

SJ SINDU
(SINDUJA SATHIYASEELAN)

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EDUCATION:

Doctor of Philosophy, English and Creative Writing, Florida State University, August 2017
 Major: Fiction; Minor: Critical Theory; Major Professor: Mark Winegardner
 Dissertation: *Blue-Skinned Gods* (novel)

Master of Arts, English and Creative Writing, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, May 2012
 Major: Fiction; Minor: Women's and Gender Studies; Major Professor: Judith Slater
 Thesis: *Not Quite Nirvana* (novel, later retitled *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*)

Graduate Certificate, Teaching of Writing, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, February 2012

Bachelor of Arts, English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, May 2009, honors, high distinction
 Concentration: Creative Writing; Minors: Business Administration, LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies

CURRENT ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT:

Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, Virginia Commonwealth University, Summer 2022 – present
 Duties: designing and teaching courses in creative writing and literature, directing MFA theses, participating in committee service

Visiting Faculty, Creative Writing, Vermont College of Fine Arts, December 2021 – present
 Duties: virtually supervising low-residency MFA students one-on-one, responding to student submissions, attending and running workshops during residencies twice a year.

PAST ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT:

Assistant Professor of Creative Writing (Teaching Stream), University of Toronto Scarborough, 2019 – 2022
 Duties: designed and taught courses in creative writing and literature, directed independent studies with undergraduate students working on long-form prose, participated in committee service, developed a new queer studies curriculum and certificate.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, Ringling College of Art & Design, 2017 – 2019
 Duties: designed and taught courses in creative writing, literature, and composition; development of creative writing curriculum; Managing Editor for literary journal *SHIFT*.

Graduate Teaching Assistant/Instructor, Florida State University, 2015 – 2017

Graduate Teaching Assistant/Instructor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2011 – 2012

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS: Creative writing (prose – fiction, nonfiction, hybrid); literature (South Asian diaspora, Tamil diaspora, queer, feminist); critical theory (queer, feminist, critical race); creative writing pedagogy.

PUBLICATION SUMMARY: 2 literary novels; 2 forthcoming graphic novels; 1 forthcoming short story collection; 2 hybrid chapbooks; numerous short fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry; 2 peer-reviewed critical articles.

HONORS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS:

Lambda Literary Award Finalist for *Blue-Skinned Gods*. 2022.
 Indie Next Pick for *Blue-Skinned Gods*. November 2021.
 Dean's Merit Award, University of Toronto Scarborough, 2021.
 Black River Chapbook Competition, winner, 2021.
 DSC South Asian Literary Prize Longlist, 2018.
 Selected for *Best American Experimental Writing*, 2018.
 NBC Asian America A to Z influential Asian Americans pick, 2018.
 The Publishing Triangle Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction for *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*, 2018.
 Lambda Literary Award Finalist for *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*, 2018.
 American Library Association Stonewall Honor Book for *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*, 2018.
 Golden Crown Literary Society Award for Debut Fiction Finalist for *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*, 2018.
 VCU First Novelist Award Finalist for *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*, 2018.
 Top 50 Very Short Fictions of 2017, *Wig Leaf*.
 Split Lip Turnbuckle Chapbook Contest, winner, 2016. Judged by Sara Lippmann.
 Florida State University Spotlight Fiction Award, winner, 2016. Judged by Debra Monroe.
Glimmer Train's Top-25 List for New Writers, Spring 2016
Winged City (Argus Press) Fiction Chapbook Contest, finalist, 2015
Fiction Vortex Reader's Choice Award, April 2014
 Florida State University Legacy Fellowship, 2014 – 2017
 Lambda Literary Foundation LGBT Emerging Voices Writing Retreat Fellowship, 2013
 New York State Summer Writers Institute Fellowship, 2012
 The Nebraska Summer Writers' Conference/Jim Thompson Award, 2009
 National Merit Scholarship, 2005 – 2009

PUBLICATIONS – LITERARY NOVELS:

Blue-Skinned Gods. Soho Press (US & Canada), Legend Press (UK). November 2, 2021.

Awards/honors/features:

- Lambda Literary Award Finalist for Bisexual Fiction
- Indie Next Pick
- Publisher's Weekly Starred Review & Review of the Day
- The Million's Most Anticipated 2021
- Loanstar Pick for November
- Literari First Editions Book Club
- Featured on NPR Weekend Edition & NPR Book of the Day

Description: A young boy grows up as the center of a Hindu cult, worshipped as Kalki, the next and last incarnation of the god Vishnu. His parents market him as a supernatural healer, and he

is the focus of the ashram in which he lives. As he grows up, Kalki starts to doubt his abilities, and finally runs away at the age of twenty to discover who he is outside the lies he has always believed.

