



# **Arts of the Indian Ocean**

**Conference Program**

**April 27, 2024  
Online**

**May 2-4, 2024  
Toronto, Canada**

**Arts of the Indian Ocean** brings together knowledge producers working on the Indian Ocean's arts from diverse backgrounds and scholarly arenas to present and discuss research and work on the materialities and artistic expressions in the Indian Ocean world, across geographies — from eastern and southern Africa, through the Gulf and Red Sea to South and Southeast Asia and the south China Sea — as well as across temporalities — from antiquity up until the present-day. Through the examination of the creation, production, and circulation of material culture in a wide range of forms including the visual arts, portable objects, manuscripts and maps, ships and navigational instruments, landscape, architecture, and the built environment, textiles and dress, photography and film, as well as the digital and plastic arts, the conference seeks to: provide a platform for scholars and artists to exchange current research; map the field of Indian Ocean arts; and open up new questions on Indian Ocean pasts, presents, and futures.

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**Organized by**

Ruba Kana'an, University of Toronto Mississauga  
Zulfikar Hirji, York University  
Sarah Fee, Royal Ontario Museum  
Sanniah Jabeen, University of Toronto

**Sponsored by**

**University of Toronto Mississauga:** Office of the Vice-Principle Research, Decanal Graduate Fund–Office of Vice-Dean Graduate, Global Past Research Initiative, Centre for South Asian Critical Humanities, Department of Visual Studies

**University of Toronto Scarborough:** Department of Historical and Cultural Studies

**University of Toronto:** Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, Asian Institute at the Munk School, Southeast Asia Seminar Series at the Munk School, Dr. David Chu Program in Asia-Pacific Studies at the Munk School, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, Islamic Art and Material Culture Collaborative–Institute of Islamic Studies, Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Institute of Iranian Studies,

**York University:** Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, York Centre for Asian Research

**Aga Khan Museum  
Art Gallery of York University  
Royal Ontario Museum**

**Collaborators**

Deepali Dewan (Royal Ontario Museum)  
Kajri Jain (University of Toronto)  
Pedro Machado (Indiana University)  
Chantal Radimilahy (University of Antananarivo)  
Fahmida Suleman (Royal Ontario Museum)  
Nancy Um (Getty Research Institute)  
Richard Vokes (University of Western Australia)

# Arts of the Indian Ocean

## Conference Program

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Online Conference Day

7:00am-3:10pm

(All times listed are Eastern Daylight Time (EDT))

### Opening Remarks: 7:00am-7:20am

<b>Panel 1</b>	<b>Andrew J. Eisenberg</b> Associate Professor NYU Abu Dhabi, UAE	Hadrami Sounds on the Edge of Swahili-Space: Musical poetics of ethnicity on the Kenyan coast
Performance, Sound, Music, Media, and Materiality 1  7:20am-8:40am	<b>Afeef Ahmed</b> Independent Scholar India	Meditating media: The act of piety in the age of technological reproduction
	<b>Thamarai Selvan Kanaan</b> PhD Candidate IIT Madras, India	Sound and Indian Ocean: Musical instrument making in 19th- and 20th-century South India

### Break: 8:40am-9:00am

<b>Panel 2</b>  Objects and Identities 1  9:00am-10:20am	<b>Annabel Teh Gallop</b> Lead Curator The British Library, UK	Malay Silverware with Jawi Inscriptions
	<b>Mounia Chekhab-Abudaya</b> Senior Curator Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar	Pilgrimage and Transfer of Craftsmanship between South Asia and the Hijaz: The Example of a Pilgrimage-related Scroll in the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha
	<b>Denise-Marie Teece</b> Assistant Professor New York University, Abu Dhabi, UAE	Capacious Definitions and Collections in Maritime Asia

### Break: 10:20am-10:40pm



<b>Panel 3</b>  Objects and Identities 2  <b>10:40am-12:00pm</b>	<b>Rukmini Dahanukar</b> Independent Scholar India	Money Talks–Sha‘dhow’s’ of Trade: The influence of dhow boats on banknote imagery
	<b>MacKenzie Moon Ryan</b> Associate Professor Rollins College, USA	Turn-of-the-century Chic: Women’s kanga fashions on the Swahili Coast in the colonial era
	<b>Avalon Fotheringham</b> Curator Victoria & Albert Museum, UK	Connecting Threads: New investigations into Madras handkerchief exchanges between South India and the Caribbean

