

ALMOST ISLAND DIALOGUES 7



Almost Island is a space for literature that threatens, confronts, or bypasses the marketplace. The space began with an online journal (www.almostisland.com) then expanded to an international writers' dialogue, held every year. The seventh edition of the Almost Island Dialogues will be held at the India International Centre, New Delhi, from December 19th to 22nd, 2013.

The past editions of these Dialogues have seen talks and readings by some profound writers. They include the Italian writer Claudio Magris and Chinese poet Bei Dao (both Nobel literature nominees) in mutual conversation with crucial and singular Indian writers like Irwin Allan Sealy and Vinod Kumar Shukla.

The discussions centre on issues of craft, form, and content as well as the context of writing in different cultures. Unlike a literary festival, Almost Island likes to keep the Dialogues small, rigorous, and intimate. These conversations are concerned with process, with how things are learnt, explored, created, and created again.

This year we plan to continue with some singular writers. The mornings and afternoons are kept for intense, extended, freewheeling talks and discussions; the evenings, for readings and performances.

The readings are open to all, but to attend the day discussions pre-registration is needed. For pre-registration and any other queries, please write to Rahul Soni at almostisland.edit@gmail.com.

SCHEDULE

Evening Readings / Performances on the IIC Annexe Lawns

(All are welcome.)

Thursday, December 19, 6:30 pm

Baha'ud-din Dagar

Friday, December 20, 6:30 pm

Vivek Narayanan / Renee Gladman

Saturday, December 21, 6:30 pm

Xi Chuan / Sharmistha Mohanty / Rahul Soni

Sunday, December 22, 6:30 pm

Arvind Krishna Mehrotra / László Krasznahorkai

Panels and Discussion at Conference Room 1, IIC Main Centre

(Please note: panels are also open to all who wish to come, but pre-registration is required.)

Friday, December 20, 10.30 am to 1 pm and 2.30 pm to 5 pm

László Krasznahorkai / Xi Chuan

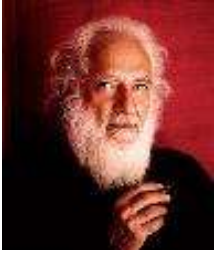
Saturday, December 21, 10.30 am to 1 pm

Ashis Nandy / Baha'ud-din Dagar

Sunday, December 22, 10.30 am to 1 pm and 2.30 pm to 5 pm

Arvind Krishna Mehrotra / Renee Gladman

BIOGRAPHIES



ARVIND KRISHNA MEHROTRA is the author of four books of poetry, a volume of essays, *Partial Recall: Essays on Literature and Literary History*, the editor of *The Oxford India Anthology of Twelve Modern Indian Poets* and *Collected Poems in English by Arun Kolatkar*, and the translator of *The Absent Traveller: Prakrit Love Poetry* and *Songs of Kabir*. He is a Professor of English at the University of Allahabad and lives in Allahabad and Dehradun.



ASHIS NANDY is one of India's most significant thinkers and public intellectuals. His work spans the fields of political psychology, sociology, nationalism, public conscience and culture. He is the author of many books, some of them seminal in Indian thought, such as *The Intimate Enemy*, and *The Savage Freud*. For many years he was a Fellow and a Director of the Centre for Developing Societies in New Delhi. Today, he is a Senior Honorary Fellow at the institute, apart from being the Chairperson of the Committee for Cultural Choices and Global Futures, also in New Delhi. Nandy received the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize in 2007. In 2008 he appeared on the list of the Top 100 Public Intellectuals Poll of the Foreign Policy magazine, published by The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.



BAHA'UD'DIN MOHIUDDIN DAGAR is a rudra veena player and son of the great rudra veena master Zia Mohiuddin Dagar. He represents the 20th generation of the Dagar lineage. His list of awards comprises the prestigious Sanskriti Award, instituted by the Sanskriti Foundation New Delhi, 2006, The Yuvak Sadhak Award by the Sangeetendu Lal Mani Mishra Foundation Bhopal 2007, the Raza Award 2007 by the Raza Foundation New Delhi, and The Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, the highest award for performing artists, conferred by India's National Academy for Music, Dance and Drama in 2012. Baha'ud-din teaches both vocal and instrumental forms of music to students from different backgrounds at the Dhruvad Gurukul at Palaspe near Panvel which was established by his father.



LÁSZLÓ KRASZNAHORKAI was born in the town of Gyula in the east of Hungary, close to the Romanian border. Having studied law first then literature in Budapest, he went on to publish a series of novels and other writings. His works include *Satantango*, *The Melancholy of Resistance*, *War*

and War, *Animalinside*, and *Seiobo there Below*. Together they constitute a huge contribution to contemporary world literature. His books have been translated into several languages and have received international prizes. The first two of his novels have been made into films by Hungarian filmmaker Béla Tarr and they have co-operated on a number of films.



RENEE GLADMAN is the author of six books of prose, and one collection of poetry. Since 2005, she has operated Leon Works, an independent press for experimental prose and other thought-projects based in the sentence, making occasional forays into poetry. She teaches in the Literary Arts Program at Brown University.



XI CHUAN is one of contemporary China's most celebrated poets, having won the Lu Xun Prize for Literature (2001) and the Zhuang Zhongwen Prize (2003). He is also one of its most hyphenated litterateurs—teacher-essayist-translator-editor-poet—and has been described by American writer Eliot Weinberger as a “polymath, equally at home discussing the latest American poetry or Shang Dynasty numismatics.” A graduate of the English dept. of Beijing University, where his thesis was on Ezra Pound's Chinese translations, he is currently employed at the Central Academy for Fine Arts in Beijing, where teaches pre-modern Chinese literature.



SHARMISTHA MOHANTY is the author of three works of fictional prose, *Book One*, *New Life*, and the recent *Five Movements in Praise*. She has translated a selection of Rabindranath Tagore's fiction, titled *Broken Nest and Other Stories*. Mohanty is on the international faculty of the Creative Writing MFA programme at the City University of Hong Kong. She has held fellowships at Germany's Akademie Schloss Solitude, as well as in France and the U.S.A., most recently at Yaddo, and is a recipient of a Senior Fellowship in Literature from the Indian Ministry of Culture. Mohanty's other serious interest is cinema, and she has worked as a scriptwriter in the serious Indian cinema with Mani Kaul and others. She lives in Bombay.



VIVEK NARAYANAN was born in India in to Tamil-speaking parents and grew up in Zambia. He did undergraduate and graduate study (in cultural anthropology and creative writing) in the United States, taught at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa, and moved back to India in 2000. His

two books of poetry are *Universal Beach* and *Life and Times of Mr S*. He is currently a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute of Advanced Studies, Harvard University, where he is completing a third book of poems. Narayanan is also interested in exploring different approaches to reading and performing poetry, and in collaborative experiments that explore technology, physical space, movement, site-specific poetry and audience interaction.



RAHUL SONI is a writer, editor and translator based in India. He has edited *Home from a Distance*, an anthology of Hindi Poetry in English translation, and translated *Magadh*, a collection of poems by Shrikant Verma, and *The Roof beneath their Feet* a novel by Geetanjali Shree.