

International Student Experience

Amit Sarwal

(MBA 2015-2017)

Broadcaster, Writer and Researcher

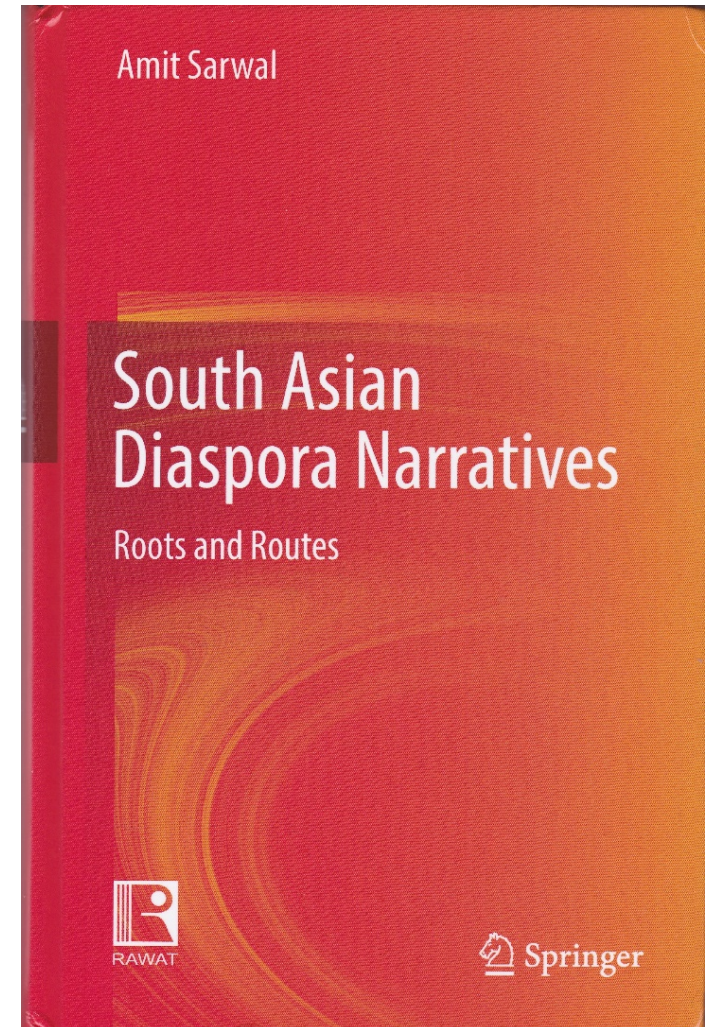
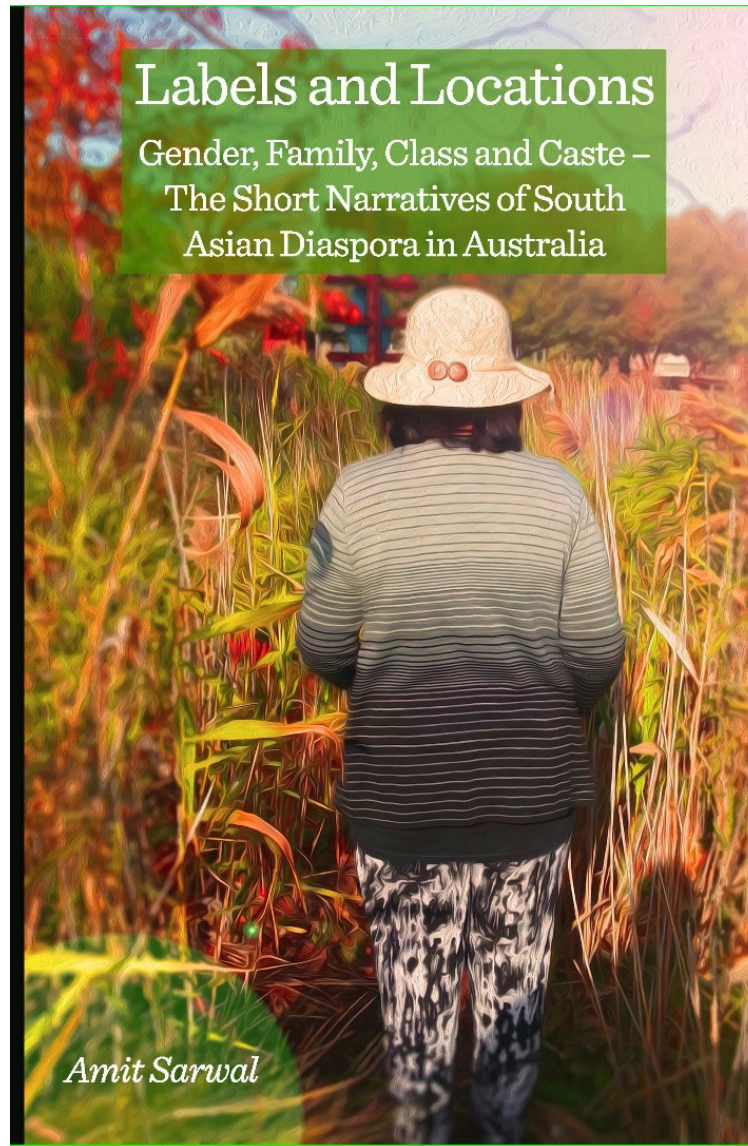
About Me:

- MBA - Federation University 2015-17
- Founding Convenor - Australia-India Interdisciplinary Research Network (AIIRN)
- Finalist - Victorian Government's International Education Awards 2016



Academic/Author

- PhD in English Literature from Jawaharlal Nehru University (India)
- Published research in high-ranking international journals
- Author: Short Narratives of South Asian Diaspora (2016/17) and Labels and Locations (2015)



Expert/Broadcaster

- Featured expert: The Conversation, ABC Radio National, Sky News, SBS, Times of India, The Saturday Paper and other Indian community media publications
- Joined SBS Radio Hindi as a Producer in 2016

Why did I choose Federation University's MBA program?

- Contribute or lead an Australian university's India engagement strategy
- Create specialised study tour programs
- Money or Fees
- a traditional 2 years MBA program – valued back home
- Prompt application paperwork at Federation University
- communication between the partner institute and Federation University played a big role



What did I like most about my program?

- Diversity on campus
 - Majority group: India and China
 - Others: South Asian and East Asian countries
- Lecturers were friendly
- Partner institute strived towards creating clubs
 - Film tickets
 - Cricket
 - Fun/group activities
 - Local sightseeing tours

What kind of resources were available or not available?

- Available:

1. Small library
2. Computers
3. Prayer room
4. Lecturer feedback

- Lacking:

1. Internship opportunity
2. Job placement
3. Career counselling

How can partner institutes help international students?

- Interaction/Trust:
 - visit/skype orientation talk by course coordinator
- Working in diverse groups should be encouraged
 - regionalism should be discouraged
- Student support platforms:
 - Language help
 - Academic support
 - Student advisers/mentors
 - On-arrival reception
 - Regular counselling (mental and sexual assault)

Contd.

- Fair Work:
 - Student placements
 - Unpaid Work or Underpaid work
- Student Services:
 - Consumer Protection
 - Overseas Students Ombudsman
 - Student accommodation
 - Job placement
- Awards:
 - State level international education awards (ex: Victorian International Education Awards - International Student of the Year)
- Student Association:
 - Australian Federation of International Students (AFIS)
 - Council of International Students Australia (CISA)

Thanks