NEW YORK TIMES:

“It’s impossible not to be hypnotized.... Sindu masterfully renders how our environments bake into our skin.”

THE GUARDIAN:

“*Blue Skinned Gods* is a rich, beautifully told and moving examination of the allure of superstition and legend, the pains of growing up and the pitfalls of lying to others and lying to yourself.”

ROXANE GAY, *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *HUNGER*:

“Sj Sindu has written another brilliant novel in *Blue-Skinned Gods*...Here is a novel about the bonds between brothers, a deceptive tyrant and son, a mother who doesn’t know how to save herself or her child, a boy and how he yearns for his young loves, and so much more. The richness of this story will take hold of you and never let go.”

PUBLISHER’S WEEKLY (STARRED REVIEW):

“[T]he slow-burn narrative by the end becomes incandescent. Sindu’s stunning effort more than delivers on her initial promise.”

Marriage of a Thousand Lies. Soho Press. June 13, 2017.

Awards/honors/features:

- Publishing Triangle Edmund White Award for Debut Fiction
- Golden Crown Literary Society Award for Debut Fiction
- DSC South Asian Literary Prize Longlist
- Independent Publisher Book Awards Silver Medal for LGBT+ Fiction
- Lambda Literary Award Finalist for Lesbian Fiction
- American Library Association Stonewall Honor Book
- VCU First Novelist Award Finalist
- *Poets & Writers* Notable Fiction Debut

Description: A Sri Lankan American lesbian named Lucky is in a marriage of convenience with a gay man. Together, the two of them present an illusion of heterosexual marital bliss to their conservative families while dating on the side. But when Lucky’s girlfriend gets an arranged marriage, Lucky’s life of lies starts to fall apart. This novel investigates the complex, at times painful intersection of queerness and South Asian American identity.

PUBLISHER’S WEEKLY:

“Perceptive, subtle, and provocative...Sindu’s characters, including Lucky’s divorced parents, are all believably complicated and compassionately observed...in a moving and memorable story.”

MS. MAGAZINE:

“A heart-wrenching debut novel...incorporates love, loss, family, rebirth and growth to tell a captivating story you won’t be able to put down.”

BOOK RIOT:

“So good...heartbreaking in the way it portrayed the characters torn between happiness and custom. SJ Sindu does a beautiful job describing how Lucky feels about living a secret life and her fear of disappointing her parents, and the language and imagery is gorgeous.”

GRAPHIC NOVELS:

Tall Water. Harper Collins. Forthcoming 2024. YA.

Description: Nimmi dreams of the mother she’d never met. Though she has her overprotective father and a budding relationship with a boy at her school, she yearns of traveling to Sri Lanka to find and meet the mother who gave her up and refused to leave the island, not even in times of war. When Nimmi’s journalist father gets an assignment to cover Sri Lanka, Nimmi secretly follows him. Guided by a beautiful Red Cross volunteer named Sheila—on whom Nimmi quickly develops a crush—Nimmi and her father make their way to her mother’s hometown, only to get caught in the 2004 tsunami that devastates the island.

Shakti. Harper Collins. Forthcoming summer 2023. Middle-grade fantasy.

Description: Shakti, the twelve-year-old Indian-American daughter of a witch, is used to being the new girl in school. She and her two moms have moved just in time for Shakti to start seventh grade. But as Shakti quickly realizes, something isn't right in her new school. Three pretty, popular girls have all the teachers under a spell, and they're planning something even more diabolical—total domination over the town. Shakti must learn witchcraft from her mother in order to stop them, but when a spell goes wrong, she ends up unleashing a dangerous spirit that threatens the town and even the world.

CHAPBOOKS:

Dominant Genes. Black Lawrence Press. February 2022.

Winner of 2020 Black River Chapbook Competition.

Description: *Dominant Genes* is a hybrid chapbook of poetry and lyric essays exploring family, heritage, and the construction of in-between identities. Linked by content, the pieces vary in form, style, and structure, playing with the fragmentary nature of memory and identity.

I Once Met You But You Were Dead. Split Lip Press. December 2016.

