

BAKIRATHI MANI

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EMPLOYMENT

- 2008-present **Swarthmore College**, Swarthmore, PA
Associate Professor with tenure, Department of English Literature
- 2008-9 Coordinator, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program
- 2002-2008 **Swarthmore College**, Swarthmore, PA
Assistant Professor, Department of English Literature

EDUCATION

- 2002 **Stanford University**, Stanford, CA
Ph.D. in Modern Thought and Literature
Ph.D. Minor in Cultural and Social Anthropology
- 1997 **Jawaharlal Nehru University**, Centre for Historical Studies, New Delhi
M.A. (*First-rank, First Class*) in Modern Indian History
- 1995 **Georgetown University**, School of Foreign Service, Washington, DC
B.S.F.S. (*Magna Cum Laude*) in Non-Western History and Diplomacy,
Certificate in Asian Studies

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2010 The Curatorial Intensive, Independent Curator's International, New York
- 2009-2010 Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, Columbia University
- 2009-2010 Mary Albertson Faculty Fellowship, Swarthmore College
- 2008-2009 Director, Mellon Tri-College Faculty Group, New Directions in Asian American Studies
- 2008-2009 Hungerford Fund Grant for Faculty Research, Swarthmore College
- 2005-2006 Eugene M. Lang Faculty Fellowship, Swarthmore College
- 2005 Minority Junior Faculty Award, Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation
- 2005 Intercultural Center Community Partner Award, Swarthmore College
- 2004-2005 Participant, Expanding East Asian Studies Teaching Collaborative, Columbia University
- 2003-2004 Member, Mellon Tri-College Faculty Group for Women of Color
- 2002-2003 Member, Mellon Tri-College Faculty Group in Colonialism, Culture and Politics
- 2001-2002 Richard Weiland Dissertation Fellowship for Sexuality Research, Stanford University
- 2001 South Asia Initiative Dissertation Research Grant, Stanford University
- 1997-2001 School of Humanities and Sciences Graduate Fellowship, Stanford University
- 1997 Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund Award for Excellence in Historical Research
- 1995 Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, Georgetown University
- 1995 John F. Sebes Award in Asian Studies, Georgetown University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

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|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Asian American Studies | South Asian Diasporic Public Cultures |
| Globalization and Neoliberalism | Transnational Feminist and Queer Studies |
| Postcolonial Theory and Historiography | Visual Culture and Performance Studies |

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

Aspiring to Home: South Asians in America (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2012)
 What does it mean to be “South Asian”? Focusing on popular cultural texts by first and second-generation immigrants from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, I explore how immigrants create and embody notions of locality. Weaving together ethnographic research with literary criticism, I show how ethnicity is produced through the relationship between domestic racial formations and global movements of class and capital.

Ways of Seeing: South Asian Diasporic Visual Art and Exhibition Cultures (in progress)
 This project focuses on visual artists of Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Indian descent based in the United States. Bringing together close readings of artworks (including photography, painting and digital installation) and ethnographic interviews with artists, collectors and curators, I explore how “South Asia” emerges as a visual field and aesthetic object.

Peer-Reviewed Journals

“Archives of Empire: Seher Shah’s *Geometric Landscapes of Spectacular Force*,” *Social Text* 108, 29.3 (2011): 127-138.

“Viewing South Asia, Seeing America: Gauri Gill’s *The Americans*,” *American Quarterly* 16.1 (2010): 135-150.

“The Largest Gathering of the Global Indian Family’: Neoliberalism, Nationalism, and Diaspora at *Pravasi Bharatiya Divas*,” *Diaspora* 14.1 (2005) [2008]: 45-74. Co-authored with Latha Varadarajan.

“Queer Desis, Straight Films: Representations of South Asian Americans On and Off-Screen,” *The Subcontinental* 3.1 (2007): 1-12.

“Beauty Queens: Gender, Ethnicity, and Transnational Modernities at the Miss India USA Pageant,” *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* 14.3 (2006): 717-747.

Edited Volumes

“Cinema/Photo/Novel: Intertextual Readings of *The Namesake*,” in *Naming Jhumpa Lahiri: Canons and Controversies*, ed. Floyd Cheung and Lavina Shankar. New York: Lexington Books, 2011.

