

BAKIRATHI MANI

Department of English Literature, Swarthmore College
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EMPLOYMENT

2023 – Presidential Penn Compact Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania
2022—2023 Co-Director, Tri-College Asian American Studies Program
2020—2023 Professor, Department of English Literature, Swarthmore College
2018—2021 Coordinator, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, Swarthmore College
2008—2020 Associate Professor, Department of English Literature, Swarthmore College
2002—2008 Assistant Professor, Department of English Literature, Swarthmore College

EDUCATION

2002 Ph.D., Modern Thought and Literature, Stanford University, Stanford, CA
Ph.D. Minor, Cultural and Social Anthropology

1997 M.A., Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
First-rank, First Class, Modern Indian History

1995 B.S.F.S., School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
Magna Cum Laude, History and Diplomacy, Certificate in Asian Studies

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2021 Visiting Faculty Fellow, Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, Brown University

2019 Hungerford Fund Grant for Faculty Research, Swarthmore College

2017-2018 George Becker Faculty Sabbatical Fellowship, Swarthmore College

2015 Curriculum Development Grant, Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility, Swarthmore College

2009-10, 2013 Chair, Mellon Tri-College Faculty Group in Asian American Studies

2010 The Curatorial Intensive, Independent Curators International, New York

2009-2010 Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Columbia Univ.

2009-2010 Mary Albertson Faculty Sabbatical Fellowship, Swarthmore College

2005-2006 Eugene M. Lang Faculty Sabbatical Fellowship, Swarthmore College

2005 Minority Junior Faculty Award, Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation

2005 Gloria Anzaldua/Audre Lorde Intercultural Center Community Partner Award

2004-2005 Expanding East Asian Studies Teaching Collaborative, Columbia University

2001-2002 Richard Weiland Fellowship for Sexuality Research, Stanford University

2001 South Asia Initiative Dissertation Research Grant, Stanford University

1997 Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund Award for Excellence in Historical Research

RESEARCH INTERESTS

South Asian American Public Cultures
Asian American Visual Cultural Studies

Photography and Imperial Archives
Curatorial Theory and Museum Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

[*Unseeing Empire: Photography, Representation, South Asian America*](#). Duke University Press, 2020. In the series *Camera Obscura*.

Honorable Mention, Association for Asian American Studies Book Award for Outstanding Achievement in Media, Performance, and Visual Studies/ Multidisciplinary Approaches, 2022.

Reviewed in *Journal of American Studies*.

[*Aspiring to Home: South Asians in America*](#). Stanford University Press, 2012. In the series *Asian America*.

Introduction republished in Rahaab Allana, ed. *Unframed: Discovering Image Practices in South Asia*. New Delhi: HarperCollins India, 2023, 374-400.

Reviewed in *MELUS*, *South Asia Review*, *International Migration Review*, *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, *Ethnicity and Race in a Changing World*.

Peer-Reviewed Essays

Co-authored with Susette Min. "Reading With Care: Photography and Anti-Asian Violence," in *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*, 8.2 (Fall 2022), 2-22.

"Diasporic Longings." *Asian American Literatures in Transition, 1965-1995*, eds. Asha Nadkarni and Cathy Schlund-Vials. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2021. 297-310.

"Rina Banerjee: Make Me a Summary of the World," in *Asian Diasporic Visual Cultures and the Americas*, 5.3 (2019), special issue on *Challenging Hegemony in the South Asian Diaspora*, eds. Jaishi Abichandani, Santhi Kavuri-Bauer, and Anuradha Vikram, 401-404.

"South Asian American Visual Culture and Representation," in *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian American Literature and Culture*, eds. Josephine Lee, Floyd Cheung, Jennifer Ho and Anita Mannur. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. 1-21.

"Beyond Bollywood: Exhibiting South Asian America," *Journal of Asian American Studies* 18.2 (2015): 193-217.

"Archives of Empire: Seher Shah's *Geometric Landscapes of Spectacular Force*," *Social Text* 108, 29.3 (2011): 127-138.

"Cinema/Photo/Novel: Intertextual Readings of *The Namesake*," in *Naming Jhumpa Lahiri: Canons and Controversies*, ed. Floyd Cheung and Lavina Shankar. New York: Lexington Books, 2011. 75-96.

