South Asian Experience in the American South

Event Outline

Event description:
What does it mean to be living and writing in the American South as South Asian diasporic authors? In this session, five panelists with South Asian roots will read from their fiction and nonfiction works set in the American South. Their works will showcase not only the experiences of people of South Asian heritage living in the South as depicted in the panelists’ works but also the panelists’ own interpretation of the American South as it pertains to literary production.

Opening:
Event moderator Khem K. Aryal will introduce the event and the panelists.

Reading:
Reader 1: Khem K. Aryal will read from his short story “Thapaliyaji the Social Worker,” which depicts a Nepali politician’s inability to accept a new, immigrant identity in Texas.

Reader 2: Parul Kapur Hinzen’s “Geronimo!” tells the story of one Rajini who engages herself in arranging a cross-cultural wedding, hoping to elevate her status in the Indian immigrant community by gaining a foothold among wealthy Americans.

Reader 3: Soniah Kamal will read from her essay “Face,” which is about miscarriage.

Reader 4: Aruni Kashyap will read next, from his essay “Are You a Muslim and Other Questions Landlords Ask Me.”

Reader 5: Padma Viswanathan will conclude the reading with a short story “A Singular Work,” from her story collection-in-progress, Naive Art.

Q&A:
The floor will open for Q&A for about 10 minutes.

Thanks and closing!