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CURRENT POSITION

Associate Professor April 2018 – present
Rutgers University New Brunswick, Department of English

Assistant Professor August 2011 – February 2018
Rutgers University New Brunswick, Department of English

EDUCATION

Ph.D. English Language and Literature. December 2011.
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

M.Phil. Criticism and Culture, English. May 2006.
University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.

B.A. English and History, First Class Honors, May 2005.
University of York, York, UK.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The fields I work in include Postcolonial Literature, World Literatures, Comparative Modernities and modernisms, the Literatures of South Africa and South Asia, Human Rights and Literature, and Feminism and Gender Studies.

PUBLICATIONS (BOOK)

Literatures of Liberation: Non-European Universalisms and Democratic Progress, (Ohio State University Press, September 2017) notes that the spread of democratic ideals such as freedom and equality took place all over the world despite the widespread cultural differences that would seem to inhibit such change. In explanation, I suggest that these universalisms were not solely the result of Europe-based Enlightenment ideals. Instead, they also arose in context-specific forms in the Global South, relatively independently from Enlightenment concepts. These translatable yet distinct “contextual universalisms” were central to the spread of democratic principles in response to the relentless colonial expansion of capital, working with Enlightenment humanisms to sustain inclusive, representative change in colonized locations such as India and South Africa. I argue that contextual universalisms reconceptualize democratic ideals not as Western imports into precolonial societies but as regional phenomena tied to local relations of power and resistance. In charting these alternative democratic trajectories, I examine oft-overlooked regional and vernacular literary forms and provide a fresh approach to current theorizations of postcolonial and world literatures.

In Progress

Revealing Fictions: World Literature, New Humanisms, and Capital, which is in its initial stages, examines the texts that have accompanied and challenged the totalizing force of late capitalism. I examine writers with local audiences - including Dalit writing in Hindi and the Guinean writer Jamón y Queso - alongside widely circulating Global Anglophone authors such as Zadie Smith, J.M. Coetzee, and Thrity Umrigar. I argue that, together, these authors constitute an interlinked effort to highlight the alternative totalities through which the humanist subject may be recuperated. Through its readings, this book aims to challenge arguments that dismiss the revolutionary possibilities of art in the late stages of capitalism.

PUBLICATIONS (PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS)

1. "Revealing Fictions: Neo-liberalism, Domestic Servants, and Thrity Umrigar's *The Space Between Us*," *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature* Vol 49, No 1 (2018).
2. "'The Universal is the Entire Collection of Particulars': Grounding Identity in a Shared Horizon of Humanity," *College Literature* 40. 3 (2013): 81-98.
3. "Radical Religious Poetry in Colonial Orissa," *Economic and Political Weekly* 46.18 (April 30 – May 04, 2011): 82-94.
4. "Ubuntu Sports Inc: The Commodification of Culture in South African and American Sports," *Safundi* 12.1 (January 2011): 27-46.
5. "The Turn to Human Rights in Postcolonial Studies, An Essay Review." *Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies* 17.1 (Spring 2011): 167-177.
6. "'Rama, Must I Remind You of Your Divinity?'" Locating a Sexualized, Feminist, and Queer Dharma in the 'Ramayana.'" *Diacritics* 39.1 (Spring 2009/Fall 2011): 75-104.
7. "An Alternative Feminist Modernity: Fantastic Utopia and the Quest for Home in *Sultana's Dream*" *Postgraduate English* 14 (September 2006).

Under Review

1. "Grounds for Comparison: The Historical Novel and the Making of the Modern World System" *English Literary History*. Revised and Resubmitted.

REVIEWS

1. "An Unconstraining Embrace: A Review of *The Cambridge History of South African Literature*," *The Journal of African History* 54.2 (July 2013): 301-302.

2. "Further Directions for South African Literary Studies: A Review of Jennifer Wenzel's *Bulletproof: Afterlives of Anticolonial Prophecy in South Africa and Beyond*," *Twentieth Century Literature* 58.1 (Spring 2012): 178-186.

PUBLICATIONS (BOOK CHAPTERS)

Forthcoming

1. "Building Bridges: Constructing A Comparative Sufi Cosmopolitanism in *Rock and Roll Jihad*," in Aleksander Stevic (ed.) *The Limits of Cosmopolitanism*, London, UK. Routledge. Revised and Resubmitted.