**Break: 12:00pm-12:20pm**

<b>Panel 4</b>  Ecology and Contemporary Arts  <b>12:20pm-1:20pm</b>	<b>Saivani Sanassy</b> Independent Scholar and Artist Canada	Sugar cane cutters in Mauritius
	<b>Amy Schwartzott</b> Associate Professor North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, USA	A Dialogue with Things in the Street: Recycling in contemporary Mozambican arts

**Break: 1:20pm-1:40pm**

<b>Panel 5</b>  Performance, Sound, Music, Media, and Materiality 2  <b>1:40pm-3:00pm</b>	<b>Janie Cole</b> Visiting Professor Yale University, USA	Music, Economics of Patronage, and Indian Ocean World Entanglements in the Christian Kingdom of 17th-century Ethiopia
	<b>Hiba Ali</b> Assistant Professor University of Oregon, USA	The Sound of the Swahili-Indian Ocean: Virtual-worlding-building and storytelling
	<b>Sureshi M. Jaywardene</b> Associate Professor Department of Africana Studies, San Diego State University, USA	Ceylon Africans and Black Ways of Being and Knowing in the Indian Ocean

**Closing Remarks: 3:00pm-3:10pm**

**Thursday, May 2, 2024**  
**Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy**  
**University of Toronto**  
**9:00am–9:00pm**

**Opening Remarks: 9:00am-9:20am**

<b>Panel 6</b>  Objects and Identities 3  <b>9:20am-10:20am</b>	<b>Peyvand Firouzeh</b> Lecturer University of Sydney, Australia	Inter-medial Objects as Narrators: Oceanic journeys of coco-de-mer kashkuls
	<b>Sarah Longair</b> Associate Professor University of Lincoln, UK	Creativity, Conservation, and Colonialism: The coco-de-mer in the nineteenth-century Indian Ocean World

<b>Panel 7</b>  Thinking Loss from a Small Place  <b>10:20am-12:00pm</b>	<b>H. L. Ramduth</b> Senior Lecturer Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Mauritius	Fabulating the Anthropocene from the Indian Ocean
	<b>Marek Ahnee</b> PhD Candidate École des Hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), France	The Vatiyar’s Labors Not Lost: Nadagam/Narlgon in 20th-century Mascarene
	<b>Audrey Albert</b> Visual Artist Manchester, UK	From Matter Out of Place to Chagossians of Manchester: Reclaiming Chagossian memory and history
	<b>Debashree Mukherjee</b> Associate Professor Columbia University, USA	Cinema as an Archipelago of Desires: Mauritian film culture in the 1930s

	<p><b>Sana Mirza</b> Head of Scholarly Programs and Publications National Museum of Asian Art, Smithsonian, USA</p>	<p>Praising the Prophet: Devotional manuscripts from Harar, Ethiopia</p>
<p><b>Panel 8</b></p> <p>Manuscripts, Inscriptions and Ritual Life in the Indian Ocean 2</p> <p><b>12:00pm-1:00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Michael Gervers</b> Professor University of Toronto, Canada</p> <p><b>Rosemary Crill</b> (Retired) Victoria and Albert Museum, UK</p> <p><b>Philip Sykas</b> (Retired) Manchester Fashion Institute, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK</p>	<p>Ethiopia and the Early Modern Global Textile Trade</p>

**Lunch Break: 1:00pm-2:20pm**

	<p><b>Juan E. Campo</b> Associate Professor University of California, USA</p>	<p>The Monumental Arabic inscriptions of Ujumbe Palace: Creating religious spatiality in an Indian Ocean milieu</p>
<p><b>Panel 9</b></p> <p>Magic, Religion, and Trade in Indian Ocean Material Cultures</p> <p><b>2:20pm-4:00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Stephane Pradines</b> Professor Islamic Art and Architecture, Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations (AKU- ISMC), Aga Khan University, UK</p> <p><b>Soumyen Bandyopadhyay</b> Professor University of Liverpool, UK</p> <p><b>Alka Patel</b> Professor University of California, Irvine</p>	<p>Swahili Wall Niches in the Comoros and Lamu Archipelagos: Rituals, Corals, and Stuccoes</p> <p>Indian Ocean Cosmopolitan Interactions: Mosques in the Muscat region</p> <p>Crossing Space, Time, and Being: Khambhat's great mosque complex in the 14th century</p>

