

CURRICULUM VITAE

Christi A Merrill

Associate Professor of South Asian Literature and Postcolonial Theory
Department of Comparative Literature and
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
202 Thayer Street, Suite 6111
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104-1608
merrillc@umich.edu

Education

Ph.D. Comparative Literature, University of Iowa. Thesis title: *The Spirits of Translation: Possession, Literary Laughter and Other Travesties*. December, 1999.

M.F.A. Nonfiction Writing Program, Department of English, University of Iowa. Thesis title: *Myself in Hindi: Some Exercises in Translating the Untranslatable*. May, 1999.

M.F.A. Translation Program, Comparative Literature, University of Iowa. Thesis title: *Rajasthani Tales and Translations: The Stories of Vijai Dan Detha*. May, 1993.

Diploma (Hindi). Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. July, 1988.

B.A. Residential College, University of Michigan. Concentration: Arts & Ideas. May, 1987.

Areas of Research

South Asian literature, postcolonial theory, critical practice and theory of translation, narrative humor, Hindi-Urdu literary history and language politics, oral literature and performance studies, the stories of Rajasthani writer Vijay Dan Detha, authorship and the history of Intellectual Property Rights, translation technologies and digital environments, issues of human rights, genres of literary nonfiction such as the essay, travel writing, ethnography, life story and testimony.

Books

Riddles of Belonging: India in Translation and other Tales of Possession. New York: Fordham University Press, 2009.

Chouboli and Other Stories, selected and translated stories of Vijay Dan Detha. New Delhi: Katha Press and New York: Fordham University Press, 2010. 2011 winner of [an Excellence Award in the Best Book/Best Writer on a Socio-Economic or Media scene](#) at the 5th annual Asian Publishing Awards and the 2012 AAS (Association of Asian Studies) SAC (South Asia Committee) A.K. Ramanujan Prize for Translation. (Awarded March 16, 2012.)

Books in Progress

Genres of Real Life: Mediating Stories of Injustice across Languages. (A scholarly monograph.)

Translating Consciousness: Dalit Writing in Hindi, selected and translated, with Laura Brueck.

Doubly Cursed. (A translation from Hindi of Kausalya Baisantry's life story, *Dohara Abbishap.*)

Digital Projects in Progress

[Translation Networks at Michigan](#) (See also: ["in the works"](#))

Articles (in print)

"Crafting a Feminist Dalit Consciousness in Translation," *World Literature Today*, Special issue on Translation, guest edited by Lawrence Venuti. May, 2014: 52-56.

"Post-colonial Issues: Translating Testimony, Arbitrating Justice," Sandra Bermann and Catherine Porter, eds. *The Companion to Translation Studies*. Chichester, U.K.: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014.

"Genre and Genus as Minority Discourse: Rethinking the Categories of Dalit Literature," *Discoursing Minority: In-Text and Co-Text*, eds. Anisur Rahman *et. al.* Jaipur, India: Rawat Publications, 2014: 34-44.

"Postcolonial translation: the politics of language as ethical praxis," Carmen Millan-Varela and Francesca Bartrina, eds. *Routledge Handbook of Translation Studies*. London and New York: Routledge., 2012: 159-72.

"The Lyricism of Violence: Faith in Revolution." *boundary 2*. Vol. 38, no.3 (Fall 2011): 119-45.

"South Asian Literature in Translation: The Power of Babel" Carol Maier and Françoise Massardier-Kenney, eds. *Teaching Literary Texts in Translation: Issues and Pedagogical Options*. (Translation Series) Kent, OH: Kent State University Press, 2010: 211-22.

"Human Rights Singular-Plural: Translating Dalit Autobiography from Hindi," Special Issue on Personal Narrative and Political Discourse guest edited by Sidonie Smith in *Biography* 33:1 (Winter 2010): 128-50.

"The Afterlives of Panditry and Other Vernacular Questions," Rita Kothari and Judy Wakabayashi, eds. *Cultural Transactions: 'Translation' in India and Beyond*. Amsterdam: John Benjamins Publishers, 2009: 75-94.

"Real-life Transfers: Reading Literature through Translation," Nalini Iyer and Bonnie Zare, eds. [Other Tongues: Rethinking the Language Debates in India](#). (in the Cross/Culture Series – Readings in the Post/Colonial Literatures in English.) Amsterdam: Rodopi Press, 2009: 169-189.

"Laughing Out of Place: Humour Alliances and Other Postcolonial Translations in *In an Antique Land*," *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, Vol. 9 (1): 106-23.

- “To be or not to be a Gutter Flea: Writing from Beyond the Edge,” Theo Hermans, ed. *Translating Others*. Vol. I. London: St. Jerome Press, 2006: 211-8.
- “Seeds of Discontent: Re-creation and the Bounds of Ownership” Prafulla Kar and Paul St. Pierre, eds. *In Translation. Reflections, Refractions, Transformations*. New Delhi: Pencraft International, 2004: 114-28. Republished: London: John Benjamins Publishers, 2007: 133-49.
- “The Death of the Authors a.k.a. Twilight of the Translators,” *Bucknell Review*, Special Issue: “Translation and Culture”, ed. Katherine M. Faull. 47.1, 2004: 139-50.
- “Playing the Double Agent: An Indian Story,” *The Translator*, Vol. 8, No. 2: Special Issue: “Translating Humour.” 2002: 367-84.
- “Are we the Folk in this Lok?” in *Translation: Poetics and Practice*. Ed. Anisur Rahman. New Delhi: Creative Books, 2002: 67-79. Reprinted in *Sagar* (Special issue on the Practice and Politics of Translation), Vol. 8, Spring 2002: 105-19. Revised reprint in Esther Allen and Susan Bernovsky, eds. *In Translation: Translators on their Work and What it Means*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2013: 143-55. Excerpted as [“What is a Translator’s True Calling?”](http://www.wordswithoutborders.org) *Words without Borders*, www.wordswithoutborders.org. August 2004.
- “Writing from Below: Ironic Distance and the Location of Translation,” *Genre*, Vol. 22: ‘Postcolonialism: The Dislocation of Culture,’ 2001: 32-54.
- “Translation from Indian/South Asian Languages (Modern),” in *The Encyclopedia of Literary Translation into English*. Ed. Olive Classe. Vol. I. London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2000: 705-707.

