

Vanita Reddy
Curriculum Vitae
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EDUCATION

- 2009 Ph.D., English, University of California, Davis; Designated Emphases in Critical Theory and Feminist Theory and Research
2002 M.A., English, University of California, Davis
1998 B.A., English and Communication, Trinity University

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2016-Present Associate Professor, English, Texas A&M University (TAMU)
2013-2014 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Gender Studies, Indiana University, Bloomington
2009-2016 Assistant Professor, English, Texas A&M University (TAMU)
2009-present Affiliated Faculty, Women's and Gender Studies, TAMU
2011-present Affiliated Faculty, Race and Ethnic Studies Institute, TAMU

PUBLICATIONS: PEER REVIEWED

BOOKS

Fashioning Diaspora: Beauty, Femininity, and South Asian American Culture. Philadelphia: Temple UP, 2016.

Fashioning Diaspora examines how transnational flows of Indian beauty produce racialized and diasporic subjectivities and affiliations, and how diasporic subjects at times transform everyday performances, practices, and goods of Indian beauty and fashion in the process. Across literature, film, video, visual art, and digital media, the forms of beauty that I examine include a global "modern" femininity as a physical attribute of the Indian woman's body, transnational circulations of Bollywood (popular, Hindi-language Indian cinema) female iconicity, Indian and diasporic women's and girls' roles in the global beauty and fashion industries, and Indian dress and fashions. I highlight how diasporic subjects' encounters with and material uses of Indian beauty and fashion produce embodiments and social connections that put pressure on neoliberal practices of national and transnational belonging. They generate incomplete national and global attachments, affiliations that cross

generational, class, and citizenship divides, and modes of embodiment that challenge the otherwise heteronormative and capitalist logic of beauty and fashion. *Fashioning Diaspora* helps us to think differently about beauty and fashion, not simply as dematerialized, overly commodified cultural practices that work seamlessly in the interests of globalizing capital but as social domains that can be radically material. I show how beauty and fashion articulate South Asian American racial formations and cultural identities through embodied practices of citizenship and belonging.

ARTICLES

- 2018 “Introduction: Feminist and Queer Afro-Asian Formations,” *The Scholar and Feminist Online* (March 2018), with Anantha Sudhakar
- 2017 “Affect, Aesthetics, and Afro-Asian Studies,” *Journal of Asian American Studies* 20.2 (June 2017): 289-294.
- 2015 “Afro-Asian Intimacies and the Politics and Aesthetics of Cross-Racial Struggle in Mira Nair’s *Mississippi Masala*,” *Journal of Asian American Studies* 18.3 (October 2015): 233-63.
- 2013 “Beauty and the Limits of Belonging in Bharati Mukherjee’s *Jasmine*,” *Contemporary Literature*. 54.2 (2013): 337-68.
- 2013 “Jhumpa Lahiri’s Feminist Cosmopolitics and the Transnational Beauty Assemblage,” in *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*. 11.2 (2013): 29-59.
- 2006 “The Nationalization of the Global Indian Woman: Geographies of Beauty in *Femina*,” *Journal of South Asian Popular Culture*. 4.1 (2006): 61-85.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Forthcoming “Family Togetherness, Affect Aliens, and the Ugly Feelings of Being Included,” *Feminist and Queer Theory Reader*, eds. L. Ayu Saraswati and Barbara Shaw. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2018 (in production).
- 2017 “Diasporic Beauty and Fashionability,” *Routledge Handbook of the Indian Diaspora*, eds. Radha Hedge and Ajaya Sahoo. New York and London: Routledge, 2017: 183-199.

JOURNAL ISSUES (EDITED/CO-EDITED)

- 2018 Special Issue of *Scholar and Feminist Online* on “Afro-Asian Feminist and Queer Formations,” co-edited with Anantha Sudhakar

PUBLICATIONS: NON-PEER REVIEWED

- 2018 Invited Film Review for *Films for the Feminist Classroom: The Illusionists* (2015), *Beauty Mark* (2008), and *On Beauty* (2015). (1,500 words).

