

**TRANSNATIONAL NETWORKS, IDENTITIES
AND HOMES**

**South Asian Diasporic Women
in Fiction and Film**



Colegiul științific:

Prof. univ. dr. Ruxandra Constantinescu Ștefănel

Prof. univ. dr. Laura Mihaela Mureșan

Prof. univ. dr. Mariana Nicolae

Conf. univ. dr. Anca Teodora Șerban-Oprescu

Conf. univ. dr. Rodica Capotă Stanciu

Conf. univ. dr. Antoaneta Lorentz

Conf. univ. dr. Deliana Vasiliu

Conf. univ. dr. Floarea Mohanu

Conf. univ. dr. Mirela Bardi

Conf. univ. dr. Roxana-Elisabeta Marinescu

Conf. univ. dr. Maria Enache

Conf. univ. dr. Viorela Dima

Conf. univ. dr. Raluca Hurduzeu

Lect. univ. dr. Maria-Ana Oprescu

Lect. univ. dr. Mariana Săndulescu

Lect. univ. dr. Mihai Șerban

Asist. univ. dr. Zinaida Fedot

Iulia Rășcanu

**TRANSNATIONAL NETWORKS, IDENTITIES
AND HOMES**

**South Asian Diasporic Women
in Fiction and Film**

Colecția
Comunicare interculturală

**București
Editura ASE
2017**



ACADEMIA DE STUDII ECONOMICE DIN BUCUREȘTI

Copyright © 2017, Editura ASE

Toate drepturile asupra acestei ediții sunt rezervate editurii.

Editura ASE

Piața Romană nr. 6, sector 1, București, România

cod 010374

www.ase.ro

editura@net.ase.ro

Referenți:

Conf. univ. dr. Raluca Hurduzeu

Conf. univ. dr. Teodora Șerban-Opreșcu

Descrierea CIP a Bibliotecii Naționale a României

RĂȘCANU, IULIA

Transnational networks, identities and homes : diasporic South Asian women in fiction and film / Iulia Rășcanu. - București : Editura ASE, 2017

Conține bibliografie

ISBN 978-606-34-0232-6

82.09

791.44

Fotografiile aparțin autoarei.

Editura ASE

Redactor: Luiza Constantinescu

Tehnoredactor: Mioara Gamulea

Coperta: Violeta Rogoșan

Autoarea își asumă întreaga responsabilitate pentru ideile exprimate, pentru originalitatea materialului și pentru sursele bibliografice menționate.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	13
Chapter I. Theoretical Approaches and Operational Definition of Concepts	25
Introduction	27
1. Colonial, Postcolonial Studies and Cultural Translation	29
1.1 Colonial, Postcolonial Studies and Cultural Translation.....	30
1.2 Ethnicity and Community	39
1.3 Cultural Translation and Hybridity	44
2. Diasporas	49
2.1 Diaspora Studies.....	50
2.2 Diaspora to Transnationalism.....	56
2.3 ‘Home’	60
3. ‘Third World’ Feminist Theories	71
3.1 Main Issues in ‘Third World’ Feminism	72
3.2 Colonialism, Postcolonialism, and the Cause of ‘Third World’ Women	76
3.3 Intersectionality and Women’s Oppression.....	80
3.4 ‘sisterhood’ as <i>Koinónia</i> and ‘Transnational Networks’	84
3.4.1 Women and community.....	90
3.4.2 Public and private spaces and spheres	94
4. Heterosexual ‘Love’ and ‘Home’	97
4.1 Heterosexual ‘love’ and the Concept of Marriage in the South Asian Context	98
4.2 Marriage and Family Relations	103
4.2.1 The significance of geography in marriage	105
4.2.2 ‘Mother’ and motherhood	106
1.5 Diasporic Cinema and Feminist Film Studies	111
Chapter II. Transnational ‘Homes’ of Diasporic South Asian Women in Novels	115
Introduction	117
1. <i>Brick Lane</i> (2003), by Monica Ali	120
1.1 Hybrid Identity and Re-configuration of ‘Home’	122

1.2 'sisterhood' Lost and 'sisterhood' Re-created.....	134
1.3 'Love', Marriage and 'Home'	142
2. <i>Life Isn't All Ha Ha Hee Hee</i> (1999), by Meera Syal.....	149
2.1 Hybridity and 'Home'	151
2.2 'sisterhoods' and 'Homes'	157
2.3 'Love', Marriage and Love Triangles	166
3. <i>The Namesake</i> (2003), by Jhumpa Lahiri.....	171
3.1 Ashima: Hybrid or Hyphenated Identity	173
3.2 Types of 'sisterhoods'	179
3.2.1 Mother-daughter relationships.....	181
3.2.2 Ashima and white women	183
3.3 'Love' as Substitute of 'sisterhood'	186
Chapter III. Transnational 'Homes' of Diasporic South Asian Women in Films	191
Introduction.....	193
1. <i>Brick Lane</i> (2007), director Sarah Gavron.....	195
1.1 Hybridity and 'Home'	197
1.2 'sisterhood' and 'Home'.....	203
1.2.1 Water as a predator.....	208
1.2.2 The running metaphor	211
1.2.3 Mothers and daughters.....	212
1.2.4 Nazneen and Mrs. Islam	213
1.3 'Love' and 'Home'	214
1.3.1 Secrets, 'love' and 'sisterhood'	215
2. <i>The Namesake</i> (2006), director Mira Nair	221
2.1 Ashima: Hybridity Challenged or The Challenges of Hybridity?.....	223
2.2 Negotiated 'sisterhoods'.....	230
2.3 'Love', Communion, 'Home'.....	236
FINAL CONCLUSIONS.....	243
Bibliography.....	247