

## MANAN RAMCHANDRA DESAI

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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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#### **University of Michigan**

Assistant Professor, Department of American Culture, 2014 - present

#### **Syracuse University**

Assistant Professor, Department of English, 2011-2014

### EDUCATION

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Ph.D., English, University of Michigan, 2011

M.A., English, University of Michigan, 2005

B.S., Biology and English, University of Michigan, 2002 (awarded with highest distinction)

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### **Peer-Reviewed Articles**

“Korla Pandit Plays America: Exotica, Racial Performance, and the Fantasy of Containment in Mid-Century Television,” *The Journal of Popular Culture*. 48.4 (2015): 714-730.

“Caste in Black and White: Dalit Identity and the Translation of African American Literature,” *Comparative Literature*. 66.1: (2015): 94-113.

#### **Selected Reviews, Interviews, and Shorts**

“The Indian Wants the Bronx,” South Asian American Digital Archive, March 24, 2016.

“D.W. Griffith Presents: ‘The Hindoo Dagger,’” South Asian American Digital Archive, February 2, 2016. (

“Hindus Too Brunette To Vote Here,” South Asian American Digital Archive, February 19, 2015.

“Your Dream is Our Dream,” South Asian American Digital Archive, January 19, 2015.

“The Crooner from Kashmir,” South Asian American Digital Archive, November 12, 2014.

“Connolly vs. Singh: Showdown in Vancouver,” South Asian American Digital Archive, September 30, 2014.

“A.A. Advani, International Conman (Parts 1 & 2),” South Asian American Digital Archive, August 26 & September 8, 2014.

- “‘The Dancing Rance’: Bollywood in Sixties California,” South Asian American Digital Archive, July 22, 2014.
- “The ‘Tan Stranger’ from Ceylon,” South Asian American Digital Archive, July 8, 2014.
- “What B.R. Ambedkar Wrote to W.E.B. Du Bois,” South Asian American Digital Archive, April 22, 2014. (
- “Infecting Angel Island,” South Asian American Digital Archive, March 25, 2014.
- “Interview with Hari Kondabolu,” South Asian American Digital Archive, March 11, 2013.
- “Born in the U.S.A.: Cornershop’s ‘Brimful of Asha,’” *The Margins*, June 7, 2012.
- “Gitmo Chic: Review of Alex Gilvarry’s *From the Memoirs of a Non-Enemy Combatant*,” *Hyphen* (online), April 19, 2012.
- “Portrait of the Artist as a City: Review of Theodore Gonzalves (ed.), *Carlos Villa and the Integrity of Spaces*,” *Hyphen* (online), February 9, 2012.
- “Japanese Picture Brides and 9/11: Review of Julie Otsuka’s *The Buddha in the Attic*,” *Hyphen* (online), November 23, 2011.
- “How to Be South Asian in America (Not.): Review of Anupama Jain’s *How to Be South Asian in America*” *Hyphen* (online), October 13, 2011.
- “Review of Dilruba Ahmed’s *Dhaka Dust*,” *Hyphen* (online), September 14, 2011
- “Review of Maxine Hong Kingston’s *I Love a Broad Margin to My Life*,” *Hyphen* (online), June 8, 2011
- “Afro-Asian Collaborations: Afro Asia: Revolutionary Political and Cultural Connections between African Americans, Eds. Fred Ho and Bill Mullen,” *Against the Current*, January/February 2009, 138.

### **Working Papers**

- “Digitizing the Diaspora: Building the South Asian American Digital Archive,” *The Ephemera Project*, Chao Center for Asian Studies, Rice University

### **PRESENTATIONS**

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- Association for Asian American Studies Conference, April 2016  
 Roundtable Participant: “Our Stories: Telling Stories of South Asian American through Digital Media”  
 Roundtable Participant: “Teaching Asian American Studies with Digital Tools”
- Experience Music Project Pop Conference, Seattle, April 2016  
 Presentation: “Listening to Mau Mau: Colonial Voices and African Exotica”
- Immigration History Research Center Conference, University of Minnesota, October 2015  
 Panelist: “Digital Storytelling and Living Archives: Building Immigration History through Digital Platforms”
- American Historical Association Conference, January 2015.  
 Presentation: “The South Asian American Digital Archive: History and Community-Based Archives”

