



Global Asian Studies Opening Ceremony

Wednesday, October 26, 2016

4:00–6:00 pm

SCE Cardinal Room

Free Admission
Alumni
Food
Surprises!



Keynote Speaker, Vivek Bald

Author of Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America

By tracing the trajectory of his work from the early 1990s to the present, Vivek Bald will reflect upon developing currents in immigration and diaspora studies throughout this period and explore the ways that the archival records, life stories, and cross-racial encounters of South Asian sojourners, migrants, and immigrants themselves assert the interconnectedness of global and local, transnational and subnational movements, crossings, connections, and communities. Overall, this lecture will address the imperative of Global Asian Studies as a field of scholarship, as an intellectual and methodological orientation, and as a political commitment. Vivek Bald is an Associate Professor in Comparative Media Studies and Writing at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a member of MIT's recently-formed Open Documentary Lab. He is a scholar and documentary filmmaker focusing on migration and diaspora, particularly from the South Asian subcontinent. He is the author of *Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America* (Harvard University Press, 2013), and co-editor of *The Sun Never Sets: South Asian Migrants in an Age of U.S. Power* (NYU Press, 2013). His films include *Taxi-vala/Auto-biography* (1994) and *Mutiny: Asians Storm British Music* (2003). Bald's current works in progress include *The Rise and Fall of "Prince" Ranji Smile: Fantasies of India at the Dawn of the American Century* and the transmedia "*Bengali Harlem/Lost Histories Project*".

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