Winner of 2016 Split Lip Turnbuckle Chapbook Contest

Description: *I Once Met You But You Were Dead* is a hybrid chapbook of fiction and nonfiction that juxtaposes girlhood, womanhood, and cultural gender politics with war and violence. The chapbook's short pieces play with the ways in which the feminine contends with, learns, confronts, negotiates, absorbs, and wields masculine power and violence—leading, ultimately, toward an inquiry into the gray space of identity.

SHORT FICTION:

“Wild Ale.” *Electric Literature*, Recommended Reading. Winter 2020.

“Fundraising.” *War, Literature & the Arts*. Spring 2017.

“Patriots’ Day.” *Fifth Wednesday Journal*. Fall 2016.

Winner of Florida State University’s Spotlight Award for Fiction, March 2016.

Finalist in *Glimmer Train*’s Short Story Award for New Writers, November 2015.

“SpoDew.” *Queen Mob’s Teahouse*. Fall 2016.

“Tractor Town” and “Selenium Sulfide.” *The Normal School*. Fall 2016.

“Take the Boy.” *PRISM International*. Summer 2016.

“I Like to Imagine Daisy from Mrs. Dalloway as an Indian Woman.” *Apt.* June 2016.

Wig Leaf Top 50 Very Short Fictions 2017.

“Yellow School Buses.” *Vinyl Poetry and Prose*. March 2016.

“Miracle Boy.” *Fiction Vortex*. April 2014.

Winner of *Fiction Vortex* Readers’ Choice Award.

An excerpt from *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*. *The Aerogram*. Fall 2013.

“Husband Hunting: the survival of Indian arranged marriage in Worcester, MA.” *Rio Grande Review*.
Spring 2011.

“Playing Princess.” *Harpur Palate*. Summer 2008.

NONFICTION:

“A Measure of Men.” *Hippocampus Magazine*. June 2021.

“Art in the Moment – Citizenship.” *Kenyon Review*. April 2021.

“Queer Enough.” *Split/Lip Magazine*. March 2021.

“Banana Tree Wedding.” *The Texas Review*. January 2021.

Honorable Mention in *Glimmer Train*’s Family Matters Contest, 2019.

- “Mother.” *The Cincinnati Review* *miCRo weekly feature*. December 2020.
- “Bombs Fall Like Pollen.” *Slice Magazine*. October 2020.
- “My Parents Crossed an Ocean and Lost Me.” *Months to Feed Zine*. October 2020.
- “Writers Recommend: Aquariums.” *Poets & Writers*. September 2017.
- “Imagine This: Revolutionary Queerness in *Born Confused*.” *Brown Girl Magazine*. September 2017.
- “Balancing Bollywood Inspirations with American Expectations.” *Literary Hub*. June 2017.
- “Think Music: Musical Inspirations for *Marriage of a Thousand Lies*.” *Memorious*. June 2017.
- “Draupadi Walks Alone at Night.” *Good Girls Marry Doctors: South Asian American Daughters on Obedience and Rebellion*. Ed. Piyali Bhattacharya. Aunt Lute Books. September 2016.
- “Sanctuary: Jeanette Winterson Saved My Life.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*. April 2016.
- “In Conversation: Writers SJ Sindu & Gabrielle Bellot on the Publishing Industry, Marginalized Identities, and Being Labeled a Queer Writer.” *Lambda Literary Review*. Co-authored with Gabrielle Bellot. March 2016.
- “Dangerous Art: Thoughts about Danticat’s Immigrant Artist and the Creation Myth.” *VIDA Exclusives*. February 2016.
- “You Can Keep Your Bold Riley: Thoughts on Cultural Appropriation.” *Black Girl Dangerous*. Fall 2014.
- “Mirrors Like Silence.” *Rkvy Quarterly*. Fall 2012.
- “SR-9.” *Brevity*. January 2012.
- “Test Group 4: Womanhood and Other Failures.” *Water~Stone Review*. Fall 2011.
- POETRY:**
- “Pant Hoot” and “Sun God.” *The Bombay Review*. Forthcoming.
- “How to Survive a Pandemic.” *Prairie Schooner*. 2021.
- “To All My Suitors and the Aunties Who Send Them My Way.” *ARC Poetry*. Fall 2021.
- “Dominant Genes.” *Honey Literary*. Spring 2021.
- “Gods in the Surf.” *Burrow Press Review*. Fall 2020.
- “River Seeds.” *The Tipton Poetry Journal*. Summer 2013.
- “The Edges of Her.” *The MacGuffin*. Winter 2012.

“Daughterson.” *JMWW*. Spring 2012.