- 2018 Forthcoming, Book Review for *MELUS, Global Asian American Popular Cultures* (NYU Press, 2016).
- 2017 “Remedios: The Uses of Anger,” *Asterix: A Journal of Art, Literature, and Criticism*. 30 Jan. 2017.
- 2015 “*Seeing Beauty, Sensing Race in Transnational Indonesia*” Invited Book Review. *Signs: A Journal of Women, Culture, and Society*. 40.3 (Spring 2015): 781-83.
- 2010 “Come for the Saris, Stay for the Politics.” *MigrITUDE*. New York: Kaya Press, 2010. 140-147.

WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

BOOKS

Global Intimacies (second book project-in-progress on comparative South Asian diasporas)

Global Intimacies explores the political possibilities and limitations for anti-imperial, cross-racial political alliances between South Asian and other racialized populations. Encompassing but also reaching beyond US contexts to examine South Asian cultural production from and about South Asian diasporas in Britain, the Caribbean, East Africa, South Africa, and Canada, this project intervenes into scholarship on comparative diasporas and racial formations, which has focused almost exclusively on male migrants and leaders and which uses heterosexual and patriarchal frameworks in examining anti-imperial alliances across racial divides. I argue that placing forms of intimacy—such as domesticity, same-sex love and friendship, erotic contact, and sexual violence—at the center of comparative studies of South Asian diasporas reveals the political limitations of existing male-centered, heteronormative narratives of cross-racial solidarities. By bringing the emerging field of Afro-Asian studies into conversation with recent work in feminist and queer cultural studies of affect and intimacy by Sara Ahmed, Lauren Berlant, Leela Gandhi, Nayan Shah, and Ann Laura Stoler, I argue that these cultural texts point to alternate forms of cross-racial alliance that can more fully challenge the imperial legacies of racial separatism and insularity.

ARTICLES

“South Asian Queer Desire, Black Affection, and the Apartheid State” (solicited for *Queer and Asian 2.0*, eds. Kale Fajardo, Alice Hom, and Martin Manalansan; under contract with Temple UP; submission date: March 31, 2018)

“Beauty, Biopolitics, and (Cruel) Optimism: (Re)Assembling Beauty’s Neoliberal Attachments in a Globalizing India” (in progress for *Feminist Formations*)

“Fashion Modeling, Sex, and the Precarity of Bodily Capital in Kavita Daswani’s *Salaam, Paris.*”

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

- 2018-2021 Arts and Humanities Fellow (\$5,000/year for 3 years)
- 2018 Glasscock Internal Faculty Fellow (two-course teaching release for Fall 2018)
- 2016 Collaborative Grant, Lead Author, Glasscock Center for the Humanities, Fall 2016, \$1,500 (with Chaitanya Lakkimsetti, Sociology, and Jyotsna Vaid, Psychology)
- 2016 Aggie Allies Rainbow Award for Accountability, Climate, and Equity (ACE) (TAMU, Department of Multicultural Services)
- 2016 Department Scholarly and Creative Activity, Department of English, TAMU, \$1,256, Spring/Summer 2016
- 2016 Undergraduate Professional and Research Experience Project (UPREP), Department of English, TAMU
- 2015-17 TAMU ADVANCE Scholar
- 2015 Summer Graduate Research Assistant, Department of English, \$650.
- 2015 Publication Support Grant, Glasscock Center for the Humanities, Spring 2015, \$1000
- 2015 Undergraduate Professional and Research Experience Project (UPREP), Department of English, TAMU, Spring 2015, \$750.
- 2012 Undergraduate Professional and Research Experience Project (UPREP), Department of English, TAMU, Fall 2012, \$750.
- 2011 East of California/Penn State University Faculty Development Workshop Grant
- 2011 Program to Enhance Scholarly and Creative Activities Grant, TAMU Division of Research, 2011-2012 academic year, \$9998.08.

