

Alif Kazi

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EDUCATION

Fall 2026-	The University of Michigan – Ann Arbor Ph.D in American Culture	
Spring 2026	Hunter College Bachelor of Arts Majors: English Literatures and Criticism; Sociology; Special Honors Minors: Asian American Studies; History Honors in English Literature and Sociology Honors Program Associations: Athena Honors Scholar, Thomas Hunter Honors, Phi Beta Kappa; Sigma Tau Delta Dean's List: every applicable semester	GPA: 3.9
Summer 2025	Stanford University Undergraduate Researcher Concentration: Sociology of Literature and Film, Migration Studies, 20th Century U.S. South Asian Diaspora	

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Sociology of Migration; Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Sociology of Work and Society; Race and Migration (**Graduate Seminar**); Refugees, Migrants and Citizens (**Honors Seminar**); Literature and Human Rights (**Honors Seminar**); Generational Stories in Asian American Literature; Mellon Public Humanities Seminar; History of Modern India & South Asia; History of 20th Century India; Asians in the United States; Researching Asian American Communities; Asian American Communities & Public Policy; Afro-Asian (Dis)Connections in Pop Culture & Music; Multi-Ethnic American Literature; 20-21st Century American Fiction; Introduction to Cinema

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Public Humanities
- Material Culture Studies
- Diaspora and Migration Studies
- Space and Place
- Racialization and Relational Race Relations
- 20th and 21st-century Asian American Literature
- Documentary and Film Studies
- Sociological and Literary Theory
- Critical Caste and Class Studies
- Mobility Studies

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2024- 2026	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation <i>Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow</i> , Hunter College, New York, NY • Among four Hunter College students selected to participate in a prestigious graduate school preparation fellowship • Mentored by tenured faculty member, Prof. Sarah Chinn, to improve research methodology and writing skills • Conducted research using 80+ primary and secondary sources • Learned how to produce research proposals, annotated bibliographies, conference presentations, and academic journal articles • Researched the history of South Asian migration to the U.S. and their insertion into the black/white binary racial landscape • Researched ways South Asians in the U.S. maintain or abandon ties to home in literature and film through material culture
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- Researched the ways material culture represents states of open and closed social mobility for South Asians in the U.S.
- Researched the ways material culture such as passports represent geographic and legal mobility for South Asians in the U.S.

2025-2026

Mellon Public Humanities and Social Justice Fellow, Hunter College, New York, NY

- Among twenty Hunter College Students selected to participate in a prestigious Public Humanities Project fellowship
- Mentored by a tenured faculty member, Prof. Sonali Perera, to improve research methodology and writing skills
- Producing an academic article on representations of the epistolary form in multiethnic U.S. literature to convey a tether of belonging in the U.S. for diasporic migrants in order to negate alienation
- Researching the history and use of the epistolary form in literature
- Researching through a sociological and literary lens on diasporic migrants and their experiences in the U.S.
- Working with the organization, “Asian Americans for Equality,” under the supervision of housing manager Ling Ren

Summer 2025

Stanford/CUNY Summer Research Program in the Humanities

Visiting Undergraduate Researcher, Palo Alto, CA

- Among five Hunter College Students selected to participate in a prestigious summer at Stanford University to conduct research with a tenured professor.
- Mentored by a tenured faculty member, Prof. Usha Iyer, to improve research methodology and writing skills
- Produced an academic article on race relations and belonging/identity formation between South Asian and Black or white culture
- Researched the history and connection between caste and race in the United States
- Researched miscegenation history and the history of migration and citizenship in the U.S.
- Researched through a sociological and literary lens on race relations and American visuality

Summer 2024

Hunter College Undergraduate Researcher

Research Lead, New York, NY

- Conducted research on sexuality within enclosed spaces of the South Asian-American diaspora through literary analysis
- Wrote a research paper exploring the history of sexuality in India and its displays of sexuality linked to colonial rule under the guidance of Professor Dorian Onifer

Spring 2024

Research Assistant, New York, NY

- Collaborated with peers to generate workshop ideas to serve the needs of Asian American youth and to help educate youth about Asian American history while simultaneously aiding students to craft strong college essays.
- Helped develop a wellness/writing intervention for Asian American high school students based on academic literature under the tutelage of Professor Linh An.

