

Event Title: Mangoes or Pizza: Battling Self-Censorship to Write/Right the Self **Type of Event:** Multiple Literary Genres
Craft & Criticism

Event Description: For writers of color, rendering the authentic self in their writing is messy and complicated, especially when the landscape they identify with and write about is the subject of western stereotypes and misrepresentation. How does a writer write freely without having to worry about always looking at oneself through the eyes of the other? Four Pakistani writers discuss how they maintain a genuine voice when writing about themselves as the other in their poetry, fiction, and non-fiction.

Statement of Merit: This panel offers a fresh set of voices on the topic of self-censorship and representation that is often the subject of debate among writers of color and their readers. Writers of South Asian descent have to negotiate their post-colonial past as well as their post 9/11 present to tell stories that are compelling and honest. By focusing on Pakistani writers, this panel showcases the challenges of mis/under represented writers of color writing under the ever-present western gaze.

Participants

Moderator: Farah Habib (farah.habib@bristolcc.edu)

Participant: Mushtaq Bilal (mushtaq@binghamton.edu)

Participant: Sehba Sarwar (ss@sehbasarwar.com)

Participant: Soniah Kamal (soniahkamal@gmail.com)