



CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND
TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES
SOUTH ASIA
INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITÄT
HEIDELBERG
ZUKUNFT
SEIT 1386

Workshop

The Cold War in a Non-Aligned Perspective

Reflections from South Asian Writers and Intellectuals

Organized by the Department of Modern South Asian
Languages and Literatures in cooperation with Südasiens-Konsortium e.V.

9.-10. October 2026
09:30 - 18:00

Venue: Carl-Benz-Haus, Dr.-Carl-Benz-Platz 2, 68526 Ladenburg

DAY 1

HANS HARDER INTRODUCTION JAKUB WILANOWSKY-HILCHEN (WARSAW) **SATIRE AND THE POLITICS OF MANTO'S LETTERS TO UNCLE SAM.** RAHUL PETER DAS (QUICKBORN) **THE EARLY COLD WAR IN SOME WORKS OF SYED MUJTABA ALI .** JUSTYNA KUROWSKA (WÜRZBURG) **BOMBS, RUSSIAN SPIES, AND CHINESE CONSPIRACIES: COLD WAR ANXIETIES IN CHANDER'S 1970S RAM AUR SHYAAM TEEN DETECTIVE SERIES.** JUDHAJIT SARKAR (HEIDELBERG) **COLD WAR INTIMATIONS: (POST-)COLONIAL MODERNISM AND THE HINDI "NEW POETRY" MOVEMENT.** NICOLA POZZA (LAUSANNE) **BETWEEN THE BLOCS: NIRMAL VERMA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, A STORY OF DISILLUSIONMENT.** INES FORNELL (GÖTTINGEN) **BETWEEN ROMANTIC FASCINATION AND DISILLUSIONMENT: BHISHAM SAHNI'S SEVEN YEARS IN MOSCOW.** CARMEN BRANDT (BONN) **EDUCATION AS DIPLOMACY: BANGLADESHI STUDENTS IN THE GDR**

DAY 2

ARCHIT NANDA (LONDON) **NIRMAL VERMA IN PRAGUE: TRANSLATION, COLD WAR AND CZECH-HINDI RELATIONS.** RASMI BINOY (PARIS) **WHEN GLOBAL IDEAS MET ON MALAYALAM'S TURF.** CHANDAK SENGGOPTA (LONDON) **COLD WAR HUMANISM? SATYAJIT RAY, THE UNITED STATES, AND THE SPECTRE OF VIETNAM.** BIPASHA BHATTACHARYYA (EDINBURGH/HEIDELBERG) **LOTUSES, ROBOTS AND ESPERANTISTS: TRAVEL WRITING IN COLD WAR SOUTH ASIA.** BENJAMIN ZACHARIAH (POTSDAM) **THE POET AND THE CIA: NISSIM EZEKIEL AND CULTURAL FREEDOM.** ALOK OAK (LONDON/HEIDELBERG) **BETWEEN FREEDOM AND TOTALITARIANISM: ANTI-COMMUNISM OF THE SOCIALISTS AND ROYISTS IN EARLY COLD WAR MAHARASHTRA.** MARTIN HRIBEK (PRAGUE) **PROFESSOR SHONKU AND MASUD RANA: REFLECTIONS OF THE COLD WAR IN BENGALI PULP FICTION.** JOLITA ZABARSKAITE (BONN) **ASIA AND THE WESTERN DOMINANCE AS A COLD WAR TEXT?**