Apala Kundu

Department of English University of Pittsburgh

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English. University of Pittsburgh. Matriculated August 2019. GPA: 3.98.

[with M.A. certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies: “When Women Write Men: Reading Scripts of Homosexual Masculinity in Popular Thai Visual Media”]

M.A. in English. University of Pittsburgh. December 2022. GPA: 3.98

M.A. in English. Presidency University. June 2017. GPA: 8.05.

B.A. in English. Presidency University. June 2015. GPA: 7.85.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

* ENGCMP 0200: Seminar in Composition (Staff syllabus). Fall 2020.
* ENGCMP 0200: Seminar in Composition: Migration and Identity. Spring 2021.
* ENGLIT 0365: Imagining Social Justice - on the Move through Literatures of Migration. Fall 2021 & 2022.
* ENGLIT 0325: The Short Story (in context): Short Stories across the Globe. Summer 2022.
* GSWS 0100: Introduction to Gender, Sexuality, & Women’s Studies. Spring 2023.

PUBLICATIONS

***Journal Article:***

“Re-possessing Her-story: A Reflection on ‘Queer’ Archiving.” *Rejoinder*, Issue 9, “The Archival is Political,” online publication of the Institute for Research on Women (IRW) at Rutgers University, Spring 2024. <https://irw.rutgers.edu/rejoinder-webjournal/issue-9-the-archival-is-political/695-apala-kundu>

***Book Chapter:***

“Through the Looking Glass.” *Situating Social Media: Gender, Caste, Protest, Solidarity*, ed. by Samata Biswas & Atig Ghosh, Women Unlimited, 2020, pp. 44-62. (with Pragya Paramita)

***Peer-reviewed:***

“War and Women’s Health: The Diseased Body of the Comfort Woman,” *Essays and Studies*, Special Issue on “Sexuality, Health and Cultural Narratives,” Journal of the Department of English, Jadavpur University, 2017, pp. 65-84. Print. ISSN 09753478. (with Sarbani Mohapatra)

***Blog Article:***

“Traveller, Refugee: The Rohingya Refugee Crisis in the light of the Condé Nast controversy.” RefugeeWatchOnline. 2016. <http://refugeewatchonline.blogspot.in/2016/12/traveller-refugee-rohingya-refugee.html>

***Interview:***

“There is a celebratory tone to all these human rights violations” with Anuradha Bhasin, RefugeeWatchOnline, 2018.

<https://refugeewatchonline.wordpress.com/2018/08/17/there-is-a-celebratory-tone-to-all-these-human-rights-violations-an-interview-with-anuradha-bhasin/>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Devi’s and Spivak’s ‘Draupadi’: Looking at Representation and Resistance through the lens of Translation.” 23rd Annual SALA Conference: Ethics of Representation, Forms of Resistance, and Narratives of Discomfort.

“Through Diasporic Eyes: ‘Home’ and/in the Archive.” Kalapani Crossings #3: Across the Oceans: Post-Indentureship Trans-Oceanic Transformations, French Institute of Pondicherry, Union Territory of Puducherry, India.

***2024***

“In the Wake of the ‘Ibis’: Charting possibilities of ‘Wake Work’ in the Indian Ocean.” (Re)Imagining the Indian Ocean World: A Symposium on Literature and Culture, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Canada.

“Mate-real-ity of Space: The Postcolonial Oceanic vs the Postcolonial Terracentric.” Reading Conflicts: Bodies, Spaces, Affects, English Graduate Conference, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Massachusetts. ***2023***

“When Women write Men: Reading Scripts of Homosexual Masculinity in Popular Thai Visual Media.” 27th Annual Gender & Sexuality Writing Collective, Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, & Women’s Studies, University of Rochester, New York. ***2022***

“Reading the inclusion/exclusion nexus through an exploration of space in Punyakante Wijenaike’s *Giraya*.”Free Exchange, Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, Department of English, University of Calgary, Canada. ***2020***

“Muted Voices, Gendered Memories.” Linking Scholarship and Activism in Migration Societies: Critical Inquiries, EMMIR Consortium, University of Oldenburg, Germany. ***2018***

“The Imperial Exhibition: Contesting multiculturalism through a reading of Andrea Levy’s *Small Island* (2004).” National Students’ Conference on Cross-cultural Encounters and Negotiations: Place, Space, Identity, The Centre of Advanced Study, Department of English, Jadavpur University, West Bengal.