“Cocoon.” *Sinister Wisdom*, Issue #81. Summer 2010.

ANTHOLOGIES / REPRINTS:

“Mother.” *Nonwhite Woman and Nonbinary Anthology*. Forthcoming.

“Dominant Genes,” “How to Survive a Pandemic,” and “Gods in the Surf.” *Out of Sri Lanka: An Anthology of Sri Lankan Poets*. Forthcoming.

“Test Group 4: Womanhood and Other Failures.” *Best American Experimental Writing*. 2020.

“Yellow School Buses.” *Forward: 21st Century Flash Fiction*. 2019.

“Test Group 4.” *The Offing*. March 2017.

“SR-9” and “Test Group 4: Womanhood and Other Failures.” *Two Countries: U.S. Daughters and Sons of Immigrant Parents*. Red Hen Press. 2017.

“Husband Hunting” and “Test Group 4: Womanhood and Other Failures.” *The Female Complaint*. Shade Mountain Press. Fall 2015.

“SR-9.” *Being: What Makes a Man*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press. 2015.

“Cocoon.” *Love, Always: Partners of Trans People on Intimacy, Challenge, and Resilience*. Transgress Press. 2015.

“Test Group 4: Womanhood and Other Failures.” *Becoming: What Makes a Woman*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Gender Programs, 2012.

PEER-REVIEWED CRITICAL PUBLICATIONS:

“Women vs. modernity in Rajinikanth’s Tamil-language films: the mother, the good woman, the modern virgin, and the angry feminist.” *Studies in South Asian Film and Media*. 2020.

“Negotiating the Bi-nary: Strategic Ambiguity and the Non-Nameable Identity in the Classroom.” *Writing on the Edge*. Fall 2014.

BOOK REVIEWS:

Review of *Assembling Ethnicities in Neoliberal Times: Ethnographic Fictions and Sri Lanka’s War* by Nimanthi Perera-Rajasingham. *ARIEL*. 2020.

Review of *Ruination* by Katie Jean Shinkle. *Lambda Literary Review*. 2018.

COMPLETED MANUSCRIPTS UNDER CONSIDERATION:

Patriots' Day and Other Stories (chapbook of short stories)

Guardians of Ashkara (YA fantasy graphic novel series) – A poor teenage mage manifests her powers in a South Asian-inspired world where the two dominant magical communities edge ever closer to war.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS:

War Child (literary novel) – A young graduate student, haunted by memories of the civil war that she experienced as a child, inserts herself into a family of refugees after they suffer a tragic loss. Set in Toronto, this novel explores cycles of violence and trauma in the Tamil diaspora community in the aftermath of the Sri Lankan war.

Abab (literary science fiction novel, co-written with Geoff Bouvier) – Forty years in the future, a promising scientist is invited to join a crew traveling to Europa in search of extraterrestrial life, only to find that ruthless capitalism and scientific exploration rarely go hand in hand.

CONFERENCE PAPERS, PANELS, KEYNOTES, WORKSHOPS:

“Time in the Narrative.” Muse and the Marketplace, virtual, April 2022.

“Writing the Disturbed Essay: Memory and Identity.” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, Philadelphia, March 2022.

“Desi Mythpunk: Indian Mythologies in Futurist Writing by South Asian Authors.” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, Philadelphia, March 2022.

“Inheriting Resistance.” Keynote address, No Limits Women and Gender Studies Conference, University of Nebraska Lincoln, March 2022.

“Small Talks: Manipulating Time in Prose.” Saskatchewan Writers’ Guild Fall Conference. October 2021. Virtual.

“The Foreign Land We Call Canada: Immigrant Stories.” Victoria Festival of Authors. October 2021. Virtual.

“Reclaiming Narratives: Asian-Canadian Writers' Roundtable.” Word on the Street Toronto. September 2021. Virtual.

“Beyond Print: Exploring Different Forms of Storytelling.” CanWrite! Festival. September 2021. Virtual.

“Publishing Your Debut Novel.” Washington DC South Asian Literary Festival. May 2021. Virtual.

“Who Tells Your Story: Analyzing Appropriation in Literature and Writing.” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference. March 2021. Virtual.