“Undressing the Diaspora,” in *South Asian Women in the Diaspora*, ed. Nirmal Puwar and Parvathi Raghuram. New York: Berg Press, 2003. 117-136.

“Amitav Ghosh,” in *South Asian Novelists in English: An A-Z Guide*, ed. Jaina Sanga. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2003. 78-82.

“Moments of Identity,” in *Contours of the Heart: South Asians Map North America*, ed. Rajini Srikanth and Sunaina Maira. New York: Asian American Writers Workshop, 1996. 174-187.

Reviews

DesiLand: Teen Culture, Class and Success in Silicon Valley by Shalini Shankar. Reviewed in *International Review of Modern Sociology*, 36.1 (Spring 2010): 80-83.

Asian Diasporas: Cultures, Identities, Representations, ed. Robbie B.H. Goh and Shawn Wong. Reviewed in *Journal of Asian Studies* 64.4 (2005): 980-982.

The Most Beautiful Girl in the World: Beauty Pageants and National Identity by Sarah Banet-Weiser. Reviewed in *Feminist Review* 81 (2005): 132-134.

Imagine Otherwise: On Asian Americanist Critique by Kandice Chuh. Reviewed in *Amerasia Journal* 30.3 (2004): 105-107.

Constructing Post-colonial India by Sanjay Srivastava. Reviewed in *Contemporary South Asia* 10.2 (2001): 151-155.

Community Publications

“Destination Culture,” *SAMAR: South Asian Magazine for Action and Reflection* 14 (2001): 11-14.

“In Charge of His Own Definitions: A Conversation With Hanif Kureishi,” *Trikone* 16.3 (2001): 6-8.

“Singing a Revolution: An Encounter with Asian Dub Foundation,” *SAMAR* 11 (1999): 32-35.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

2012 “Marvels and Monsters,” Invited Panelist, *Asian Arts Initiative*, Philadelphia

2011 “The Aesthetics of South Asian America,” Faculty Lecture Series, *Swarthmore College*

2010 “Expanding Asian American Studies,” The State of Asian American Studies Conference, *University of Pennsylvania*

2010 Invited Panel Organizer and Discussant, “The Visual and Material Practice of Asian American Art,” Searching Looks: Asian American Visual Cultures Conference, *University of Pennsylvania*

2010 “The Political Cultures of South Asian Art,” Center for Visual Culture, *Bryn Mawr College*

2010 “South Asian Visual Culture and Asian American Studies,” Graduate Asian American Studies Colloquium, *University of Pennsylvania*

2009 “Ways of Seeing: Photographing South Asians in Diaspora,” Center for South Asia, *Stanford University*

2009 “The Americans: In Conversation with Gauri Gill,” *Bose Pacia Gallery*, New York

2008 Keynote Speaker, “One Book, One Community: *The Namesake*,” *Watertown Free Public Library*, Massachusetts

2007 “The New Miss India: Beauty Pageants in the South Asian Diaspora,” Asian American Studies Program, Department of Ethnic Studies, *University of California at Berkeley*

2006 “Becoming South Asian in America,” Faculty Lecture Series, *Swarthmore College*

2006 “‘My Two Lives’: Reading Race, Nationalism, and Globalization in Jhumpa Lahiri’s *Interpreter of Maladies* and *The Namesake*,” *National University of Singapore*

2006 “Undocumented Lives: Performing Gender and Race in South Asian Film,” Critical Intersections in Asian American Studies, *Dartmouth College*

- 2004 Invited Panel Chair, "Translating Cultures, Negotiating Dislocations," *South Asian Literary Association Annual Convention*, Philadelphia
- 2004 Invited Discussant, "Epic Uncertainties: Challenging the Asian American Bildungsroman," Asian American Studies Colloquium, *University of Pennsylvania*
- 2003 "South Asian Solidarity: Organizing Across Socio-Economic Divides," *Yale University*
- 2002 "Miss India U.S.A.: Gender, Ethnicity, and Transnational Modernities," Department of Comparative Studies, *Ohio State University*
- 2001 "Performing Gender and Ethnicity," Women's Studies Program, *Bowdoin College*
- 2001 "Beauty Queens," MacArthur Foundation Workshop, *University of Minnesota-Twin Cities*
- 2001 "South Asia: Histories of the Present," Department of History and Anthropology, *University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*