"Viewing South Asia, Seeing America: Gauri Gill's *The Americans*," *American Quarterly* 16.1 (2010): 135-150.

Co-authored with Latha Varadarajan. "'The Largest Gathering of the Global Indian Family': Neoliberalism, Nationalism, and Diaspora at *Pravasi Bharatiya Divas*," *Diaspora* 14.1 (2005)

[2008]: 45-74.

“Queer Desis, Straight Films: Representations of South Asian Americans On and Off Screen,” *The Subcontinental* 3.1 (2007): 1-12.

“Beauty Queens: Gender, Ethnicity, and Transnational Modernities at the Miss India USA Pageant,” *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* 14.3 (2006): 717-747.

“Undressing the Diaspora,” in *South Asian Women in the Diaspora*, ed. Nirmal Puwar and Parvathi Raghuram. New York: Berg Press, 2003. 117-136.

“Moments of Identity,” *Contours of the Heart: South Asians Map North America*, ed. Rajini Srikanth and Sunaina Maira. New York: Asian American Writers Workshop, 1996. 174-187.

Public Writing

“Out of the Archive,” *Aperture*, issue 251, ed. Stephanie Tung. Forthcoming Summer 2023.

“In Conversation: Melissa Joseph and Bakirathi Mani,” *Conflicting Truths: Melissa Joseph* (exhibition catalogue). List Gallery, Swarthmore College, April 2023. 11-19.

“The Answers Take Time,” in Annu Palakunnathu Matthew, *The Answers Take Time*. New York and Seattle: Minor Matters/sepiaEYE, 2022. 66-75.

Co-authored with Swati Rana and Sa’dia Rehman, “Frame Instructions for the Greater Common Good,” *Brooklyn Rail*, under review, Summer 2022.

“Introduction,” *Passages: A Subcontinental Imaginary*, special issue of *PIX: A Photo Quarterly*, ed. Rahaab Allana and Art South Asia. New Delhi: Alkazi Foundation and Art South Asia Project (Spring 2022), 8-11.

Reviews

Homemaking: Radical Nostalgia and the Construction of a South Asian Diaspora by Anindya Raychaudhuri. Reviewed in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, Issue 5, Fall 2020: 796-798.

Performing China: Virtue, Commerce and Orientalism in Eighteenth-Century England, 1660-1760 by Chi-ming Yang. Reviewed in *Amerasia Journal* (August 2012): 174-176.

DesiLand: Teen Culture, Class and Success in Silicon Valley by Shalini Shankar. Reviewed in *International Review of Modern Sociology*, 36.1 (Spring 2010): 80-83.

Asian Diasporas: Cultures, Identities, Representations, ed. Robbie B.H. Goh and Shawn Wong. Reviewed in *Journal of Asian Studies* 64.4 (2005): 980-982.

The Most Beautiful Girl in the World: Beauty Pageants and National Identity by Sarah Banet-Weiser. Reviewed in *Feminist Review* 81 (2005): 132-134.

Imagine Otherwise: On Asian Americanist Critique by Kandice Chuh. Reviewed in *Amerasia*

Journal 30.3 (2004): 105-107.

"Amitav Ghosh," in *South Asian Novelists in English: An A-Z Guide*, ed. Jaina Sanga. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2003. 78-82.

Constructing Post-colonial India, by Sanjay Srivastava. Reviewed in *Contemporary South Asia* 10.2 (2001): 151-155.

CURATION

Ruins and Fabrications, featuring artists Annu Palakunnathu Matthew and Gauri Gill. Twelve Gates Arts, Philadelphia. November 6 – December 18, 2015. Commissioned exhibition catalogue. <http://twelvegatesarts.org/exhibitions/ruinsandfabrications>.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

"Camera South Asia" *Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies, Columbia University* (April 27, 2023)

"Curating *Unseeing Empire*," *Asian American Arts Alliance and Independent Curators International*, New York (March 10, 2023)

"Seeing Asian America: Photography, Race, and Representation," Asian American Studies Lecture Series, *Department in Race, Colonialism and Diaspora and Tufts Center for the Humanities, Tufts University* (February 13, 2023)

"Asian American Visual and Exhibition Cultures," MFA Visiting Critic and Curator Series, *Parsons School of Design, The New School* (October 26, 2022)