Articles in Progress

- “India,” Co-authored with M. Asaddudin. Lawrence Venuti, ed. *Oxford History of Literary Translation in English*, Vol. 5, The Twentieth Century (1900-2000). Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press. Forthcoming.
- “Memoir as Translation, Memory in Translation,” *Thresholds: Translation in Theory and Practice*, eds. Brian James Baer, Françoise Massardier-Kenney, and Maria Tymoczko. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press. Forthcoming: Fall 2015.
- “Dalit Consciousness and Translating Consciousness: Narrating Trauma as Cultural Translation,” *Translation: A Transdisciplinary Journal*. Forthcoming: Summer, 2015.

Translations (in print unless otherwise noted)

- “Asking for Favours,” “A Picture,” “An Act,” “A Dream,” “Civilisation,” “The Way Home,” “My Face,” “Enemy in the New Era,” “Reality These Days,” “The New Bank,” “One of Gujarat’s Dead Speaks,” “The City, Again,” *This Number Does Not Exist: Selected Poems 1981-2013*, by Mangalsh Dabral. Mumbai, India: Poetrywala, 2014: 1, 29, 31, 34-5, 40-41, 55-64. To be republished in the Lannan Translation Series, BOA Editions, New Jersey. Forthcoming: 2016.

[“A True Calling”](#) by Vijay Dan Detha. Translation from Hindi. *Words Without Borders*, <http://www.wordswithoutborders.org/article.php?lab=TrueCalling>. July 2004. (online)

[“Untold Hitlers”](#) by Vijay Dan Detha. Translations from Rajasthani via Hindi. *Words Without Borders*, <http://www.wordswithoutborders.org/article.php?lab=Hitlers>. March 2004. (online)

“Anamesis in the Language of Writing,” by Assia Djebar. Assisted Anne Donadey translating this essay from French for *Studies in Twentieth Century Literature*, (Special Issue: “Empire and Occupation in France and the Francophone Worlds”), edited by Anne Donadey, Rosemarie Scullion, Downing Thomas and Steven Ungar. 23:1 (Winter 1999): 179–90.

“On Polygamy,” and “When the Mask of My Friend Fell” by Khadi Fall. Translated with the author from Wolof through French in *The Iowa Review*. 28:2 (Summer 1998): 31–3.

“The Difference in What We Say,” a translation from Rajasthani of a short story by Vijai Dan Detha, with an essay on translation and oral tradition. *Exchanges: A Journal of Translation*. Fall 1993: 1–5.

“Mirrors,” by Mangalesh Dabral. A translation of a poem from Hindi in *Poetry Review*. London. 83:1 (Spring 1993): 64.

“Cannibal,” by Vijay Dan Detha. Translation from Rajasthani via Hindi, in *Oasis Quarterly*. (Winter 1992): 14–23. Reprinted in Khushwant Singh and Neelam Kumar, eds. *Our Favourite Indian Stories*. Mumbai: Jaico Publishing House, 2002: 189-202.

“The Ninety-nine Rupee Snare,” by Vijay Dan Detha. Translated from the Hindi in *Parabola*. February 1991: 84–6.

Literary Nonfiction (in print)

[“Chai,”](#) *SAMAR*, 15 (Summer/Fall, 2002): 43.

“Dishes on the Drainboard,” in *Swaying: Essays on Intercultural Love*. Edited by Jessie Grearson and Lauren B. Smith. Iowa City, Iowa: University of Iowa Press, 1995: 3-18.

Popular Media

[“Translating Human Rights Testimonies,”](#) *II Journal*, University of Michigan, Spring 2012: 10-12.

[“Vijaydan Detha: The Nobel contender from Rajasthan,”](#) *Daily News Analysis* (a Mumbai-based Epaper): Lifestyle section from 9 October 2011.

“The Louse's Blessing,” by Vijay Dan Detha. Translation and introduction to the tale in *The World & I*. March 1992: 628–37. (print)

“Two Rajasthani Folktales,” by Vijay Dan Detha and the students of Digantar School, Jaipur, India. Translations and an essay on the relationship of oral to written culture for *The World & I*. July 1990: 636–47. (print)

Reviews (in print)

“Upper-caste Idioms in Translation,” *American Book Review*. Special issue on Multilingualism, guest edited by Ania Spyra. July/August 2014: 11.

Douglas Robinson, *Who translates?: translator subjectivities beyond reason*, *Comparative Literature Studies*. 41.2, 2004: 289-92.

Anuradha Dingwaney and Carol Maier, eds. *Between Languages and Cultures: Translation and Cross-Cultural Texts* (1995). *Modern Poetry in Translation*. No.13 (Fall 1998): 239–45.

Edwin Gentzler, *Contemporary Translation Theories* (1993). *Modern Poetry in Translation*. No.5, Summer 1994: 183–5.

Fellowships and Awards for Research (all as principle investigator)

National Endowment for the Humanities/American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Fellowship, to complete research in India for the manuscript of *Genres of Real Life*. 2013-14.

LSA Associate Professor Support Fund to complete research for the manuscript of *Genres of Real Life*. 2012-14.

2012 AAS (Association of Asian Studies) SAC (South Asia Committee) A.K. Ramanujan Prize for Translation. (Awarded March 16, 2012.)

Human Rights Fellowship, Center for International and Comparative Studies, University of Michigan, to present a public lecture on “Translating Testimony: negotiating rights across languages” and to develop a seminar on “Translating Human Rights.” 2011-12.