“Hybridity in the Poetry of Wole Soyinka.” International Conference on De-centring English Studies: Studying Literature in the Global South”, PG Department of English, Utkal University, Odisha. ***2017***

“The ‘Gay Plague’: Indian Media’s Representation of the AIDS Crisis and its Effects on the Gay Community.” UGC Sponsored National Seminar, Departments of Economics, Political Science, and Journalism and Mass Communication, Gurudas College, West Bengal.

“War and Women’s Health: The Diseased Body of the Comfort Woman.” Wellcome Trust Sponsored International Symposium on Sexuality, Health and CulturalNarratives, Department of English, Jadavpur University, West Bengal. (with Sarbani Mohapatra)

“Memory, History and Identity in Margaret Atwood’s *Alias Grace* and Alice Munro’s *The View from Castle Rock.*” International Conference on No map, no trail, no footprint, no way home: Rethinking, Memory, History and Representation in India and Canada, The Centre for Canadian Studies, Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, West Bengal.

“‘O shame, shame, poppy-shame!’: Identity, nation, woman and ‘sharam’ in Salman Rushdie’s *Shame*.” International Conference on New Directions in Postcolonial Studies, Department of English, Kazi Nazrul University, West Bengal. (with Sarbani Mohapatra) ***2016***

INVITED EVENTS

Presentation at Green Speakeasy Research Slam, presented by Mascaro Center for Sustainable Innovation & the Humanities Council, University of Pittsburgh ***2022***

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group:

* Research and Programme Assistant on “The State of the Global Protection Regime for Refugees and Migrants.”

***2019***

* Conference Assistant on “Capital in the East.” ***2018***
* Research Assistant, with Professor Paula Banerjee, Director, in preparation of the “Annotated Bibliography on USA-South Asia Relations” to be published by Brill. ***2016***

Research Assistant for Dr. Anupama Mohan, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Presidency University, on “Criticism in the New Century: ‘Lihaaf’ and its Discontents—A Case Study.” ***2016***

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

CEAT Mentor – AY 2021:

* + helped envision, plan, and implement Orientation Week (August 2021) for first-time graduate student instructors within the Department of English alongside CEAT team; provided one-on-one peer mentoring to 4 first-time graduate student instructors under the purview of Writing Pedagogy I.

TA/TF Mentor for the English Department, Dietrich School’s TA/TF Mentor Program (2022/23):

* conducted a survey among first-year grad students to determine future pedagogical needs; organised, implemented, and supervised the departmental Pedagogy Mentor Program, Spring 23; one-on-one peer mentoring to 2 first-year graduate students.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

* English Graduate Students’ Organisation, Treasurer, 2020-2021.
* Judge for 2021 Koloc Writing Awards (for 1st yr writers in ESL Workshop in Composition & domestic Workshop in Composition courses)
* Organiser of ‘Boba and Books Reading Group’ Series, Spring 2023 and Fall 2023, as member of Asian American Futures Collective – Reading events: Anthony Veasna So’s *Afterparties* & *The Way Spring Arrives and Other Stories*, edited by Yu Chen and Regina Kanye Wang
* Invited Talks and Events:
* Intro to Grad Studies, “Succeeding in Graduate Seminars,” October 2021
* Intro to Grad Studies, “Succeeding in Graduate Seminars,” September 2022
* Seminar in Pedagogy I: Talk on “Teaching Support Systems,” April 2023

HONORS, AWARDS & GRANTS

* M.A. Gold Medallist, Presidency University, 2017
* Arts & Sciences Graduate Fellowship, Department of English, 2019-2020
* Arts & Sciences Summer Fellowship, 2021
* GSWS Teaching Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2022-23
* Arts & Sciences Summer Fellowship, 2023
* Andrew W. Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2023-24
* Lillian B. Lawler Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2023-24. Declined.
* Research & Development Grant, Department of English, University of Pittsburgh, Spring 2023. Declined.
* Humanities Engage Immersive Research Dissertation Fellowship, 2024-2025

LANGUAGES

English, Bengali (native speaker), Hindi, French (elementary level).

REFERENCES

On request