- “Transnational Currents in Canadian Literature.” Modern Language Association Conference. January 2020. Seattle, Washington.
- “Sri Lankan American Women’s Writing—Contemporary Investments and Future Directions.” Modern Language Association Conference. January 2020. Seattle, Washington.
- “The Diverse Desi: Readings by Three Creative Writer.” South Asian Literary Association Conference. January 2020. Seattle, Washington.
- “Model Minority: Denial, Dissent, and Destruction.” Naked Heart Literary Festival. November 2019. Toronto, Ontario.
- “LGBTQ+ Women Tell Their Stories.” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference. March 2019. Portland, Oregon.
- “Race and Gender in South Asian American Literature.” Tasveer South Asian Literary Festival. January 2019. Seattle, Washington.
- “Writing South Asian LGBTQ Lives.” Tasveer South Asian Literary Festival. January 2019. Seattle, Washington.
- “Writing Trauma.” Rainbow Refugee writing workshop. August 2, 2018. Vancouver, British Columbia.
- “Youth in Revolt: Fiction That Refuses to Conform.” Virginia Festival of the Book. March 24, 2018. Charlottesville, Virginia.
- “Marriage Beyond Borders: Fact & Fiction.” Virginia Festival of the Book. March 24, 2018. Charlottesville, Virginia.
- “Beyond Genre: Writing, Editing, and Publishing Hybrid Forms in the Age of Fake News.” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference. March 10, 2018. Tampa, Florida.
- “Challenges and Triumphs: Underrepresented Voices in Publishing.” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference. March 9, 2018. Tampa, Florida.
- “Faithless Fiction: Writing About Religion from an Atheist Perspective.” Search for Meaning Festival. February 24, 2018. Seattle University. Seattle, Washington.
- “Flash Fiction Workshop.” New Voices Conference. February 1, 2018. Georgia State University. Atlanta, Georgia.
- “I’ve never heard of that country: Sri Lankan American writers on shaping an emerging literary identity.” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference. February, 2017. Washington D.C.
- “Gender and Genre: How do our prejudices affect our preferences?” Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference. February, 2017. Washington D.C.
- “The Once and Future Love Story: Slash fiction addressing various closets in BBC’s *Merlin*.” Pop Culture Association / American Culture Association Conference. February, 2013. Washington D.C.

“Racial Performance and the Ethics of Memory: Coconuts in July.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. March 19, 2010. Louisville, Kentucky.

“From Women to Gender: An inclusive gender center proposal.” No Limits Women and Gender Studies Conference. March 6, 2010. University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

INVITED LECTURES (craft, literature, theory):

Visit with Alex Quinlan’s literature survey class, University of Tennessee Chattanooga, March 2022.

Visit with Ty Jaeger’s hybrid creative writing class, Hendrix University, March 2022.

Visit with Bhavani Raman’s Tamil worlds class, University of Toronto, February 2022.

Visit with Nick White’s fiction class, Ohio State University, October 2021.

Visit with Heather Bailey’s postcolonial literature class, Alcorn State University, September 2021.

Invited lecture, “Writing Young Adult Characters,” Nicholls University, April 2021.

Visit with Kateri Akiwenzie-Damm’s graphic novel class, University of Toronto Scarborough, April 2021.

Invited lecture, “Publishing Masterclass,” University of Saskatchewan, March 2021.

Visit with Karen Tucker’s introduction to fiction class, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Fall 2020.

Visit with Megan Gannon’s contemporary literature class, Ripon College, Spring 2020.

Visit with Cooper Lee Bombardier’s developmental editing class, University of King’s College, Spring 2020.

Visit with students in Asian American Lit class, Rice University, Fall 2019.

Meeting with editors of Caffeine and Careful Thought (student literary journal, University of Toronto Mississauga), Fall 2019

Writer’s Panel hosted by UTM Scribes, University of Toronto Mississauga, Fall 2019.

Visit with Geoff Bouvier’s class, University of Toronto Mississauga, Fall 2019.

Visit with Sarah Gerard’s class, New College of Florida, Fall 2018.

Visit with South Florida National Reading Group. Fall 2018.

Visit with Wordier Than Thou book club. Summer 2018.

Visit with Sarasota Fiction Writers group. Spring 2018.

“Q&A with a writer,” Dr. David Steiling’s Literature and Media class, Ringling College of Art & Design, Spring 2018.

Visit with Boston Women’s Book Club. Fall 2017.

“Basics of Fiction and Publishing,” Robert Przekwas’s Literature and Media class, Ringling College of Art & Design, Fall 2017.

“Diversity in Worldbuilding,” Dr. David Steiling’s Worldbuilding class, Ringling College of Art & Design, Fall 2017.

“Time in Fiction and Constructing Scenes,” Ringling College of Art & Design Pre-College Workshop, Summer 2017.

