

SAUMYA LAL

Curriculum Vitae

ACADEMIC POSITION

Assistant Professor of English, Louisiana State University, 2022 – present

EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2022

M.A., English, University of Delhi, 2014

B.Tech., Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, 2010

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

“Silence and the Ethics of Partial Empathy in Tahmima Anam’s *The Good Muslim*.” *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 57.3 (2022): 574-591. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0021989419890658>

“Thresholds of Caste and Nation: Mulk Raj Anand’s Spatial Aesthetics in *Untouchable*.” *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* 55.1 (2019): 34-47. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17449855.2018.1485592>

Book Review

Book review of *Hospitalities: Transitions and Transgressions, North and South*, edited by Merle A. Williams, Routledge, 2020. *Textual Practice*, 2022 (published online).

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0950236X.2022.2037330>

In Progress

“Troubling Appeals to Empathy: Dialogical Self-regard in Marlene van Niekerk’s *Agaat*.”
Revising for re-submission to *The Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*.

“Teaching Critical Empathy and Ethical Engagement with Postcolonial Literatures.” Proposal accepted for *Teaching Emotions in World Literature*, edited by Andreea Marculescu and Charles-Louis Morand-Métivier, MLA Options for Teaching series.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2022	Mellon Ph.D. Fellowship, Decolonial Global Studies Project, UMass Amherst
2019 – 2020	Interdisciplinary Studies Institute Fellowship, UMass Amherst
2019	National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) Travel Grant
2019	Modern Language Association (MLA) Travel Award
2018	John Hicks Essay Prize, UMass Amherst
2018	Graduate School Diversity Dissertation Fellowship, UMass Amherst
2018	English Department Summer Dissertation Fellowship, UMass Amherst
2017	Writing Program Technology Fellowship, UMass Amherst

- 2016 English Department Conference Travel Award, UMass Amherst
 2015 – 2016 Mellon-Sawyer Ph.D. Fellowship, UMass Amherst
 2015 Writing Program Diversity Fellowship, UMass Amherst
 2014 Junior Research Fellowship by the University Grants Commission, India

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Louisiana State University

- 2022 Studies in Literary Traditions and Themes (Honors): Empathy Across Differences: Global Perspectives
 2022 Postcolonial Literature

University of Massachusetts Amherst

- 2019 World Literature in English: Introduction to Postcolonial African Literature
 2018 World Literature in English: Introduction to Postcolonial Studies (2 sections)
 2018 Empathy in Film and Literature (online)
 2017 Gender & Sexuality in South African Literature and Culture (online)
 2016 Gender & Sexuality in South Asian Literature and Culture (online)
 2016 – 2017 Basic Writing (2 sections)
 2014 – 2016 College Writing (4 sections)

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY (Selected)

Papers Presented

“Empathy and Interdisciplinary Thinking in Yaa Gyasi’s *Transcendent Kingdom*,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLMA) Annual Conference, Jacksonville, FL, 2022.

“Empathy in flux: Encountering the Unforeseeable in Mohsin Hamid’s *Exit West*,” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, online, 2021.

“Precarious Happiness and the Nation in Arundhati Roy’s *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*,” Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention, online, 2021.

“Empathy and the Child Witness in Hisham Matar’s *In the Country of Men*,” African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, online, 2020.

“(Not) Asking for Forgiveness: Confession as Manifesto in Thando Mgqolozana’s *Unimportance*,” Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) Annual Convention, Boston, MA, 2020.

“Postcolonial Realism and the Limits of Empathy in Neel Mukherjee’s *The Lives of Others*,” Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention, Seattle, WA, 2020.

“Precarious Empathy and the Crisis of Witnessing in Mirza Waheed’s *The Collaborator*,” South Asian Literary Association (SALA) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, 2019.

“Resisting (with) Empathy in Marlene van Niekerk’s *Agaat*: The Ethics of Reading World Literature,” Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, 2019.

“Reconciliation, Self-Narratives, and the Desire for Empathy in Aminatta Forna’s *The Memory of Love*,” African Literature Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., 2018.

“Empathy and the Representation of Violence in African Child-Soldier Narratives,” International Conference on Violence in the Postcolonial and Neocolonial World, Liège, Belgium, 2018.

“Mothering and the Ethics of Care in J.M. Coetzee’s *Age of Iron*,” International Conference on Reading JM Coetzee’s Women, Monash University, Prato Center, Italy, 2016.

Panels Organized

“Forgiveness in the 21st Century: Postcolonial Perspectives,” Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) Annual Convention, Boston, MA, 2020.

“Empathy and the Postcolonial,” Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention, Seattle, WA, 2020.

“South Asia in Conflict: The Ethics and Politics of Postcolonial Witnessing,” South Asian Literary Association (SALA) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, 2019.

“Post-Conflict Environments in African Literature: Reconciliation, Justice, Memory,” African Literature Association (ALA) Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., 2018.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020 – 2021 Project Assistant, World Studies Interdisciplinary Project, UMass Amherst
 2015 – 2017 Writing Tutor at University of Massachusetts Amherst Writing Center
 2013 Editorial Assistant at Orient Blackswan Publishers, New Delhi, India
 2010 – 2012 Business Technology Analyst, Deloitte Consulting India Pvt. Ltd., India

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2022 – English Department Undergraduate Committee, LSU
 2019 Co-Chair, Organizing Committee for the Methods Symposium: New Approaches in Black, Postcolonial, and Queer Studies, UMass Amherst
 2018 – 2021 Executive Board Member, Graduate Students of Color Association, UMass Amherst
 2019 – 2020 Elected Representative, Graduate Student Senate, UMass Amherst
 2016 – 2018 Elected Representative, English Graduate Studies Committee, UMass Amherst
 2016 – 2018 Writing Placement Exam Reader, Writing Program, UMass Amherst
 2015 – 2016 Co-Chair, English Graduate Organization’s Annual Conference, titled “Forms of Feeling: Navigating the Affective Turn,” UMass Amherst
 2016 Diversity Fellowship Coordinator, Writing Program, UMass Amherst