**Break: 4:00pm-4:10pm**

<b>Panel 10</b>  Photography in and around the Indian Ocean  <b>4:10pm-5:10pm</b>	<b>Tara Sami Dutt</b> PhD Candidate University of California, USA	Connecting Oceans Through the Visibility of Labor
	<b>Deepali Dewan</b> Curator Royal Ontario Museum, Canada	Photo-making Within Indian Ocean Mobilities

<b>Panel 11</b>  Circulation And Translation: Perspectives from Maritime Southeast Asia  <b>5:10pm-6:50pm</b>	<b>Imran bin Tajudeen</b> Senior Lecturer National University Singapore, Singapore	Nomenclature Shifts and Discursive Reframings: The positing of Awan Larat as arabesque
	<b>Noorashikin Zulkifli</b> Senior Curator Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM), Singapore	Picturing Ashura Processions in Islamic Southeast Asia
	<b>Simon Soon</b> Senior Lecturer University of Malaya, Malaysia	Clock-wearing Buraqs and Composite Time in Rarly- 20th-century Aceh
	<b>Anissa Rahadiningtyas</b> Curator National Gallery Singapore, Singapore	In Search of Our Ancestors

**Break: 6:50pm-7:10pm**

**Keynote Lecture, 7:10pm-8:00pm**  
**Stephen Murphy, Pratapaditya Pal Senior Lecturer in**  
**Curating and Museology of Asian Art,**  
**Department of History of Art and Archaeology, SOAS**  
‘Towards a Global Museology? Taking a Steer from Indian Ocean World and Silk Road  
Exhibitions Past and Present’

**Catered Reception, 8:00pm-9:00pm**  
**Asian Institute–Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy**  
**University of Toronto**



**Friday, May 3, 2024**  
**University of Toronto**  
**Mississauga 10:00am-6:20pm**

(Complementary Bus Service to Mississauga provided for all Conference Presenters)

**Opening Remarks: 10:00am-10:10am**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panel 12a</b></p> <p>A View from the Lands Below the Winds: Southeast Asian Perspectives</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>10:10am-11:50pm</b></p>	<p><b>Ruth Barnes</b> Curator Yale University Art Gallery, USA</p>	Indian Ocean Connections in the History of Indonesian textiles
	<p><b>Arielle Winnik</b> Post-Doctoral Associate Yale University Art Gallery, USA</p>	Picturing Kingship in the Indian Ocean: The view from the Indonesian archipelago
	<p><b>Emma Stein</b> Assistant Curator National Museum of Asian Art, Smithsonian Institution, USA</p>	Goddesses Near and Far: A bronze mandala from the mountain of the gods (central Java, Indonesia)
	<p><b>Joyce Yusi Zhou</b> PhD Candidate History of Art Yale University, USA</p>	Restoring Matrilateral Histories: Indo-Chinese women and their silver in early modern Batavia

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Panel 12b</b></p> <p>Unruly edges of Indian Ocean arts: Objects and ideas in circulation and transformation</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>10:10am-11:50pm</b></p>	<p><b>Hideaki Suzuki</b> Associate Professor National Museum of Ethnology, Japan</p>	Travelling Rhino Hides: Circulating flows of a material in the 19th-century Western Indian Ocean
	<p><b>Kyoko Matsukawa</b> Professor Konan University, Japan</p>	Migration and Cultural gyres of Indian Ocean Performing Arts: The case of Goans and their popular theatre, <i>Tiatr</i>
	<p><b>Aki Toyoyama</b> Associate Professor Faculty of International Studies, Kindai University, Japan</p>	Japanese majolica tiles in the Swadeshi Movement: Consumer nationalism and its aesthetics in late colonial India
	<p><b>Taku Iida</b> Researcher National Museum of Ethnology, Japan</p>	Heritagization and Identity Differentiation: <i>Séga</i> in Mauritius and Maloya in Reunion