“Percival Everett’s *Erasure*,” Prof. Mark Winegardner’s American Literature Survey class, Florida State University, June 2016.

“Work life balance,” Florida State University’s pedagogy class for incoming graduate students, Summer 2016.

“Q&A with SJ Sindu,” Misha Rai’s Fiction Technique class, Florida State University, Spring 2016.

“Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*,” Prof. Mark Winegardner’s American Literature Survey class, Florida State University, June 2015.

“Women writers and craft,” Dr. Basuli Deb’s Introduction to Women’s Literature class, February 28, 2012, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

“*Persepolis* and Iranian history,” Dr. Basuli Deb’s Introduction to Women’s Studies class, November 10, 2011, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

“Introduction to queer theory,” Dr. Basuli Deb’s Introduction to Women’s Studies class, October 11, 2011, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

GRANTS AWARDED:

Martha McCain Research Fellowship for Queer and Trans Studies, University of Toronto, 2022-2023

Pedagogical and Professional Development Grant, University of Toronto Scarborough, 2019-2022

GRANTS APPLIED FOR:

Queer and Trans Research Lab Clusters of Scholarly Prominence (co-applicant), University of Toronto Scarborough, 2021

Institutional Strategic Initiatives (co-applicant with Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies), University of Toronto, 2021

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Series Editor, University of Nebraska Press Queer Fiction book series, 2021 – present

Guest Editor, West Branch Wired, 2022

Judge, Pinch Journal Literary Awards, 2022

Judge, Prairie Schooner Mary Sandoz Awards, 2022

Judge, Re:Locations Journal of the Asia and Pacific World contest, 2021

Editor, The Glowup, *Just Femme and Dandy* Literary Magazine, 2021

Judge, Orison Anthology Award in Fiction, Orison Books, 2021

Reviewer, Innovative Prose Series, The Texas Review Press, 2020

Judge, Redivider Beacon Prize, 2019

Judge, New South Prose Contest, 2019

Judge, Tournament of Books, 2019

Judge, Creative Pinellas Emerging Artist Grand Panel, 2018

Judge, The Cupboard Contest, 2017

Judge, Voices of the South Contest, March 2017

Judge, Malone Writing Contest, March 2017

Judge, Publishing Triangle Awards, 2017

Guest Editor, *SmokeLong Quarterly*, January 2017

Judge, Lambda Literary Awards

Transgender Fiction, 2014; Transgender Nonfiction, 2013

SELECTED READINGS:

Bridgewater State University, November 2021

A Celebration of Print: Slip Lip Press and Barrelhouse Reading, March 2021

Bandwidth Reading Series, Denton, Texas, December 2021

Balderdash Reading Series, Waterloo, Ontario, February 2020

East Loft Reading Series, Toronto, January 2020
 Forward Anthology Launch, AWP Portland, March 2019
 Powell's Bookstore Reading, Portland, Oregon, August 23, 2018
 Dyke March featured speaker, Vancouver, British Columbia, August 4, 2018
 A Night of Queer Storytelling at the Vancouver Public Library, August 3, 2018
 Virginia Festival of the Book, Charlottesville, Virginia. March 23, 2018
 Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, March 10, 2018
 Elliot Bay Bookstore, Seattle, Washington. February 23, 2018
 New Voices Conference, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia. February 2, 2018
 Indigo Bridge Bookstore, Lincoln, Nebraska. October 13, 2017
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska. October 12, 2017
 Functionally Literate Reading Series, Orlando, Florida. September 23, 2017
 Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, Texas. September 14, 2017
 Brookline Booksmith Bookstore, Boston, Massachusetts. June 26, 2017
 South Asian Women's Creative Collective, Brooklyn, New York. June 25, 2017
 Asian American Writers Workshop, New York, New York. June 24, 2017
 Famous Last Words Reading Series, Toronto, Ontario. June 22, 2017
 BookPeople Bookstore, Austin, Texas. June 17, 2017
 Brazos Bookstore, Houston, Texas. June 14, 2017
 Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference (two readings), February, 2017
 Inkwell Reading Series at KGB Bar, New York, New York. December 10, 2014

UNIVERSITY COURSES TAUGHT:

University of Toronto (Assistant Professor of Creative Writing):