Under Review

1. "A Global Critique of Neo-Liberalism? The Comparative *Humans of New York* and the World," in Alexandra S. Moore and Samantha Pinto (eds.), *Writing Beyond the State: Post-Sovereign Approaches to Human Rights in Literature and Culture*. New York, Palgrave Macmillan.

In Progress

1. "Normalizing the Everyday Violence of Global Capitalism: The Voided Human of the NYTimes." In Elaine Hadley, Audrey Jaffe, and Sarah Winter (eds.) *Political Economy/Economics: Literary Histories of the Present*. Initial stages of completion.

FELLOWSHIPS, RESEARCH AWARDS and HONORS

1. Rutgers Center for Cultural Analysis, Faculty Fellowship. 2014-2015.
2. Sage Fellowship, Cornell Univ. 2006-07.
3. Sage Fellowship, Cornell Univ. 2009-2010.
4. Cornell Society for the Humanities 'Humanities Writing Group' grant. 2009- 2010.
5. Cornell Society for the Humanities Travel Grant, 2010. A \$1000 grant enabling research related travel to Johannesburg, South Africa.
6. Cornell Peace Studies Travel Grant, 2010. A \$1900 grant enabling research related travel to Johannesburg, South Africa.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

1. "Many Anglophones: Vernacular Worldings in the South African and Indian Novel." Other Than Global Anglophone. Panel with Jenny Sharpe and Jennifer Wenzel, MLA 2017.
2. "Normalizing the Everyday Violence of Global Capitalism: The Voided Human of the NYTimes." Human Rights and Everyday Violence. Special Session with Alexandra Moore and Elizabeth Swanson Goldberg, MLA 2017.
3. "Marginal Comparative Universalisms in the Poetry of the Kabir Kala Manch" Wisconsin Madison South Asia Conference, October, 2016.
4. "Pre-Capitalist Oralities and the Novel: Configuring the Humanist Subject Differently," NOVEL Conference Panel with Aamir Mufti, Pittsburgh, May 2016.
5. "The Genre of Human Rights Storytelling: Social Media and Humans of (New York) Iran," *American Comparative Literature Association* conference, Cambridge MA, March 2016.
6. "The State of the Field: Forms of Authority in African Writing." *African Literature Association Conference*, Atlanta, April 2016.
7. Invited Talk: "Democratic and Non-Capitalist Universalisms in Dalit Protest Poetry," UPenn English and South Asia Studies Department. October 2015.
8. "Subverting Violence in South African Literature and Culture." Organized and Chaired a Panel at the African Studies Association Conference with Mark Sanders and Lucy Graham, Indianapolis, November 2014.
9. "Rethinking Modernity, Resisting the Secular/Religious Divide in Modernist Literatures." Organized and Chaired a Panel at the Modernist Studies Association Conference with Susan Stanford Friedman, Allison Schacter and Michael Allen. Pittsburgh, November 2014.
10. "A Serf with a Bad Attitude: White Madams and their Black Maids in Post-Apartheid Literature and Culture," Symposium on Gender and Sexuality in South Africa. UPenn. November 2014.
11. "Imagining Humanist Modernities in the Global South" *American Comparative Literature Association* conference, University of Toronto, Canada, March 2013.
12. "Conceptions of Popular Sovereignty in Anti-Apartheid Praise Poetry" *American Comparative Literature Association* conference, Providence, Rhode Island, March 2012.
13. Participant in a Panel on "Sovereignty" at the *International Conference on Narrative*, Las Vegas, Nevada, March 2012.
14. "Affective Agencies: A New Direction for Feminist Conceptions of Individual Freedom?" Wisconsin Madison Feminist Pre-Conference, October 2010.
15. "South African Indigenous Modernities" Harvard University, *American Comparative Literature Association* conference, Cambridge, MA, April 2009.