Keynote Speaker, "Photography, Archive, Memory: Asian American Representation," Dr. Jean Shim Yun Lecture, *Center for the Study of Race and Ethnicity in America, Brown University* (September 28, 2022)

"Beyond Bollywood: Photography, Representation, Asian America," *Asian America Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania* (September 20, 2022)

"Beyond Representation," *Hunter College, City University of New York* (March 16, 2022)

"The Imperial Archives of Asian America," *Department of English, University of Pennsylvania* (February 3, 2022)

"Ghostly Empires," *UC Davis Department of Asian American Studies, Art and Art History, Middle East/South Asia Studies, The Manetti Shrem Museum and University Galleries at Sacramento State* (December 1, 2021)

"Anti-Asian Racism and Art," *Palmer Museum of Art, Global Asias Initiative and Asian Studies*

Program, Penn State University (September 17, 2021)

"Unseeing Empire," Department of Media and Cultural Studies, UC Riverside (May 4, 2021)

"Unseeing Empire and Cinema Studies," School of Cinema, San Francisco State University (April 30, 2021)

"Unseeing Empire: Asian American Exhibition Cultures," Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California at Berkeley (April 1, 2021)

"Unseeing Empire: Photography, Representation, South Asian America," English Department, Pomona College (March 17, 2021)

"Unseeing Empire," Department of Art and Art History, Center for the Humanities, University of Rhode Island (March 16, 2021)

"Unseeing Empire," The Dark Room: Race and Visual Cultural Studies Seminar (February 26, 2021)

"Unseeing Empire," Museum of Art and Photography, Bangalore (February 13, 2021)

"Bakirathi Mani and Andy Liu," Asian Arts Initiative, Philadelphia (January 25, 2021)

"Unseeing Empire: Book Launch" Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia (December 9, 2020)

"Intimate Representations: Seeing The Americans," Duke India Initiative, Duke University (September 7, 2018)

"The Uncanny Vision of Diaspora: Photography and South Asian Visual Cultures," Sonic/Scenes Symposium, Women's and Gender Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (April 21, 2018)

"Echoing Histories," Rhode Island Council for the Humanities, Providence Aetheneum, Rhode Island (December 8, 2017)

Discussant, "Visual Diasporas," Reframing Family Photography, University of Toronto (September 29, 2017)

"Uncanny Memories: The Legacies of Fatal Love," Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center, Queens Museum (July 1, 2017)

"Transnationalism, Identity, Diaspora," Haverford College (April 20, 2016)

"Ruins and Fabrications: Bakirathi Mani and Annu Matthew," Twelve Gates Arts (December 4, 2015)

"Beauty, Race, and Citizenship," UC Center for New Racial Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara (March 2, 2014)

"Becoming Miss America," *Diversity and Identity Studies Collective, Asian American Studies Program, The Ohio State University* (February 2014)

"Affecting Solidarity: Progressive Politics and Political Community in South Asian America," *Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, Colby College* (April 18, 2013)

"Aspiring to Home: Book Release and Signing," *Twelve Gates Gallery, Philadelphia* (April 13, 2013)

"The Aesthetics of South Asian America," Faculty Lecture Series, *Swarthmore College* (November 2011)

"Expanding Asian American Studies," The State of Asian American Studies Conference, *University of Pennsylvania* (February 5, 2010)

"The Political Cultures of South Asian Art," *Center for Visual Culture, Bryn Mawr College* (April 13, 2010)

Panel Organizer and Respondent, "The Visual and Material Practice of Asian American Art," *Searching Looks: Asian American Visual Cultures Symposium, Slought Foundation and the University of Pennsylvania* (April 14, 2010)

Invited Participant, *Diasporic Asian Arts Network Workshop, New York University* (March 2010)

"South Asian Visual Culture and Asian American Studies," Graduate Asian American Studies Colloquium, *University of Pennsylvania* (January 27, 2010)

"Ways of Seeing: Photographing South Asians in Diaspora," Center for South Asia, *Stanford University* (October 15, 2009)

"In Conversation with Gauri Gill: The Americans" *Bose Pacia Gallery, New York* (January 14, 2009)

Keynote Speaker, "One Book, One Community: *The Namesake*," *Watertown Free Public Library, Massachusetts* (September 15, 2008)

