

**Prof. Marina Hertrampf and Dr. Diana Mistreanu**

**Professorship of Romance Literature and Culture with a focus on France**

**PICAIS funded International Conference on Shumona Sinha's Oeuvre in the presence of the author**

**27 July - 29 July 2023**

*« Chacun est un monde en soi. Chacun porte en soi un monde entier, un monde en désordre ».*

Colloque international sur l'œuvre de Shumona Sinha avec la participation de l'autrice

*"Each of us is a world in itself. Each of us carries within a whole world, a world in disarray."*

*International Conference on Shumona Sinha's oeuvre with the participation of the author*

The international conference *"Chacun est un monde en soi. Chacun porte en soi un monde entier, un monde en désordre"*. Colloque international sur l'œuvre de Shumona Sinha avec la participation de l'autrice took place at the University of Passau from 27th to 29th July 2023. Funded by the Passau International Centre for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies (PICAIS) of the University of Passau, the conference was organized by Professor Marina Ortrud M. Hertrampf and postdoctoral researcher and PICAIS Research-in-Residence Fellow Diana Mistreanu. The three-day conference brought together academics from four continents and fourteen different countries who share an interest for translingual fiction, migrant and refugee narratives, and the interplay between literature and transcontinental migration in the contemporary world.

This event was the first international conference on the literary creation of the contemporary Franco-Indian writer Shumona Sinha, whose work, originally published in French, has been translated into several languages (English, German, Italian, Arabic, Hungarian) and won several awards in France and abroad (including the *Prix Populiste* in 2011 and the *Prix Valéry-Larbaud* in 2012, the *Grand Prix du Roman de la Société des gens de lettres* and the *Prix du Rayonnement de la langue et de la littérature françaises de l'Académie française* in 2014). In the German-speaking world, Shumona Sinha, translated by Lena Müller, received the International Literature Prize of the Berlin House of World Cultures in 2016; she was also writer-in-residence at the Literaturhaus Zürich (2016) and at the Literarisches Colloquium Berlin (2017), and her first novel (*"Erschlagt die Armen!"*, Nautilus, 2015) has been adapted for the stage on several occasions (e.g. by Anne Lenk at Hamburg's Thalia Theater and by Zino Wey at Munich's Residenztheater).

The International Conference began on the evening of July 27 with a roundtable discussion with Shumona Sinha, who was present as a guest author to discuss her work with participants, exchange ideas and answer questions about her writing. Entitled "Xenography, Migration and Fiction: Conversation with Shumona Sinha and Public Reading of Excerpts from her Oeuvre in German,

French and English", the literary evening brought together researchers and students. They were particularly interested in Sinha's novels in the context of the major social and political phenomena shaping the world today, such as migration, contemporary European politics, the rise of new nationalist movements worldwide and the interplay of racism, xenophobia, populism, capitalism and gender hierarchy, and wanted to discuss these with the author.

The next two conference days included panels on Sinha's refugee and migration narratives, as well as on reconceptualizing frameworks and methodologies for understanding topics such as womanhood, feminism and migration. The diversity of approaches to Sinha's work hailed from geocriticism, narratology and stylistics, to interculturality, intermediality, intertextuality, the medical humanities, and didactics (one of the papers presented creative methods of teaching French to the students of the Bavarian Realschule, using excerpts from Shumona Sinha's books). The conference ended on the evening of July 29 with a guided tour of the City of Three Rivers.

The PICAIS created and supported an international framework for exploring and building interdisciplinary knowledge on fiction and migration, bringing to the University of Passau scholars from all over the world around the work of one of France's boldest and most creative contemporary authors.