OFF-CAMPUS INVITED TALKS/PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

- 2017 Invited Speaker for “Fatal Love: Where Are We Now?” Art Exhibition on South Asian Visual Art, Queens Museum (New York City, June 30-July 2, 2017)
- 2016 “Fashioning Diaspora,” NYU, Asian/Pacific/American Institute (Book talk)
- 2016 “Feminist and Queer Afro-Asian Formations,” University of Maryland, Department of Women’s Studies
- 2016 “Beauty’s Attachments,” Ohio State University, Asian American Studies Program and Sexuality Studies Program, Columbus, OH, April 2016.
- 2015 “Salaam E Ishq,” Panel Discussant for “Mighty Real: The Politics of Queer Nightlife,” University of Texas at Austin, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies
- 2014 “Proximate Histories: Shailja Patel’s Afro-Asian Poetics,” Paper for Invited Panel for Ethnic Studies Committee of American Studies Association, Los Angeles, CA
- 2014 “Refashioning Indo-Chic: Bindis, Turbans, Porn,” IU, Bloomington, Gender Studies Research Colloquium
- 2013 “Beyond Indo-Chic,” Process/Practice/Portfolio, South Asian Women’s Creative Collective (SAWCC) Seminar on South Asian Visual Artists and Academics, New York University, Asian/Pacific American Institute.

TAMU INVITED TALKS/PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 Featured Speaker for Department of Multicultural Services Class of 2020 Welcome Social (August 2016)
- 2015 “Fashioning Diaspora,” Women’s Research on Women Symposium, TAMU, March 2015 (selected as one of 18 invited TAMU faculty to present emerging research on women)
- 2013 “Vincent Who?,” Panel Presenter for Asian Students Council, TAMU.
- 2010 “The Repeal of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code and the History of Sexuality,” Gender Regimes Around the World: The Social Cost of Alternative Gender and Sexuality, MSC Institute for International Awareness Symposium, TAMU.
- 2010 “Transnational Beauty: Migrancy, Locality and Racialized Strangeness in Bharati Mukherjee’s *Jasmine*” Graduate Student Orientation Lecture, Department of English, TAMU.

CONFERENCE PANELS CHAIRED OR ORGANIZED

- 2018 “Queer and Feminist Afro-Asian Formations,” National Women’s Studies Association, Atlanta, GA (November 2018)
- 2018 “Queer and Feminist Afro-Asian Formations,” American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA (November 2018)
- 2018 “Queer and Feminist Afro-Asian Formations,” Asian American Studies Association, San Francisco, CA (March 2018)
- 2017 “New Directions in Queer and Feminist South Asian Diasporic Critiques,” Asian American Studies Association, Portland, OR (chaired panel virtually).
- 2016 “Decolonizing Beauty and Fashion: A Roundtable Discussion, National Women’s Studies Association Conference, Montreal, Quebec
- 2016 “Neoliberalism’s Genres: Feminized and Popular Forms in Asian American Literature” Asian American Studies Association, Miami, FL.
- 2015 “Sartorial Borders,” Asian American Studies Association, Evanston, IL.
- 2014 “The Pasts, Presents, and Futures of South Asian American Studies,” Asian American Studies Association, San Francisco, CA.
- 2012 “Performing History, Expanding Race: Afro-Asian and Arab-Asian Hip Hop, Film and Spoken Word,” Asian American Studies Association, Washington, D.C.
- 2012 “South Asian Diasporic Media Assemblages: The Globalized Circulation of Affect, Cultures, and Feminisms,” Cultural Studies Association, La Jolla, CA.
- 2011 Co-Organizer, “Performing Radical Alliances: Queer De-Colonizations and Native/South Asian American Critiques,” Critical Ethnic Studies Conference, Riverside, CA.
- 2010 “Border(ing) Transgressions: Sexuality, Citizenship and Transnationality in Asian American Culture,” Asian American Studies Association, Austin, TX.

