



Arts of the Indian Ocean

Conference Program

**April 27, 2024
Online**

**May 2-4, 2024
Toronto, Canada**

Arts of the Indian Ocean brings together knowledge producers working on the Indian Ocean's arts from diverse backgrounds and scholarly arenas to present and discuss research and work on the materialities and artistic expressions in the Indian Ocean world, across geographies — from eastern and southern Africa, through the Gulf and Red Sea to South and Southeast Asia and the south China Sea — as well as across temporalities — from antiquity up until the present-day. Through the examination of the creation, production, and circulation of material culture in a wide range of forms including the visual arts, portable objects, manuscripts and maps, ships and navigational instruments, landscape, architecture, and the built environment, textiles and dress, photography and film, as well as the digital and plastic arts, the conference seeks to: provide a platform for scholars and artists to exchange current research; map the field of Indian Ocean arts; and open up new questions on Indian Ocean pasts, presents, and futures.

Organized by

Ruba Kana'an, University of Toronto Mississauga
Zulfikar Hirji, York University
Sarah Fee, Royal Ontario Museum
Sanniah Jabeen, University of Toronto

Sponsored by

University of Toronto Mississauga: Office of the Vice-Principal Research, Decanal Graduate Fund— Office of Vice-Dean Graduate, Global Past Research Initiative, Centre for South Asian Critical Humanities, Department of Visual Studies

University of Toronto Scarborough: Department of Historical and Cultural Studies

University of Toronto: Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, Asian Institute at the Munk School, Southeast Asia Seminar Series at the Munk School, Dr. David Chu Program in Asia-Pacific Studies at the Munk School, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, Islamic Art and Material Culture Collaborative—Institute of Islamic Studies, Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies,

York University: Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York Centre for Asian Research

**Aga Khan Museum
Art Gallery of York University
Royal Ontario Museum**

Collaborators

Deepali Dewan (Royal Ontario Museum)
Kajri Jain (University of Toronto)
Pedro Machado (Indiana University)
Chantal Radimilahy (University of Antananarivo)
Fahmida Suleman (Royal Ontario Museum)
Nancy Um (Getty Research Institute)
Richard Vokes (University of Western Australia)

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Conference Program

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Online Conference Day

7:00am-3:10pm

(All times listed are Eastern Daylight Time (EDT))

Opening Remarks: 7:00am-7:20am

Panel 1 Performance, Sound, Music, Media, and Materiality 1 7:20am-8:40am	Andrew J. Eisenberg Associate Professor NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE	Hadrami Sounds on the Edge of Swahili-Space: Musical poetics of ethnicity on the Kenyan coast
	Afeef Ahmed Independent Scholar India	Meditating media: The act of piety in the age of technological reproduction
	Thamarai Selvan Kanaan PhD Candidate IIT Madras, India	Sound and Indian Ocean: Musical instrument making in 19th- and 20th-century South India

Break: 8:40am-9:00am

Panel 2 Objects and Identities 1 9:00am-10:20am	Annabel Teh Gallop Lead Curator The British Library, UK	Malay Silverware with Jawi Inscriptions
	Mounia Chekhab-Abudaya Senior Curator Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar	Pilgrimage and Transfer of Craftsmanship between South Asia and the Hijaz: The Example of a Pilgrimage-related Scroll in the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha
	Denise-Marie Teece Assistant Professor New York University, Abu Dhabi, UAE	Capacious Definitions and Collections in Maritime Asia

Break: 10:20am-10:40pm

Panel 3 Objects and Identities 2 10:40am-12:00pm	Rukmini Dahanukar Independent Scholar India	Money Talks–Sha‘dhow’s’ of Trade: The influence of dhow boats on banknote imagery
	MacKenzie Moon Ryan Associate Professor Rollins College, USA	Turn-of-the-century Chic: Women’s kanga fashions on the Swahili Coast in the colonial era
	Avalon Fotheringham Curator Victoria & Albert Museum, UK	Connecting Threads: New investigations into Madras handkerchief exchanges between South India and the Caribbean

Break: 12:00pm-12:20pm

Panel 4 Ecology and Contemporary Arts 12:20pm-1:20pm	Saivani Sanassy Independent Scholar and Artist Canada	Sugar cane cutters in Mauritius
	Amy Schwartzott Associate Professor North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, USA	A Dialogue with Things in the Street: Recycling in contemporary Mozambican arts

