

## Curriculum Vitae

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**DATE OF BIRTH:** 04/02/1974

### CURRENT DESIGNATION

Assistant Professor, Lovely Professional University, July 2018 –

### EDUCATION

New York University, New York, NY, USA

Ph.D., English Literature; **degree awarded on 16/05/2018**

Field of Study: South Asian literatures and cultures, postcolonial theory, theories of everyday life, religion and secularism

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Doctoral Course Work, 2008-2009

University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, India

M.A., English Literature, 1999.

University of Burdwan, West Bengal, India

B.A., English Honors, 1996.

### DISSERTATION

*Muslim Fictions: Toward an Aesthetic of the Ordinary*

Advisors: Robert JC Young, Toral Gajarawala, Akeel Bilgrami.

My dissertation analyzes Anglophone as well as vernacular fictions written by South Asian Muslim authors such as Mohsin Hamid, Moni Mohsin, Abdul Bismillah, Tahmima Anam, and Akhtaruzzaman Elias. I argue that their attention to ordinary practices of illicit love, “modern” education, and consumerism, in contrast to extraordinary events, produces a discourse on the complex negotiation between the sacral and the secular by Muslims at the contemporary moment. Such depictions of Muslim subjectivity at the nexus of everyday life help us deconstruct the rigid binaries of ‘religious practice’ and ‘secular practice’, which are often deployed to interpret Muslim experience. Through advancing a new conceptual category of “worldly subjectivity”, I demonstrate the instabilities and inconsistencies in Muslim subject formation torn between religious commitment and worldly desires. Further, this dissertation claims that fictional depiction of ordinary practices

allows a more nuanced understanding of Muslim subjectivity than ethnographic descriptions which usually focus on the broader structures of a culture.

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

South Asian Literatures and Cultures, Postcolonial Theory, Theories of Everyday Life, Religion and Secularism, Bengali Partition Fiction

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book Manuscripts under Preparation

Working on an edited volume (with Mursed Alam), *Muslim Life in West Bengal*. This book will be the first of its kind to study different aspects of Muslim Life in Bengal since independence (1947), even as we go back to colonial times. **(Currently soliciting and editing chapters for the book)**

Completed translating Shankha Ghosh's Bengali novellas, *Sakalbelar Alo (The Morning Light)* & *Supuriboner Sari (Rows of Acernut Trees)*. **(Working on finding a publishing contract)**

### Articles, Book Chapters & Book Reviews

"Transgressive Desire, Everyday Life, and the Production of 'Modernity' in Pakistani Anglophone Fiction." Ed. Aroosa Kanwal & Saiyma Masood. *The Routledge Companion to Pakistani Anglophone Writing: Origins, Contestations, New Horizons*. Oxon: Routledge UK, 2018. **(In print; Forthcoming, October 2018)**

"The Idea of a University and the Invention of Culture in Colonial/Post-colonial India." Ed. Debaditya Bhattacharya. *The University Unthought: Notes for a Future*. Delhi: Routledge India, 2018. **(In Print; Forthcoming, September 2018)**

"Everyday Life, Defamiliarization, and Desire in Moni Mohsin's *The End of Innocence*." *Everyday Lifeworlds: Contestations and Negotiations*. Ed. Prasanta Ray & Nandini Ghosh. Delhi: Primus Books, 2016.

"Everyday Sacrality in Islamic Hip Hop." *Different Americas: Resituating American Identity in the Post-9/11 Third Worldian Classroom*. Ed. Anindya Sekhar Purkayastha et al. Delhi: Authors Press, 2014.

Review of Jeremy Seabrook & Imran Ahmed Siddiqui, *People Without History: India's Muslim Ghettos*. *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*. 16.2 (2014)

Review of Andrew Hock Soon Ng, *Intimating the Sacred: Religion in English Language Malaysian Fiction*. *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*. 15.3 (2013)

Review of Saborna Roychowdhury, *The Distance*. *Asiatic: IIUM Journal of English Language and Literature*. 6.1 (June 2012).

"'One empty jar...how to end?'" Prescient Discourse of Nation in Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*." *Indian English Fiction: A Reader*. Ed. Sarbojit Biswas. Kolkata: Books Way, 2009.

"Territory and Homeland in Gour Kishore Ghosh's *Prem Nei* (Love Lost, 1981): Construction of Bengali Nationality in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century." *Protocol: Journal of Translation, Creative and Critical Writings*. North-East Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, India. 2009.

