Crystal Parikh, Associate Professor of English at New York University, will present a talk entitled *Perpetrating Ourselves: Reading Human Rights and Responsibility*. With increasing attention being paid in the humanities and cultural studies to the topic of human rights, notions of culpability, victimhood, and violation have become central objects of inquiry. This talk argues for an expanded and more nuanced conception of the figure of the “perpetrator” than currently exists in conventional approaches to human rights. It examines the poetry of the diasporic Chinese-Indonesian writer Li-Young Lee and the postwar history of political violence in postcolonial Indonesia, in relation to the ethical theory of Emmanuel Levinas.