Literature, Science and the Arts Dean’s Discretionary Fund and Rackham Dean’s Strategic Funding, University of Michigan, for to present work comparing stories of violence at the Forum on Contemporary Theory’s annual conference in Udaipur, India, 2006.

Institute for the Humanities Fellowship, University of Michigan, to complete the manuscript for “Memory with an Active Verb,” and to take part in a weekly seminar, 2006-7.

Society for the Humanities Fellowship, Cornell University, to complete the manuscript for “Figures of Translation” and to take part in a weekly seminar on the theme of “Translation,” 2004-5.

National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Literature to translate the stories of Rajasthani writer Vijay Dan Detha from Hindi and Rajasthani. 2002-3.

Rackham Summer Grant and Fellowship to collect oral versions of Rajasthani stories, University of Michigan, 2002.

Vice-President’s Award for Faculty Research Abroad, University of Virginia. December, 2000.

Dean’s Award, Liberal Arts College, University of Iowa. Summer, 1996.

American Institute of Indian Studies Language Program Fellowship. Varanasi, India. 1994-95.

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, University of Iowa, for the study of Rajasthani. 1992-93.

Stanley Fellowship for Graduate Research Abroad, to study storytelling traditions in Rajasthan, India. Summer, 1992.

Fine Arts Council Grant, University of Iowa, for the translation of short stories by Vijay Dan Detha. 1992.

Speaking Engagements (by invitation)

“Reading Contemporary Hindi Literature Across Languages,” keynote address for the second annual International Hindi Conference. Rutgers University. April, 2015.

“Versions of a Life: the artistry of Dalit activism,” UB Department of English Juxtapositions Series lecture. University of Buffalo. November, 2014.

“Visualizing Translation,” and “The Transformations of Dalit Literature: Collective Memory as Discursive Style” as part of the 2013-14 Visiting Fellowship at the Centre of Advanced Study, Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India. March, 2014.

“Anudit aur par kiye huye main kya phark hai?” [What is the difference between being translated and carried across?] for the opening plenary session, “Parvasi Sahitya ki Duniya” [The World of Diasporic Literature] at the “Trtiya Antarrashtriya Parvasi Sahitya Sammelan,” [Third International Diasporic Literature Festival], D.V. Girls College, Yamuna Nagar, Haryana, India. January, 2014.

“Translating Memory,” for the panel, “India, in other Words” at the symposium “What Translation Means” at the City University of New York Graduate Center, New York. September, 2013.

Response to Robert JC Young, “Freud and Cultural Translation,” for the research symposium on Cultural Translation sponsored by the Nida School of Translation Studies, College Board, New York. September, 2013.

“The Ethics of Non-equivalence: inequities in marketing Dalit narratives of suffering,” South Asia Seminar, University of Virginia. March, 2013.

“Rajasthani Tales in English: Lessons Learned Translating the Work of Vijaydan Detha,” Rabindranth Tagore Modern Literature Lectures Series, South Asian Program, Cornell University. September, 2012.

“Should we laugh at human rights abuses?: translation quandaries through colonial examples,” Global Scholars Program monthly lecture series, co-sponsored by the LSA Theme Semester in Translation. University of Michigan. September, 2012.

“Translating Dalit Testimony: Negotiating Rights Across Languages,” Center for Comparative and International Studies Human Rights lecture, University of Michigan. February, 2012.

“Translating Across Divides: Hindi Realities in English,” *This is Not that Dawn* book launch and symposium, Humanities Initiative, New York University. April, 2011.

- “Recounting a tale of multiple identities: the hierarchies of genre in a global context,” and “Autobiography of an outsider: positioning a real self in translation,” University of Lausanne, Switzerland. May, 2010.
- “Human Rights Singular-Plural: Translating Dalit Autobiography from Hindi,” Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan. October, 2009.
- “Rajasthani Literature in Web 2.0: Translating Folksonomies across Languages” at the International Conference on Translation Studies. The LNM Institute of Information Technology. Jaipur, India. December, 2008.
- “Reading Babble across Languages,” for the Translation Series offered through the Northeast Ohio MFA in Creative Writing. Kent, Ohio. November, 2008.
- “The Folksonomies of a Rajasthani Tale: mediating the border between fiction and nonfiction,” Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature Speaker’s Series on Current Issues in Translation, University of Iowa. Iowa City, Iowa, December, 2007.
- “In reality a ghost...?: Premchand and the Question of Translated Literature” for the Department of Cinema and Comparative Literature colloquium. University of Iowa. April, 2006.
- “Crossdressing the Possessive and other Translational Queries” for the Department of South Asian Studies weekly lecture. University of Pennsylvania. January, 2006.
- “Who owns Chouboli? Cross-dressing in Translation” for the South Asian Center weekly seminar. Syracuse University. February, 2005.
- “Translating Divided Community: Comparing Nine Translation of ‘Toba Tek Singh,’” Translation Studies program, Concordia University. Montreal, Canada. November, 2004.
- “Toba! Toba! How to Read Multiplicity But?” at the School for Language, Literature and Cultural Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. New Delhi, India. March, 2003.
- “Rah rah rah, eh Shahid?: Revolutions in Translation,” Closing Remarks for the Comparative Literature Intra-Student Faculty Forum 7th Annual Conference: “Versions and Perversions.” Ann Arbor, Michigan. February, 2002.
- “Losing (the Translator’s) Face: Does a joke die with the author?” at the International Writing Program’s Second Annual Conference: “Lost and Found: The Art of Translation,” at the University of Iowa. Iowa City, Iowa. October, 2001.
- “Partitioning Sense and Nonsense: Reading Translations of ‘Toba Tek Singh’” in the Brown Bag series, sponsored by the Center for South Asian Studies and the Program in Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, Michigan. October, 2001.
- “The Duplicity of Duplication: Translating through a Postcolonial Lens” through the University of Michigan’s Program in Comparative Literature and the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. Ann Arbor, Michigan. February, 2001.