“Citizenship in the Transnational Space: Mira Nair’s Namesake (2006) and Sarah Gavron’s Brick Lane (2007).” *Wesleyan Journal of Research*. Bankura Christian College, Burdwan University, India. 2. 2 (2009)

### **Edited Journal Issues**

Co-editor (with Mursed Alam), *Café Dissensus* Special Issue, “Muslim Life in West Bengal.” July 2017.  
Co-editor (with Mary Ann Chacko), *Café Dissensus* Special Issue, “Beyond Mumbai, 2012: Indian Muslims and the Way Forward.” February 2013.

### **Select socio-political commentary publications**

“Travelling in Donald Trump’s America.” *Coldnoon*, 17 October, 2017.  
“The Construction of Bengali Muslim Identity in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century.” *Café Dissensus*, 15 July, 2017.  
“The Souls of Muslim Folk in West Bengal.” *Raiot Webzine*, 10 July, 2017.  
“Playing with fire: Bengal’s rioting Muslims are hurting their own opportunities for empowerment.” *Scroll.in*, 10 July, 2017.  
“Behind the Dhaka attack: Radical secularization and Islamist terror in Bangladesh.” *openDemocracy*, 12 July, 2016  
“Nehru’s ‘Idea of India’ is dead, but is there a way to re-imagine a sense of community in our fractured times?” *Scroll.in*, 3 March, 2016  
“Faiz Ahmed Faiz and the Bangladesh Liberation War (1971).” *Café Dissensus*, 15 May, 2015.  
“Bangladesh: A Nation Divided.” *Café Dissensus Everyday*, 20 December, 2013.  
“Indian liberalism has a rough week.” *Asia Times Online*, 17 November, 2012.  
“Behind a Veil.” *NewsLaundry*, 22 August, 2012.

### **Select creative writing and non-academic publications**

Short Story: “E-Love.” *Samyuktha Journal (In Print)*  
Poems: “There He Sat” & “For Rohith Vemula.” *Noble/Gas Quarterly*, 20 December, 2017.  
Poem: “The Perfumer of Brownsville.” *Quail Bell Magazine*, 19 December, 2017.  
“Three Poems.” *Setu Magazine*, July, 2017  
Short Story: “Maryam.” *The Bombay Review*, 28 February, 2017.  
“Review of Ayesha Mattu & Nura Maznavi’s *Salaam, Love: American Muslim Men on Love, Sex, and Intimacy*.” *Hyphen Magazine*, 18 July, 2014.  
“Review of Aman Sethi’s *A Free Man: A True Story of Life and Death in Delhi*.” *Hyphen Magazine*, 28 November, 2013.  
“Review of Amitav Ghosh’s *River of Smoke*.” *Hyphen Magazine*, 18 October, 2012.

### **HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

NYU GSAS Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship, 2015-16  
Modern Language Association Travel Grant 2015  
English Department Graduate Travel Grant, NYU, January 2014  
NYU Graduate Research Initiative (GRI) Fellowship in London, June-July, 2013  
Department of English, NYU, Travel Support for research in India and Bangladesh, Sept. – Dec., 2011  
GSAS Dean’s Student Travel Grant, NYU, September, 2011

Graduate Student Forum, New York University, 2010-2012  
GSAS Dean's Student Travel Grant, NYU, October, 2009  
MacCracken Doctoral Fellowship, New York University, 2009- 2014  
William Royce Butler and Jean Campbell Butler Scholarship, Dept. of English, University of British Columbia, Canada, 2008  
University of British Columbia Graduate Entrance Scholarship, 2008  
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, Scholarship, 2000 - 2001  
Third position, B.A., English Honors, University of Burdwan, West Bengal, India, 1996

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Assistant Professor**

Lovely Professional University, July 2018 –

### **Teaching Assistant**

“Text and Ideas: Humans and the Natural World,” Morse Academic Plan, NYU, Spring 2013  
A course in NYU's core curriculum that covered ancient to modern literature. I delivered an Invited Lecture on Freud's *Civilization and Its Discontents*, along with designing recitation activities, leading discussion sections, and grading all assignments.

“Text and Ideas: Materialism”, Morse Academic Plan, NYU, Fall 2012  
A course in NYU's core curriculum that covered ideas on materialism from the Greeks to the modernists. I delivered an Invited Lecture on Thomas More's *Utopia*, along with designing recitation activities, leading discussion sections, and grading all assignments.

“British Literature II”, Department of English, NYU, Spring 2012  
A required survey course for English majors covering seventeenth to twentieth century British Literature. I delivered two Invited Lectures on Rudyard Kipling's select short stories centering on the idea of ‘Empire and National Identity’ and Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, along with designing recitation activities, leading discussion sections, and grading all assignments.

