

AURITRO MAJUMDER

Assistant Professor, Department of English
University of Houston
3687 Cullen Blvd, RM 205
Houston TX 77204-3013
Email: amajumder@uh.edu
Phone: +1 7137435875 (Office)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of English and India Studies, University of Houston (August 2014 – present)

EDUCATION

- PhD in English, Syracuse University, 2014
 - School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University, 2012
 - MA in English (First Class), Jadavpur University, 2009
 - BA in English (First Class, Honours), Jadavpur University, 2007
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RESEARCH AREAS: Global Anglophone Literatures, Critical Theory, and History of Ideas

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

- “Toward a Materialist Critique of the Postnational: Haile Gerima’s Lukácsian Realism in *Harvest 3000 Years*.” *Research in African Literatures* 49.1 (2018), Forthcoming 8700 words.
- “World Literature, the *Geist* and the East, 1907-1942.” *History, Imperialism, Critique: New Essays in World Literature*. Ed. Asher Ghaffar (New York: Routledge, 2018): Forthcoming 7500 words.
- “The Case for Peripheral Aesthetics: Fredric Jameson, the World-System and Cultures of Emancipation.” *Interventions* 19.6 (2017): 781-796.
- “Gayatri Spivak, Planetarity, and the Labor of Imagining Internationalism.” *Mediations* 30.2 (2017): 15-28.
- “Caste, Race, and Intellectual History: Notes on a Singular Modernity.” *Crossing Borders: Essays on Literature, Culture and Society in Honor of Amritjit Singh*. Eds. Tapan Basu and Tasneem Shahnaaz (Lanham: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press; New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2017). 135-146.
- “Can Bengali Literature be Postcolonial?” *Comparative Literature Studies* 53.2 (2016): 417-425.

- “Naxalites”. *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Postcolonial Studies*. Eds. Sangeeta Ray and Henry Schwarz (Malden, Massachusetts: Wiley-Blackwell, 2016). Web, 3000 words.
- “The Poetics and Politics of Blackness: Literature as a Site of Transnational Contestation in Chanakya Sen’s *The Morning After* and Utpal Dutt’s *The Rights of Man*.” *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* 50.4 (2014): 423-436.
- “Representations and Re-presentations: Reading Coca-Cola Advertising, and the Visuals of Anti-Coke Struggles in India.” *Contentious Connections: Social Imagination in Globalizing South Asia*. Eds. Sirpa Tenhunen and Klaus Karttunen (Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014). 55-78.
- “Dilemmas of Parliamentary Communism: The Rise and Fall of the Left in West Bengal.” (Co-authored with Subho Basu). *Critical Asian Studies* 45.2 (2013): 167-200.
- “Frantz Fanon: Revisiting Anticolonialism.” *Modern Social Thinkers*. Ed. Pradip Basu (Calcutta: Setu, 2012). 144-161.

In Progress:

Monograph, *Insurgent Imaginations: Aesthetics and Politics in India*. (This book theorizes the notion of peripheral aesthetics, and transnational connections between South Asia, the Soviet Union, the United States, and Latin America from the 1920s to the present, with emphasis on aesthetic form in fiction, non-fiction, and cinema. Individual chapters focus on M.N. Roy, Mahasweta Devi, Arundhati Roy, and Aravind Adiga.) 65,000 words, manuscript to be completed by May 2018.

Co-edited volume, *Cultures of the Cold War in South Asia*. (Working Title) (This edited anthology sheds light on the crucial importance of the Cold War in the development of postcolonial South Asia. Brings together fifteen interdisciplinary essays – from history, economics, political science, and cultural studies – covering Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka). 120,000 words, manuscript to be submitted to Routledge by March 2019.

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES

- 2017 “Rabindranath Tagore: Totality at the Margins.” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA. October.
- 2017 “Against the Notion of Break.” Cultural Studies Association Conference. Georgetown University, Washington D.C., USA. May.
- 2017 “Modernism/Realism: *Pace* Third Cinema.” Annual Africa Conference, University of Texas at Austin. USA. March-April.
- 2017 “The Protocols of Humanist Reading, After Theory.” INVITED. Department of English, University of Florida. Gainesville, USA. March.
- 2017 “Two Narratives of Hegel and Buddha: the Anticolonial and the Posthuman.” Convention of the Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, USA. January.
- 2016 “Materialism from the Margins: M.N. Roy and the Unlikely Detours of Anticolonial Thought.” INVITED. Department of English, McGill University. Montreal, Canada. November.
- 2016 “Peripheral Aesthetics and World Literature.” Convention of the Modern Language Association. Austin, USA. January.

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES (Contd.)

