

Ameera Nimjee is a musician, dancer, scholar, and educator. She holds a Bachelor of Music and Associate's Diploma in classical piano performance, and an MA and PhD in ethnomusicology. Ameera performs often as a musician and kathak dancer in Canada, the US, and India, and remains a member of Toronto-based Chhandam Dance Company under her teacher Joanna de Souza. Ameera's scholarly research explores transnational economies of South Asian performance arts, and how practitioners navigate issues of citizenship, race, and gender. Currently, Ameera is Assistant Professor of Ethnomusicology and Asian Studies at the University of Puget Sound, where she teaches courses on music, dance, and the study of culture.



Title of presentation: **“Performing South Asia: Racializing Indian Dance on the American Floor”**

South Asians in the United States are subsumed under the larger political category of “Asian American.” They often experience civic life in ways that reflect their hyphenated citizenship, bound politically to what happens at home and in transnational South Asian contexts. This presentation explores the performance of South Asia through forms of Indian dance on the American dance floor. I consider how the racialization of Indian dance as “ethnic” and “traditional” can often obfuscate the performance of South Asian culture by dominant Indian bodies. How does the disaggregated racialization of “POC” South Asian bodies (and cultural praxis) in the US confront caste, anti-Muslim politics, and majority narratives of Indian dance?