**CV**

**Apala Kundu**

Department of English University of Pittsburgh

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English. University of Pittsburgh. Expected May 2026. GPA: 3.98. “T-read-ing Waters: Navigating Postcolonial Mobilities in Indian Ocean novels.”

M.A. certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies. University of Pittsburgh. “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: Migration and Identity. Fall 2025. (Part-time Instructor)
* GSWS 0100: Introduction to Gender, Sexuality, & Women’s Studies. Spring 2023.
* ENGLIT 0325: The Short Story (in context): Short Stories across the Globe. Summer 2022.
* ENGLIT 0365: Imagining Social Justice - on the Move through Literatures of Migration. Fall 2021 & 2022.
* ENGCMP 0200: Seminar in Composition: Migration and Identity. Spring 2021
* ENGCMP 0200: Seminar in Composition (Staff syllabus). Fall 2020.

PUBLICATIONS

***Book Review:***

“Boys Love Media in Thailand: Celebrity, Fans, and Transnational Asian Queer Popular Culture.” *Feminist Media Studies*, March 2025, 1–3. doi:10.1080/14680777.2025.2479150.

***Journal Article:***

“Re-possessing Her-story: A Reflection on ‘Queer’ Archiving.” *Rejoinder*, Issue 9, “The Archival is Political,” Institute for Research on Women (IRW), 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)

***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/>

***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,” 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>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Sampling the *sampan* in Amitav Ghosh’s *River of Smoke*: Tracing Asian nautical networks in the Indian Ocean.” 53rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Conference on “Asian Networks: Transnationalism, Technology and Equity.” November 2025. (upcoming)

“Teaching Literatures of Migration on the Move through Storytelling and Interactivity.” Seminar: Interactive Narratives: Rethinking Interactivity and Digital Archiving. ACLA Annual Meeting 2025. ***2025***

“Evolution of ‘Flowerboy Masculinity’ in popular Thai Wai (Y[aoi]) visual media: Implications.” Chair of and presenter in panel on Genders, Sex, and Sexualities: Queer Relationships. Northeast Popular Culture Association Annual Conference. (with Shreya Bhowmik)

“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 on “Postcolonial Migration Literatures of the Indian Ocean.” Humanities Green Speakeasy, 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 for conference on “Capital in the East,” marking 150th anniversary of Marx’s *Das Kapital*.

***2018***

* Research Assistant, with Professor Paula Banerjee, Director, compiled “Annotated Bibliography on USA-South Asia Relations,” 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

**Graduate Global Ties Mentor**, organized by Office of the Provost – Graduate Studies in collaboration with Division of Student Affairs: 2024-25, 2025-26

**TA/TF Mentor for the English Department**, Dietrich School’s TA/TF Mentor Program, 2022-2023

* conducted a survey among first-year graduate 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.

**CEAT Mentor**, 2021-2022

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

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

* 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
* Judge for 2021 Koloc Writing Awards (for 1st yr writers in ESL Workshop in Composition & domestic Workshop in Composition courses)
* English Graduate Students’ Organisation, Treasurer, 2020-2021.
* Invited Talks and Events:
* Writing Pedagogy I: Talk on “Teaching in the Subdisciplines,” November 2024
* Seminar in Pedagogy I: Talk on “Teaching Support Systems,” April 2023
* Intro to Grad Studies, “Succeeding in Graduate Seminars,” September 2022
* Intro to Grad Studies, “Succeeding in Graduate Seminars,” October 2021

HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

* World History Center Research Funding, University of Pittsburgh, Spring 2025
* Research & Development Grant, Department of English, University of Pittsburgh, Spring 2025
* Humanities Engage Immersive Research Dissertation Fellowship, 2024-2025
* Research & Development Grant, Department of English, University of Pittsburgh, Spring 2023. Declined.
* Andrew W. Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2023-2024
* Lillian B. Lawler Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2023-2024. Declined.
* PhD Qualifying Exams Completed with Distinction, Fall 2022
* GSWS Teaching Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, 2022-2023
* Arts & Sciences Graduate Fellowship, Department of English, 2019-2020
* M.A. Gold Medallist, Presidency University, 2017

LANGUAGES

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

REFERENCES

On request