



International Writing Program

SUMMER INSTITUTE

SPECIAL SEMINAR

THEME: COLLABORATION

"It takes two flints to make a fire." - Louisa May Alcott

SPECIAL SEMINAR 1:

Article 370 and PUBG Mobile Pakistan Gully Squads

Collaboration is a key part of any creative process, particularly in Film and TV. Due to the pandemic, the Film/TV creative space has gone through a massive makeover and opened doors to virtual collaborations that were once thought not possible. Filmmaker Ibrahim Baloch and screenwriter Shuja Uddin - two creative artists, one in Pakistan, the other in United States - detail their exciting journey of collaboration on their short film Article 370 and their PUBG Mobile Pakistan Gully Squads and how different time zones and differing creative approaches has united them to create cutting edge Pakistani stories. Participants will gain a greater understanding of collaboration, creativity in the digital space and writing/directing stories on a wide variety of themes in today's heated geo-political climate. <https://www.filmcompanion.in/readers-articles/pubg-web-series-pakistan-gully-squads-writing-a-pubg-webseries-in-pakistan/> <https://thewire.in/film/article-370-kashmir-film-pakistan>



Shuja Uddin was born and raised in Karachi, Pakistan. He is a screenwriter, filmmaker and standup comedian who graduated from Boston University with an MFA in Screenwriting. Currently based near Austin, Texas, Uddin has previously worked for the Austin Film Society, a non-profit film organization run by Oscar nominated filmmaker Richard Linklater, and his writings have been published in the Times of India, The Wire and The Express Tribune. For his short film Article 370, Uddin received an Honorable Mention in the Prague International Indie Film Quarterly Festival 2021 edition for Best Screenwriter, and the film is now a semi-finalist for the Annual Competition. He was also the first ever lead writer and showrunner for PUBG Mobile Pakistan Gully Squads series, a popular video game owned by Chinese tech giant Tencent Games. You can follow him on Instagram: @snarky_karachite.



Ibrahim Baloch is a Karachi-based filmmaker and screenwriter with an extensive background in advertising. He has helmed brand communications for giants such as Ariel, Gillette, Always, Olpers, Tarang & Pampers, to name a few. His career spans multinational agencies such as thePublicis Group, namely Saatchi & Saatchi, and he is currently with Leo Burnett. Baloch studied filmmaking at the New York Film Academy and seeks to tell stories that capture heartwarming nuances of everyday life in Pakistan. *Article 370* is Baloch's most recent short film, and it has been covered by local and international media and has also been shortlisted for various international film festivals. He was director and creator of the PUBG Mobile Pakistan *Gully Squads* series, a popular video game owned by Chinese tech giant Tencent Games. You can follow him on Instagram: @ibrahim_rindbaloch.



Tuesday
JUNE 8
10:15 - 11:45a.m.
CST



For More Information:

iwp.uiowa.edu



International Writing Program

SUMMER INSTITUTE

SPECIAL SEMINAR

THEME: COLLABORATION

"It takes two flints to make a fire." - Louisa May Alcott

SPECIAL SEMINAR 2:

Project Dastaan

Project Dastaan is a visual storytelling project and social impact initiative to reconnect Partition survivors to their ancestral homes using virtual reality and other new technologies. Through our work to hope to generate dialogue between peoples of diverse South Asian descent about their shared cultural heritage. Our session will thus briefly explore: Losing and finding (through fieldwork and oral histories) remnants of shared memories and syncretism in architectural and social spaces. What is "trauma" in the context of migration and how "inter-generational" is it? What stories are missing in our memories of Partition, or in the official histories of India and Pakistan? How can tell and hear these stories?

These are some questions and thoughts that we can comment on through our experience with Project Dastaan, and we hope to do so in a conversational dialogue between us and those attending our seminar. We hope that the students can have a look at our website and videos (projectdastaan.org) so we can have an interactive session with them beyond explaining what we do.



Sparsh Ahuja is the Founder and CEO of Project Dastaan. He is a 2020 National Geographic Explorer, the youngest-ever recipient of the CatchLight Fellowship and a VCAA Leadership Awardee, and has been shortlisted for the Alexia Foundation Student Grant and Lucie Emerging Artist Scholarship. Sparsh graduated as a FitzRandolph Scholar in PPE at the University of Oxford. He will begin as an associate at the Boston Consulting Group in 2021 in London.



Sam Dalrymple is the Co-Founder and Operations Lead of Project Dastaan. He graduated as a Sanskrit and Persian Scholar from the University of Oxford, where he served as president and co-founder of the Oxford University Silk Road Society. Sam has been published in The New York Times and Conde Nast Traveller and worked with BBC Radio 4, The Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Turquoise Mountain and Vagaband. Sam is currently writing a book on the Five Partitions of India, to be published by Harper Collins in 2023.



Saadia Gardezi is the Co-Founder and Pakistan Lead of Project Dastaan. She is a journalist and cartoonist, and has worked as the Op-Ed editor for The Nation, one of Pakistan's leading daily newspapers. She graduated as an M.Phil scholar in South Asian Studies, of the Weidenfeld Hoffman Leadership Program at Oxford University. Saadia is currently a Ph.D candidate at the University of Warwick.