Conference Presentations

- 2012 Chair, "Dimensions of Empire and Resistance: Past, Present and Future" *American Studies Association Annual Meeting*, San Juan, Puerto Rico (scheduled)
- 2012 "Exhibition Cultures/Visual Cultures: Politicizing South Asian American Art" *Association of Asian American Studies Annual Convention*, Washington D.C.
- 2010 "Imperial Landscapes, Spectral Memories: Drawing Geographies of Diaspora" Session Organizer, "The Subject, Object and Body of Asian American Art" *American Studies Association Annual Meeting*, San Antonio
- 2010 "Feminist Interventions in South Asian American Art," Mellon 23 Workshop on Gender and Diaspora, *Vassar College*
- 2010 "Producing Art, Consuming Politics: South Asian Artists in New York," Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race Annual Symposium, *Columbia University*
- 2009 "Small Campuses, Small Programs, Big Responsibilities: The Challenges of Keeping Women's Studies Programs Afloat at Liberal Arts Colleges" *National Women's Studies Association Annual Meeting*, Atlanta
- 2008 "South Asian American Studies: Pedagogy and Practice" *East of California Conference*, University of Connecticut-Storrs (Roundtable Chair)
- 2007 "*The Namesake*: Transnational Belongings in South Asian America" *American Studies Association Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia
- 2007 "'I'm American, I'm Just Brown': South Asian Youth and Documentary Film" *Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference*, New York
- 2005 "*Bombay Dreams*: Race, Violence, and the Logic of Representation on Broadway" *Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference*, London, UK

- Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States Annual Conference, Chicago (Panel Chair)*
- 2004 “Race, Nation, and the Secular Imagination after 9-11”
Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia
- 2004 “Forging Ties Between Asian American and South Asian Diaspora Studies”
Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Boston
- 2004 “Transnational South Asia”
University of California at Berkeley, 19th Annual South Asia Conference (Panel Chair and Discussant)
- 2003 “The Global Indian Family: Governmentality, Modernity, and Formations of Diaspora”
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 2003 “Imagining South Asian America”
Dartmouth College, Institute on the Futures of American Studies
- 2003 “Queer Visions of Home: Geographies of Sexuality in South Asian Diasporic Film”
Association of Asian American Studies Annual Meeting, San Francisco (Panel Chair)
- 2002 “Fictions of Immigration: Modernity and Migration in *Jasmine* and *Interpreter of Maladies*”
University of Wisconsin at Madison, 31st Annual Conference on South Asia (Panel Chair)
- 2001 “Destination Culture: Engendering ‘South Asia’ at Arts/Activist Festivals”
University of California at Berkeley, 16th Annual South Asia Conference
- 2000 “Beauty Queens: Staging the Miss India USA Pageant”
University of Birmingham, 3rd International Crossroads in Cultural Studies Conference, UK
University of Wisconsin at Madison, 28th Annual Conference on South Asia (Panel Chair)
- 2000 “One-way Ticket Out of This Place: Remembering the Nation in Diasporic Films”
University of Glasgow, Screen Studies Conference, UK
- 1999 “Dig That Dupatta: Clothing Practices in South Asian Diasporas”
University of Leicester, Workshop on Gender and South Asian Diasporas

CURRICULUM PROFILE

- ENGL 117. Honors Seminar: Theories and Literatures of Globalization
- GSST 91. Capstone in Gender and Sexuality Studies: Feminist Practices, Queer Movements
- ENGL 82. Transnational Feminist Theory (cross-listed as GSST 20: Theory and Method)
- ENGL 77. South Asians in Asian America
- ENGL 76. The World, The Text and The Critic
- ENGL 75. South Asian Diasporas: Culture, Politics, Place
- ENGL 65. Asian American Literature
- ENGL 9D. Nation and Migration