"The New Miss India: Beauty Pageants in the South Asian Diaspora," Asian American Studies Program, Department of Ethnic Studies, *University of California, Berkeley* (April 3, 2007)

"'My Two Lives': Reading Race, Nationalism, and Globalization in Jhumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies* and *The Namesake*," *National University of Singapore* (July 11, 2006)

"Undocumented Lives: Performing Gender and Race in South Asian Film," Critical Intersections in Asian American Studies, *Dartmouth College* (May 5, 2006)

"South Asian Solidarity: Organizing Across Socio-Economic Divides," *Yale University* (February 8, 2003)

“Miss India U.S.A.: Gender, Ethnicity, and Transnational Modernities,” Department of Comparative Studies, *Ohio State University* (February 2002)

“Performing Gender and Ethnicity,” Women’s Studies Program, *Bowdoin College* (December 2001)

“Beauty Queens,” MacArthur Interdisciplinary Program on Global Change, Sustainability and Justice, *University of Minnesota-Twin Cities* (November 2001)

“South Asia: Histories of the Present,” Department of History and Anthropology, *University of Michigan-Ann Arbor* (October 2001)

Peer-Reviewed Conferences

- 2023 “Love in the Archives: Family Photography and South Asian Diasporas”
Session Organizer, “Looking for Love: Asian Canadian/Asian American Art, Photography, and Archives”
American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Montreal (proposed)
- 2023 “Albums of Diaspora: Family Photography in Asia/America”
Discussant, “South Asian North American Studies/Decolonial Art, Culture, Praxis”
Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Long Beach, CA
- 2022 Discussant, “Setting Caste Ablaze: Global Movements to Destroy Engrained Inequality”
American Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans (scheduled)
- 2022 “Intimate Identifications: Caste, Class, and Race in South Asian Diasporic Photography”
Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Denver
- 2022 “Enlivening Archives: Asian Women’s Images in Circulation”
Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Chicago (online)
- 2021 Session organizer and roundtable participant, “Unsettling South Asian America”
Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference (online)
American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Puerto Rico (online)
- 2021 “Unseeing Empire: Race and Representation in South Asian America”
Northeast Modern Languages Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia (online)
- 2020 “Art, Aesthetics, Asian America: Curating/Creating Communities”
American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore (canceled)
- 2020 Chair, “South Asian Diasporic Activism and Solidarity”
Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. (canceled)
- 2018 “The Imperial Aesthetics of Diaspora”
American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta

- 2018 “Reframing South Asian America: Photography, Identity, Representation”
Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference, San Francisco
- 2017 Chair, “Violence, Politics, and the Limits of the Imagination”
American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 2017 Chair, “Violence, Memories, Diasporic Literature”
Association of Asian American Studies Annual Meeting, Portland, OR
- 2016 “Ruins and Fabrications: Photography and South Asian American Diasporas”
Association of Asian American Studies Annual Meeting, Miami
- 2015 “Visualizing South Asia: Exhibiting Nation and Diaspora at the Queens Museum”
Global Asias 3 Conference, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
- 2015 “Intimate Collaborations: Curating South Asian Photography”
American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Toronto
- 2015 “Exhibition Cultures, Visual Cultures: The Smithsonian’s *Beyond Bollywood*”
Chair, “Race and Representation in South Asian (American) Media Cultures”
Association of Asian American Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 2014 “Beyond Bollywood: South Asian American Visual and Exhibition Cultures,”
Look Outward: Renewed Alliances and New Geographies for Asian American Literary and Visual Studies, AALAC Workshop, Wellesley College, MA
- 2014 “Archives of Representation: Photography and the Spectacle of Immigrant Identity”
Discussant, “The Pasts, Present, and Futures of South Asian American Studies”
Association for Asian American Studies Annual Meeting, San Francisco
- 2013 “Documenting Diaspora: Performance, Photography and History in *An Indian from India*”
American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- 2012 Chair, “Gender, Violence, Resistance: Feminist Reconsiderations”
American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 2012 “Exhibition Cultures/Visual Cultures: Politicizing South Asian American Art”
Association of Asian American Studies Annual Convention, Washington D.C.
- 2010 “Imperial Landscapes, Spectral Memories: Drawing Geographies of Diaspora”
Session Organizer, “The Subject, Object and Body of Asian American Art”
American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio
- 2010 “Feminist Interventions in South Asian American Art,”
Mellon 23 Workshop on Gender and Diaspora, Vassar College
- 2010 “Producing Art, Consuming Politics: South Asian Artists in New York,”
Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race Annual Symposium, Columbia University