- Topics in Postcolonial Literature: Literature of the Tamil Diaspora (proposed and designed new syllabus, upper division literature course), Spring 2022
- Writing for Comics (designed new syllabus, upper division creative writing workshop), Fall 2021
- Queer Literature and Theory (proposed and designed new syllabus, upper division literature course), Winter 2021
- Creative Writing: The Art of the Personal Essay (designed new syllabus, upper division literature course), Winter 2021
- Introduction to Creative Writing (proposed and designed new syllabus, creative writing lecture with 175 students), Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2022
- Creative Writing as a Profession (designed new syllabus, upper division course), Winter 2020
- Creative Writing Special Topics: Writing Queer and Trans Voices (proposed and designed new syllabus, upper division creative writing workshop), Winter 2020
- Creative Writing Independent Study: Prose (upper division novel workshop), 2019-2021
- Fiction I Workshop (designed new syllabus, introductory fiction workshop), Fall 2019, Fall 2020
- Fiction II Workshop (designed new syllabus, intermediate fiction workshop), Fall 2019, Spring 2021, Fall 2021
- Canadian Writing in the 21st Century (designed new syllabus, literature class), Fall 2019

Ringling College of Art & Design (Visiting Assistant Professor of Creative Writing):

- Contemporary Writers of Color (proposed and designed new syllabus, upper division literature class), Spring 2019
- Story Fundamentals: Character (designed new syllabus, creative writing workshop), Spring 2019

- Literature Special Topics: Asian and Asian American Literature (proposed and designed new syllabus, upper division literature class), Fall 2018
- Topics in Editing and Publishing (designed new syllabus, creative writing class that puts together the SHIFT literature journal), Fall 2018
- How to Get Your Creative Writing Published (proposed and designed new syllabus, continuing education adult class), Spring 2018
- Creative Writing Special Topics: Writing LGBTQ Literature (proposed and designed new syllabus, creative writing workshop), Spring 2018
- Writing for Digital Media (creative writing workshop), Spring 2018, Spring 2019
- Literature Special Topics: Protest & Revolution (proposed and designed new syllabus, literature), Spring 2018
- Story Fundamentals: Scene (designed new syllabus, creative writing workshop), Fall 2017
- Literature and Media Studies (designed new syllabus, literature), Fall 2017
- Writing Studio (designed new syllabus, composition & rhetoric), Fall 2017, Fall 2018

Florida State University (Graduate Teaching Assistant):

- Women in Literature (full instructor, designed new syllabus, literature), Summer 2017
- Third World Cinema (teaching assistant), Fall 2016
- Fiction Technique (full instructor, designed new syllabus, creative writing workshop), Fall 2015
- The Short Story (full instructor, designed new syllabus, literature), Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016
- Queer Studies Reading Group (proposed, facilitated, organized, and led graduate student discussion group), Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017
- First Year College Composition (full instructor, designed new syllabus, composition and rhetoric), Summer 2015, Spring 2017

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Graduate Teaching Assistant):

- Writing: Rhetoric as Inquiry (full instructor, designed new syllabus, Composition I), Spring 2012
- Writing: Rhetoric as Argument (full instructor, designed new syllabus, Composition II), Fall 2011
- Introduction to Women's Literature (teaching intern), Fall 2011
- Advanced Fiction Writing (teaching intern), Spring 2011
- Gay and Lesbian Literature (teaching intern), Fall 2010

SUPERVISIONS:

Graduate:

MFA Thesis committee member, Majinder Sidhu, University of British Columbia Okanagan, 2020 – 2022

Undergraduate:

Independent study (novel), Marquela Nunes, University of Toronto Scarborough, 2020 – 2021
 Independent study (novel), Evan Thompson, University of Toronto Scarborough, 2019 – 2020
 Independent study (novel), Justin Muir, University of Toronto Scarborough, 2019 – 2020
 Independent study (novel), Jessica Burns, University of Toronto Scarborough, 2019 – 2020
 Independent study (novel), Ryan Gillies, University of Toronto Scarborough, 2019 – 2020

OTHER RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT:

Teaching, Tutoring, and Writing Centers:

Graduate Writing Consultant, FSU Reading and Writing Center, Spring 2016

Worked one-on-one with graduate students, including international students, to talk through writing conference proposals, research papers, theses, and dissertations.

Instructor of English, Apx Academy (Boston, MA), Fall 2012 – Summer 2013

Taught small classes of 2-4 students of varying K12 grades.

