the case of Fiji, Trinidad, Guyana and Suriname. | Netherlands | **11*.35 AM —11.55 AM***  **(16.35 –16.55 hrs)** |
| **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION** |  |  | **11.55 AM —12.10 PM**  **(16.55 –17.10 hrs)** |
| **PANEL 9**  **Sports and Visual Art**  **Panel 2** |  |  | **12.15 PM —1.20 PM**  **(17.55 –18.20 hrs)** |
| **Chair: Deokinanan Sharma** | **Introduction of presenters by chairman** |  | **12.15 PM —12.20 PM**  **(17.15 –17.20 hrs)** |
| Parmanand Mohan/ Shareeda Mohammed | The Impact of Indian Movie Songs on the East Indian Diaspora in Trinidad and Tobago (1960-2019)). | Trinidad | **12.20 PM —12.35 PM**  **(17.20 –17.35 hrs)** |
| Jalalaudin Khan | The heritage of East Indian Indentured Martial arts traditions and cultural practices in Trinidad. | Trinidad | **12.35 PM —12.50 PM**  **(17.35 –17.50 hrs)** |
| Marcus Kissoon | Ramleela: A Space for Empowerment; Sita’s Role. | Trinidad | **12.50 PM —1.05 PM**  **(17.50 –18.05 hrs)** |
| **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION** |  |  | **1.05 PM —1.20 PM**  **(18.05 –18.20 hrs)** |
| **PANEL 10**  **Gender Issues** |  |  | **1.20 PM —2.40 PM**  **(18.40 –19.40 hrs)** |
| **Chair: Brinsley Samaroo** | **Introduction of presenters by chairman** |  | **1.20 PM —1.25 PM**  **(18.20 –18.25 hrs)** |
| Bina Makhan | Strong daughters of Hindostani Indentured Labourers: A tribute to my Nani Jagdei. | Netherlands | **1.25 PM —1.40 PM**  **(18.25 –18.40 hrs)** |
| Shazia Khan | Women and their Mutilated bodies: Voices of female workers in plantation with reference to Gauitra Bahadur’s Coolie Woman: The Odyssey of Indenture. | India | **1.40 PM —1.55 PM**  **(18.40 –18.55 hrs)** |
| Nisha Ramracha | Hindu Warrior Queens: Decolonizing historical narratives and reshaping the perspective of West Indian women through their history | City University of New York USA | **1.55 PM —2.10 PM**  **(18.55 –19.10 hrs)** |
| Chan Choenni | Revival of honourability among Hindostani women in Suriname | Netherlands | **2.10 PM —2.25 PM**  **(19.10 –19.25 hrs)** |
| **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION** |  |  | **2.25 PM —2.40 PM**  **(19.25 –19.40 hrs)** |
| **PANEL 11**  **Biographies and Publications** |  |  | **2.40 PM —4.00 PM**  **19.40-21.00hrs** |
| Chair :J. Vijay Maharaj | **Introduction of presenters by chair** | University of The West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad | **2.40 PM —2.45 PM**  **(19.40 –19.45 hrs)** |
| Primnath Gooptar | **Ranjit Kumar’s Hindu Maha Sabha and the Quest for Hindu Unity in Trinidad in the 1940s.** | NCIC, Trinidad. | **2.45 PM —3.00 PM**  **(19.45 –20.00 hrs)** |
| Dr Nivedita Misra | The (His)Story of IBIS: A Reading of Amitav Ghosh’s Sea of Poppies, River of Smoke and Flood of Fire. | Trinidad. | **3.00 PM —3.15 PM**  **(20.00 –20.15 hrs)** |
| Nutan Ragoobir | Bihar and Beyond: the biography of Kunj Behari (1878-1938) - creating his own space | Trinidad | **3.15 PM —3.30 PM**  **(20.15 –20.30 hrs)** |
| Dr. J. Vijay Maharaj | The ABRESS Indian: Repression, Erasure, Suppression and Suspension in Diasporic Indian Auto/Biography. | UWI, Trinidad. | **3.30 PM —3.45 PM**  **(20.30 –20.45 hrs)** |
| **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION** |  |  | **3.45 PM —4.00 PM**  **(20.45 –21.00 hrs)** |
| **PANEL 12**  **Biographies and the Environment** |  |  | **4.00 PM —5.35 PM**  **(21.00 – 22.35 hrs)** |
| **Chair: Deoroop Teemal** | **Introduction of presenters by chairman** | NCIC | **4.00 PM —4.05 PM**  **(21.00 –21.05 hrs)** |
| Mohan K Gautam | The Role of Diasporic Life Histories and Biographies in Understanding the Settlement Pattern and Identity Formation of Indian Emigrants in Caribbean Countries | Netherlands | **4.05 PM —4.20PM**  **(21.05 –21.20 hrs)** |
| Sally Radford  Attachments area | Pioneers to Professors | U K | **4.20 PM —4.35 PM**  **(21.20 –c21.35 hrs)** |
| Dr. S. S. Somra | Ethnicity Factors and Environment of Global Migration | University of Rajasthan, Jaipur India | **4.35 PM —4.50 PM**  **(21.35 –21.50 hrs)** |
| Doolarchan Hanomansingh | A historical review of the Indian media in Trinidad | Trinidad (ICDN) | **4.50 PM —5.05 PM**  **(21.50 –22.05 hrs)** |
| Kirtie Algoe | Religion & Healing in Suriname: A case study of foreign Vedic astrologers | Suriname | **5.05 PM —5.20 PM**  **(22.05 –22.20 hrs)** |
| **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION** |  |  | **5. 20 PM —5.35 PM**  **(22.20 – 22.35 hrs)** |
| **PANEL 13**  **Linguistics Round table Panel** | **The merits of a Universal Roman Orthography** |  | **5.35 PM —6.35 PM**  **(22.35 ----23.35 hrs)** |
| **Chair: Farzana Gounder** | **Introduction of presenters by chair** |  |  |
| Trinidad: Visham Bhimull  South African Hindustani: Rajend Mesthrie  Sarnami: Moti Lal Marhe  Sarnami: Maurits S. Hassankhan  Sarnami: Preetema Jong-A-Lock –Pahladsing  Fiji: Jennifer Janif  Fiji: Farzana Gounder  Netherlands (Sarnami): Rabin S. Baldewsingh  Fiji: Nazreen Shaban  Fiji: Rajendra Prasad  Jeff Seigel  Nikat Shameem | **The merits of a Universal Roman Orthography** | Fiji, Suriname, Trinidad, Netherlands,South Africa |  |
| **PANEL 14**  **Health Panel** | **Cause and response to inequalities in the indentured labour diaspora: The CARE framework for comparative Analysis** |  | **6.35 PM —7.20 PM**  **(23.35 — 00.20hrs)** |
| **Chair: Farzana Gounder** | **Introduction of presenters by chair** |  |  |
| Fiji: Farzana Gounder  Suriname: Maurits Hassankhan  Mauritius: Satyendra Peerthum  New Zealand: Jane Buckingham  Fiji: Dr Neil Sharma  Guyana :Dr. Lomarsh Roopnarine | Cause and response to inequalities in the indentured labour diaspora: The CARE framework for comparative Analysis | New Zealand/ Fiji/Suriname/  Guyana/Mauritius. |  |
| RESOLUTIONS AND CLOSURE |  |  | 7. 20pm---7.50 pm  **(00.20—00.50 hrs)** |