“Introduction to English Literature, Department of English, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, Jan. 2008-April 2009  
These were required survey courses for undergraduate students across disciplines. I designed recitation activities, led discussion sections, and graded all assignments.

“Survey Course on English Literature”, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, 2000-2001  
Led discussion sections for compulsory survey courses on English Literature and for courses on Communicative English.

**Guest Lecturer-in-English**, Salesian College, University of North Bengal, India, 2004-2007  
I was invited to deliver lectures to English Honors students for a course entitled, ‘Indian Writing in English’ and for a survey course on British Literature.

**Guest Lecturer-in-English**, Distance Education Program, University of North Bengal, India, 2005-2007

I was invited to deliver lectures to Masters Students in English Literature during the Contact Programs for survey courses on British Literature and Postcolonial Literature.

**Lecturer-in-English (tenured)**, Kurseong College, University of North Bengal, India, Jun. 2002-Oct. 2007

Apart from following the prescribed university syllabus, I designed my own courses, delivered lectures to English Honors and General students, graded assignments, and prepared students for university examinations. I taught courses on Indian Writing in English, Victorian Literature, and Twentieth Century British Literature.

### **SELECT INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

Delivered a lecture, "From lynching to triple *talaq*: The spectral presence of caste among Indian Muslims", as part of Ambedkar Lecture Series, organized by Boston Study Group, Boston and held at Harvard University, USA, 22 May, 2018.

Plenary Address, "Production of Muslim subjectivity in contemporary Anglophone fiction from the Indian subcontinent," at a conference, "South Asia: Remapping the Geo-cultural Imaginaries," Raja Rammohun Roy College, Radhanagar, Hooghly, West Bengal, India, 20 March, 2018.

Plenary Address, "Marginality and Indian English Muslim Fiction," at a conference, "Frames of Marginality: Interpreting and Interrogating Theory and Praxis," Raja Peary Mohan College, Uttarpara & Pandit Raghunath Murmu Memorial College, Jamboni, Bankura, West Bengal, India, 21-22 February, 2018.

Invited to read my poems at Le Sutra Poetry and Literature Festival, Bandra, Mumbai, 19-21 January, 2018.

Panel Moderator of panel comprising of Prof. Gopal Guru, Prof. Nandini Sundar, Dr. Prasad Pannian at a conference, "Revisiting Nationalism and Cosmopolitanism: Intellectual and Social Mobilizations in India," Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol, West Bengal, India, 15-16 December, 2017.

"From Arab Spring to Occupy Wall Street: Resistance of the Fragmented," Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol, West Bengal, India, 15 December, 2016.

"Religiosity/Secularity in the Fiction of Bangladesh Independence War," Dept. of History, Presidency University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India, 9 December, 2016.

"Everyday Sacrality in Islamic Hip Hop," Dept. of English, Gour Mahavidyalaya, Malda, West Bengal, India, 7 January, 2012.

"The Idea of a University and the Invention of Culture: Colonial and Post-colonial Perspectives on University in India," Dept. of English, Gour Banga University, Malda, West Bengal, India, 6 January, 2012.

"Situated Practices in Everyday Islam," NYU Alumni Day, October 23, 2010.

### **SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

"Everyday Life and the Dialectic of Public and Private in Fawzia Afzal-Khan's *Lahore with Love: Growing with Girlfriends, Pakistani Style*", Modern Language Association (MLA) 2015 Special Session on 'Muslim Women's Memoir and Everyday Life', Vancouver, Canada, 8-11 January, 2015.

"The Notion of Material Utopia in Sub-continental Muslim Anglophone Writing," Modern Language Association (MLA) 2014 Special Session on 'Muslim Utopia', Chicago, USA, 9-12 January, 2014.