<b>Panel 12b cont.</b>	<b>Ananya Jahanara Kabir</b> Professor English Literature, King's College, UK	Visco's Angelina: Indian Ocean memory on the surface of pattern
	<b>Naiza Khan</b> Visual Artist and Researcher UK/Pakistan	Monsoon vs Empire

**Catered Lunch**  
**11:50pm-1:00pm**

<b>Panel 13a</b>  Manuscripts, Inscriptions and Ritual Life in the Indian Ocean  <b>1:00pm-2:40pm</b>	<b>Raphael Michaeli</b> PhD Candidate University of Bergen, Norway	Retelling the Birth of the Prophet: A reflection on mawlid performative readings in their East African context
	<b>Kjersti Larsen</b> Professor University of Oslo, Norway	Artefact, Performance and Reception: Artistic and fantastic dimensions of text
	<b>Anne K. Bang</b> Professor University of Bergen, Norway	"My Books": Islamic book collections and libraries in the East African context
	<b>Scott Reese</b> Professor Northern Arizona University, USA	Evolving Materiality: The book arts in 19th- and 20th-century East Africa

<b>Panel 13b</b>  Textiles—Making and Influences  <b>1:00pm-2:40pm</b>	<b>Rajarshi Sengupta</b> Assistant Professor Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India	Monsoon Clouds on Coromandel: On seasonal cycle, kalamkari making and Oceanic trade
	<b>Sheilagh Quaile</b> Independent Scholar Canada	South Asian Textiles in Nineteenth-Century Northeastern North America
	<b>Aditi Khare</b> PhD Candidate University of Alberta, Canada	Painted and Printed Cotton Textiles as Relational Objects in the Indian Ocean Network
	<b>Beenish Tahir</b> Independent Scholar Canada	Nationalism in a "Topi"

**Break: 2:40pm-3:00pm**

<b>Panel 14a</b> Architecture: Traditions and Heritage 3:00pm-4:40pm	<b>Sylvia Wu</b> PhD Candidate Art History, University of Chicago, USA	Maritime Mosques: On an alternative architectural tradition in the Indian Ocean world
	<b>Stephen J. Rockel</b> Associate Professor University of Toronto, Canada	A Forgotten Architectural Heritage: Art Deco buildings in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
	<b>Itamar Toussia Cohen</b> DPhil Candidate The University of Oxford, UK	Deathscapes in Arabia: The Parsi towers of silence of Aden, c.1846-1866
	<b>Bernard O’Kane</b> Professor The American University in Cairo, Egypt	From the Zazafrashan, the Maghrib and the Swahili coast to Arabia: Zoomorphic Wooden Corbels

<b>Panel 14b</b> Design mobilities: Contemporary Indian production for Indian Ocean markets 3:00pm-4:40pm	<b>Abigail McGowan</b> Professor University of Vermont, USA	Furnishing Markets: Indian mid-century modern destined for East Africa
	<b>Ritu Sethi</b> Independent Scholar Craft Revival Trust, India	All that Glitters: The design and trade of luxury embroideries to India’s near-neighbours in the Indian Ocean
	<b>Eiluned Edwards</b> Independent Scholar Shrujan Trust Living and Learning Design Centre, UK and India	Design Influences: The afterlife of the ‘Fustat fragments’
	<b>Sanniah Jabeen</b> PhD Candidate University of Toronto, Canada	Handmade in the Age of Mass-(Re)production: The many lives of Ajrak

<b>Panel 15a</b> Material Traces across the Indian Ocean 4:40pm-6:20pm	<b>Usman Hamid</b> Assistant Professor Hamilton College, USA	Tracing Footsteps Across the Indian Ocean: Visualizing pilgrimage and the affective touch
	<b>Vivek Gupta</b> British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow University College London, UK	A Cabinet of Curiosities in an Indian Ocean Port City
	<b>Erum Hadi</b> PhD Candidate St. John’s University, Canada	Sustaining Fragrant Fires across the Indian Ocean: The Parsi artisanal acumen and evolving religious material culture