FELLOWSHIPS/AWARDS/HONORS

2026	Best Paper for the Mellon Public Humanities Fellowship
2026	The John Potter Memorial Prize for Outstanding Work in Literature
2026	The Hudson Bruce Prize for Outstanding Essay in American Literature
2026	The Randolph and Eliza Guggenheimer Prize for Distinguished Work in English Literature
2026	Suzanne Keller Award for Outstanding Undergraduates in the Hunter College Sociology Department
2026	Phi Beta Kappa
2025-2026	Mellon Public Humanities and Social Justice Fellowship
2025-2026	Fellow at the Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers (IRT)
2025	Mother's Day Scholarship
2025	Stanford-CUNY Exchange

2025	Rutgers English Diversity Institute, Rutgers New Brunswick
2025	Harry Rosenfeld-Berle Reade and Ida Solomon Fischer Reade Prize in Literature for Outstanding Essay
2024-2026	Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship
2024	Hunter College AANAPISI Project Undergraduate Research Assistantship, Summer Intern
2024	Hunter College AANAPISI Project Undergraduate Research Assistantship, Spring Intern
2023-2026	Thomas Hunter Honors Scholar
2022-2026	Athena Honors Scholar

PUBLICATIONS

- Kazi, Alif. "Chair Turned East." *Asian American Voices: Magazine of the Students*, Vol. 8, May 2026, pp. 11-15.
- Kazi, Alif. "Migrants Moving" (Zine). Self-Published, 2026
- Kazi, Alif. "Bleeding." *Asian American Voices: Magazine of the Students*, Vol 7, May 2025, pp.19-24.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Letterness: The Various Sites Connecting South Asian Migrants to 'Home' in U.S.-Based South Asian Literature and Film," Mellon Public Humanities Symposium, Spring 2026.

"Material Culture and Mobility: Shaping South Asian Cultural Identity in the U.S. through Consumption, Everyday Objects, and Conceptions of Class (Dis)Continuities in Jhumpa Lahiri and Mira Nair," Hunter College Undergraduate Research Conference, Spring 2026.

"This is America: Conceptualizing Americanness through Class and Geography in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* and Mira Nair's *Mississippi Masala*," Stanford University Research Conference, Summer 2025

"Reading and Writing Home: The Significance of Tracing Material Culture in Constructing Home and Belonging in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* and Mira Nair's *Mississippi Masala*," Mellon Mays NYC Regional Undergraduate Conference, Spring 2025

"Reading and Writing Home: The Significance of Tracing Material Culture in Constructing Home and Belonging in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake* and Mira Nair's *Mississippi Masala*," Hunter College Undergraduate Research Conference, Spring 2025

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Rockowitz Writing Center	
2025 - Present	<i>Peer Writing Tutor</i>, Hunter College, NY • Support students across disciplines in developing effective writing processes, including reading comprehension, critical close-reading, drafting, revising, and editing • Facilitated collaborative, student-centered sessions by asking guiding questions and encouraging critical thinking about writing choices • Guided students through proper use of citation styles (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.), promoting academic integrity and effective research integration • Catalogue summaries of each session through reports written following each meeting
Coeus Prep Academy	
2022 - Present	<i>Academic Tutor</i>, Flushing, NY • Tutored students, ranging in groups of 4-5 or individually, from elementary to community college, assisting 100% of students to increase their school averages by 1-2 letter grades • Assisted 100% of students in enhancing literary skills, learning mathematical foundations, winning essay contests, obtaining the honor roll, and expanding vocabulary through crafted lesson plans, handouts, and available workbooks • Wrote weekly progress reports for the students I've taught, detailing what they've done for the week, as well as what they've done well and what they could improve on