“You are having too much pun!: the translator, Hindi humor, and Orientalism” at the University of Wisconsin’s Center for South Asia’s weekly colloquium, Madison, Wisconsin. November, 2000.

“Literary Puns and Other Doubles: Translating Rajasthani writer Vijai Dan Detha,” at the University of Virginia’s Center for South Asian Studies weekly seminar, Charlottesville, Virginia. September, 1999.

“The Storytelling Instinct in Modern Hindi Fiction,” for the University of Iowa’s South Asian Studies Program bi-weekly speaker series. Iowa City, Iowa. November, 1995.

Panel Papers

Response to the special panel session, “Reading and Writing Caste, 1935-2015,” Modern Language Association annual meeting, Vancouver, Canada. January, 2015.

“Intimate Interrogations,” as part of the conference “Surviving Genocide: On what remains and the possibility of representation” at the Max-Planck Institute for Social Anthropology at the University of Halle, Germany. December, 2014. (by invitation)

“Beyond the Commodification of Experience: or, What’s the use of literary device in nonfiction writing?” for the “Contemporary Approaches to the Analysis of Dalit Literature” conference organized by the international Writing, Analysing, Translating Dalit Literature network. Nottingham Trent University, U.K. June, 2014.

“Playing with the Limits of Translation,” as part of the International Conference of Translation and Comparative Cultural Studies. Fudan University. Shanghai, China. May, 2014. (by invitation)

“Victim Narratives and the Craft of Writing,” for the conference “Dalit Literature and Historiography,” Jamia Milla Islamia University, New Delhi, India. December, 2013.

“Literary Lint,” for the panel, “Reworking Readers’ Trash” in response to Nigel Poor’s [“Reminders: The Banned Book Project”](#), Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan, November, 2012.

“Hierarchies of Genre and Genus: rethinking the categories of human rights literature” for the panel, “Cross-Cultural Concepts and Translation Theory,” International Association of Translation and Intercultural Studies (IATIS) biannual conference, Belfast, U.K. July, 2012.

“The Power of Babel” for the roundtable discussion, “Reading Literary Translations: Pedagogical and Critical Issues” at the American Literary Translators Association conference. Philadelphia. October, 2010.

“The Fun of With-ness,” for the faculty roundtable discussion, “Fun and Games in Intellectual Life,” the Comparative Literature Intra-Student Faculty Forum 15th Annual Conference (CLIFF.) University of Michigan, March, 2010. (By invitation.)

“Translating Inequality,” for the roundtable, “Translation and Human Rights,” Graduate Student Translation Conference. (A rotating conference organized by graduate students in Translation Studies.) Ann Arbor, Michigan. April, 2010. (By invitation.)

- “Translating Enigmatically: in honor of Aditya Behl,” response to the panels, “Translation in South Asian History,” at the Association of Asian Studies annual conference. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. March, 2010.
- “The Meaning of Dalit Literature in English,” for the panel, “Is Translation Possible?” at the symposium, “The Ethics of Translation.” University of Michigan. December, 2008.
- “Reading Montaigne’s Cannibals through the Postcolonial: the Politics of Literary Mastery” for the panel “Montaigne and the Shape of Opinion” at the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics’ annual conference. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. October, 2008.
- “World Literature 2.0: Playing with the Taxonomies of Translation” for the seminar “The Institutionalization of Translation Studies in the U.S.: New Directions?” organized by Rosemary Arrojo, at the annual American Comparative Literature Association conference. Long Beach, California. April, 2008.
- “Tales of Revolution: The Ghost of Tolstoy in Hindi” for the seminar “Anti-Imperialism and Postcolonialism as Transnational” I organized with Jennifer Wenzel at the annual American Comparative Literature Association conference. Puebla, Mexico. April, 2007.
- “Forms of Discovery: The Essay and Other Master Narratives” for the panel “Pleasure in Practice,” for the Comparative Literature colloquium on Intellectual Pleasure. University of Michigan. January, 2007.
- “Vernacular Panditry and other Questions of Cultural Vitality,” for the panel “Do Objects Die?” organized by the Division on Comparative Studies in Eighteenth-Century Literature at the Modern Language Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. December, 2006.
- “Genres of Real Life: Comparing Stories of Violence” for the Forum on Contemporary Theory 9th Annual Conference. Udaipur, Rajasthan, India. December, 2006.
- “Manifest Reality: Reading the Future Perfect against the Past Progressive” for the series of panels, “The Ongoing *Mahfil*: new work on 20th century Hindi-Urdu Literary Categories” I organized to honor Carlo Coppola at the Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, Wisconsin. October, 2006.
- “Recreating the Self: Copyright and the Bounds of Ownership,” for the panel, “Translating Property: Law and the Liberal Subject” at the Association of Asian Studies annual conference. San Francisco, California. April, 2006.
- “Happily ever After: Mocking Ghosts from the Feudal Order” for the panel, “Different Voices: Unexplored Prose Genres in Urdu – Hindi” at the Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, Wisconsin. October, 2005.
- “All is lost! Humoring the melancholic reader of World Literature,” for the panel “Translating the world and the future of literature” at the conference, “Tasking Translation: on the theory and practice of translation in/for our times.” Cornell University. March, 2005.
- “Seeds of Discontent: Re-creation and the Bounds of Ownership” for the plenary “Translation across Cultures” at the 7th annual Forum on Contemporary Theory conference. Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. December, 2004.