	<p><b>Ariana Pemberton</b> PhD Candidate University of California, Berkeley, USA</p>	<p>An Elephant Makes a King: The global histories of a thirteenth-century ivory carved throne from India</p>
<p><b>Panel 15b</b></p> <p>Archaeology of the Indian Ocean</p> <p><b>4:40pm-6:20pm</b></p>	<p><b>Pinyan Zhu</b> Assistant Professor Kent State University, USA</p>	<p>Artistic Transformations among India, Southeast Asia, and Chinese Heartland: King Udayana's icon of Śākyamuni in medieval China</p>
	<p><b>Salila Kulshreshtha</b> Visiting Assistant Professor New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE</p>	<p>The Scent of the Trail: Rethinking the frankincense route of southern Arabia</p>

(Complementary Bus Service to Toronto provided for all Conference Presenters)

**Free Evening**



**Saturday, May 4, 2024**  
**Innis Town Hall, University of Toronto**  
**9:00am-5:30pm**

**Opening Remarks 9:00am-9:20am**

<b>Panel 15</b>  Glass around the Indian Ocean  <b>9:20am-11:00am</b>	<b>Katherine Larson</b> Curator Corning Museum of Glass, USA	“Indo-Pacific” Glass Trade Beads: Chemical and cultural perspectives
	<b>Charlotte K. Nash-Pye</b> PhD Candidate University of Kent & Researcher, British Museum, UK	Revealing the Secrets of Islamic Glass Bangles: Key findings
	<b>Tara Desjardins</b> Curator Museum of Islamic Art, Qatar	Precious Porcelain: The imitation, production, and circulation of opacified white glass across the Indian Ocean
	<b>Julie Bellemare</b> Curator Corning Museum of Glass, USA	Crossing the Seas: Tracing a Mughal-style reverse- painted glass portrait

**Break: 11:00am-11:20am**

<b>Panel 16</b>  Contemporary Art of the Indian Ocean  <b>11:20am-1:00pm</b>	<b>Pamila Gupta</b> Research Professor University of the Free State, South Africa	Of Boats, Plates, and Waves: Portrait of a Goan sea artist
	<b>Natasha Bissonauth</b> Sessional Assistant Professor York University, Canada	Shiraz Bayjoo’s Trompe l’œil
	<b>Sonal Khullar</b> Associate Professor University of Pennsylvania, USA	Trouble in Paradise: Muhanned Cader’s ISLAND (2016)
	<b>Sathyanand Mohan</b> Assistant Professor Srishti-Manipal Institute of Art Design and Technology, India	The Uses of Cosmopolitanism: The 2012 Kochi-Muziris Biennale

**Lunch: 1:00pm-2:00pm**



**Keynote Lecture, 2:00pm-3:00pm**

**Yvonne Adhiambo Owuor,**  
**Fiction Author, Kenya**  
'Scents and Story Senses in the  
Dragonfly Sea'

**Break: 3:00pm-3:20pm**

	<b>Cyrus Sundar Singh</b> Filmmaker, scholar, songwriter, composer, poet, and change-maker, Canada	Floating to the Lure of the Promised Land: A Condition of Displacement  <i>A live co-creative, multimedia documentary experience</i>
<b>Panel 18</b>  Objects, Memories and Movements  <b>3:20pm-5:30pm</b>	<b>Zulfikar Hirji</b> Associate Professor York University, Canada  <i>In conversation with:</i>  <b>Su Yen Chong</b> <b>Jayshree Khimasia</b> <b>Bishara Mohamed, and</b> <b>Kamruddin Rashid</b>	Material Memories: Stories of Indian Ocean Objects  <i>Video presentations and panel discussion</i>

**Break: 5:30pm-6:30pm**

(Complementary Bus Service to Aga Khan Museum provided for all Conference Presenters)

**Aga Khan Museum & Ismaili Centre, Toronto**

**Keynote Lecture, 6:30pm-7:30pm**

**Iftikhar Dadi, John H. Burris Professor, Department of History of Art,  
Cornell University, USA**

'Modern and Contemporary Art of the Indian Ocean: Methodologies and Aesthetics'

**Aga Khan Museum Galleries Visit and Catered Closing Reception  
7:30pm-9:00pm**

(Complementary Bus Service to Toronto provided for all Conference Presenters)