Indian Institute of Technology, Invited Lecture, Mumbai, India, June 2014  
Presentation: “Pandit Plays America: Race, Exotica, and the Cold War”

Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Seattle, April 2013  
Presentation: “Korla Pandit Hoodwinks America: Television and Racial Impersonation in Mid-Century U.S.”  
Discussant: Passages of Orientalism: Area to Ethnic/Minority Studies and South Asian Migrations in the United States, Britain, and Canada

Modern Languages Association, Boston, January 2013  
“The Picturesque Hindu: Photography, the Press, and the Emergence of a Racial Subject in Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century North America”

Society of American Archivists, San Diego, August 2012  
Discussant: Independent Community-Based Archives: Opportunities and Challenges

Association for Asian American Studies Conference, Washington D.C., April 2012  
“The Picturesque Hindoo: Aryan, Asiatic, and White Masculinities in Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century N. America”

Rice University Chao Center for Asian Studies Ephemera Conference, Houston, TX, December 2011  
“Digitizing the Diaspora: Building the South Asian American Digital Archive”

Teaching South Asia Critically Conference, Oakton Community College, Illinois, April 2011  
“Diaspora and Digital Humanities: Building the South Asian American Digital Archive” (with Samip Mallick)

American Studies Association, Washington D.C., November 2009  
“They Called You Negro, They Called Me Untouchable?: Translating America in Dalit Literary Criticism, 1965-78”

Annual Conference on South Asian Studies, Madison, Wisconsin, October 2009  
“A Shifting Analogy: Lala Lajpat Rai’s United States as Colony and Empire, 1914-1919”

American Literature Association Conference, San Francisco, May 2006  
“The Third Man with the Third Set of Views’: Richard Wright’s Geopolitics in *The Outsider* and *The Color Curtain*”

## TEACHING

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**University of Michigan**  
*Assistant Professor*

Ann Arbor, Michigan  
September 2014–

Amcult 498: “American Exotica” (Winter 2016)  
Amcult 103: “Humor and American Society” (Winter 2016)  
Amcult 311: “The South Asian Diaspora in the U.S.” (Fall 2015)  
Amcult 214: “Introduction to Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies” (Fall 2015)  
Amcult 601: “Visual Culture: Race, Power, and Visuality” (Winter 2015)  
Amcult 275: “Practices of American Culture” (Co-taught with Penny Von Eschen, Winter 2015)  
Amcult 103: “Counterculture” (Fall 2014)  
Amcult 103: “Comedy and Social Change” (Fall 2014)

**Syracuse University**  
*Assistant Professor*

Syracuse, New York  
September 2011–May 2014

ENG 730: “Postcolonial Dialogues: Literature and Criticism” (Fall 2012)

ETS 315: “Asian American Fiction” (Spring 2012 / Spring 2013)  
ETS 315: “Tracing South Asian America” (Spring 2014)  
ETS 315: “Literature of South Asia and Its Diaspora” (Fall 2011)  
ETS 305: “Postcolonial Theory” (Spring 2012 / Spring 2013)  
ETS 184: “Introduction to Asian American Literature” (Fall 2011 / Fall 2012 / Spring 2014)  
HNR 100: “Comedy and Social Critique” (Spring 2013)

**University of Michigan**  
*Graduate Student Instructor*

Ann Arbor, Michigan  
September 2005–April 2011

*Instructor of Record*

English 230: “Stranger Than Fiction? History and Magic in 20<sup>th</sup> C. Fiction” (Winter 2011)  
English 125: “Culture, Narrative, and ‘The Past’” (Fall 2010)  
English 125: “Studies in Culture” (Winter 2010)  
English 124: “Telling Stories, Retelling Histories” (Fall 2006 / Winter 2007)