- 2009 “Small Campuses, Small Programs, Big Responsibilities: The Challenges of Keeping Women’s Studies Programs Afloat at Liberal Arts Colleges”
National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta
- 2008 “South Asian American Studies: Pedagogy and Practice”
East of California Conference, University of Connecticut-Storrs (Roundtable Chair)
- 2007 “*The Namesake*: Transnational Belongings in South Asian America”
American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia
- 2007 “‘I’m American, I’m Just Brown’: South Asian Youth and Documentary Film”
Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference, New York
- 2005 “*Bombay Dreams*: Race, Violence, and the Logic of Representation on Broadway”
Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, London, UK
Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States Annual Conference, Chicago (Panel Chair)
- 2004 “Race, Nation, and the Secular Imagination after 9-11”
Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia
- 2004 “Forging Ties Between Asian American and South Asian Diaspora Studies”
Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Boston
- 2004 “Translating Cultures, Negotiating Dislocations”
Panel Chair, *South Asian Literary Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia*
- 2004 “Transnational South Asia”
Panel Chair and Discussant, *University of California at Berkeley, 19th Annual South Asia Conference*
- 2003 “The Global Indian Family: Governmentality, Modernity, and Formations of Diaspora”
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 2003 “Queer Visions of Home: Geographies of Sexuality in South Asian Diasporic Film”
Presenter and Panel Chair, *Association of Asian American Studies Annual Meeting, San Francisco*
- 2003 “Imagining South Asian America”
Dartmouth College, Institute on the Futures of American Studies
- 2002 “Fictions of Immigration: Modernity and Migration in *Jasmine* and *Interpreter of Maladies*,” *University of Wisconsin at Madison, 31st Annual Conference on South Asia*
- 2001 “Destination Culture: Engendering ‘South Asia’ at Arts/Activist Festivals”
University of California at Berkeley, 16th Annual South Asia Conference
- 2000 “Beauty Queens: Staging the Miss India USA Pageant”

University of Birmingham, 3rd International Crossroads in Cultural Studies Conference
University of Wisconsin at Madison, 28th Annual Conference on South Asia

2000 “One-way Ticket Out of This Place: Remembering the Nation in Diasporic Films”
University of Glasgow, Screen Studies Conference

1999 “Dig That Dupatta: Clothing Practices in South Asian Diasporas”
University of Leicester, Workshop on Gender and South Asian Diasporas
Symposium on Problematics in the Study of Empires and Cultures, Stanford University

CURRICULUM PROFILE

ENGL 117A. Theories and Literatures of Globalization
ENGL 117. Ethnicities in the Modern World
ENGL 99. English Majors Senior Colloquium
ASIA 96. Senior Thesis in Asian Studies
GSST 93. Queer of Color Theory
GSST 91. Capstone in Gender and Sexuality Studies: Feminist Practices, Queer Movements
GSST 20. Gender and Sexuality Studies: Theory and Method
WMST 91. Capstone Seminar: Women’s Studies
ENGL 82. Transnational Feminist Theory
ENGL 79. What is Cultural Studies?
ENGL 77. South Asians in Asian America
ENGL 76. The World, The Text and The Critic
ENGL 75. South Asian Diasporas: Culture, Politics, Place
ENGL 66. In/Visible: Asian American Cultural Critique
ENGL 65. Asian American Literature
ENGL 9D. Nation and Migration
ENGL 6D. Migration and Displacement

Independent Studies and Directed Readings

Asian American Studies senior theses; Diaspora Studies special major; Cultural Studies special major; Education and English special major theses; Sociology and Anthropology senior theses

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE SERVICE (selected)

Interdisciplinary Programs

Founder and Co-Director, Tri-College Asian American Studies Program(2017-2023)
Coordinator, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program (2018-2021, 2008-2009)
Coordinator, Faculty Group on Futures of South Asian Studies (2014-2015)
Coordinator, Faculty Group on New Directions in Asian American Studies (2013, 2008-2009)
Steering Committee Member, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program (2002-2020)
Steering Committee Member, Asian Studies Program (2002-2012, 2014-2020)
Committee Member, Global Studies Program (2019-)

