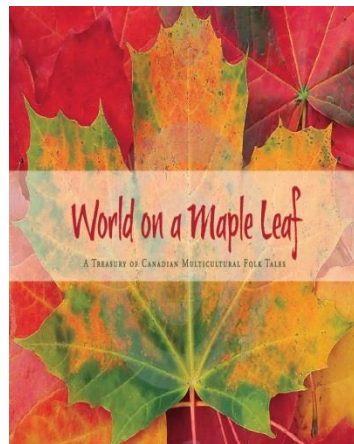
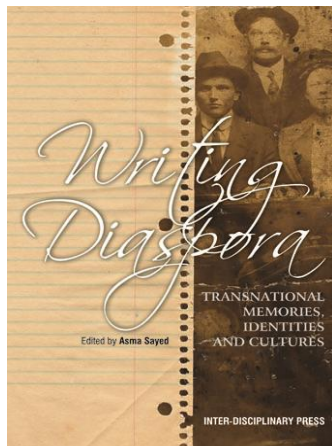


Other Voices: Canadian Diasporic Literature in Heritage Languages

A lecture by
Dr. Asma Sayed
 MacEwan University

Monday, October 17, 1-3 pm, PL600F
 (Refreshments served)

With the increase in diasporic populations around the world, the conceptions of selfhood based on singular culture are no longer adequate to describe the transnational dimensions of national identity. As diaspora subjects move from one place to the other, they bring with them varied experiences, cultures, traditions, and memories, and they tell their stories in multiple languages. In Canada, where immigration has been the predominant characteristic of the formation of the nation-state, diaspora scholarship has been rich in studies of identity politics, gender issues, migration, alienation, cultural retention and assimilation. However, not much work is available on the role of heritage languages in the shaping of literatures written in diaspora. Taking South Asian diaspora literature in Canada, written in heritage languages, especially Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, and Punjabi, as a case study, this presentation will examine the question of national literary space, and the place of diasporic literatures written in minority/heritage languages in the canon of Canadian literature.



Dr. Asma Sayed is a scholar of Comparative Literature and Film Studies. Her interdisciplinary research focuses on Indian diasporas in the context of global multiculturalism, postcolonial literature and theory, Islamicate cultures, and Indian cinema. Her book publications include: *Writing Diaspora: Transnational Memories, Identities and Cultures* (2014), *Screening Motherhood in Contemporary World Cinemas* (2016), *M. G. Vassanji: Essays on His Work* (2014), and *World on a Maple Leaf: A Treasury of Canadian Multicultural Folktales* (2011).

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE: *Irene Blayer, Jean Ntakirutimana, Lissa Paul, Cristina Santos and Dawn Zinga*