



**Tel.:(02) 2982177- Fax : (02) 2982981- P.O. Box 14 Birzeit Department of English language & Literature**

The Department of English Language and Literature would like to invite you to a public lecture titled: **Out of India and Back Again: The Circulation of *Savitri***

Presented by: **Dr. Rashna Nicholson**

Dr. Nicholson is postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Theatre Studies, University of Munich.  
**Saturday, April 29 at 2:00pm in Aziz Shaheen 256**

Abstract:

In 1878 Count Angelo de Gubernatis, an orientalist with theatrical aspirations translated a little-known Sanskrit text *Savitri* into Italian. Subsequently the play was retranslated into English by a fellow orientalist and then by the Parsi playwright Nānābhāi Rūstamjī Rānīnā from English to Gujarati to fulfill the Counts' wish to popularize the myth in India. While the Italian, English and French and German versions that followed achieved great popularity in Europe, the Bombay production was a dramatic failure. Nevertheless, forty years hence it became a running trope in European and Indian theatre, although its cinematic version another failure.

Through the comparative analysis of the text's transmogrification and the contrasting reception of the Italian, English, French, German, Gujarati and cinematic versions, this presentation attempts not only to untangle the knotty roots of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's 'Weltliteratur' but also traces the imbalanced economies of world literature.

Bio

Rashna Nicholson is a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Theatre Studies at the University of Munich. Her doctoral thesis 'The Theatre of Empire' is a critical history of the nineteenth

century Parsi theatre, South and South East Asia's most prolific commercial theatrical phenomenon.