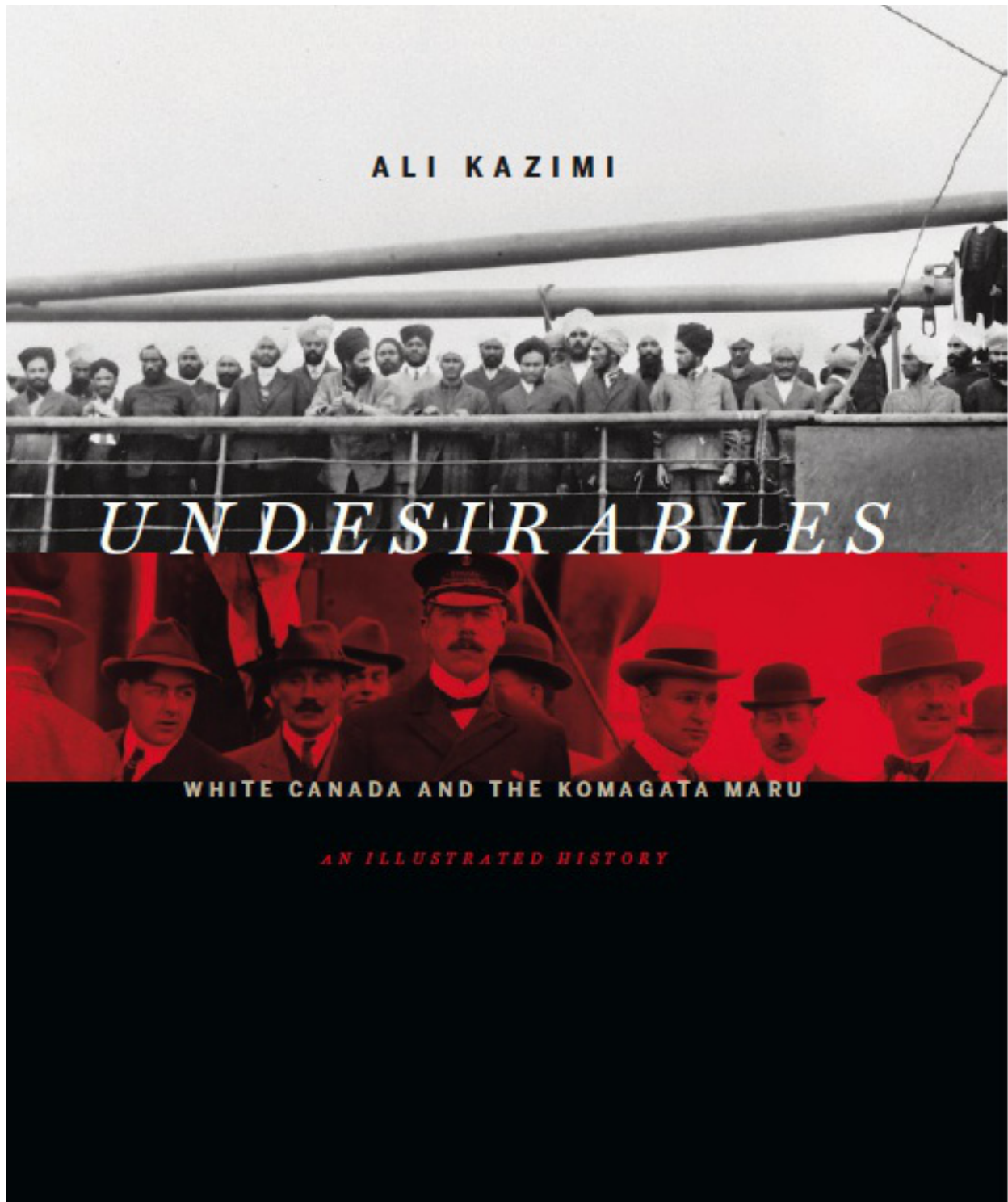




**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**

**Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur**



ALI KAZIMI

UNDESTRABLES

WHITE CANADA AND THE KOMAGATA MARU

*AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY*

Public Lecture

by

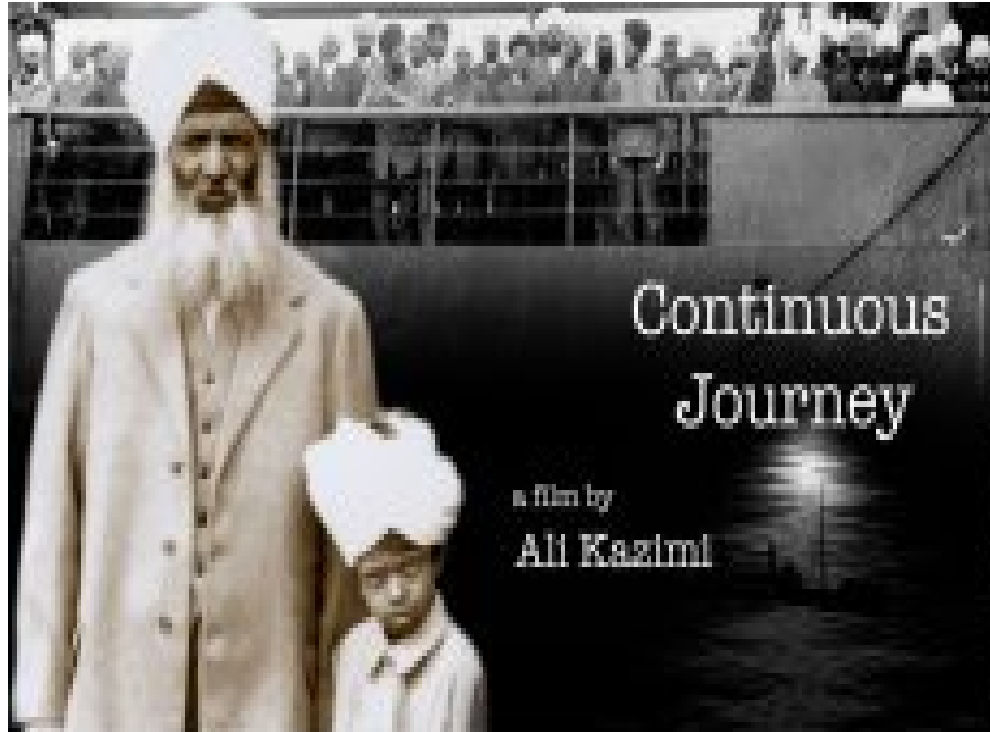
**Ali Kazimi**

15<sup>th</sup> February 2015, 7 P.M. at Gargi Auditorium

## ***Ali Kazimi***

*Internationally-acclaimed filmmaker, author and visual artist*

*Director, "Continuous Journey" (2004)*



Screening of *Continuous Journey* (2004)

**Ali Kazimi**

15<sup>th</sup> February 2015

### **Engaging The Visual Archive**

There are a little over two-dozen visual images of the events surrounding the Komagata Maru. A single photograph or two represents most key figures in this history. I was repeatedly told that making a documentary film based on this archive is impossible. My talk will cover the challenges faced in making a visually layered film, *Continuous Journey* (2004), and the critically acclaimed book *White Canada and the Komagata Maru- An Illustrated History*.



## *Ali Kazimi*

*Internationally-acclaimed filmmaker, author and visual artist  
Director, "Continuous Journey" (2004)*



Ali Kazimi is an India-born, Toronto-based award-winning filmmaker whose career spans over two decades. His point of view films address a wide range of social, environmental and historical issues. They have been heralded as beautifully crafted and astutely observed. In 2005, *Now