

University of Colombo, Sri Lanka

Faculty of Arts

Special Degree Examination in Arts (English) Year 2, Semester 1, 2017/2018

ENG 2118 – Discourses in Migrant Writing

Two Hours

Answer any **TWO** questions.

1. Discuss the notion of 'home' as a field of tension, making detailed reference to any **one** of the texts/performance texts that you have studied this semester. (Please note that you **cannot** address the same text in your next answer.)
2. Critically analyse how Jhumpa Lahiri's "The Third and Final Continent" and Chimamanda Adiche's "Imitation" creatively juxtapose the sense experience of dislocation around being a migrant in America with the complex set of processes and emotions that produce a sense of belonging.
3. "Identity is not as transparent or unproblematic as we think. Perhaps instead of thinking about identity as an already accomplished fact, [...] we should think, instead, of identity as a 'production', which is never complete, always in process." With reference to the above quotation, discuss Laila Halaby's short story "The Bastard of Salinas" in terms of how the authenticity and authority of identity is called into question.
4. Discuss D'Lo's performance of *D'Amma* and Suheir Hammad's performance of *First Writing Since*, taking into consideration their representation of the conditions of migrancy as performed, and the projection of non-nation based solidarities.
5. "By making a clear distinction between his book and history, Ondaatje reminds us of the extent to which the rational, the empirical and pragmatic view has obliterated all other modes of experiencing reality." What other imaginative ways of seeing and experiencing reality does Ondaatje offer us in *Running in the Family*? Discuss, making detailed reference to the text.

* * * * *