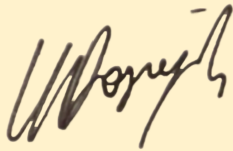


Minutes - Queer Panel | The Cambridge Majlis 23-24 | Michaelmas Term

On 14th November 2023, the Cambridge Majlis hosted Sharan Dhaliwal and Amardeep Singh Dhillon for a discussion on British South Asian identity and activism, chaired by Majlis Internal Vice President Keirit Dosanjh - to our knowledge, one of the first events of this kind in Cambridge, and at any rate, a first for the Majlis. The conversation was wide-ranging and free-flowing, covering Sharan and Amardeep's experiences, identities, work and predictions for the future. Against the background of both of their work protesting against the genocide in Gaza, there was extensive discussion about the way in which different facets of their identity - their race, sexuality, experiences, and queerness more generally - have informed their responses to injustice and activism. Amardeep spoke at length about the ways in which the processes of racialisation and gendering go hand in hand to create othered bodies through both language and action, a history they saw as rooted in colonial systems of categorisation and cartography by the British in South Asia. The question of categorisation and racialisation of the self was picked up by Sharan, who discussed how, in her own life and more broadly, queerness has been aligned with whiteness, and that more radical conceptions of South Asian queerness can be powerful and joyous. Following the discussion and question and answer session, the conversation continued in John's bar, with the palpable feeling of queer South Asian community and belonging.



Keirit Kaur Dosanjh - Vice-President (Internal)
The Cambridge Majlis 2023-4