Magazine* declared Kazimi Toronto's Best Documentarian, "In a city crowded with great documentary filmmakers -- Allan King , John Walker , Richard Fung , Laura Sky , Peter Lynch -- Ali Kazimi stands out... Whether it's the story of an Iroquois photographer, Canadian government racism or villagers resisting an Indian mega-dam, there's a common thread. Kazimi's films are both the ongoing diary of an immigrant and a wide-ranging critique of hidden power".

Kazimi's films have won over thirty national and international awards and honours including: *Narmada: A Valley Rises* (Best Political Film and Best Director, Hot Docs (1994)); *Shooting Indians: A Journey with Jeffery Thomas* (Nominated for Best Documentary, Genie Awards 1997); *Continuous Journey* (The Ram Bahadur Trophy for the Best Film of Festival, Films South Asia, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2005, The Golden Conch, Mumbai International Film Festival, India, 2006 and The Colin Low Award for the Most Innovative Canadian Documentary, DOXA Film + Video Festival, Vancouver, 2005); and *Runaway Grooms* (The Donald Brittain Award (Gemini Award) for Best Social/Political Documentary, 2006).

He is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Film, Faculty of Fine Arts at York University where he teaches production and is the lead filmmaker in 3FLIC, a stereoscopic 3D research/ creation/ training project.

Ali Kazimi's first book, *Undesirables: White Canada and the Komagata Maru – An Illustrated History* launches in May 2012.



