

ISAS Public Lecture Series

THE 2018 YOUNG SCHOLARS RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

A CELEBRATION OF STUDENT EXCELLENCE AT UC BERKELEY



Rebecca Dharmapalan



Adora Svitak



Prathyush Parasuraman



Raveena Samra

The Institute for South Asia Studies invites you to join us for our third annual young scholars research symposium on South Asia.

- 4:10: Welcome
- 4:15: **Rebecca Dharmapalan | Unrecognized Genocide: The Case of Sri Lanka Intergenerational Trauma, Abuse, and Selective Memory**
Bio: Rebecca Dharmapalan is an artist and activist from Oakland, California. Her work is focused around the issue of Child Sex Trafficking and the abolishment of modern day slavery through creativity and solidarity. At UC Berkeley, Rebecca focus is in several fields including Sociology as well as Global Poverty. Her first film “International Boulevard” was awarded Grand Prize at Girls Impact the World film festival presented at Harvard University, the Los Angeles Film Festival, Delhi’s Indie Art Week and several more. She has gone on speaking tours all across the country at the Ashoka Future Forum, and a TEDxTalk in New York City. This year, Rebecca was selected for Teen Vogue 21 under 21: girls and femmes changing the world, and was recently awarded as Glamour’s College Women of the Year 2017. (Discussant) Prof. Darren Zook
- 4:40: **Adora Svitak | Once a Swayamsevak: Influences of Hindutva on Identity Formation in Second-Generation Indian-American Youth**
Bio: Adora Svitak is a senior majoring in Development Studies and minoring in South Asian Studies and Creative Writing at UC Berkeley. She is involved in writing and editing in several publications, including serving as a Content Writer for Social Science Matrix and Editor-in-Chief at Berkeley Political Review. In the past, she has interned at TED’s education division in New York City and at Tata Communications in New Delhi. While in India, she conducted research on corporate social responsibility programs. Through her academic work at Berkeley, she has studied themes of religion, development, gender, and knowledge production in South Asia. Adora’s long-standing interest in issues affecting children and youth has taken her to speaking engagements at conferences like TED and the UN Economic and Social Council’s Youth Forum. Her Honors thesis is the culmination of many passions, both academic and personal, intersecting during her undergraduate career. (Discussant) Prof. Clare Talwalker
- 5:05: **Prathyush Parasuraman | Do Homosexuals Cause Earthquakes? Reframing the Queer Disposition**
Bio: Prathyush Parasurama is a rising Senior at UC Berkeley studying Economics and South Asian Studies. He is interested in working at the intersection of academic research and public policy- either through pursuit in academia or law. He has served as the Attorney General/Chief Legal Officer for the ASUC- the autonomous student government at UC Berkeley as well as taught a class on Student Advocacy and Activism within the ASUC. (Discussant) Prof. Vasudha Paramasivan
- 5:30: **Raveena Samra | Flower Work**
Bio: Raveena Samra is a poet, essayist, and mixed-media sculptor who grew up in a little town called Ceres, California. She resides in the Bay Area when she is not wandering through her mother’s village in Punjab. As an undergraduate at UC Berkeley, Raveena is an English and Anthropology major minoring in Creative Writing. She focuses on writing’s ability to inhabit cultural porosity on the page through the assimilation of poetic and academic discourse. She is interested in language translation and storytelling across genres with a focus on the Punjabi diaspora. In her work she addresses intersectional identity as it surfaces in the United States and is currently in the midst of completing an undergraduate thesis focused on immigrant narratives and how the associated experiences inform the transnational identities of Punjabi women. (Discussant) Prof. Lawrence Cohen
- 6 - 6:30 PM - Reception

Tuesday, May 1, 2018
4 - 6:30 pm
10 Stephens Hall (ISAS Conf. Room)

Event is free & open to public.
Information at 510-642-3608 or southasia.berkeley.edu