- 2015 “‘Apology of a Plot’: Maoism, the Land Question and the Problem of Historical Time.” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA. October.
- 2015 Participant, Duke University Humanities Center Symposium on “Materialist Conservation”. INVITED. Durham, USA. April.
- 2015 “(Un-)globalizing South Asia: Parody, Property and Comparitivism.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association. Seattle, USA. March.
- 2015 “Memories of the Future: Collectivity and the Global South in Jameson, Zizek and Spivak.” Convention of the Modern Language Association. Vancouver, Canada. January.
- 2014 “The Politics of Postcolonial Fiction.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association. New York, USA. March.
- 2014 “New India Fiction and the Politics of Postcolonial Form.” INVITED. (All in February): Department of English, Appalachian State University; Department of English, University of Houston; Department of English, University of South Carolina; Department of English, Vanderbilt University.
- 2014 “Internationalism, Afro-American-Asian Solidarity, and the Question of Genre.” Convention of the Modern Language Association. Chicago, USA. January.
- 2013 “New India Fiction and the Global Literary Marketplace.” INVITED. Humanities Center, Syracuse University. Syracuse, USA. November.
- 2013 “Anticolonial Encounters with the Postcolonial,” and “Movement Matters.” Materialism and the Colony Symposium, Bard College at Simon’s Rock, Great Barrington, USA. May.
- 2012 “Naxalism’s Gandhi: Corruption, National Culture, and the Lumpen Bourgeoisie.” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA. October.
- 2012 “The Age of the Sickle.” INVITED. South Asia Center, Syracuse University. Syracuse, USA. September.
- 2012 “Underdevelopment, Self and the Dialectic.” Marxism and Psychology International Congress. Morelia, Mexico. August (in absentia).
- 2012 “Decolonization and Liberation in the Theater of Utpal Dutta and Heisnam Kanhailal.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association. Rhode Island, USA. March.
- 2011 “Postcoloniality as Aesthetic Form in Mrinal Sen’s *Calcutta 71*.” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA. October.
- 2011 “Lenin in Translation: The (Inter) National Question and Sectarian Communisms in India.” INVITED. Symposium on Maoism and the State of the Indian Left. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, USA. March.
- 2010 “The Autonomy of the Subaltern.” Department of History, Syracuse University, Syracuse, USA. December.
- 2010 “Bengali Travel Writing and the Andamans.” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA. October.
- 2010 “Advertising Coca Cola and Visual Culture in India.” Annual Conference of the Nordic Association of South Asian Studies. Helsinki, Finland. May.

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate Courses, Department of English, University of Houston

- ENGL 3301 Introduction to Literary Studies (Fall 2018, Spring 2015, F14)
- ENGL 3322 The Contemporary Novel (F17, S17, S16, F15)

Undergraduate Courses (Contd.)

- ENGL 3365 Postcolonial Literature (F18, F16, S16, S15)
- ENGL 4396 The City in Cultural Forms, Senior Experience (S17)

Graduate Courses, Dept. of English, University of Houston

- ENGL 7315 Postcolonial Dialectics (F16)
- ENGL 7369 Introduction to Postcolonial Studies (F17)
- ENGL 8386 Postcolonial Narrations (F15)

Teaching Associate, Department of English, Syracuse University (Fall 2011 – Spring 2014)

- Spring 2014 ETS 181 Class and Literary Texts: “Debates in World Literature”
- Fall 2013 ETS 182 Race and Literary Texts: “Comparative Blackness Across Continents”
- Spring 2013 ETS 182 Race and Literary Texts: “Comparative Blackness Across Continents”
- Fall 2012 ETS 181 Class and Literary Texts: “The Global 20th Century”
- Spring 2012 ETS 181 Class and Literary Texts: “The Global 20th Century”
- Fall 2011 ETS 181 Class and Literary Texts: “Class and Literary Texts”

Teaching Assistant, Dept. of English, Syracuse University (Fall 2009 – Spring 2011)

Teaching Assistant (involved grading & leading two discussion sections) -

- Spring 2011 ETS 153 Interpretation of Fiction
- Fall 2010 ETS 121 Introduction to Shakespeare
- Spring 2010 ETS 145 Reading Popular Culture
- Fall 2009 ETS 154 Interpretation of Film