- 2022 **CommonPoint Queens-Samuel Field Y**
Youth Counselor, Queens, NY
- Taught students in large groups of about 25-30 people and guided them through multiple, crafted activities that built their teamwork, communication, and emotional development skills
 - Created 5-6 lesson plans weekly based on science, English, math, and economics, and maintained a productive and energetic work environment where 100% of students came out with a skill or knowledge that they had not had before

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

- 2024 - 2026 **Athena Honors Program Newsletter**
Co-Editor, New York, NY
- 2024 - 2026 **Hunter College Scholarwide Newsletter**
Contributor, New York, NY

LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2026 **Hunter College Scholar Program Feature**
Student Feature, New York, NY
- Featured on *The Realities of Life: Scholar Edition* on the Hunter College Scholars website
- 2025 **Hunter College Student Accreditation Team**
Student Participant, New York, NY
- Will work alongside faculty members on a middle-states working group (Ethics and Integrity) to ensure that Hunter College renews accreditation to receive federal funding from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE)
- 2025 **Student Search Committee**
Participant, New York, NY
- Participated in a student search committee interviewing candidates for a full-time Associate Professor faculty member position for the Black, Race, Ethnic Studies Initiative (BRESI) position at Hunter College in the Sociology Department
- 2025 **Student Success Fund**
Featured, New York, NY
- One of five whose academic journey was featured for Hunter College's "Giving Tuesday" released on November 21, 2025
- 2025 **Rutgers English Diversity Institute (REDI)**
Participant, New Brunswick, NJ
- Among fifteen undergraduate students chosen from a national pool to spend a week at Rutgers University learning what it is like to be a graduate student in English
 - Spent a week engaging in graduate-level seminars, graduate school workshops, and conversations relating to life as a graduate student with graduate mentors at Rutgers University
 - Engaged in daily writing workshops to improve graduate-level writing and skills pertaining to literary analysis
- 2023 - Present **Honors Scholar Peer Mentor**
Athena Honors Scholar Peer Leader, New York, NY
- Communicated weekly with 5 freshmen mentees via email and WhatsApp, and hosted monthly office hours
 - Assisted mentees with class selection and writing advice, resulting in the full retention of scholars under my supervision for the next year
- 2023 - Present **Athena Scholars Advisory Committee**
Advisory Committee Member, New York, NY

- Administered social media pages and posts, keeping the Instagram pages up to date and reaching a large group of those within and outside of Hunter College
- Produced monthly flyers to advertise organized events and colloquiums by the Athena Program, collecting data and information about the guest speakers via email
- Actively contributed to monthly meetings to propose ideas for future events and colloquiums, creating polls to survey information on what current students are interested in

2025

Admissions Committee Member

- Interviewed prospective candidates for the Athena Honors Program and gauged their capacity to do well in the program

2024 - Present

Student Panelist

Hunter College Student Panelist, New York, NY

- Chosen to speak on multiple panels to faculty and fellow students at Hunter College and across CUNY about my experience as an Asian American Student at Hunter
- Spoke on personal experience relating to topics including belonging, alienation, mental health, and work-life balance as an undergraduate student

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2026

Intern at Asian Americans For Equality (AAFE)

Social Work, New York, NY

- Participated in housing stability work
- Logged case notes of residents and checked in on their needs and offered my assistance when necessary

2022 - Present

Writing Mentor

Writing Mentor, New York, NY

- Conducted one-on-one meetings via Google Meet or Zoom and discussed how to write the college application personal statement, supplemental essays, scholarship essays, argumentative essays, and college class essays
- Assisted students in gaining admittance to multiple schools and programs (e.g., Adelphi Nursing, St. John's Pharmaceutical Program, Binghamton University, Macaulay Honors College, NYU, etc.)
- Collaborated with students on the writing process concerning their college essays, resulting in a 100% rate of A grades on papers on various subjects (film, English, history, honors courses, etc.)
- Assisted students applying for scholarship funds (e.g., Macaulay Funds, Gilman Scholarship, etc.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Languages: English (fluent), Bangla (fluent), Spanish (Intermediate)