



In the context of History Week and
Commemoration of the Centenary of the Abolition of
Indentureship in the British Empire

International Seminar
**Ending Indenture: Comparative
Perspectives 1875-1938**

28-30 September 2017

PROGRAMME

The Department of History and Political Science,
University of Mauritius

Organised jointly with the

**Mauritius Research Council
Mahatma Gandhi Institute
Aparavasi Ghat Trust Fund**

*R. Burrenchobay Lecture Theatre,
University of Mauritius*

28th September 2017

LAUNCHING CEREMONY

Venue: R. Burrenchobay Lecture Theatre,
Master of Ceremonies: Stephanie Tamby
(Guests to be seated by 9.15 a.m.)

9.30 – 10.30 a.m. Official launching Ceremony

Welcome address by **Dr. Leo Couacaud**,
Head, Department of History and Political Science

Speech by **Professor Arnaud Carpooran**,
Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Mauritius

Gift of books by **Mrs. Sooryakanti Nirsimloo-Gayan**
Director-General, Mahatma Gandhi Institute

Speech and Launch of CRSI's "Select Documents on the Ending of Indenture" and Amit Mishra's "Bonded Self, National Disgrace and Human Misery: Indian Nationalists and Campaign for Abolition of Indentured Labour Emigration"
by **Professor Dhanjay Jhurry**, CSK
Vice-Chancellor, University of Mauritius

Launch of International Seminar
by **His Excellency Mr. Abhay Thakur**,
High Commissioner for the Republic of India

10.15 – 10.30 a.m. *Tea break*

On display inside RBLT
A selection of paintings from the exhibition “Dress of Female Indian Immigrants” by Nalini Treebhoobun

From North to South

Muslim Bride

Bihari Woman

Woman from Tamil Nadu

Jewellery (Inspired from Traditional Jewellery of India by O. Untracht)



10.30 – 11.15 a.m.: Keynote Speech: “Ending Indenture: Regime, Resistance and Remains”

by **Amit Mishra**, Associate Professor, University of Hyderabad,
Centre for Diaspora Studies

PANEL SESSIONS

Each panel session will be followed by a discussion of 15-20 minutes.

11.30 - 12.45 p.m.: Panel 1: Ending Slavery, Ending Indenture

Chair: Assoc. Prof. Vijaya Teelock

Céline Ramsamy-Giancone, doctorante, Université de La Réunion, CRESOI

Fin de l’engagisme et activité religieuse des Indiens de La Réunion (1882-1920)

Urvanee Dookhorun, Centre for Research on Slavery and Indenture

The Evolution of the Indentured System from 1880 to the End of Indentureship

Seetul Ramchurn Jokhun, Centre for Research on Slavery and Indenture

The Last Years of Indenture: The Last Immigrants

Discussion

12.45 - 13.45 p.m. *Lunch*

14.00 - 15.00 p.m.: Special Session

In Memoriam

Benjamin Moutou (1933 - 2017)

In presence of the Moutou Family

Master of Ceremonies: Tania Diolle

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and the Department of History and Political Science wish to pay tribute to Benjamin Moutou, historian, former Commissioner Truth and Justice Commission and Expert on Cooperatives, who passed away suddenly.

He was also an active member of the Le Morne Heritage Trust Fund Board and wrote lengthily on all matters touching the Creole community and Mauritian history. Benjamin was due to present a paper at this Seminar.

15.00 - 16.00 p.m.: Panel 2: Definitions, Trajectories and Perspectives

Chair: Dr. Anwar Janoo

Stephanie Tamby, Centre for Research on Slavery and Indenture

The Ideological Continuum between Slavery and Indenture: A Survey of Population Policies in Post-Emancipation Mauritius

Dr. Leo Coucaud, Senior Lecturer, University of Mauritius
Exploring the Etymology and Transformation in the Meaning of the Word 'Creole' in Mauritius during the British Colonial Period

Dr. Prithiraj Borah Research Scholar, IIT Bombay, Department of HSS

Indentured Trade in Assam: What Comes to be described as "coolies" in Colonial Assam

Julien Durup, Historian, Seychelles

(Summary of Paper to be read by Manorama Akung)

The Forgotten Indian Indentured Labourers of the Seychelles

Discussion

DAY TWO: 29th September 2017

09.30 – 11.00 a.m.: Panel 3: Indenture Across Heritage Studies

Chair: Dr. Shivani Rajkomar

Jayshree Mungur-Medhi, Head, Technical Unit, National Heritage Fund

Archaeology of Indenture in Mauritius: Is Mauritius Creating a New Avenue of Archaeological Research?

Pedro Pombo, IIT Gandhinagar, India

Unbounded Heritage: Recognizing Cartographies of Circulation and Fluidity in the Indian Ocean

Naren Sultanti, Descendant

The Life Story of a 20th Century Indentured Immigrant

Discussion

11.00 – 11.15 a.m. *Tea Break*

11.15 – 12.45 p.m.: Panel 4: From Migrant Labourers to Permanent Residents

Chair: Ms Stephanie Tamby

Satyendra Peerthum, Historian, Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund

"A Hardworking and Proud People": Socio-Economic Mobility of the Ex-Indentured Indian Workers and their Immediate Descendants, 1880 -1910

Dr Anwar Janoo, Senior Lecturer, and **Sadasivam Reddi**

Associate Professor (retired)

End of Indenture: The Political Dimension/ Perspectives from India and Mauritius

Golam Vahed, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal

(Summary of Paper read by Pooja Ramchurn Jokhun)

Gokhale, Polak and the End of Indian Indenture in Natal, South Africa

Babita D. Bahadoor, Researcher, Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund

The Transition from Immigration to Labour Department - The Final Years of Indentureship in Mauritius

Discussion

13.00 -14.00 p.m. *Lunch*

14.00 - 16.00 p.m.: Panel 5: Culture and Representation

Chair: Jane Moteea

Dr. Deepna Rao, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Jai Hind College, Mumbai

The Portuguese Colonial Dimension in the Indian Ocean Re-Imagined: Examining Slavery in Margaret Mascarenhas' "Skin"

Dr. Shivani Rajkomar, Lecturer, University of Mauritius

Multidirectional Memory: Marcel Cabon's Unique Engagement with Memories of Slavery and Indenture in Mauritius

Dr. Jimmy Harmon, Pedagogue, Head of Catholic Secondary Education, Independent Researcher, member of Centre for Research on Slavery and Indenture & former Director of Nelson Mandela Centre for African Culture Trust Fund

Zedi zordi...fim Indien (Thursday today... Hindustani Feature film): An Auto-Ethnography of the Impact of Indian Cinematography on a Creole family in the 1970s

Discussion

DAY THREE: 30th September 2017

Site visits organized by the Mahatma Gandhi Institute and the Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund for participants of the Seminar

Morning

1. Short tour: Mahatma Gandhi Institute 9.15 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Immigration Archives and Folk Museum, Moka

Afternoon

2. Long tour: Indentured Heritage Trail 12 noon – 4.00 p.m.
Route: Aapravasi Ghat World Heritage site and surroundings and Trianon Labourers Barracks

Packed lunch will be provided on this day to participants.