- “Humoring the Idea of Plural Ownership” for the panel “Community and Translation” at the roundtable conference “Lost and Found in Translation.” Society for the Humanities, Cornell University. Ithaca, New York. November, 2004. (By invitation.)
- “Individual Agency and ‘Folk’ Performance,” Remembering Folklorist Komal Kothari: A Conference on Intellectual Contributions to Scholarship on Rajasthan. Columbia University, New York, New York. May, 2004.
- “Seeds of Discontent: Re-creation and the Bounds of Ownership” for the seminar “Critical Translation Studies: New Crossings” I organized with Lydia Liu and Yopie Prins at the annual American Comparative Literature Association conference. Ann Arbor, Michigan. April, 2004.
- “*Kyaa baat?* an ordinary murder in Rajasthan” for the panel “Fictions of Violence: Literary Responses to Troubling Times” I organized with Priya Kumar at the 30th annual South Asian Studies Conference. Madison, Wisconsin. October, 2003.
- “To be or Not to be a Gutter Flea: Writing from Beyond the Edge,” for the Fourth Workshop of the Conference “Translations and Translation Theories East and West” sponsored by the Arts and Humanities Research Board through University College London and the School of Oriental and African Studies. London, U.K. June, 2003. (By invitation.)
- “The Politics of Translating into English in a Postcolonial Country,” for the Katha Literary Festival “Deep Stories and Silences.” New Delhi, India. February, 2003. (By invitation.)
- “Playing Up the Ironies of Translation,” for the Round Table: Literary Translation and Research, convened by the International Federation of Translators, the British Centre for Literary Translation and Kent State University’s School of Applied Translation Studies, at the University of East Anglia. Norwich, England. November, 2001. (By invitation.)
- “Are we the ‘folk’ in this *lok?*: usefulness of the plural in translating a *lok-katha*” at the Katha International Conference. New Delhi, India. December, 2000.
- “Transexualizing Translation,” South Asian Studies Conference at the University of Wisconsin. Madison, Wisconsin. October, 1998.

Readings

- Reading and book launch of *This Number Does Not Exist*, the collected poems of Mangalsh Dabral 1981-2013. World Book Fair, New Delhi. February, 2014.
- Reading and dialogue with Kailash Kabir, of the translated stories of Vijay Dan Detha. Sponsored by Katha Press. Sahitya Academy (Literary Academy), New Delhi. January, 2009. (By invitation.)
- Translation of the story by Vijay Dan Detha “Press the Sap” for the roundtable I organized, “Traveling Stories: Reframing Indian Folk Narrative,” at the Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, Wisconsin. October, 2008.
- “Memory with an Active Verb” for the panel “Diversity in Writing,” for the symposium “Twenty/twenty in Academia” celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Institute for the Humanities. University of Michigan. October, 2007. (By invitation.)

“*Yaad aati hai*,” (excerpt from *Memory with an Active Verb*) for the panel “The Magician’s Glass: Travel and the Mysterious Self” at the Annual Associated Writers and Writing Programs Conference. Chicago, Illinois. March, 2004.

“Chai” and “Rickshaw” (excerpts from *Memory with an Active Verb*) and excerpted translation of Mangalesh Dabral’s *Once, in Iowa* for the panel “Experimental South Asia,” at the 30th annual South Asian Studies Conference. Madison, Wisconsin. October, 2001.

Translation from Hindi of Mannu Bhandari’s “Trishanku” for the panel “Readings from Contemporary India and Pakistan.” Virginia Festival of the Book. Charlottesville, Virginia. March, 2001.

Translation of Assia Djebar’s “Anamnesis and the Language of Writing” for the panel “Writing Peace: Middle Eastern Women Writers and War.” Virginia Festival of the Book, Charlottesville, Virginia. March, 2000.

Teaching-related Conference Papers and Poster Sessions (by invitation)

“Mapping Translation,” for the Faculty Showcase opening of the LSA Media Center, University of Michigan. March, 2012.

“Approaching a Book as Text and as Object,” for the faculty workshop panel, “Teaching in, with, and about Museums: Engaging Students in Materially Different Ways,” sponsored by the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching as part of the LSA Theme Year, University of Michigan. September, 2009.

“Translating to a Virtual Writing Workshop,” for the panel “First-year writing: Shall we count the ways?” at the conference “(re)viewing Sweetland,” University of Michigan. November, 2008.

“Social Software, Interactive Timelines and Useful Classroom Technology Tools,” for the Digital Showcase before the keynote address at Enriching Scholarship. University of Michigan. May, 2008.

Teaching Experience

Associate Professor of South Asian Literature and Postcolonial Theory, Departments of Comparative Literature and Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan. 2009–present.

Assistant Professor of South Asian Literature and Postcolonial Theory, University of Michigan’s Program in Comparative Literature and Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. 2001–2009.

Visiting Fellow, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University. 2004–5.

Assistant Professor in South Asian Literature, Gender Studies and Hindi, University of Virginia, Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures Division. 2000—2001.

Visiting Lecturer in South Asian Literature, University of Virginia, Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures Division. 1999–2000.

Graduate Instructor, University of Iowa, Nonfiction Writing Program, Department of English. Upper-level undergraduate creative writing courses. 1996–99.

Graduate Instructor, University of Iowa, Program in Comparative Literature and Department of Asian Languages and Literatures. Upper level undergraduate course in Non-western Literary Traditions. 1993, 1994, and 1996.

Graduate Instructor, University of Iowa, General Education of Literature, Department of English. Introductory undergraduate literature courses. 1993 and 1995.

Teaching Assistant, University of Iowa, Department of Asian Languages and Literature. Assisted Philip Lutgendorf teaching introductory undergraduate lecture courses in Asian Humanities. 1992 and 1993.

Teacher, Digantar School (Hindi medium), Jaipur, India. 1988–89.

Fellowships and Awards for Teaching (as principle investigator, unless noted otherwise):

Transforming Learning for Third Century Discovery Phase Grant for leading a development team to build the content management system for a “Translation Interface across Categories,” 2014-15.

MCubed funds for [Building Translation Networks at Michigan](#), 2013-14.

New Initiatives/New Infrastructures (NINI) Grant through the LSA Information Technology Committee to build [interactive, interdisciplinary opportunities in translation](#) for undergraduates. University of Michigan, 2012–13.

