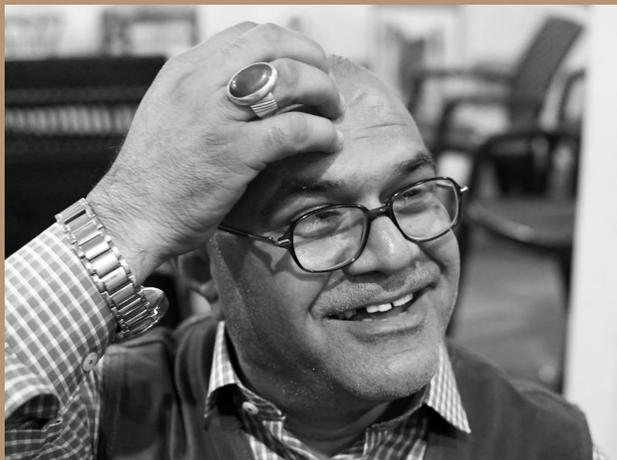


## Discussing Des Raj Kali's rebuttal to Mahabharat's *Shanti Parva*: 'Treatise on Peace'

**Neeti Singh** (University of Baroda) in conversation with **Des Raj Kali**  
Thursday, April 8th at 6 pm in India (3.30 pm Israel, 2.30 pm France, 1.30 pm UK)



Des Raj Kali is an acclaimed Punjabi Dalit writer, historian and columnist. He has authored over fifteen books – fiction and nonfiction; his primary areas of interest are the Ghadar movement, Dalit issues, Punjabi literature, myth and culture. As a journalist and columnist, Kali is very active on Punjabi social media. He also publishes a literary quarterly called Lakeer.

Des Raj Kali's novel, *Shanti Parav*, is an oblique response and rebuttal to its (close) namesake – *Shanti Parva* – the twelfth book of Mahabharata which is a treatise on peace, the ideals of state laws – statehood, and the pertinence of punitive measures implemented by the state. Located in the aftermath of the 1947 Partition, Kali's *Shanti Parav* discourses the subterranean and palimpsest tendencies of power, privilege and violence. The agency and representations of violence around us may have changed,

but beneath the veneer of justice and democratic right, the structures of abuse and violence continue to regurgitate as crudely and as brutally across land, time and state. In terms of its approach to literary form, structure, aesthetics and the discourse that it posits, *Shanti Parav* can be read as a work of poised resistance, as work that is experimental, polyphonic and poststructural, and as writing that has opened up new avenues for fiction in general as well as for fiction in the dalit-scape of writing and discourse.

**Neeti Singh** is a translator and a poet who writes in English. She works with The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat, as Associate Professor of English. Dr Singh's doctoral research was on Bhakti Poetry in Medieval India, its Inception, Cultural Encounter and Impact, with Special Reference to the Work of Kabir and Nanak. She has published four books and over twenty research papers, till date.



How to connect: <https://huji.zoom.us/j/89918634595?>

**PASSWORD** to the session is the date of the session in the format DDMMYYYY. That is, if the session would be on December 1st 2020, the password would be 01122020. Please contact Marina ([marina.rimscha@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:marina.rimscha@mail.huji.ac.il)) should you have trouble connecting.

Co-conveners:

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