TEACHING

Literatures of Migration, Immigration, and Diaspora (Fall 2011)
Other Shakespeares (Seminar, Fall 2011)
Introduction to the Study of Women Writers: Global Women's Writing (Spring 2012)
Issues and Problems in Literary Theory: Key Issues in Postcolonial Theory (Spring 2012)
20th Cent Lit in a Global Context: Cross-Cultural Humanisms in Literature and Film (Fall 2012)
GRADUATE SEMINAR: Decolonization and Culture: Key Issues in Postcolonial Theory (Fall 2012)
Nation as Woman: Gender, Sex & Post-colonial (Seminar, Spring 2013)
20th Cent Lit in a Global Context: The Global Anglophone Novel (Fall 2013)
Introduction to the Study of Women Writers: The Politics of Domestic Work (Fall 2015)
GRADUATE SEMINAR: What is World Literature? (Fall 2015)
Issues and Problems in Literary Theory: Colonialism, Capitalism, and Decolonization (Spring 2016)
20th Century Lit in a Global Context: Cross-Cultural Humanisms in Literature & Film (Spring 2016)
20th Century Lit in a Global Context: Thinking Beyond the Human (Fall 2017)
Introduction to the Study of Women Writers: The Politics of Domestic Work (Fall 2017)
Introduction to the Literatures of South Asia: Epics Alive (Spring 2018)
GRADUATE SEMINAR: World Literature & Postcolonialism: Intersections, Diversions, New Directions (Spring 2018)

Ph.D. STUDENTS

Kelly Roberts, (degree expected 2024). Chair.

Lindsay Peart (degree expected 2024). Committee Member.

Jenny Lalli, (degree expected 2022). Committee Member.

Moyang Li, "Mathematics and Universalisms in Modernist, Postcolonial, and Contemporary World Literature" (degree expected 2021). Chair.

Scott Harris, "Theatrical Representation in the Contemporary Historical Novel" (degree expected 2021). Committee Member.

Sushil Sivaram, "Literary Festivals/Publics: Polycentricism and Restaging the Global" (degree expected 2020). Co-Chair.

Regina Hamilton, (degree expected 2019). Exam Committee Member.

Vivian Kao, "Reforming Improvement: World Cinema Adapts the British Novel" (degree granted 2015). Committee Member.

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

1. Modern Literature Association, 2016-2017, 2014-2015, 2013-2014, 2011-2012.
2. American Comparative Literature Association, 2015-2016, 2012-2013, 2011-2012, 2009-2010.
3. Society for Novel Studies, 2015-2016.
4. African Literature Association, 2015- 2016.
5. Modernist Studies Association, 2014-2015.
6. African Studies Association, 2014-2015.
7. International Society for the Study of Narrative, 2012-2013.

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES, PROFESSIONAL, AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Content contributor for the 'Literary Universals Project': <http://literary-universals.uconn.edu/>. Housed at the University of Connecticut. Aimed at facilitating access to established work on literary universals and to foster the further advancement of research on this topic. 2017-2018.

Peer Reviewer for journal *Comparative Literature*. 2015.

Member of the Graduate Admissions Committees, 2018, 2016, 2012.

Member of the Committee for Bias Prevention, 2017-2018. 2012-2013,

Member of the Graduate Executive Committee, 2016-2018.

Member of the Graduate Placement Committee, 2016-2017, 2015-2016, 2011-2013.

Member of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2016-2017, 2013-2014, 2012-2013.

Member of the Executive Committee, 2012-2013.

Reader for Graduate Prizes (Cantalupo): 2012, 2013.

Began and Organized the English Department Junior Faculty Reading Group (2011-2013).

Member of AMESALL Reading Group (2011-2013).

Invited and Organized Visits by the Indian poet Vivek Narayanan (2013) and the South African scholar Liz Gunter (2012).

Advisor on Honors Theses by Avery Elford (2017-2018), Michelle Choi (2017), Brandon Park (2017), Sanyogita Padhye (2016), Khoa Tran (2014, Recipient of the Henry Rutgers Scholar Award), Rubab Hassan (2012-2013), Jocelyn Chokkattu (2012-2013).

Participant in the Graduate Open House Roundtable (2012).

LANGUAGES

Fluent in English, Dutch, and Hindi. Conversant in Afrikaans, Bengali and Sindhi. Working knowledge of French and Urdu. Currently learning Zulu.