CONFERENCE PAPERS PRESENTED (SELECTED)

- 2018 “New Regimes of Visibility: South Asian Diasporic Visual and Performance Cultures,” Asian American Studies Association, San Francisco, CA.

- 2017 “Affect, Intersectionality, and the Women’s March on Washington,” for panel “This is What Democracy Looks Like? Critiques of Intersectionality at the Women’s March on Washington,” Panelist, National Women’s Studies Association, Baltimore, Maryland.
- 2017 “Asian American Studies in the Age of Black Lives Matter,” Invited Panelist, Asian American Studies Association, Portland, OR (virtual paper presentation)
- 2016 “Beauty, Biopolitics, and (Cruel) Optimism: (Re)Assembling Beauty’s Neoliberal Attachments in a Globalizing India,” National Women’s Studies Association, Montreal, Quebec.
- 2016 “Fashion’s Labor Economies, Citizenship, and South Asian American Chick Lit,” Asian American Studies Association, Miami, FL.
- 2014 “Queering Afro-Asia,” Queer Places, Practices, and Lives Conference, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- 2013 “Proximate Histories: Shailja Patel’s Afro-Asian Poetics,” Critical Ethnic Studies Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2012 “Afro-Asian Diasporic Intimacies in Mira Nair’s *Mississippi Masala* and Shailja Patel’s *Migritude*,” American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2012 “Afro-Asian Diasporic Intimacies in Mira Nair’s *Mississippi Masala*,” Asian American Studies Association, Washington, D.C.
- 2012 “Re-Staging India: Gender, Citizenship, and the Transnational Beauty Assemblage,” Cultural Studies Association, La Jolla, CA.
- 2011 “Querying Alliances: Sovereignty, Nationhood and South Asian American Diasporic Critique,” Critical Ethnic Studies Conference, Riverside, CA.
- 2010 “Where Did You Learn to Apply Make-Up Like That? Consumer Feminisms, Banditry, and the Indian *American Girl* Doll,” National Women’s Studies Association, Denver, CO.
- 2010 “Global Brands/Sexy Bodies: Prosthetic Femininity and Transnational (Be)Longing in Jhumpa Lahiri’s ‘Sexy,’” Asian American Studies Association, Austin, TX.
- 2010 “The Drag of Race: Queerness, Capital and Consumption in Duncan Tucker’s *Transamerica*,” Queer Commodity Cultures, Cultural Studies Association, Berkeley, CA.
- 2009 “Bharati Mukherjee’s Economies of Beauty: Migrancy, Neoliberalism, and Nation in *Jasmine*,” Panelist, Pacific and Ancient Modern Languages Association, San Francisco, CA

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2011 Completion of semester-long Faculty Teaching Academy, Center for Teaching Excellence, TAMU.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH FIELDS

South Asian Diasporic Literature and Culture
 Asian American Literature and Culture
 20th and 21st Century U.S. Multi-Ethnic and Postcolonial Literatures
 Transnational Feminisms and Queer Theory
 Critical Race Studies

COURSES TAUGHT**TAMU**

ENGL673/WGST 698 Global Intimacies
 ENGL 683 Queer of Color Critiques (graduate course)
 ENGL/WGST 474 Studies in Women Writers: Asian American Women's
 Writing
 ENGL 338 American Ethnic Literature
 ENGL/WGST 333 Gay and Lesbian Literature
 ENGL 228 Post-Civil War US Literature to the Present
 ENGL 481 Senior Seminar: Race, Sex, Empire
 ENGL 219: Literature and the Other Arts
 ENGL 685: Directed Readings: Theories and Economies of Affect
 ENGL 685 Graduate Seminar: Transnational Asian American Cultural
 Production
 ENGL 481 Senior Seminar: Queer of Color Literatures and Critiques
 ENGL 352 20th Century Literature, Post-WWII
 ENGL 485 Directed Readings: The Postcolonial and the Postmodern

