### Overview of the Collection

**Title**
Stories To Tell Oral History Project: A South Asian Perspective on COVID-19

**Dates**
2020 July-August (inclusive)
2020-07-07 2020-08-06

**Quantity**
31.8 gigabytes, (10 recordings)

**Collection Number**
XOE_CPNWS0373

**Summary**
A series of interviews conducted by Dr. Dharitri Bhattacharjee during July and August 2020, documenting the COVID-19 pandemic-related experiences and perspectives of individuals who identify as South Asian. Interviews were broadcast originally via the Western C.A.R.E.S. program.

**Repository**
Western Washington University, Center for Pacific Northwest Studies
Goltz-Murray Archives Building
808 25th St.
Bellingham, WA
98225
Telephone: 360-650-7534
cpnws@wwu.edu

**Access Restrictions**
This collection is open to the public (see links below in this guide to digital recordings posted on the MABEL platform). Use/publication restrictions apply to one interview. Please contact repository for details.

**Languages**
English

### Content Description

A series of interviews conducted by Dr. Dharitri Bhattacharjee during July and August 2020, documenting the COVID-19 pandemic-related experiences and perspectives of individuals who identify as South Asian. Interviews were broadcast originally via the Western C.A.R.E.S. program.

The series sought to welcome, share and preserve a diversity of South Asian oral histories, mostly from the Pacific Northwest. Dr. Dharitri Bhattacharjee (South Asian and Indian Ocean historian from Western Washington University’s History Department) talked to interviewees including students, small business owners, essential workers, community leaders, refugees and academics about their myriad responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Use of the Collection

Stories To Tell Oral History Project: A South Asian Perspective on COVID-19, 2020 July-August
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv345932
Restrictions on Use
Use and publication restrictions apply to the Hakeem Naim interview. Please contact repository regarding access and details.

Alternative Forms Available
Copies of these interviews will also be made available via the South Asian American Digital Archives.

Preferred Citation

Administrative Information

Custodial History
The collection was donated to the Center for Pacific Northwest Studies by Dr. Dharitri Bhattacharjee in August 2020.

Processing Note
Original video recordings edited by Eric Mastor and collection processed by CPNWS staff in August 2020.

Detailed Description of the Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rose Kular interview</td>
<td>2020 July 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rose Kular is a Bellingham</td>
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<td>resident, student at Western</td>
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<td>Washington University and a</td>
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<td>Sikh-American. Interview</td>
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<td>topics include online</td>
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<td>learning and school-home</td>
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<td>balance during the pandemic,</td>
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<td>and Black Lives Matter.</td>
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<td>Samia Jannat interview</td>
<td>2020 July 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Samia Jannat, Seattle resident and Research Coordinator at University of Washington School of Medicine discusses death and dying during Covid-19.</td>
<td>2020 July 9</td>
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<td>Yug Dabadi interview</td>
<td>2020 July 14</td>
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<td>Yug Dabadi, microbiologist at Washington School of Medicine and Seattle resident discusses transitioning from being a Bhutanese refugee to becoming a community leader.</td>
<td>2020 July 14</td>
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<td>Ruhel Islam interview</td>
<td>2020 July 16</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ruhel Islam, owner of Gandhi Mahal Restaurant in Minneapolis, discusses life in Bangladesh, creating community over food, Minneapolis protests and Black Lives Matter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Batool Zaidi interview<a href="#">view</a> Batool Zaidi, Assistant Professor at Western (Sociology) and International faculty from Pakistan, discusses will talk about work visas, immigration and conducting research during a pandemic.</td>
<td>2020 July 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamrun Nessa Mirza interview<a href="#">view</a> Kamrun Nessa Mirza, an engineer, entrepreneur and community leader, discusses women, education, Islam and the Spreeha community kitchen.</td>
<td>2020 July 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kajori Chaudhuri interview<a href="#">view</a> Kajori Chaudhuri, Assistant Commissioner, NYC Commission on Human Rights, discusses identity, career and the challenges of strengthening community relations remotely.</td>
<td>2020 July 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amarnath Deva interview<a href="#">view</a> Amarnath Deva, owner of Mayuri International Grocery Store, discusses small businesses, the economy, immigrant consumer culture and adapting to a changed notion of public space during the pandemic.</td>
<td>2020 July 30</td>
</tr>
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<td>Gursewak Singh interview<a href="#">view</a> Gursewak Singh, student and Nursing Assistant at Mt. Baker Care Center, talks about being an essential worker in the long-term care unit at the Center.</td>
<td>2020 August 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hakeem Naim interview Hakeem Naim, Visiting Assistant Professor at Western (History) and lecturer at UC Berkeley, talks about online teaching, publishing and quarantine parenting for special needs children. This interview is subject to a publication/use restriction until 2050-08-06. Please contact repository for more information or to request access.</td>
<td>2020 August 6</td>
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</tbody>
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**Names and Subjects**

**Subject Terms**:
- Coronavirus infections -- Economic aspects -- United States.
- COVID-19 (Disease) -- United States -- Personal narratives.
- Quarantine -- Personal narratives.
- Quarantine -- Social aspects.
- South Asian American -- Interviews.

**Form or Genre Terms**:
- Interviews.

Stories To Tell Oral History Project: A South Asian Perspective on COVID-19, 2020 July-August
http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv345932
Personal narratives.
Video recordings.

Other Creators:
Personal Names:
Bhattacharjee, Dharitri, -- interviewer, -- donor.
(dnr)
Roth, Athena, -- host.
(hst)

Corporate Names:
Western Washington University. -- Western C.A.R.E.S Program.
(sht)

Finding aid prepared by CPNWS staff (with input and assistance from Dr. Dharitri Bhattacharjee).
August 2020