Break: 1:20pm-1:40pm

Panel 5 Performance, Sound, Music, Media, and Materiality 2 1:40pm-3:00pm	Janie Cole Visiting Professor Yale University, USA	Music, Economics of Patronage, and Indian Ocean World Entanglements in the Christian Kingdom of 17th-century Ethiopia
	Hiba Ali Assistant Professor University of Oregon, USA	The Sound of the Swahili-Indian Ocean: Virtual-worlding-building and storytelling
	Sureshi M. Jaywardene Associate Professor Department of Africana Studies, San Diego State University, USA	Ceylon Africans and Black Ways of Being and Knowing in the Indian Ocean

Closing Remarks: 3:00pm-3:10pm

Thursday, May 2, 2024
Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy
University of Toronto
9:00am–9:00pm

Opening Remarks: 9:00am-9:20am

Panel 6 Objects and Identities 3 9:20am-10:20am	Peyvand Firouzeh Lecturer University of Sydney, Australia	Inter-medial Objects as Narrators: Oceanic journeys of coco-de-mer kashkuls
	Sarah Longair Associate Professor University of Lincoln, UK	Creativity, Conservation, and Colonialism: The coco-de-mer in the nineteenth-century Indian Ocean World

Panel 7 Thinking Loss from a Small Place 10:20am-12:00pm	H. L. Ramduth Senior Lecturer Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Mauritius	Fabulating the Anthropocene from the Indian Ocean
	Marek Ahnee PhD Candidate École des Hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), France	The Vatiyar's Labors Not Lost: Nadagam/Narlgon in 20th-century Mascarene
	Audrey Albert Visual Artist Manchester, UK	From Matter Out of Place to Chagossians of Manchester: Reclaiming Chagossian memory and history
	Debashree Mukherjee Associate Professor Columbia University, USA	Cinema as an Archipelago of Desires: Mauritian film culture in the 1930s

	Sana Mirza Head of Scholarly Programs and Publications National Museum of Asian Art, Smithsonian, USA	Praising the Prophet: Devotional manuscripts from Harar, Ethiopia
Panel 8 Manuscripts, Inscriptions and Ritual Life in the Indian Ocean 2 12:00pm-1:00pm	Michael Gervers Professor University of Toronto, Canada Rosemary Crill (Retired) Victoria and Albert Museum, UK Philip Sykas (Retired) Manchester Fashion Institute, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK	Ethiopia and the Early Modern Global Textile Trade

Lunch Break: 1:00pm-2:20pm

	Juan E. Campo Associate Professor University of California, USA	The Monumental Arabic inscriptions of Ujumbe Palace: Creating religious spatiality in an Indian Ocean milieu
Panel 9 Magic, Religion, and Trade in Indian Ocean Material Cultures 2:20pm-4:00pm	Stephane Pradines Professor Islamic Art and Architecture, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (AKU- ISMC), Aga Khan University, UK Soumyen Bandyopadhyay Professor University of Liverpool, UK Alka Patel Professor University of California, Irvine	Swahili Wall Niches in the Comoros and Lamu Archipelagos: Rituals, Corals, and Stuccoes Indian Ocean Cosmopolitan Interactions: Mosques in the Muscat region Crossing Space, Time, and Being: Khambhat's great mosque complex in the 14th century

Break: 4:00pm-4:10pm

Panel 10 Photography in and around the Indian Ocean 4:10pm-5:10pm	Tara Sami Dutt PhD Candidate University of California, USA	Connecting Oceans Through the Visibility of Labor
	Deepali Dewan Curator Royal Ontario Museum, Canada	Photo-making Within Indian Ocean Mobilities

Panel 11 Circulation And Translation: Perspectives from Maritime Southeast Asia 5:10pm-6:50pm	Imran bin Tajudeen Senior Lecturer National University Singapore, Singapore	Nomenclature Shifts and Discursive Reframings: The positing of Awan Larat as arabesque
	Noorashikin Zulkifli Senior Curator Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM), Singapore	Picturing Ashura Processions in Islamic Southeast Asia
	Simon Soon Senior Lecturer University of Malaya, Malaysia	Clock-wearing Buraqs and Composite Time in Early-20th-century Aceh
	Anissa Rahadiningtyas Curator National Gallery Singapore, Singapore	In Search of Our Ancestors

Break: 6:50pm-7:10pm

Keynote Lecture, 7:10pm-8:00pm
Stephen Murphy, Pratapaditya Pal Senior Lecturer in
Curating and Museology of Asian Art,
Department of History of Art and Archaeology, SOAS
‘Towards a Global Museology? Taking a Steer from Indian Ocean World and Silk Road Exhibitions Past and Present’

Catered Reception, 8:00pm-9:00pm
Asian Institute–Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy
University of Toronto



