

CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND
TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES
SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE



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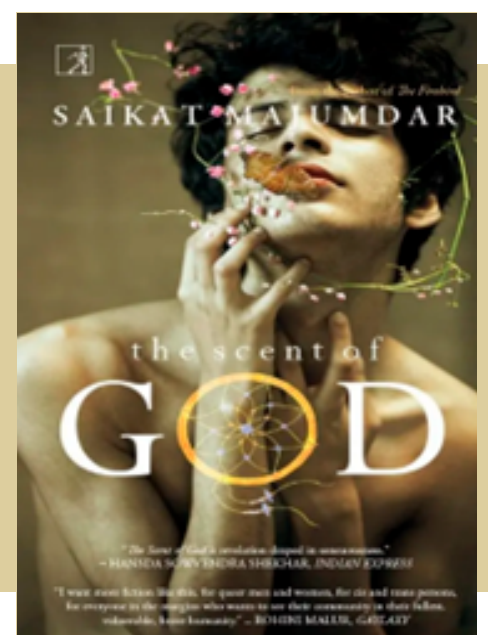
Fictions of Ideas

Author Reading and Conversation with
Prof. Saikat Majumdar
Ashoka University, India



The SAI in cooperation with the Literaturforum Indien e.V. warmly invites you to a conversation with Saikat Majumdar, an acclaimed novelist, critic, and academic from India. Majumdar is a Professor of English and Creative Writing at Ashoka University, India and has taught at different universities in the US and Canada. He is the author of five novels: *Silverfish* (2007), *The Firebird* (2015), *The Scent of God* (2019), *The Middle Finger* (2022), and *The Remains of the Body* (2024). His novels explore a vast range of themes, including gender and sexuality, queer identities, and the imprint of religiosity, memory, cultural heritage and academia on erotic selfhoods. Majumdar is also a prolific writer of non-fiction, and his notable works include *The Amateur* (2024) and *Prose of the World* (2013), critical reflections on cross-cultural colonial ontologies, different modes of reading, and the narrative aesthetic of banality, and *College: Pathways of Possibility* (2018), which deals with the transformations taking place in global (and Indian) higher education. His latest publication *Open Intelligence: Education between Art and Artificial* (2026) is a timely take on the changing terrains of education and the relevance of the human and humanities with the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence.

Majumdar will be reading from his celebrated novel *The Scent of God* (2019), which is a story of romantic love and friendship between two teenage boys in a boarding school run by an order of Hindu monks. The reading will be followed by a discussion on his novels, especially his complex treatment of gender, queerness, and eroticism, and his choice of starkly different thought worlds. The conversation will also delve into critical ideas explored by Majumdar in his works of non-fiction, such as the significance of inter-disciplinarity and humanities scholarship in the age of AI.



Date: Tuesday, 07.07.2026
Venue: CATS Library Courtyard
(Room 010.00.01 in case of bad weather)
Time: 6:30pm / 18:30 Uhr s.t.

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