Friday, March 23

10:00 AM | Opening of the Convocation
Roberta Marvin, Associate Dean of International Programs
Professor Paul Greenough, Crossing Borders Director
Introduction by the organizers, Professors Anny Curtius and Sujatha Sosale

10:15-11:15 AM | Session 1
Chair: Professor Paul Greenough, History

Pauline Remy, French & Italian
“The Kala Pani and the Black Atlantic: Points of (Dis)-location, Trauma and Entanglements”

Sujatha Sosale, Associate Professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communication
“Modernizing Communication in the Colonies: The Telegraph in the Indian Ocean Rim”

11:15 AM | Break

11:30-12:30 PM | Film Screening
Barcha Bauer and Gérard César
The Indians of Guadeloupe and Martinique
Kala pani, the Spell of the Black Waters (Part 1), 2004.

12:30-2:00 PM | Lunch

2:15-3:15 PM | Keynote 1
Oonya Kempadoo, novelist, social development researcher, Grenada
“’Wait nuh, I know you.’ Caribbean perspectives of douglarization and cultural recognition”

3:15-3:30 PM | Coffee/Tea Break

3:30-5:00 PM | Session 2
Chair: Marie Kruger, Associate Professor, English

James Boucher, French & Italian
“Beggar Kings: Mimicry and Migration in Haiti”

Samuel P. Fitzpatrick, English
“We Jammin in Jamaica and Jaffna, from Bob Marley to M.I.A.: Rasta In the Caribbean and Indian Ocean Rim.”

Anny D. Curtius, Associate Professor, French & Italian
“Diasporizing Gandhi”

5:15-6:15 PM | Film Screening
John Pilger, Stealing a Nation (2004), 56 minutes

Saturday, March 24

8:00 AM | Catered Breakfast

8:30-9:30 AM | Keynote 2
Aisha Khan, Associate Professor, Anthropology, New York University
“Transoceanic Migrations: Of Foxes, Hedgehogs, and Habitus”

9:30-10:00 AM | Coffee/Tea Break

10:00-11:30 AM | Session 3
Chair: Professor Frederick M. Smith, Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures

P.J. Johnston, Religious Studies
“Convergence and Differentiation in Tamil Réunionnais Religion”

Vanessa Borilot, French & Italian
“The Migration of the Poto-Mitan Paradigm: From Haiti to the Indian Ocean Rim (via Guadeloupe & Martinique)”

Angela Watkins, English
“Haiti Noir: The Literary Imagination of Haiti in Times of Disaster”

11:30-1:00 PM | Catered Lunch

1:15-2:15 PM | Keynote 3
David Vine, Assistant Professor, Anthropology, American University
“Islands of Imperialism, Islands of Shame: Displacement and Dispossession across Time and Space”

2:15-2:30 PM | Coffee/Tea Break

2:30-3:30 PM | Session 4
Chair: Professor Paul Greenough, History

Jess Issacharoff, English
“An Anti-Exhibition: Jewishness and Belonging in Good Morning Midnight”

Youlia Tzenova, History
“Nu Pogodi!: a Window into Soviet Life During the Brezhnev Era”

3:30-4:00 PM | Coffee/Tea Break

4:00-5:00 PM | Keynote speakers converse

5:15-6:15 PM | Film Screening
Barcha Bauer and Gérard César
This event is co-organized by Anny D. Curtius and Sujatha Sosale and sponsored by International Programs; Crossing Borders; the Caribbean, Diaspora, and Atlantic Studies Program; the Division of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures; and the Department of Communication Studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Convocation will focus on two of the major geographical areas constituting the global South -- the Indian Ocean Rim and the Caribbean. Moving from the colonial period to contemporary times, we will seek to interrogate the following issues: How can these regions be construed as composite entities sharing colonial and relational histories? How do distinguishing features of these colonial, postcolonial, transcolonial, and postcontact spaces play into these comparisons? How have transoceanic migrations, both voluntary and forced, influenced the political, economic, social and cultural fabric of these spaces? For example how do food, religious, and gender dynamics that emerged from these transoceanic displacements contribute nowaday to the elaboration of a new diasporic habitus? What parameters do the concepts of creolization, hybridity, transculturation, and globalization have in common? Does the concept of Coolitude appropriately reassess the shared diasporic historicity of Indian indenture in the Indian Ocean and the Caribbean? What type of alternative theoretical paradigms can be articulated to interrogate contemporary and institutionalized patterns of dislocated, impoverished and vulnerable peoples in these two regions? How have contemporary migration flows from the Caribbean to North, Central and South America reconfigured culture and media in the host countries?