Gilbert Whitaker Award for the Improvement of Teaching to conduct a faculty seminar on critical issues in the translation classroom in conjunction with the LSA Theme Semester in Fall 2012.

Faculty Grant for Innovations in Teaching with Technology through the LSA Information Technology Committee [to translate human rights to the web](#). University of Michigan, Winter 2012 – Winter 2013.

Human Rights Fellowship, Center for International and Comparative Studies, to create a new undergraduate course, “Translating Human Rights,” and to deliver one public lecture on the topic in the CICS lecture series. University of Michigan, 2011-12.

Media Assistant Program grant through the LSA Instructional Support Services to create a time line wiki for CompLit122: Writing World Literatures. University of Michigan, Fall, 2008.

Faculty Grant for Innovations in Teaching with Technology through the LSA Information Technology Committee to study Asian cultures in the world of Web 2.0. University of Michigan, 2007-8.

Senior Fellowship at the Sweetland Writing Center to participate in the weekly Sweetland Fellows Seminar, University of Michigan, Fall semester, 2007.

Teaching with Technology Institute grant to introduce social networking in the study of Asian cultures. University of Michigan, May 2007.

Public Goods Council Grant for Teaching to facilitate student engagement with the University collections in Asian235: Introduction to the Study of Asian Cultures. University of Michigan, 2007.

Center for Research on Learning and Teaching Faculty Development Fund Grant to introduce Wikis, Concept Maps and Online Exhibits in the study of Asian Cultures. University of Michigan, 2007-8.

Center for Research on Learning and Teaching Faculty Associates for Multicultural Innovations Award, to create a team-taught course, "Texts, Keywords, and Object Lessons: Introduction to the Study of Asian Cultures." University of Michigan, 2005-6. Co-recipient, with Jonathan Zwicker.

Center for Research on Learning and Teaching 2003-4 Interdisciplinary Faculty Associates Award, to create a team-taught course, "Partition: Stories of violence and identity in twentieth-century South Asia." Co-recipient, with Rachel Sturman.

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, University of Iowa. April 1999.

Courses Taught (at University of Michigan unless otherwise noted)

Graduate seminars and workshops: CompLit721 Reading the Translation Archive: World Literature Close/Distant, Digital/Print (Winter 2015); Asian500/CompLit750 Translation After Orientalism (Fall 2012); CompLit581 Translation Workshop (Winter 2009); Asian580 Translating Injustice: the bounds of testimony in the global community of letters (Fall 2008); CompLit781 Translating Theory into Style: An Essay Workshop (Winter 2008); CompLit721 Reorienting Translation: Human Rights in an Uneven World (Winter 2006); CompLit751 Writing the Edge between Scholarly Authority and Political Engagement (Winter 2004); CompLit601 Decolonizing the Tongue: Language, Nation and Narration (Winter 2002).

Undergraduate translation courses: CICS401/CompLit490 Translating Human Rights (Winter 2013, Winter 2012); CompLit322 Translating World Literature (Fall 2014, Fall 2011, Winter 2011, Fall 2009; fulfills the Upper-level Writing Requirement); UC256/CompLit240 Twenty-two Ways to Think about Translation ((Sophomore Initiative Course co-taught with Yopie Prins, Fall 2012); CompLit122 Writing World Literature (Fall 2008, Fall 2007, Fall 2005, Fall 2003, in each iteration fulfilled the First Year Writing Requirement.)

Undergraduate South Asian Studies courses (100% South Asian content): Asian276/AmCult276 India as Imaginary Homeland: an introduction to cultural constructions of a national identity (Winter 2015, Winter 2013, fulfills the Race and Ethnicity Requirement); Asian 435 The Truth Claims of Indian Literature: Nonfiction Accounts of Gendered Discrimination (Winter 2012.); Asian332 South Asian Identity (Fall 2014, Winter 2011 and Winter 2009 fulfilled the Race and Ethnicity Requirement; in Fall 2001 as CompLit372/Asian380 South Asian Travels: Narrative Identity in Displacement); Asian380/History392 Partition: Stories of violence and identity in twentieth-century South Asia (co-taught with Rachel Sturman Fall 2003); Asian330 Divided Loyalties, Divided Laughter: Understanding South Asia through Literary Humor (Fall 2011, Fall 2009, in Winter 2004 as Asian380 South Asian Literary Humor and in Winter 2002 as Asia253/SSeAsia250 South Asian Literary Humor.)

Undergraduate pan-Asian Studies courses: Asian235 Introduction to the Study of Asian Cultures: Texts, Keywords and Object Lessons (with Jonathon Zwicker in Fall 2005 and with Maki Fukuoka in Fall

2007); Asian381 Junior Colloquium: Translating Asia into the American Academy (Winter 2006 and Winter 2008, fulfilling the Upper-level Writing Requirement.)

Upper-level literature survey courses in Hindi (at University of Virginia): Hindi301 Hindi literature before Partition (Fall 1999); Hindi302 Hindi literature after Partition (Spring 2000).

Ph.D. Candidate Mentoring

Postcolonial Studies: (Director for) Seunghei Hong, Comparative Literature: "Writing Pain, Erasing Guilt: The Politics of Memory in Korean Partition Literature" (Dissertation defended April 2009); (Co-director for) Neil Doshi, Comparative Literature: "Revolution at the Crossroads: Algerian and Indian Street Theater" (Genre Examination passed with high honors, May 2003; dissertation defense December, 2008); Mandy Davis, Comparative Literature, "A Puzzle Viewed from Within...?: Problems with and Alternatives to Humanitarianism and Savior Narratives for Ethiopia and Rwanda" (successfully defended December 2013); Suphak Chawla, Comparative Literature: "Thinking the Good without the True with *Pedro Páramo*" (successfully defended September 2013); Ramon J. Stern, Comparative Literature: "Geographies of Escape, Pathologies of Attachment: Diasporic Difference and Arab Ethnicity Re-examined" (successfully defended August 2013); Sayan Bhattacharyya, Comparative Literature: "Reading Rabindranath Tagore and C.L.R. James Politically" (successfully defended August 2010; Topics Paper defended successfully February, 2005; prospectus defended successfully November 2006; defense August 2010); Vandana Baweja, Architectural History: "The Pre-history of Green Architecture: Otto Koenigsberger and Tropical Architecture" (Preliminary examination passed November 2006; dissertation successfully defended May, 2008).