*An Interdisciplinary International Conference*  
on  
**Memorializing a Forgotten Chapter: The Komagata Maru Episode**  
*Sponsored by the Ministry of Culture & Indian Council of Social Science Research*  
**February 15-17 2015**  
**Department of Humanities & Social Sciences**  
**Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India**

**Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

9.00 a.m. Leave for Budge Budge Komagata Maru Memorial  
1.00 p.m. Lunch in Gurdwara Shaheed Ganj, Budge Budge  
2.00 p.m. Leave Budge Budge for IIT Kharagpur

**7.00 p.m. Public Lecture & Film Screening**

Chairperson: Professor Harish Puri  
Public Lecture by Ali Kazimi. "Engaging The Visual Archive"  
& Screening of *Continuous Journey*  
*Gargi Auditorium, Vikramshila Complex*

**Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

9.30 a.m.  
Patchitrakar's Performance & Poster Exhibition  
*Gargi Foyer, Vikramshila Complex*

**Tea Break** 10.30 a.m.-11 a.m.

*Gargi Foyer, Vikramshila Complex*

**Inaugural Session** 11 a.m.-12.30 p.m.

Inaugural Address by Professor Jaspal Singh  
Keynote Address by Professor Harish Puri. The Saga of the Komagata Maru: Colonial  
Imagination of "Undesirables"  
Felicitations of Guests of Honour  
Mr Surinder Pal Singh  
Sr Bachan Singh Saral  
*Gargi Auditorium, Vikramshila Complex*

**Lunch** 12.30-2.00 p.m.

*Gargi Foyer, Vikramshila Complex*

### **Paper Presentations**

Session I 2.30 p.m-4.00 p.m.

*Archive: Public & Personal*

Chairperson/Discussant: Professor Arun Bandopadhyay

Dr Ananda Bhattacharya. Unknown History of the Komagata Maru

Dr D S Tatla. Being Sikh, Feeling Punjabi, Advocating Indian! On Gurdit Singh's Multi-Social Identity through his Accounts of the Komagata Maru Voyage

Dr Malwinder Singh Waraich. Komagata Maru: Silences and Gaps in Historical Narratives

*NKN Classroom, Takshshila Complex*

**Tea Break** 4.00-4.15 p.m.

Session II 4.15-5.15 p.m.

*Textual Representations*

Chairperson/Discussant: Professor Himadri Banerji

Professor Nandi Bhatia. Dramatizing the Komagata Maru Incident

Dr Meena T Pillai. On Filming Komagata Maru: The Trauma of Representation

*NKN Classroom, Takshshila Complex*

6.30 p.m.-8.30 p.m.

*Play Reading*

Chairperson/Discussant: Professor Nandi Bhatia

Dr S N Sewak. Komagata Maru: The Forgotten Heroes

*NKN Classroom, Takshshila Complex*

### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

Session III 9.30 a.m.-11.00 a.m.

*Stories and Histories*

Chairperson/Discussant: Professor Amritjit Singh

Professor Chaman Lal. Literary Representations of Komagata Maru in Selected Punjabi Literary Texts

Professor Subhas Chakraborty. The Journey of the Komagata Maru: Memory and History

Professor Arun Bandopadhyay. Memorializing Komagata Maru: An Event, a Longer Story or a Prototype for Future Protest?

*HSS Seminar Room*

**Tea Break** 11 a.m.-11.15 a.m.

Sesstion IV 11.15 a.m.-1.15 p.m.

*Mobilities and Subjecthood*

Chairperson/Discussant: Professor Kushal Vibhute

Dr. Doris Jakobsh & Dr Margaret Walton-Roberts. A Century of Miri Piri: Securing Sikh Belonging in Canada

Professor Pramod Nayar. Dissident Mobilities: *Komagata Maru* and Indian Travellers in the Empire

Professor Anjali Gera Roy. Immobility Regimes and Regulation of Free Movements from Punjab

*HSS Seminar Room*

**Lunch Break** 1.15 p.m.-3.00 p.m.

Session V 3.00 p.m.-4.30 p.m.

*Different Memories of the Komagata Maru*

Chairperson/Discussant: Professor Subhas Chakraborty

Madhumita Roy & Debarati Dutta. A Note on the Gaps and the Silences in Remembering Komagata Maru in Budge Budge

Mr H S Gill. Memorializing a Forgotten Chapter

Dr Gurbaksh Singh. Komagata Maru: A Japanese Perspective

*HSS Seminar Room*

**Tea Break** 4.30 p.m.-4.45 p.m.

**Valedictory Session**

4.45 p.m.-5.45 p.m.

Address by Professor O P Sha. Dean(CE). IIT Kharagpur

Valedictory Address. Professor Amritjit Singh. Imagining Komagata Maru: The Drama and its Characters

*HSS Seminar Room*

