

# TOWARDS ESTABLISHING A COMPARATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR THE STUDY OF INDENTURED LABOUR

## Two-day International Workshop

### Organised by

The Centre for Research on Slavery and Indenture, University of Mauritius

in collaboration with

Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund / Secretariat, Indentured Labour Route Project

University of Lisbon, Institute of Social Sciences, European Research Council –

'Colour of Labour - the Racialized Lives of Migrants' Project

5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019, UoM, Room G3 New Academic Complex (NAC)

### Themes to be discussed

*The Archives of Contract and Indentured labour*

*Definitions and categories of unfree labour*

*Continuity of the 19<sup>th</sup> century indentured labour framework in contemporary international contexts*

*Labour in the Social transformation process and remnants of the plantation world*

*Case studies: Hawaii, Guyana, Mauritius*

*Discussion on the latest research on Indentured Labour*

### Description

The workshop will examine from a comparative and connected-histories perspective the experience of unfree, indentured and contract labour in different plantation or plantation-like contexts of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. We aim to work towards converging analytical concepts regarding bonded labour and to explore how the legacy of plantation labour forms, practices and associated social categories still resonate in our contemporary world. We also aim to discuss the plantation-related processes of producing racialized social categories racialization and their transformation through time.

**Due to shortage of space and to favour discussion, a limited number of places will be made available to those outside these projects.**

**Please send the registration form enclosed duly filled in by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 if you wish to attend. Acceptance will be on a 'first come first served' basis.**

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## Programme

5<sup>th</sup> March 2019

9.00: Welcome speech: Assoc Professor Vijaya Teelock, Coordinator CRSI

9.10: **Guest speaker:** Dr Cristiana Bastos, *Comparing and connecting: labour and racialization in plantation and industrial economies – notes from colonial Guiana, Hawaii and New England*

▪ **Session 1. The Indentured Continuum: Comparing Bonded Labour Practices across Nineteenth-Century Colonial Spaces**

Case studies: Plantation labour in colonial Mauritius, colonial British Guiana and Hawaii

9.45: Babita Bahadoor, *An introduction to the archives of indentured immigration in Mauritius*

10.05: Christelle Miao Foh, *Categorisations of Indian immigrants on Quarantine stations*

10.25: Satyendra Peerthum, *Social and Economic Mobility of Indentured Africans, Liberated Africans, Siddhis, and Reunionese in Mauritius in Comparative Perspective 1840-1920*

**10.45: Refreshments**

11.00: Dr Nicholas B. Miller, *Placing Hawai'i on the Map of Indenture: The Challenges of Exceptionalism*

11.20: Dr Marcelo Moura Mello, *Madrasis in Guyana: thinking through race, labour and religion*

11.40: Discussion

**12.00 - 13.00: Lunch**

▪ **Session 2. Legacies of Indenture: Colonialism and the Formation of Racialised Societies**

Case studies of Mauritius, Guyana, Hawaii, U.S. and Europe

13.00: Dr Manorama Akung, *Memorialisation: the commemoration of the arrival of Indian Immigrants in Mauritius*

13.20: Dr Colette Le Petitcorps, *Domestic service and ethnicisation at the age of property development on sugar fields in Mauritius*

13.40: Dr Corinne Forest, *Contemporary Categorisations: the British Legacy in Mauritius*

14.00: Mr. Michael Joson, *Migrant Labour in Mauritius today: a Human Rights Perspective*

14.20: Ms. Rita Kantu, *Sweet Darjeeling: land, labour and racialisation in Bois Cheri tea estate, Mauritius.*

14.40 – 15.30: General Discussion and conclusions

**15.30 Refreshments**

**6<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

Site Visits: Aapravasi Ghat WHS, Vagrant Depot, Indentured Labourers' Barracks at Trianon, MGI, National Archives - Transport to be organised.