Friday, May 3, 2024
University of Toronto
Mississauga 10:00am-6:20pm

(Complementary Bus Service to Mississauga provided for all Conference Presenters)

Opening Remarks: 10:00am-10:10am

Panel 12a A View from the Lands Below the Winds: Southeast Asian Perspectives 10:10am-11:50pm	Ruth Barnes Curator Yale University Art Gallery, USA	Indian Ocean Connections in the History of Indonesian textiles
	Arielle Winnik Post-Doctoral Associate Yale University Art Gallery, USA	Picturing Kingship in the Indian Ocean: The view from the Indonesian archipelago
	Emma Stein Assistant Curator National Museum of Asian Art, Smithsonian Institution, USA	Goddesses Near and Far: A bronze mandala from the mountain of the gods (central Java, Indonesia)
	Joyce Yusi Zhou PhD Candidate History of Art Yale University, USA	Restoring Matrilateral Histories: Indo-Chinese women and their silver in early modern Batavia

Panel 12b Unruly edges of Indian Ocean arts: Objects and ideas in circulation and transformation 10:10am-11:50pm	Hideaki Suzuki Associate Professor National Museum of Ethnology, Japan	Travelling Rhino Hides: Circulating flows of a material in the 19th-century Western Indian Ocean
	Kyoko Matsukawa Professor Konan University, Japan	Migration and Cultural gyres of Indian Ocean Performing Arts: The case of Goans and their popular theatre, <i>Tiatr</i>
	Aki Toyoyama Associate Professor Faculty of International Studies, Kindai University, Japan	Japanese majolica tiles in the Swadeshi Movement: Consumer nationalism and its aesthetics in late colonial India
	Taku Iida Researcher National Museum of Ethnology, Japan	Heritagization and Identity Differentiation: <i>Séga</i> in Mauritius and Maloya in Reunion

Panel 12b cont.	Ananya Jahanara Kabir Professor English Literature, King's College, UK	Visco's Angelina: Indian Ocean memory on the surface of pattern
	Naiza Khan Visual Artist and Researcher UK/Pakistan	Monsoon vs Empire

Catered Lunch
11:50pm-1:00pm

Panel 13a Manuscripts, Inscriptions and Ritual Life in the Indian Ocean 1:00pm-2:40pm	Raphael Michaeli PhD Candidate University of Bergen, Norway	Retelling the Birth of the Prophet: A reflection on mawlid performative readings in their East African context
	Kjersti Larsen Professor University of Oslo, Norway	Artefact, Performance and Reception: Artistic and fantastic dimensions of text
	Anne K. Bang Professor University of Bergen, Norway	"My Books": Islamic book collections and libraries in the East African context
	Scott Reese Professor Northern Arizona University, USA	Evolving Materiality: The book arts in 19th- and 20th-century East Africa

Panel 13b Textiles—Making and Influences 1:00pm-2:40pm	Rajarshi Sengupta Assistant Professor Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India	Monsoon Clouds on Coromandel: On seasonal cycle, kalamkari making and Oceanic trade
	Sheilagh Quaile Independent Scholar Canada	South Asian Textiles in Nineteenth-Century Northeastern North America
	Aditi Khare PhD Candidate University of Alberta, Canada	Painted and Printed Cotton Textiles as Relational Objects in the Indian Ocean Network
	Beenish Tahir Independent Scholar Canada	Nationalism in a "Topi"

Break: 2:40pm-3:00pm

Panel 14a Architecture: Traditions and Heritage 3:00pm-4:40pm	Sylvia Wu PhD Candidate Art History, University of Chicago, USA	Maritime Mosques: On an alternative architectural tradition in the Indian Ocean world
	Stephen J. Rockel Associate Professor University of Toronto, Canada	A Forgotten Architectural Heritage: Art Deco buildings in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
	Itamar Toussia Cohen DPhil Candidate The University of Oxford, UK	Deathscapes in Arabia: The Parsi towers of silence of Aden, c.1846-1866
	Bernard O’Kane Professor The American University in Cairo, Egypt	From the Zafrahan, the Maghrib and the Swahili coast to Arabia: Zoomorphic Wooden Corbels

Panel 14b Design mobilities: Contemporary Indian production for Indian Ocean markets 3:00pm-4:40pm	Abigail McGowan Professor University of Vermont, USA	Furnishing Markets: Indian mid-century modern destined for East Africa
	Ritu Sethi Independent Scholar Craft Revival Trust, India	All that Glitters: The design and trade of luxury embroideries to India’s near-neighbours in the Indian Ocean
	Eiluned Edwards Independent Scholar Shrujan Trust Living and Learning Design Centre, UK and India	Design Influences: The afterlife of the ‘Fustat fragments’
	Sanniah Jabeen PhD Candidate University of Toronto, Canada	Handmade in the Age of Mass-(Re)production: The many lives of Ajrak

