



**INDO-CANADIAN STUDIES CENTRE - ICSC**

**UNIVERSITY OF MUMBAI**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**ON**

## **Hyphenated Identities, Hybrid Selves: Explorations through Literature and Cinema**

19th, 20th and 21st February 2013

The very practice of calling individuals “Indo-Canadian” inextricably links humans to geography. When identity is prescribed according to one person’s relationship with locality the question is equally concerning physical space as it is competing culture. As Indo-Canadians are defined by their relationship to place, as is evinced by the continual question “where are you from,” hyphenated identity becomes a binary division, just as the answer to this perennial question confirms: “I am from India, but I live here, in Canada.”

It is as though the Indo-Canadian individual must perpetually stand with one foot on Canadian shores and one in India. But where is she to look to? Where is her future and where does she assert herself to belong? Can one individual belong to two geographically and culturally divergent places at once?

The 2013 Indo-Canadian Conference at the University of Mumbai sets out to explore these questions about hyphenated identities and hybrid selves with a specific focus on Indo-Canadian authors and filmmakers and how they negotiate the space of the hyphen as they express what it means to be “Indo-Canadian.” The conference reaches to a holistic understanding of the diasporic individual who is not divided by geographical distance, but enriched by it. It challenges the meaning of the hyphen in “Indo-Canadian” as not a measure of distance but a marker of connection. It is through the coming together of these two localities and their existence in the same space of one individual’s identity that we can glean a better understanding of the interconnectivity of human nature. Rather than viewing the hyphenated and hybrid as problematic, this conference explores such diversity to move the understanding of diasporic individuals from a space of seemingly being always “out of place” to an understanding of

inclusion where the hybrid individual enriches and intertwines both ends of their hyphen—the Indian and the Canadian.

Plenary Speakers at the conference will be drawn from universities in India, Canada, Germany and Australia.

There will also be a session on ‘Research in Progress’ at which researchers from different universities and the European Union researchers at the University of Mumbai will make presentations.

The conference will also include a precursor session on ‘Family Health and Wellness in Diapsora’ as this is one of the new areas of focus for the ICSC.

The ICSC will provide accommodation and hospitality to the Plenary Speakers at the ICSSR Guest House on the Kalina Campus of the University of Mumbai. Other speakers and participants will have to make their own arrangements for accommodation but the Centre would take care of their hospitality on the days of the conference.

The venue of the Conference will be the ICSSR Conference Hall on the Kalina Campus of the University of Mumbai, Mumbai 40098.

For Registration Contact:

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