Thursday
JUNE 10
10:15 – 11:45a.m.
CST



For More Information:

iwp.uiowa.edu



International Writing Program

SUMMER INSTITUTE

SPECIAL SEMINAR

THEME: COLLABORATION

"It takes two flints to make a fire." - Louisa May Alcott

SPECIAL SEMINAR 3:

The Olive Writers

The Olive Writers (TOW), a literary arts association based in Casablanca, Morocco, was founded in 2016, but took root in Iowa City in 2015. This special seminar will focus on how the TOW came into being, the important role the IWP's Between The Lines (BTL) program played a part in it all, as well as what—and who!—it took to turn the idea of TOW into a reality. Additionally, I will share my short and long term plans, both for myself and for TOW, and some advice for SI students who want to do "something big" with their IWP experience.

WATCH: Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Department of State Video interview with Mohammed El Wahabi in his beautiful home city of Casablanca, Morocco: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZLNReY2MpxXOh4UTIRdyes0Xb5AwUWit/view>



Mohammed El Wahabi (Morocco) is an emerging writer and cultural manager. He is an alum of the IWP Between the Lines* 2015 program. El Wahabi is the winner of two national short story contests, and his work has been published in *Zelmajaz*, *Borderless*, *Yarakat*, and elsewhere. He currently serves as the Executive Director of The Olive Writers, a literary arts nonprofit he founded in 2016. In parallel to this, he runs the newly established 'Rivers Talent & Literary Agency'. The co-founder of Lotus Association for Culture and Creativity, El Wahabi also served on the Youth Advisory Council of World Oceans Day (The Ocean Project) and was a volunteer with the Morocco Library Project. In 2017, El Wahabi was named a Stanford AMENDS Fellow at the University of Oxford, where he is a member of the Arts and Culture Committee. In 2019, El Wahabi was selected for IWP's Young Cultural Leaders project. Later the same year, he received the prestigious Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund from the U.S. Department of State.



Tuesday
JUNE 15
10:15 – 11:45a.m.
CST



For More Information:

iwip.uiowa.edu



International Writing Program

SUMMER INSTITUTE

SPECIAL SEMINAR

THEME: COLLABORATION

"It takes two flints to make a fire." - Louisa May Alcott

SPECIAL SEMINAR 4:

Beyond the SI With 2019 and 2020-21 Alumni

Six SI alumni come together to share their experiences during the 2019 in-person and 2020-21 virtual sessions as well as what they took away and learned from the Summer Institute. They'll also talk about what they have been doing since being participants and what advice they have for the 2021 cohort.



Qazi Akash Ahmad (2020-21) belongs to Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan. He is majoring in English Literature and Linguistics and is a high school graduate of Aziz Bhatti Shahēed Army College. He discovered his potential and agility to write during his teenage years and started writing in college. He writes poetry and nonfiction essays and is the author of three books, *Soul Shadow*, *Human Flora*, and *The Triangle*, published by the age of 17. His work is a Google search away and can be read on Amazon, Goodreads, Books Depository, and many other writing platforms.



Payal Nagpal (2019) is a first-year fiction MFA candidate at the University of Florida, where she works as an editorial assistant for *Subtropics Magazine*. She is an alumnus of Ashoka University, where she majored in psychology and minored in English and creative writing. Her work can be found or is forthcoming in *Blacklist Journal*, *CollisionPitt*, *The Ultimate Airplane Poetry Movement Anthology*, and *Simon&Schuster's Cat People*.



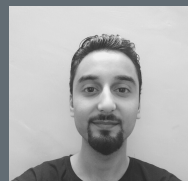
Yamini Krishna (2020-21) is a student of English and Creative Writing at Ashoka University who writes poetry and essays. Her work has been published in *Vāyavya Magazine* and *Scroll.in*, among others.



Loretta Rodriguez (2020-21) is a fiction writer from McAllen, Texas. She is a member of the IWP Summer Institute 2020-21 cohort. She studied Chinese, English, and creative writing at Trinity University, where she received the June Cook Scholarship for Creative Writing. She will pursue her MFA at Texas State University in Fall 2021. Her short stories have been featured in *High Noon*, *Trinity Magazine*, and *The Telescope Podcast*.



Martina Litty (2019) is a poet from Laurinburg, North Carolina, USA. She graduated from UNCW in spring 2021 with a BFA in creative writing, a Certificate in Professional Writing, and a Certificate in Publishing. Litty was the poetry editor of *Atlantis* magazine for issues eighty-three through eighty-six, and she intends to further pursue a career in editing. She attended the IWP Summer Program in 2019.



Sheikh Saqib (2019) is a student and writer based in Srinagar, India-administered Kashmir. He is a graduate of The University of Iowa's International Writing Program, 2019, and has reported on the arts, human rights, and the environment for various reputed publications and media houses around the world.



Thursday
JUNE 17
10:15 – 11:45 a.m.
CST



For More Information:

iwp.uiowa.edu