

Title: Rethinking the Global Urban Space in Salman Rushdie's Novels

Abstract

While cities—Jahilia, Sikri, Florence, Bombay, Karachi, London, New York and Los Angeles—play a pivotal role in Salman Rushdie's fiction, they have received cursory critical attention until recently. Although a few literary studies have focused on both the significance of cities in Rushdie's artistic *oeuvre* and on the larger questions they raise about the contemporary urban condition, they do not sufficiently take into account the insights provided by emerging interdisciplinary research on cities. Building on the interdisciplinary spatial turn in the humanities, the present study addresses this lacuna in Rushdie studies through focusing on cities in Rushdie's novels and identifying an alternative global urban space in Rushdie's novels. Using an interdisciplinary approach and drawing on an eclectic group of spatial thinkers such as Henri Lefebvre, Edward Soja, Doreen Massey, Pierre Nora, Michel De Certeau, Nigel Thrift, Rosi Braidotti, the thesis hopes to make an intervention in the new understandings of the contemporary global urban condition that privilege global cities as "strategic territories" by rethinking the notion of the global city in two ways. First, the thesis proposes a diachronic perspective on globalization in Rushdie's novels by drawing largely on Edward Soja's concept of *synekism* that is juxtaposed against the synchronic dominated by Saskia Sassen's concept of the global city. Second, the thesis engages with an immanent critique of twenty-first century global cities in Rushdie's novels through focusing on the alternative understanding of the cities of the global south and the alternative spaces produced in the cities of the global north through the movement of the postcolonial migrant at the level of various scales— from the city to the home to the micro level of the body.

Keywords: Salman Rushdie, Globalization, Global City, City, Urban Networks, Synekism, Postmodern, Global North, Global South