

Laurier conference to assess the complexities of South Asian migration

WATERLOO – Wilfrid Laurier University’s International Migration Research Centre (IMRC) is hosting a conference May 19 to 21 on the topic of South Asian migration at its Waterloo campus.

“South Asia is such a diverse region, and the conference is drawing together scholars who conduct research on migration in South Asia to understand not only the complexities but also the similar processes underway in the region,” said Margaret Walton-Roberts, associate professor at Laurier, director of the IMRC and conference organizer.

The conference includes a variety of sessions with panels of international and local scholars and three keynote addresses. All keynote addresses will take place in room 1025/1027 of the Peters Building at Laurier’s Waterloo campus.

- Irudaya Rajan from the Centre for Development Studies, Kerala, India, will speak Thursday, May 19 at 9 a.m. on the topic of “South Asian migration to Gulf in the context of the financial global crisis.”
- Inderpal Grewal from Yale University, United States, will speak Friday, May 20 at 8:45 a.m. on the topic of “engendering neoliberal migrant subjects.”
- Filippo Osella from the University of Sussex, United Kingdom, will speak Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. on the topic of “migration, networks and connectedness across the Indian Ocean.”

In addition, Preeti Saran, Consul General of India in Toronto, will deliver a lunchtime address at noon Friday, May 20, outside in the Dining Hall Quad on Laurier’s Waterloo campus.

Lal, a Toronto-based collective of musicians representing Uganda, Bangladesh, Barbados and India, will play a free concert Friday, May 20, from 7:30 p.m. to midnight at Wilf’s Restaurant on Laurier’s Waterloo Campus. The music group fuses South Asian and West Indian roots with jazz, hip hop influences, down tempo beats, broken soul, electro and socially conscious poetry.

A free screening of Harjant Gill’s *Roots of Love* will occur the day before the conference, Wednesday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. The screening takes place at St. Jerome’s College at the University of Waterloo. A panel discussion and reception will follow.

The conference is sponsored by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Wilfrid Laurier University, the IMRC, the University of Waterloo, the Balsillie School of International Affairs, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, St. Jerome’s University and the Canadian South Asian Club for professionals in Waterloo Region. All events are open to the public.

Download the full conference program at: http://www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp_id=2599&p=18192.