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

G215: Sex And Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective
 G102: Sexual Politics

GRADUATE STUDENT SERVICE

2018 Committee Chair, Landon Sadler (PhD, English, TAMU, in-progress)
 2017 Committee Member, Jessica Smith (MA, English, TAMU, in-progress)
 2017 Committee Member, Kyung Lyn Bae (PhD, English, TAMU, in-progress)
 2017 Committee Member, Kaitlin Miles (PhD, Communication, TAMU, in-progress)
 2017 Committee Member, Desirae Embree (PhD, English, TAMU, in-progress)
 2017 Committee Member, Seul Lee (PhD, English, TAMU, in-progress)
 2015 Committee Member, Jeonjin Lee (MA Performance Studies, TAMU, 2016)
 2015 Committee Member, Gisele Cardoso De Lemos (PhD, English, TAMU, in-progress)
 2014 Committee Member, Dhruva Mukherjee (PhD, English, TAMU, in-progress)
 2013 Committee Member, Alma Villanueva (PhD, English, TAMU, in-progress)
 2013 Committee Member, Garrett Nichols (PhD, English, TAMU)
 2012-13 Committee Member, Dhruva Mukherjee (MA, English, TAMU, 2013)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2018 Session Reviewer for National Women's Studies Association Conference

- 2018 Manuscript Reviewer (second review), New York University Press, *Fashion and Beauty in the Time of Asia*
- 2017-present Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Asian American Studies (JAAS)*
- 2017 Manuscript Reviewer, New York University Press, *Fashion and Beauty in the Time of Asia*
- 2017, 2016 Journal Peer Reviewer, *Journal of Asian American Studies*
- 2016 Journal Peer Reviewer, *Genre: Forms of Discourse and Culture*
- 2016; 2011 Journal Peer Reviewer, *Feminist Formations* (permanent reviewer)
- 2014 Journal Peer Reviewer, *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*
- 2012 Journal Peer Reviewer, *ARIEL: A Review of International English Literature* (permanent reviewer)

UNIVERSITY/DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE (TAMU)

- 2018 ENGL 485 Directed Readings: The Postcolonial and the Postmodern
- 2018 Speaker for panel on “Academic Freedom and Scholarly Activism,” co-sponsored by OGAPS, EGSA, and Glasscock Center for the Humanities
- 2017-18 Co-Convener, South Asia Studies Working Group, Glasscock Center for the Humanities
- 2017-18 Search Committee Member for Latinx Literature and Culture faculty position and Latinx Creative Writing faculty position
- 2017 Graduate Student Orientation speaker on Campus Climate, Department of English
- 2017 GAT Orientation Diversity Committee speaker, Department of English
- 2016 GAT Orientation Diversity Committee speaker, Department of English
- 2016 Graduate Student Orientation panel organizer and speaker, “Intersectionality and Campus Climate,” Department of English
- 2015-present Graduate Studies Committee, Department of English
- 2015-present Chair, Diversity Committee, Department of English
- 2014-15 Member Diversity Committee, Department of English
- 2014 “How I Teach,” English Department Brownbag Colloquium
- 2012 ENGL 685: Directed Readings: Theories and Economies of Affect
- 2012 Faculty Coordinator, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, “Love Cake,” Department of English
- 2011 Program Review Committee, Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, (2011-2013).
- 2011 Hiring Priorities Committee, Department of English, (2011-2013).
- 2011-present Faculty Co-Sponsor, Shades of Queer (undergraduate LGBT of color undergraduate organization), (2011-present).
- 2010 Co-Coordinator, Queer of Color Symposium.
- 2009 Faculty Mentor, Graduate Assistant Training Program, Department of English.

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

- Asian American Studies Association
- American Studies Association
- National Women’s Studies Association
- Modern Language Association
- Cultural Studies Association

LANGUAGES

Hindi (native fluency)

Telugu (native fluency)

Spanish (reading knowledge)