Panel 15a Material Traces across the Indian Ocean 4:40pm-6:20pm	Usman Hamid Assistant Professor Hamilton College, USA	Tracing Footsteps Across the Indian Ocean: Visualizing pilgrimage and the affective touch
	Vivek Gupta British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow University College London, UK	A Cabinet of Curiosities in an Indian Ocean Port City
	Erum Hadi PhD Candidate St. John’s University, Canada	Sustaining Fragrant Fires across the Indian Ocean: The Parsi artisanal acumen and evolving religious material culture

	Ariana Pemberton PhD Candidate University of California, Berkeley, USA	An Elephant Makes a King: The global histories of a thirteenth-century ivory carved throne from India
Panel 15b	Pinyan Zhu Assistant Professor Kent State University, USA	Artistic Transformations among India, Southeast Asia, and Chinese Heartland: King Udayana's icon of Śākyamuni in medieval China
Archaeology of the Indian Ocean 4:40pm-6:20pm	Salila Kulshreshtha Visiting Assistant Professor New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE	The Scent of the Trail: Rethinking the frankincense route of southern Arabia

(Complementary Bus Service to Toronto provided for all Conference Presenters)

Free Evening



Saturday, May 4, 2024
Innis Town Hall, University of Toronto
9:00am-5:30pm

Opening Remarks 9:00am-9:20am

Panel 15 Glass around the Indian Ocean 9:20am-11:00am	Katherine Larson Curator Corning Museum of Glass, USA	“Indo-Pacific” Glass Trade Beads: Chemical and cultural perspectives
	Charlotte K. Nash-Pye PhD Candidate University of Kent & Researcher, British Museum, UK	Revealing the Secrets of Islamic Glass Bangles: Key findings
	Tara Desjardins Curator Museum of Islamic Art, Qatar	Precious Porcelain: The imitation, production, and circulation of opacified white glass across the Indian Ocean
	Julie Bellemare Curator Corning Museum of Glass, USA	Crossing the Seas: Tracing a Mughal-style reverse- painted glass portrait

Break: 11:00am-11:20am

Panel 16 Contemporary Art of the Indian Ocean 11:20am-1:00pm	Pamila Gupta Research Professor University of the Free State, South Africa	Of Boats, Plates, and Waves: Portrait of a Goan sea artist
	Natasha Bissonauth Sessional Assistant Professor York University, Canada	Shiraz Bayjoo’s Trompe l’œil
	Sonal Khullar Associate Professor University of Pennsylvania, USA	Trouble in Paradise: Muhanned Cader’s ISLAND (2016)
	Sathyanand Mohan Assistant Professor Srishti-Manipal Institute of Art Design and Technology, India	The Uses of Cosmopolitanism: The 2012 Kochi-Muziris Biennale

Lunch: 1:00pm-2:00pm

Keynote Lecture, 2:00pm-3:00pm

Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor,
Fiction Author, Kenya
'Scents and Story Senses in the
Dragonfly Sea'

Break: 3:00pm-3:20pm

Panel 18 Objects, Memories and Movements 3:20pm-5:30pm	Cyrus Sundar Singh Filmmaker, scholar, songwriter, composer, poet, and change-maker, Canada	Floating to the Lure of the Promised Land: A Condition of Displacement <i>A live co-creative, multimedia documentary experience</i>
	Zulfikar Hirji Associate Professor York University, Canada <i>In conversation with:</i> Su Yen Chong Jayshree Khimasia Bishara Mohamed, and Kamruddin Rashid	Material Memories: Stories of Indian Ocean Objects <i>Video presentations and panel discussion</i>

Break: 5:30pm-6:30pm

(Complementary Bus Service to Aga Khan Museum provided for all Conference Presenters)

Aga Khan Museum & Ismaili Centre, Toronto

Keynote Lecture, 6:30pm-7:30pm

Iftikhar Dadi, John H. Burris Professor, Department of History of Art,
Cornell University, USA

'Modern and Contemporary Art of the Indian Ocean: Methodologies and Aesthetics'

Aga Khan Museum Galleries Visit and Catered Closing Reception
7:30pm-9:00pm

(Complementary Bus Service to Toronto provided for all Conference Presenters)