- “Muslim Material Utopia”, Graduate Student Conference on ““Failure” in Islamic Reform”, Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium, Princeton University, NJ, April 12-13, 2013.
- “Contingent Muslim Modernity in South Asia”, Princeton South Asian Studies, “Modernity and Its Discontents: Early Career South Asian Studies Workshop”, Princeton University, NJ, April 26-27, 2013.
- “Subject of Desire and Everyday Life,” Modern Language Association (MLA) 2013 Special Session on ‘Negotiating Sacred and Secular in Muslim Everyday Life’, Sheraton Hotel, Boston, USA, 3-6 January, 2013.
- “A Literary Exploration of Muslim Everyday Life,” International Symposium-cum-Conference on “Tradition, Reform, and Revival in Muslim Societies: Multiple Readings.” Organized by Dept. of Sociology, University of Hyderabad, 16-18 January, 2012.
- “Communalization of Space in Post-Partition Calcutta,” Second International Congress of Bengal Studies 2011, Dhaka University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 17-20 December, 2011.
- “Desiring Subject and the Everyday,” Conference on “Pratyaha: Everyday Lifeworld.” Institute of Development Studies Kolkata, Kolkata, West Bengal, India, 20-21 October, 2011.
- “New Social Ethics under Colonial Modernity and the Literary Aesthetics of Realism,” International Conference: “Islam and English in India: Cultural, Literary, Pedagogic, Historical, Political and Philosophical Encounters, An International, Interdisciplinary Conference.” Organized by Dept. of English, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, 6-8 September, 2011.
- “Sabitri Roy’s Badwip (The Delta) and Communalization of Post-Partition Urban Space in Calcutta,” 38th Annual Conference on South Asia, Centre for South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA, October 2009.
- “Tropes of Madness in Bengali Partition (1947) Literature: Gendering and Subverting the Nation,” Ninth Annual South Asian Literary Association (SALA) Conference Program, December 26-27, 2008, Galleria Park Hotel, San Francisco, USA.

### **PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE SERVICES**

- Co-organizer**, “Muslim Women’s Memoir and Everyday Life,” MLA Special Session, Vancouver, Canada, 8-11 January, 2015 (This panel has been included in the MLA 2015 Presidential Theme, ‘Sites of Memory’)
- Co-organizer & Co-president**, “Muslim Utopia,” MLA Special Session, Chicago, 9-12 January, 2014 (This panel has been included in the MLA 2014 Presidential Theme, ‘Vulnerable Times’)
- Co-organizer & Co-president**, “Negotiating Sacred and Secular in Muslim Everyday Life,” MLA Special Session, Boston, 3-6 January, 2013.
- Chair**, “National Students’ Conference on Literary and Cultural Studies,” Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, India, 20-22 September, 2011
- Chair**, “Narrative and Memory of Partition,” 37th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA, October 2008.
- Convener & Organizer**, UGC-sponsored National Seminar, “Interrogating the Nation: The Legacy of Rushdie in Indian English Novels (1981-2007),” UGC-sponsored National Seminar, Kurseong College, University of North Bengal, West Bengal, India, 7-8 August, 2007.

### **PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SERVICES**

- Faculty Leader**, NYU Freshman Dialogues, 2014
- Member**, International Affairs Committee, Student Administrative Committee, NYU, 2012-13
- Founder & Coordinator**, NYU Research Group on Transnational Everyday Life, 2011- 2016

**Clubs Commissioner**, Student Administrative Commission, AMS Student Society of UBC, Vancouver, Canada, 2008-09  
**Nominated Member**, Expert Committee on Communicative English, University of North Bengal, West Bengal, India, 2005-07  
**Co-ordinator**, Department of Communicative English, Kurseong College, University of North Bengal, 2005-07  
**Convener**, *Orchids*, Annual Magazine, Kurseong College, University of North Bengal, West Bengal, India, 2006  
**Convener**, Sports Committee, Kurseong College, University of North Bengal, West Bengal, India, 2004-05

### **EDITORIAL WORK**

**Co-Founder & Editor**, *Café Dissensus Magazine* ([www.cafedissensus.com](http://www.cafedissensus.com)), 2013-  
**Editorial Assistant**, *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*. Ed. by Prof. Robert JC Young, 2012-  
**Book Reviewer**, *Hyphen Magazine: Asian America Unabridged*, San Francisco, California, 2010-2014.  
**Editor-in-Chief**, *Orchids*, Kurseong College Annual Magazine, 2006

### **MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATIONS**

Modern Language Association (MLA), 2009- 2017  
Canadian Association for Commonwealth Language and Literature (CACLALS), 2007-08  
Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE), 2007-08

### **LANGUAGES**

Bengali, fluent in speaking, reading, writing, listening  
Hindi, fluent in speaking, reading, listening

### **REFERENCES**

Robert JC Young, Silver Professor of English and Comparative Literature, New York University;  
[robertjcyoung@nyu.edu](mailto:robertjcyoung@nyu.edu), (212)992-9591  
Toral Gajarawala, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, New York University;  
[tg38@nyu.edu](mailto:tg38@nyu.edu), (212)992-9687  
Akeel Bilgrami, Sidney Morgenbesser Professor of Philosophy, Columbia University;  
[ab41@columbia.edu](mailto:ab41@columbia.edu), (212)854-6971