College Committees

Elected faculty member, Committee on Faculty Procedures (2019-2021)
Academic Committee, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (2018-2019)
Fellowships and Prizes Committee (2015-2017)
Committee on Work-Life Issues (2015-2016)
Advisory Committee, Writing Associates Program (2014-2015)
Search Committee for Associate Director, Writing Associates Program (2014-2015)
Steering Committee, College Self-Study on Learning, Working and Living (2014-2015)
Tri-College New Faculty Orientation Speaker (2014, 2015)
Search Committee, Associate Dean of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community (2013-2014)
Cooper Foundation Committee for Grants in the Arts (2012-2013, 2006-2008)
Provost's Office Ad Hoc Committee on Foreign Language Acquisition (2012-2013)
Faculty Observer, Board of Managers Meetings (2010-2011)
Faculty Presentations to Board of Managers (2010, 2006)
College Budget Committee (2008-2009)
Search Committee for tenure-track position in African American Literature (2004-2005)
Advisory Council, Health Sciences Committee (2004-2005); Dean of Admissions (2003-2004)

Department of English Literature

Advisor to Course Majors (2018-2021)
Advisor to Course Majors and Minors (2018-2019)
Admissions events panels (2020-2021)
Transfer Credit Advisor (2013-17, 2007-8, 2005-6)
Faculty Colloquium speaker (2015-16, 2013-14)
Hicks Prize committee (2019-21, 2012-13, 2007-8)
Susan Snyder Prize Committee (2013-15)
Academic Ambassador for Campus Space (2013-14)
Senior Majors Essay advisor (2003-2007)
Faculty Liaison, Swarthmore College Alumni Reading Group, New York (2006-7)
MLA Search Committee for African American Literature (2004-5)

Undergraduate and Faculty Mentoring

Junior Faculty Mentor, Provost's Office (2018-2020, 2015-2016, 2011-2013)
Mentor, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (2018-2022, 2013-2016)
Discover Swarthmore Admissions Event Panel (2019-2022)
Richard Rubin Scholars Program (2016-2017)

Doctoral Program Placement

Amalle Dublon, Duke University, Literature
Melissa Phruksachart, Graduate Center, City University of New York, English
Nicole Liu, University of Chicago, East Asian Languages and Cultures
Alice Xiang, Harvard University, Comparative Literature
Priya Johnson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Urban Studies and Planning
Shawn Gonzalez, Rutgers University, Comparative Literature
Rudrani Sarma, Rutgers University, English
Keerthi Potluri and Amanda Armstrong, University of California, Berkeley, Rhetoric
Sybille Ngo Nyeck, University of California, Los Angeles, Political Science
Erica Slaymaker, University of Texas at Austin, Sociology

Sunny Yang, University of Pennsylvania, English

Swarthmore Campus Programming

- 2022 Organizer, "Archive of Now: Photography in Kashmir 1986-2016," featuring Sanjay Kak. Co-sponsored by Asian Studies, Film and Media Studies, Lang Center and the Department of English Literature
- 2021 Invited Speaker, "Asian American Studies in the Tri-Colleges," Tri-Casc Asian American Studies conference, Haverford College
- 2020 Co-organizer, Genevieve Lee Memorial Fund lecture in Asian American Studies, featuring Karen Aguilar San-Juan '84, Macalester College.
- 2019 Invited Speaker, "The (Im)Possibilities of Asian American Citizenship," ORAA (Organizing to Redefine Asian Activism), Swarthmore College
- 2019 Invited Panelist, "Teaching Critical Ethnic Studies at Swarthmore—Asian American Studies Classes 2019-2020," *Know History, Know Self*, CREATE Coalition
- 2019 Invited Panelist, "Defining Asianness in America," Tri-Casc Asian American Studies Conference
- 2019 Organizer, "How we practice Asian American Studies." Discussion with Sunny Yang '08, University of Houston. Co-sponsored by the Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies, Department of English Literature, Sociology/Anthropology Department.
- 2019 Co-organizer, "Cooking for One and the Gustatory Gaze." Genevieve Lee Memorial Fund Annual Lecture in Asian American Studies, featuring Anita Mannur, University of Miami-Ohio.
- 2017 Co-organizer, "Traveling with Red Warriors, Prayer Riders and Water Protectors." Genevieve Lee Memorial Fund Annual Lecture in Asian American Studies, featuring Elena Tajima Creef, Wellesley College.
- 2017 Co-organizer, *The State of the Archives*. Faculty Seminar featuring Lisa Lowe, Tufts University. March 22-23, 2017. Sponsored by Department of English Literature.
- 2016 Co-organizer, *Intimate Subjects: Gender and Race in Theory and Practice*. Tri-College Symposium featuring Rhacel Parreñas, Celine Parreñas Shimizu and Juno Parreñas, Bryn Mawr College, February 26, 2016.
- 2015 Organizer, "Between Two Cultures." Genevieve Lee Memorial Fund Annual Lecture in Asian American Studies, featuring Annu Palakunnathu Matthew, Professor of Photography, University of Rhode Island.
- 2015 Organizer, "The Blind Writer and Other Stories." Genevieve Lee Memorial Fund Annual Lecture in Asian American Studies, featuring Sameer Pandya.