*Teaching Assistant*

English 367: “Shakespeare’s Plays” (Fall 2005), Ralph Williams  
English 367: “Shakespeare’s Principal Plays” (Winter 2006), Linda Gregerson

**Oakland Community College**  
*Supplemental Instructor*

Auburn Hills, Michigan  
August 2002–April 2004

CHE 1510/1520: General Chemistry I & II (Fall 2002 / Fall 2003), Renee Muro  
CHE 2610/2620: Organic Chemistry I & II (Winter 2003 / Winter 2004), Renee Muro

**SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

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**South Asian American Digital Archive (SAADA), 2010-2016**

Member, Academic Council (2016-present)  
Member, Board of Directors (2010-2016)  
Editor, *Tides* (2013-2016)

**University of Michigan, 2014-Present**

**Student Supervision and Advising**

*Dissertation Committees*

Vivian Truong (American Culture & A/PIA Studies)  
Michael Pascual (American Culture & A/PIA Studies)  
Lisa Jong (English)

**Committee and Administrative Service**

American Culture, Salary & Awards Committee, 2016-  
American Culture, Job Placement Advisor, 2014-2016  
American Culture, Graduate & Admissions Committee, 2014-2016  
• (Exempt from Admissions Winter 2016)

**Syracuse University, 2011-Present**

## **Student Supervision and Advising**

### *Dissertation Committees, current*

Ruma Sinha (English)

### *Dissertation Committees, defense complete:*

Auritro Majumder, Ph.D in English, Reader, “Insurgent Imaginations: Culture, Postcolonial Planetarity, and Maoism in India,” June 2014

Sandeep Banerjee, Ph.D. in English, Reader, “Landscaping India: From Colony to Postcolony,” defended May 2013

Shrimoy Chaudhury, Ph.D. in History, Reader, “Engrafting Modernity: Medical Professionalization in Nineteenth Century Bengal,” defended August 2012.

Sharmadip Basu, Ph.D. in Social Science, Chair of Oral Defense, “Tuning Modernity: Musical Knowledge and Subjectivities in Colonial India, c. 1780s – c. 1900s,” defended August 2011.

### *MA Dossier Committees*

Peter Delgobbo (Postcolonial Theory), 2014

Angela Ko (Asian American Literature), 2014

Adrienne Garcia (Ethnic American Literature), 2013

Kicia Sears (Ethnic American Literature), 2013

### *Undergraduate Honors Thesis Supervision:*

Tress Klassen, “The Uncertainty of National and Cultural Identity in Salman Rushdie’s *East, West* and *Midnight’s Children*,” May 2013.

## **Committee and Administrative Service**

Department of English, Graduate Committee, 2012-2013; Spring 2014

Asian/Asian American Studies Program, Executive Committee, 2013-present

Asian/Asian American Studies Program, Advisory Committee, 2011-2012

College of Arts and Sciences, First Year Student Academic Advisor, 2012-present

Search Committee, Asian/Asian American Studies Program Director, 2011-2012

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Planning Committee, 2012; 2013; 2014

Coordinator, Asian American Film Series, Spring 2012, Spring 2013

Fulbright Reader, Fall 2011

## **University of Michigan, 2004-2011**

Discussion Facilitator, “Indivisible: An Anthology of Contemporary South Asian American Poetry,”

Conversation with Poets, 2010

Co-coordinator, Center for South Asian Studies Graduate Student Film Series, 2009-2010

Co-coordinator, Center for South Asian Studies Reading Group (Kitabmandal), 2009-2010

Representative, Graduate Employees Organization, 2007

Film Screening Organizer, “SheWrite,” Conversation with Filmmakers, 2007

President, South Asian Progressive Alliance, 2006-7

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

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East of California Asian American Studies, Junior Faculty Retreat, 2013

University of Michigan, Rackham Merit Fellowship, 2007-2009

American Institute of Indian Studies Year-Long Language Fellowship (Marathi), 2007-2008

Foreign Language Areas Studies Fellowship (Marathi), 2005  
Five-Time Consecutive Angell Scholar, 1998-2001