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE SERVICE

Committees

2010-11 Faculty Observer, Board of Managers Meetings

2010-11 Mentor for Junior Faculty

2008-9 Chair, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program (transitioned from Women's Studies Program)

2008-9 College Budget Committee

2006-8 Cooper Foundation Committee for Grants in the Arts

2006-7 Faculty Liaison, Swarthmore College Alumni Reading Group, New York City

2004-5 Advisory Council to Health Sciences

2004-5 Search Committee for African American Literature, Department of English Literature

2003-4 Advisory Council to Dean of Admissions

2003-12 Asian Studies Committee

2003-12 Gender and Sexuality Studies Program Committee

Lectures and Events

2010 Organizer, "The Heroic Monster: Dexter, Masculinity and Violence," Lecture and Discussion with Lisa Arellano, Colby College. Co-sponsored by Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, English Department, and Film and Media Studies.

2009 Organizer, "What is to Be Done? Affecting Queer Futures," Lecture and Discussion with Martin Manalansan, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Co-sponsored by Gender and Sexuality Studies.

2008 Last Collection Speaker for Swarthmore Commencement, elected by graduating class of 2008

2008 Facilitator, "You're the One We Want: Representing Asian American Sexualities," Q&A with comedian Margaret Cho. Co-sponsored by Swarthmore Asian Organization.

2008 Organizer, "The Hypersexuality of Race," Lecture and Discussion with Celine Parrenas Shimizu, University of California at Santa Barbara. Co-sponsored by Film and Media Studies.

2004-8 Organizer, Genevieve Lee Memorial Fund Annual Lecture in Asian American Studies. Featuring K. Scott Wong, Williams College (2004), Rinku Sen, *Colorlines* Magazine (2005), Lok C.D. Siu, New York University (2008)

2007 "South Asian Identities and Sexualities," sponsored by Deshi and Colors

2005 "Hindu Nationalism in the United States," sponsored by Deshi.

2005 "Black Feminisms," lecture for WMST 91: Capstone in Women's Studies

- 2003 “Miss India U.S.A.,” Faculty Colloquium Series, Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology
- 2003 “Feminism and Post-Colonialism,” lecture for WMST 91: Capstone in Women’s Studies
- 2005 Panel Organizer and Discussant, “Perspectives on South Asian Feminism,” sponsored by Intercultural Center. Featuring Jisha Menon, University of British Columbia; Shefali Chandra, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Falu Bakrania, State University of New York-Binghamton
- 2002 Organizer, “Unlimited Girls,” Film Screening and Discussion with Paromita Vohra. Co-sponsored by Department of English Literature, Asian Studies Program, Women’s Studies Program.

Media Interviews

- 2010 “Beyond Pink and Blue: Move Over Women’s Studies, There’s a New Way to Think About Gender and Sexuality,” interview with Laura Markowitz, *Swarthmore College Bulletin* (January 2010)
- 2005 “A worldwide search for the best scholars,” interview with Steve Goldstein, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 13 Nov 2005: A1.
- 2003 “Think Global, Teach Local,” interview with Alisa Giardinelli, *Swarthmore College Bulletin* (December 2003): 34-35.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2010 Manuscript reviewer for Pearson Publications
- 2008 Judge for Literary Studies Prize, Association of Asian American Studies Annual Convention
- 2008 Judge for Non-Fiction Literature Prize, Asian American Writer’s Workshop, New York
- 2008 Manuscript reviewer for *International Journal of Feminist Politics*
- 2004 Manuscript reviewer for Duke University Press, *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique*
- 2006 Manuscript reviewer for Broadview Press
- 2005 Panel Moderator, “Responsibility to Community,” *Live Traditions: Contemporary Issues Performance Festival*, Painted Bride Arts Center, Philadelphia
- 2004 Panel Moderator, *In Ink: A Celebration of South Asian Writing*, Project Impact, Philadelphia
- 2003 “Advani Put on the Defensive,” interviewed by Anjali Modi, *The Hindu*, 11 Jan 2003: 1.
- 2001 Co-curator, Queer Filmistan: Queer South Asian Film Festival, San Francisco

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Association of Asian American Studies (AAAS)
 American Studies Association (ASA)
 Curator’s Network, Independent Curators International