- 2015 Organizer, "Laughing at Empire Properly: M.F. Husain's Images of the Raj," Mellon Futures of South Asian Studies WOrkshop featuring Prof. Sumathi Ramaswamy, Duke University. Co-sponsored by History Department, Department of English Literature, and Asian Studies Program.
- 2015 Organizer, "Archives of South Asian America," featuring Samip Mallick, Executive Director, South Asian American Digital Archives. Co-sponsored by the Department of English Literature and Swarthmore College Libraries.
- 2015 Panelist and Co-organizer, "Ruth Ozeki: A Tale for the Time Being." Co-sponsored by the Department of English Literature and the Cooper Foundation for the Arts.
- 2014 Moderator, "Q&A with Zadie Smith." Co-sponsored by the Department of English Literature and the Cooper Foundation for the Arts.
- 2013 Organizer, "The Difference Aesthetics Makes," Mellon New Directions in Asian American Studies Faculty Workshop featuring Kandice Chuh, CUNY-Graduate Center.
- 2013 Organizer, "Accumulating the Primitive: Filipino American Art In and Out of the Imperial Museum," Genevieve Lee Memorial Fund Annual Lecture in Asian American Studies, featuring Sarita See, UC Davis.
- 2010 Organizer, "The Heroic Monster: Dexter, Masculinity and Violence," Lecture and Discussion featuring Lisa Arellano, Colby College. Co-sponsored by Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, English Department, and Film and Media Studies.
- 2009 Organizer, "What is to Be Done? Affecting Queer Futures," featuring Martin Manalansan, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Sponsored by the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program and the Provost's Office.
- 2008 Last Collection speaker for Swarthmore College Commencement, elected by graduating class of 2008.
- 2008 Moderator, "You're the One We Want: Representing Asian American Sexualities," Q&A with comedian Margaret Cho. Co-sponsored by Swarthmore Asian Organization.
- 2008 Organizer, Genevieve Lee Memorial Fund Annual Lecture in Asian American Studies, featuring Lok Siu, New York University.
- 2008 Organizer, "The Hypersexuality of Race," featuring Celine Parreñas Shimizu, University of California at Santa Barbara. Co-sponsored by Film and Media Studies.
- 2007 Invited Lecture, "South Asian Identities and Sexualities," sponsored by Deshi and Colors, IC Student Groups.
- 2006 Co-Organizer, "Michael Ondaatje and Sri Lankan Literature," talk by Carmen Wickramagamage, University of Peradeniya. Sponsored by Asian Studies Program.

- 2005 Organizer, Genevieve Lee Memorial Fund Annual Lecture in Asian American Studies, featuring Rinku Sen, *Colorlines Magazine* (2005).
- 2005 Invited Lecture, "Hindu Nationalism in the United States," sponsored by Deshi
- 2005 Invited Lecture, "Black Feminisms," for Capstone in Women's Studies
- 2005 Organizer and Discussant, "Perspectives on South Asian Feminism." Featuring Jisha Menon, University of British Columbia; Shefali Chandra, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Falu Bakrania, State University of New York-Binghamton. Sponsored by Intercultural Center.
- 2004 Organizer, Genevieve Lee Memorial Fund Annual Lecture in Asian American Studies, featuring K. Scott Wong, Williams College.
- 2003 Invited Lecture, "Miss India U.S.A.," Faculty Colloquium Series, Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology
- 2003 Organizer, "A Terrible Beauty is Born," performance by Arjun Raina. Sponsored by the Department of English Literature, Department of Theater, and Drama Board.
- 2003 Invited Lecture, "Feminism and Post-Colonialism," Capstone in Women's Studies.
- 2002 Organizer, "Unlimited Girls," featuring filmmaker Paromita Vohra. Sponsored by Department of English Literature, Asian Studies Program, Women's Studies Program.