South Asian literature and cultural studies: Manan Desai, Department of English: "The United States of India: South Asian Translations of America, 1905-1974" (Defended June 2011); Janam Mukherjee, History and Anthropology: "Hungry Bengal: War, Famine, Riots, and the End of Empire 1939-1946" (successfully passed April 2011; preliminary examination passed January 2007; prospectus defended November, 2007); Tamara Bhalla, Department of English Language and Literature: "Between Two Empires: Reading South Asian Diasporic Literature and Community" (Dissertation defended September, 2008); Pavitra Sunder, Department of English Language and Literature and Program in Women's Studies: "Sounding the Nation: The Musical Imagination of Bollywood Cinema" (Defended June 2007); Sheshalatha Reddy, Department of English Language and Literature: "The Poetics of Nation and Empire: Imagining 'India' in English" (defended December, 2007); Taymiya Zaman, Department of History: "Inscribing Empire: Family and Sovereign Authority in Mughal Memoirs, 1526-1707" (Defended April 2007).

Translation Studies: (Director for) Corine Tachtiris, Comparative Literature: "Branding World Literature: The global circulation of literature in translation" (successfully defended April, 2012); Melissa Gélinas, Comparative Literature (Topics Paper defended April 2014; Preliminary Examination passed August 2013); Efrat Bloom, Comparative Literature: "This Place of Poetry: Writing, Displacement, and the Poetics of the Mother Tongue in H. Leyvik, Paul Celan, and Sargon Boulus" (dissertation successfully defended May, 2013; preliminary examination passed with high honors, September 2008; prospectus August 2009); Alexandra Hoffman, Comparative Literature: "Laughter through Tears: Politics, Identity and Humor in the Work of Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, Sholem Aleichem and Modkhe Spector" (successfully defended August, 2012; preliminary examination passed, November 2007; Topics Paper defended April 2009); Belinda Kong, Department of English Language and Literature: "Species of afterlife: translation and displacement in twentieth-century Chinese-English contexts" (successfully defended March 2004).

Asian Studies: Molly des Jardin, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures and the School of Information: “Editing Identity: The Construction of the Author in Meiji Japan” (successfully defended June 2012); Harjeet Grewal, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures (preliminary examination passed September 2011; prospectus defended successfully January 2012); Susan Hwang, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures (preliminary examination passed August 2012; prospectus successfully defended November 2012).

M.A. Thesis Mentoring:

South Asian Studies: (Primary reader for) Sean Chauhan, Center for South Asian Studies (August, 2012): “Performing Translation: Towards a Reading of Trauma in Sara Suleri’s *Meatless Days*”; Nidhi Srivastava, Center for South Asian Studies (December, 2011): “Indian at Heart, Global in her Attitude:” The “New” Indian Women – Representations of Women in India’s Popular Culture; Monika Bhagat-Kennedy, Center for South Asian Studies (August, 2009): “Dalit Literary Voices of the Past: Recuperating Mulk Raj Anand’s *Untouchable*.”

Digital Humanities: (Co-advisor for) Sayan Bhattacharyya, School of Information (April, 2013): “Grounded, Extensible Networks of Student Writing: Enrichment of student learning through network representation.”

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Mentoring:

South Asian literature and cultural studies (primary reader unless otherwise noted): Loritta Chan, Asian Languages and Cultures (April, 2015): “The Spiritual Dimension of India’s Dalit Buddhist Movement: the Untouchables’ Self-Renewal”; Aisha Naseem, Asian Languages and Cultures, (April, 2013): “Homeland and the Translation of Identity”; Amy Bowers, Department of English and Women’s Studies (March, 2009): “Embracing English, A Subtle Violence: Five Essays on Contemporary South Asian/Western Literature”; Sunali Wadehedra, Department of English (March, 2006): “Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni’s *Arranged Marriage*: A Negotiation of Identity Among Conflicting Cultural Visions.”

Translation Studies: (Second reader for) Sophia Blumenthal, Comparative Literature and Residential College (April, 2013): “‘If you tickle us do we not laugh?’: Yiddish translations of puns and wordplay in *King Lear* and *Merchant of Venice*”; (Primary reader for) Megan Berkobien, Department of Comparative Literature, 2011: “The Imperceptibility of Desire: Translating gender and exile in Cristina Peri Rossi’s *Cosmogonias*.”

Postcolonial Studies: (Second reader for) Vivian Burgett, Comparative Literature (April 2013): “The Postcolonial Lover Enraged: A comparison of colonized subjects and abused lovers through a personal narrative.”

Asian Studies: (Primary reader for) Tammy Hiteshaw, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures (April 2009): “The Translation of Graffiti in China and Taiwan”; (Primary reader for) Anna Han, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures (April 2008): “A Window on Performance and Mimicry: Rediscovering Qiu Jin and Mulan in a Feminist Context.”

Professional Service (at the University of Michigan):

Member of the Graduate Program Committee, Asian Languages and Cultures, 2014-15.

Member of the Translation Studies Committee, Comparative Literature, 2014-15.

Member of the Undergraduate Committee, Comparative Literature, 2014-15.

Member of the Third Year Review Committee for Nachiket Chachani, Asian Languages and Cultures, 2014-15.

Member of the Third Year Review Committee for Benjamin Paloff, Comparative Literature, 2013.

Member of the Lecturer Review Committee for the Sweetland Writing Center, 2012-13.

