

THE INTERDISCIPLINARY HUMANITIES CENTER SERIES:

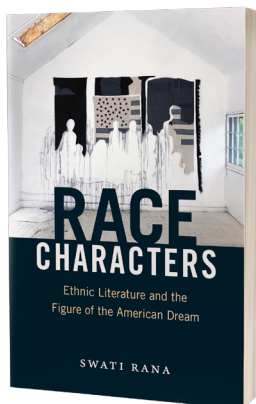
HUMANITIES DECANTED

PRESENTING NEW PUBLICATIONS AND CREATIVE PROJECTS BY HFA FACULTY

Join us online for a dialogue between **Swati Rana** (English) and **Stephanie L. Batiste** (English) about Rana's new book, *Race Characters: Ethnic Literature and the Figure of the American Dream*. Audience Q&A will follow.

Thursday, April 29 | 4:00 pm

Visit bit.ly/Rana-IHC for online event registration



SWATI RANA

Race Characters: Ethnic Literature and the Figure of the American Dream (UNC Press, 2020)

A vexed figure inhabits U.S. literature and culture: the visibly racialized immigrant who disavows minority identity and embraces the American dream. Such figures are potent and controversial, for they promise to expiate racial violence and perpetuate an exceptionalist ideal of America. Swati Rana grapples with these figures, building on studies of literary character and racial form. Rana offers a new way to view characterization through racialization that creates a fuller social reading of race. Situated in a nascent period of ethnic identification from 1900 to 1960, this book focuses on immigrant writers who do not fit neatly into a resistance-based model of ethnic literature and whose writings symbolize different aspects of the American dream, from individualism to imperialism, assimilation to upward mobility. Analyzing the interrelation of persona and personhood, *Race Characters* presents an original method of comparison, revealing how the protagonist of the American dream is socially constrained and structurally driven.



Swati Rana is Assistant Professor of English at UC Santa Barbara. She specializes in twentieth-century U.S. literature, comparative ethnic literature, and transnational American studies. Her research has appeared in *American Literary History*, *American Literature*, and *Journal of Asian American Studies*, and her creative writing has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Granta*, *Crazyhorse*, *The Asian American Literary Review*, *Wasafiri*, and elsewhere.

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