Media Mentions and Interviews

Meena Venkataraman, "[Defining 'Asian American' is complicated. Who gets left behind?](#)," *The Washington Post* (December 19, 2022).

Aarti Virani, "How the Brown Mom Became a Diaspora Comedy Favourite," *The Juggernaut* (August 2021)

Arushi Vats, "Troubling Empire: Bakirathi Mani on Seher Shah," *ASAP|Art* (February 11, 2021)

Rahaab Allana and Anisha Baid, "Facts of Belonging: In Conversation with Bakirathi Mani" *PIX-POSTS*, Alkazi Foundation, New Delhi (January 6, 2021)
<http://www.enterpix.in/pix-post/facts-of-belonging-in-conversation-with-bakirathi-mani/>

"Curating with Confidence," *Imagine Otherwise* podcast (November 25, 2020)

Laura Markowitz, "Beyond Pink and Blue: Move Over Women's Studies, There's a New Way to Think About Gender and Sexuality," *Swarthmore College Bulletin* (January 2010)

Steve Goldstein, "A Worldwide Search for the Best Scholars," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 13 Nov 2005: A1.

Anjali Mody, "Advani put on the defensive," *The Hindu* (India) 11 Jan 2003: 1.

Alissa Giardinelli, "Think Global, Teach Local," *Swarthmore College Bulletin* (December 2003): 34-35.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Advisory Board

Verge: Studies in Global Asias (University of Minnesota Press), 2022-2025

Between Asias and Americas (monograph series), University of Pittsburgh Press

Manuscript Review

Duke University Press

University of Minnesota Press

Temple University Press

University of Hawai'i Press

University of Illinois Press

Broadview Press

Pearson Publications

Critical Ethnic Studies

WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly

MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States

ADVA: Asian Diasporic Visual Culture and the Americas

International Journal of Feminist Politics

positions: east asia cultures critique

Promotion, Reappointment and Tenure Review

Stanford University, Miami University at Ohio, Creighton University, George Washington University, Pomona College, Middlebury College, Kalamazoo College, Colby College, San Francisco State University, Texas A&M University, Haverford College, Trinity College

Program and Prize Committees

Association of Asian American Studies panel selection committee (2021-2022)

Literary Studies Prize, Association of Asian American Studies (2008)

Non-Fiction Literature Prize, Asian American Writer's Workshop, New York (2008)

Community Public Programming (selected)

Queer|Art|Mentorship (artist Nandita Raman), New York (2021)

"Asian American Arts, Education, and Activism," *Lang Center for Civic and Social Responsibility*, Swarthmore College (2021)

Invited Panelist, *Black-Asian Solidarity Conference* (2021)

Invited Panelist, *South Asian Law Students Association, University of Pennsylvania* (2021)

Academic Consultant, "Echoing Histories," directed by David H. Wells (2017)

Invited Panelist, *Asian Arts Initiative*, "Marvels and Monsters," Philadelphia (2012)

Curator and Judge, *Twelve Gates Video Arts Festival*, Philadelphia (2015, 2016)

Invited Panelist, *Live Traditions: Performance Festival*, Philadelphia (2005)

Invited Panelist, *In Ink: Celebration of South Asian Writing*, Philadelphia (2004)
Invited Speaker, *Network of Indian Professionals Annual Conference*, Philadelphia (2003)
Curator, *Queer Filmistan, Artist's Television Access*, San Francisco (2001)
Outreach Coordinator, *Third I Film Collective*, San Francisco (2000-2002)

LANGUAGES

Japanese (Fluent reading, writing, and speaking)
Tamil (Intermediate speaking)
Hindi (Beginner reading and writing)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association of Asian American Studies (AAAS)
American Studies Association (ASA)
Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)
Curator's Network, Independent Curators International (ICI)