Co-director of the LSA Theme Semester on Translation for Fall 2012, which included overseeing all programming and promotion (see article [“Translation Gains New Ground in American Academia”](#) in *Publishing Perspectives*), helping to design the [Translation at Michigan](#) website; co-directing a CRLT faculty seminar on translation pedagogies; overseeing the development of That Translation Game! (see the LSA article, [“Homer Meets Hip Hop”](#)), helping to organize a panel on [“Translating Slavery, Translating Freedom”](#) as well as lectures by postcolonial theorist [Vicente Rafael](#) and Google Translate lead developer [Josh Estelle](#) (where he played That Translation Game!), and judge translation contests for undergraduates.

Associate Director, Center for South Asian Studies. Winter 2011-Summer 2012.

Member of the advisory board for the Language Resource Center, 2011-present.

Member of the tenure review panel for Maki Fukuoka, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, 2011.

Member of the Merit Review committee, Department of Comparative Literature, 2011.

Member of the Admissions Committee, Department of Comparative Literature, 2011.

Member of the tenure review panel for Arvind Pal Mandair, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, 2010.

Faculty mentor for Varuni Bhatia, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, 2010-present.

Head of the planning committee for Comparative Literature’s Year of Translation. 2009-2010.

Member of the executive committee for the Sweetland Writing Center. 2009-present.

Member of the Scholarly Activities Committee, Department of Comparative Literature, Fall 2009.

Member of the Graduate Committee, Department of Comparative Literature, 2008-9.

Member of the ad hoc Major Review Committee for Shoko Emori, 2008-9.

Guest lecturer for South Asian 501: Proseminar in South Asian Studies. November, 2008.

(Elected) member of the Executive Committee for the Center for South Asian Studies, 2007-8.

Member of the selection committee for graduate students, Institute for the Humanities, 2008.

Member of the Curriculum Committee, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan.
2003-4, 2007-8.

Member of the Scholarly Activities Committee, Department of Comparative Literature, 2007-8.

Additional member of the ad hoc Major Review Committee for Vijay Thakur, 2007-8.

Member of the Third Term Review Committee (of Ph.D. students), Department of Comparative Literature,
2007.

Member of ad hoc search committee for a Professor (open rank) of South Asian Media Studies, Department
of Asian Languages and Cultures with the Department of Screen Arts, University of Michigan,
2005-6.

Member of the ad hoc Major Review Committee for Tahsin Siddiqi, 2005-6.

Member of the ad hoc Major Review Committee for Mithilesh Mishra, 2005-6.

Member of the Committee for Graduate Admissions, Program in Comparative Literature, University of
Michigan, 2005-6.

Guest lecturer for South Asian 501: Proseminar in South Asian Studies. November, 2005.

Interviewer of Fulbright applicants, 2005.

Member of ad hoc search committee for a Professor (open rank) of South and/or Southeast Asian Islam,
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures with the Department of Near Eastern Studies,
University of Michigan, 2003-4.

Member of the Committee for Graduate Admissions, Program in Comparative Literature, University of
Michigan, 2003-4.

Additional member of the ad hoc Major Review Committee for Lakhan Gosain, 2003-4.

Member of the Review Committee for the Rackham International Research Awards, 2002.

Member of the Executive Committee, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan.
2001-2.

Member of ad hoc search committee for an Assistant Professor of Southeast Asian Religion, Department of
Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan, 2001-2.

Member of the ad hoc Major Review Committee for Menuk Sidarsih, 2001-2.

Member of the Committee for Undergraduate Curriculum Development to institute a new first-year writing course (Comp Lit 122) that teaches world literature through the rubric of translation, Program in Comparative Literature, University of Michigan, 2001-2.

Professional service (outside the University of Michigan):

Selection committee for prizes in literary translation through the Modern Language Association. 2014-present.

Manuscript review for Columbia University Press, 2014.

Executive committee for the Translation Group through the Modern Language Association. 2010-2014.
(Chair of the committee for 2012; Secretary for the committee for 2011.)

Reviewer of three tenure promotion files, 2012-13: New York University, Columbia University, Northwestern University.

Manuscript reviewer for Fordham University Press, 2013.

Expert reader for the National Endowment for the Arts's literature fellowship. 2010.

Referee for *Comparative Studies in History and Society*. 2008.

Referee for *Translation Studies*. 2007.

Co-organizer with the English Department and on behalf of the Center for South Asian Studies of a two-day literature symposium, "Globalizing English: writing as translation" that brought together creative writers (Agha Shahid Ali, Lan Samantha Chang, Ngugi wa-Thiongo) with critical thinkers (Homi Bhabha, David Damrosch, Carol Maier, Vinay Dharwadker) in order to ask: Who writes which English, where and how? University of Virginia. March, 2001.

Member of ad hoc search committee for an Assistant Professor of Japanese Literature, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, University of Virginia, 2000-1.

Board member of the Women Faculty and Professional Association, University of Virginia. 2000-2001.

Board member of Kala Mandali, organization for the promotion of Indian arts in Iowa City. 1997-99.

Editorial consultant to Jael Silliman in revising *Jewish Portraits, Indian Frames: Gender, Colonialism and Identity*, a nonfiction account of four generations of Indian Jewish women. 1998-99.

Editorial board member of *100 Words*, a multilingual literary journal associated with the International Writing Program at the University of Iowa. 1994, and 1995-97.

Editorial assistant to Daniel Weissbort in revising *Survival: An Experience and an Experiment in Translating Modern Hindi Poetry* (New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 1994).

Language Competency

Native fluency reading, speaking and writing English; near-native fluency reading, speaking and writing Hindi; proficiency in French, Rajasthani and Urdu; some reading knowledge of Sanskrit and Latin.

Professional Associations

American Comparative Literature Association

American Literary Translators Association

Association of Asian Studies

Indian Association of Commonwealth Literature and Languages Studies

International Association for Translation and Intercultural Studies

Modern Language Association

Rajasthan Studies Group