AWARDS, HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

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- Pre-Conference Organizer, Travel Grant, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2017.
 - Research Progress Grant, University of Houston, 2017.
 - New Faculty Summer Research Grant, University of Houston, 2015.
 - New Faculty Scholars Workshop Series, University of Houston, 2014-2015.
 - MLA (Modern Language Association) Graduate Travel Award, 2014.
 - Graduate Student Organization Research Grant, Syracuse University, 2013.
 - Honorable Mention, Mary Marshall Prize for Best Graduate Essay in the Humanities, Syracuse University, 2013.
 - English Department Fellowship, Syracuse University, for School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University, 2012.
 - Goekjian Fellowship for 2011-12, Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs, Syracuse University.
 - Bharati Fellowship Travel Grant, South Asia Center, Syracuse University, May 2010.
 - Graduate Student Organization Travel Grant, Syracuse University: May 2010, March 2011, October 2011, and August 2012.
 - English Dept. Conference Travel Grant, Syracuse University: May 2010, October 2010, October 2011, and December 2013.
 - English Dept. Summer TA Fellowship, Syracuse University, Summer 2010-2013.
 - Teaching Assistantship, English Dept., Syracuse University, 2009 – 2013.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- Manuscript Reviewer: *Concentric: Literary and Cultural Studies* (National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei, Taiwan); *Feminist Media Studies* (Taylor and Francis); *LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory* (Taylor and Francis); *Mediations* (University of Illinois, Chicago).
- Organizer, “South Asian-America and States of Insecurity” (Selected for MLA Presidential Theme). Guaranteed Panel of the South Asia Literary Association. Convention of the Modern Language Association. New York City, New York. January 6-9, 2018.
- International Reviewer (External) – Trinity College Dublin, for Visiting Research Fellowship of Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute, Dublin. 2017.
- Co-organizer, Preconference on “Decolonization: Texts and Contexts of Freedom”. Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison. October 26, 2017.
- Co-organizer and Chair, Panel on “Considerations in Marxism and Form”. Annual Africa Conference at University of Texas, Austin. March 30-April 2, 2017.
- Organizer and Chair, Special Session on “Posthumanism: A Counter History” (Selected for MLA Presidential Theme). Convention of the Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. January 5-8, 2017.
- Organizer and Chair, Special Session on “Peripheral Aesthetics and World Literature” (Selected for MLA Presidential Theme). Convention of the Modern Language Association. Austin, Texas. January 7-10, 2016.
- Organizer, Panel on “Progressive and Communist Writings: Mistrusting the Nation-State”. Annual Conference on South Asia, Center for South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison. October 22-25, 2015.
- Moderator, Empire Studies Faculty and Graduate Student Workshop with Prof. Gayatri Spivak (Columbia), Dept. of English, University of Houston, January 30, 2015.
- Co-organizer, Roundtable on “Memories of the Future: Collectivity and the Global South in Jameson, Zizek and Spivak”. Convention of the Modern Language Association. Vancouver, Canada. January 8-11, 2015.
- Co-organizer, Seminar on “Differential Capital: Materialist Approaches to Postcoloniality”. Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association. NYU, New York, March 20-23, 2014.
- Co-organizer, “Materialism and the Colony”. Symposium/Workshop at Bard College, Simon’s Rock, Massachusetts, May 23-24, 2013.
- Organizer, English Graduate Organization Annual Speaker Series with Prof. Ania Loomba, (UPenn), Syracuse University, April 25-26, 2013.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Houston

- Faculty Search Committee for Director/Associate Professor, India Studies Program, 2017-18.

Department of English, University of Houston

- Founding Member, Steering Committee of the Empire Studies Collective, 2015-18.
- Planning Committee (Elected), 2015-17.
- Graduate Studies Committee, 2016-2017.
- Lower Division Undergraduate Committee, 2015-2016.
- Upper Division Undergraduate Committee, 2017-2018, 2014-2015.

PUBLIC SERVICE

- Poetry Consultant, *Silambam Houston*, Classical Indian Dance Company, 2016-17.
- Panelist, “Between Arts, Language, and Politics: A Panel Discussion on Slavs and Tatars: Mirrors for Princes.” Blaffer Art Museum, Houston, March 10, 2016.
- Q&A with Kidlat Tahimik, director. Houston Cinema Arts Festival, November 1, 2015.

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Graduate Students:

- Eugene Penzien, 2017-18 (Independent Study, MA, Utopian Traditions in Western & POCO Lit)
- Maurine Ogbaa, 2017-18 (Examiner, PhD Comprehensive)
- Jaedeok Eom, 2017-18 (Examiner, PhD Comprehensive)
- Aisha Sadiq, 2016-17 (Examiner, PhD Comprehensive)
- Christia Jackson, 2016-17 (Examiner, PhD Comprehensive)
- J.P. Gritton 2016-2017 (Examiner, PhD Comprehensive)
- Salwa Albarqi, 2015-16 (Examiner, PhD Comprehensive)
- Stuart Brooks, 2015-16 (Examiner, PhD Comprehensive)
- Zach Martin, 2014-15 (Reader, PhD Dissertation, and Examiner, PhD Comprehensive)

Undergraduate Students:

- Jameson Hoffmann, Fall 2017 (Senior Thesis, BA, “Critical Genealogies of Postcolonialism”)
- Sarah M. Presas, Fall 2015 (Senior Thesis, BA, “Middle Eastern Literatures Post-9/11”)

REFERENCES

- Crystal Bartolovich (Advisor) [clbartol@syr.edu]
Associate Professor of English, Syracuse University
 - Ania Loomba [loomba@english.upenn.edu]
Catherine Bryson Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania
 - Henry Schwarz [schwarz@georgetown.edu]
Professor of English, Georgetown University
 - Keya Ganguly [gangu003@umn.edu]
Professor of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, University of Minnesota
 - Subho Basu [subho.basu@mcgill.ca]
Associate Professor of History, McGill University
 - Timothy Brennan [brenn032@umn.edu]
Professor of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, and English, and Samuel Russell Chair in the Humanities, University of Minnesota
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