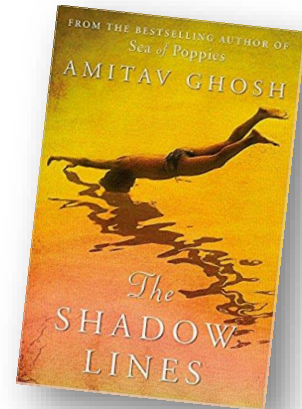
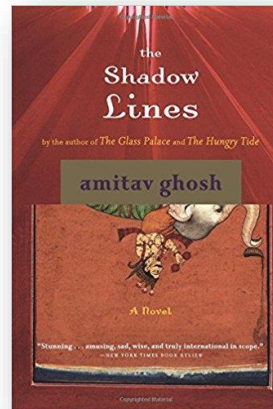
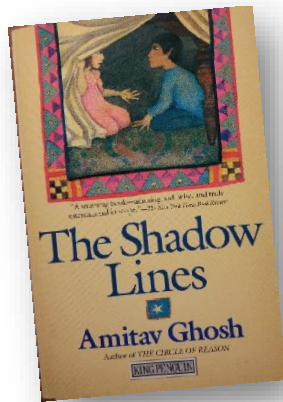




## *The Shadow Lines* Thirty Years After International Conference



We have the pleasure to announce that an international Conference to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the publication of *The Shadow Lines* will take place at the Universities of Milano and Torino on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

Amitav Ghosh's second novel, *The Shadow Lines*, was notoriously conceived in 1984 in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination, when Delhi was upturned by bloodthirsty mobs that attacked Sikh people killing, raping and looting. This was the "madeleine" that brought the would-be novelist (he was halfway through *The Circle of Reason* then) back to 1964, when a similar mob attacked Hindus in Dhaka, where Ghosh was living with his family. Thus *The Shadow Lines* became a historical novel about Bengal in the Sixties, a portrait of post-Independence India, a Bildungsroman (or indeed a Künstlerroman?) about a young Bengali, an Indian reply to both *Portrait of the Artist* and the *Recherche* that enthused a generation of Indian intellectuals. Indeed this was the first and so far only novel by a living author to be included in University syllabi all over India. Certainly this is, among Ghosh's books, the most written about, especially in South Asia.

*The Shadow Lines* has gained enormous resonance in postcolonial studies as it touches upon some of the major issues in the fields of colonial history, national identities, memory and borders. The novel has been seminal in the definition and discussion of a postcolonial geography that challenges the current cartographical order. Indeed it has inspired reflections even outside the field of postcolonial studies, as in the case of border theory.

Thirty years after its publication, it is worth reflecting upon the topicality of this novel and its position in the subsequent production of its author. What has been the literary impact of *The Shadow Lines* on Indian literature in these decades? How can *SL* help us read Ghosh's later production and how can later novels help us read *SL*? Can new ways of reading be applied to *SL*? Is it possible to tackle the novel within the framework of Gender Studies, Ecocriticism, Thing Theory, Dalit Studies, Border Studies, Animal Studies, World Literature? How does it engage with linguistic and discursive strategies? What books even outside the Anglosphere have influenced or have been influenced by *The Shadow Lines*?

We welcome paper proposals addressing, but not limited to, the topics above mentioned. Proposals should not exceed 250 words and must provide 3-5 keywords. Please send the proposals jointly to [Esterino.Adami@unito.it](mailto:Esterino.Adami@unito.it), [Carmen.Concilio@unito.it](mailto:Carmen.Concilio@unito.it) and [Alessandro.Vescovi@unimi.it](mailto:Alessandro.Vescovi@unimi.it).

**Deadline for submission:** June 30th.

**Notification of acceptance:** within July 31st.

Please note that a Conference fee of 50 € will be applied to cover lunch and coffee breaks costs.

**International Scientific Committee:**

Silvia Albertazzi, University of Bologna

Supriya Chaudhuri, University of Jadavpur, Kolkata

Anna Nadotti, Einaudi

John Thieme, University of East Anglia

**Organizing Committee:**

Esterino Adami, University of Turin

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**Secretary:**

Carlotta Beretta, University of Bologna

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