

## **South Asian American Writers Charting New Narratives**

When I guest-edited Chicago Quarterly Review's special issue on South Asian American Writers (2017), I realized that a new consciousness was emerging among South Asian writers. For one thing, the new crop of writers put a lot of emphasis on issues of belonging, justice, and intersectionality. Not interested in exoticizing South Asia, they continue to develop in their writing strategies to address hate and mistrust exemplified by the Trump phenomenon, personal struggles, both emotional and physical, that each human being has to deal with from time to time. This panel will feature representative fiction and non-fiction highlighting this new writing.

The moderator **Moazzam Sheikh** is the author of *The Idol Lover and Other Stories*, and *Cafe Le Whore and Other Stories*. He guest-edited Chicago Quarterly Review's special South Asian American issue (2017), which received notable mention in Best American Essays. His fiction and reviews have been published widely. He will read from his unpublished work after the other writers.

**Anuradha Kumar** has an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts, and recently published *A Sense of Time and Other Stories* (Weavers' Press) and *The Hottest Summer in Years* (Yoda Press). She has written other novels for Hachette India, books for young readers, and writes regularly for Scroll.in

**Kirtan Nautiyal** is a practicing hematologist/oncologist near Houston, TX. His non-fiction has been published or is upcoming in Crazyhorse, Guernica, The Southern Review, Boulevard, Longreads, McSweeney's Internet Tendency, and elsewhere. He is currently a senior non-fiction reader for Ploughshares.

**Torsa Ghosal** is the author of an experimental novella *Open Couplets* and a book of literary criticism *Out of Mind*. Her shorter writings have appeared

in Necessary Fiction, Literary Hub, and Entropy. She is a professor of English at California State University, Sacramento and is at work on a second novel.

**Chaya Nautiyal Murali** is a pediatric geneticist and Pushcart Prize-nominated personal essayist. Her work, which centers on family, identity, and inheritance, has appeared in SFWP Quarterly, Barely South Review, Aster(ix), and elsewhere. Chaya lives in Houston, TX with her husband and their dog.

The panel will take on questions from the audience after the reading.