Workshop leader for teen creative writing workshop, Cary Library (Lexington, MA), Summer 2012

Private writing tutor for middle and high school students, online and in person, 2011 – 2015

Teaching Internship

- with Dr. Basuli Deb, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Fall 2011: Women's Literature
- with Prof. Judith Slater, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Spring 2011: Advanced Fiction
- with Dr. Amelia Montes, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Fall 2009: Gay and Lesbian Literature

Writing Consultant, UNL Writing Assistance Center, Fall 2008 – Spring 2009

Publishing and Research:

Managing Editor, *SHIFT: A Journal of Literary Oddities*, Ringling College of Art and Design, Fall 2018 – present

Graduate Assistant, VIDA: Women in the Literary Arts, Florida State University, Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

Proofreader, Pearson, Spring – Summer 2014

Intern, University of Nebraska Press Acquisitions Department, Spring 2012

Research Assistant, Dr. Joy Castro, Spring – Summer 2011

Research Assistant, Dr. Seanna Oakley, Spring – Summer 2011

Research Assistant, Dr. Fran Kaye, Fall 2010

Research Assistant, Dr. Amanda Gailey, Fall 2010 – Spring 2011

Digital Humanities & Information Technology:

Fluency: HTML, CSS, Javascript, PHP, Java, C++, SQL, PRPC, Adobe Creative Suite
(Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Dreamweaver, Muse), Wordpress

Consultant, FSU Digital Studio, Spring 2016

Business Analyst, Software Developer, Scrum Master, RuleTek LLC, April 2013 – December 2013

Web Developer, Nebraska Humanities Council, 2009

Web Designer, Manzitto Bros, 2007 – 2009

Web/Graphic Designer, Art Director, UNL Student Involvement, 2006 – 2010

Java Programmer, Citicards, Sioux Falls, SD, 2006

PROFESSIONAL AND RELATED MEMBERSHIPS:

- Association of Writers and Writing Programs, 2012 – present
 - Modern Languages Association, 2012 – present
 - South Asian Literary Association, 2020 – present
 - Mensa International, 2012 – 2014
-

LANGUAGES: English (fluent, read, write, speak); Tamil (fluent, speak); French (studied but not fluent, read, write, speak)

SERVICE:

University of Toronto (faculty)

- PTR (Progress Through the Ranks) committee, 2021 – 2022
- Chair, Queer and Trans Studies committee, 2020 – 2022
- Sexuality Diversity Studies and Bonham Centre steering committee, 2020 – 2022
- Tamil Studies Program committee, 2019 – 2022
- Digital Tamil Archives Advisory committee, 2019 – 2022
- Queer Research Lab committee, 2020 – 2021
- Creative Writing Portfolio committee, 2020 – 2021
- Writer-in-Residence committee, 2019 – 2021
- Leader, COW (creative writing student group), Fall 2019

Ringling College of Art and Design (faculty)

- Managing Editor, *Shift: A Journal of Literary Oddities*, 2018 – 2019
- Faculty Advisor, *Chomp: A Journal of Literature and Art*, 2018 – 2019
- Faculty Advisor, Spooky Queer Zine Club, 2018 – 2019
- Member, Library Advisory Committee, 2017 – 2019
- Member, Diversity Committee, 2017 – 2019

- Member, Faculty Professional Development Subcommittee, 2018 – 2019
- Member, Diversity Messaging Subcommittee, 2017 – 2018
- Member, Diversity Student Outreach Subcommittee, 2017 – 2018
- Member, *SHIFT: A Journal of Literary Oddities* Faculty Editorial Board, 2017 – 2019
- Faculty Advisor, Ringling Writers (creative writing student group), 2017 – 2019
- Faculty Mentor, Students of Color Alliance, 2017 – 2019
- Faculty Advisor, Student Fashion Show, 2017 – 2018

Florida State University (graduate student)

- Secretary (elected position), FSU Graduate English Student Organization, 2015 – 2016
- Nonfiction Reader, *The Southeast Review*, 2014 – 2015

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (graduate student)

- Fiction and Nonfiction Reader, *Prairie Schooner*, 2006 – 2007, 2010 – 2012
 - Prairie Schooner Book Prize reader, Spring 2012
 - Second reader, 2011 – 2012
- No Name Reading Series committee member, 2011 – 2012
- MA Representative (elected position), UNL English Graduate Student Association, 2011 – 2012
- Advisor, Queer Ally Coalition, 2010 – 2012

Community

- Administrative Team, Subtle Tamil Social Traits (social justice-focused virtual Tamil group), 2020 – present
- Executive Team, Queer South Asian Wom/enby Network, 2020 – present
- Organizer, Lector Reading Series, 2018 – 2019
- Leader, Lector Book Club, 2018 – 2019