

## ABSTRACT

This thesis, titled “Post-9/11 Fiction and the Geographies of Precarity: A Study of Select Texts,” examines the implications of 9/11 across a critical geographical spectrum through the lens of precarity. Precarity, here, is treated as an extreme form of othering that 9/11 redistributes to the material and affective geographies. As such, the convergence of the fictional representations of 9/11 with precarity activates a critique that goes beyond the regular American narratives of trauma and terror. The thirteen primary texts under scrutiny are: Adib Khan’s *The Spiral Road* (2007), Laila Halaby’s *Once in a Promised Land* (2007), Inaam Kachachi’s *The American Granddaughter* (2008), Amy Waldman’s *The Submission* (2011), Joydeep Roy-Bhattacharya’s *The Watch* (2012), Fatima Bhutto’s *The Shadow of the Crescent Moon* (2013), Sinan Antoon’s *The Corpse Washer* (2013), Karan Mahajan’s *The Association of Small Bombs* (2016), Kamila Shamsie’s *Home Fire* (2017), Nadeem Aslam’s *The Golden Legend* (2017), Mohammed Hanif’s *Red Birds* (2018), Laila Lalami’s *The Other Americans* (2019), and Rayyan Al-Shawaf’s *When All Else Fails* (2019). The thesis argues that diverse subjects, spaces, and structures continue to be at risk in different ways that cannot be explained only through American narratives of trauma and terror. In doing so, the figure of the ‘other’ emerges or gets reinvented in different configurations within the framework of post-9/11 precarity that is transnational and transdisciplinary. It is seen how different forms of alterity interact and intersect in the texts examined here, highlighting the fluidity of precarity. Precarity in this sense is created and sustained through systemic boundaries of nations, concerns, and ideologies. In effect, dis/embodied forms of the ‘other’ form the ‘precariat’ and feature as a condition, consequence, or both. In this sense, the thesis approaches precarity as a phenomenon that casts its long shadow on human, non-human, and more-than-human suspects. By its attempt to look in and beyond the US-centric 9/11 narratives, in view of the representations of the globally disenfranchised, the study counters the precarity of narrative itself. The thesis adopts an eclectic methodology, combining insights and reading strategies drawn from precarity studies, postcolonial studies, displacement studies, and critical geography.