

GAURAV GAJANAN DESAI

Department of English
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University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
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EDUCATION

- 2009 Management Development Program, Harvard School of Education.
- 1996 Ph. D. Department of English, Duke University.
Dissertation-- Dangerous Supplements: African Self-Fashioning and the Colonial Library.
- 1988 Bachelor of Arts (Honors); Concentration – English, Northwestern University.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

September 2016 – Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

July 2013 – June 2016: Professor, Department of English and Program in African and African Diaspora Studies, Tulane University.

July 2002 – July 2013: Associate Professor, Department of English and Program in African and African Diaspora Studies, Tulane University.

July 2006 - July 2009: Chair, Department of English, Tulane University.

July 1996 - July 2002: Assistant Professor, Department of English and Program in African and African Diaspora Studies, Tulane University.

July 1997 - July 2000: Co- Director, Program in African and African Diaspora Studies, Tulane University.

July 1994 - July 1996: Assistant Professor, Department of English, University at Albany (SUNY).

September 1990 - May 1994: Instructor, University Writing Program and Department of English, Duke University.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS:

2. *Commerce with the Universe: Africa, India and the Afrasian Imagination*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2013. (Ppb, 2016). Winner of the Rene Wellek Prize (2014) from the American Comparative Literature Association; Featured as “Book of the Day” by *Foreign Affairs* on April 30, 2014. Finalist, Bethwell Ogot Prize, African Studies Association (2014); Shortlist, Asia-Africa Book Prize, Association of Asian Studies in Africa/International Convention of Asia Scholars (2015).

1. *Subject to Colonialism: African Self-fashioning and the Colonial Library*. Durham, N.C: Duke University Press, 2001.

EDITED COLLECTIONS:

11. Gaurav Desai and John Hawley, eds., *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Amitav Ghosh*. A volume in the Modern Language Association’s Approaches to Teaching World Literatures Series. Modern Language Association of America (in progress).

10. Gaurav Desai, Adeline Masquelier and V.Y. Mudimbe, eds., *Critical Terms for African Studies*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press (under contract and currently in progress). Expected publication in 2017.

9. Gaurav Desai (guest section editor), *Katrina: A Decade After*. Special Section of *The Minnesota Review*, no. 84, Summer 2015.

8. Gaurav Desai, ed., *The Virtual Transformation of the Public Sphere*. New Delhi: Routledge, 2013.

7. Gaurav Desai (guest editor), *Asian-African Literatures*. Special Issue of *Research in African Literatures*, Vol 42, no. 3, Fall 2011.

6. Gaurav Desai, ed., *Teaching the African Novel*. A volume in the Modern Language Association’s Options for Teaching Series. Modern Language Association of America, 2009.

5. Gaurav Desai (guest editor), *Actually Existing Colonialisms*. Special Issue of *Journal of Contemporary Thought*, no. 24, Winter 2006. Published by the Forum on Contemporary Theory, Baroda, India.

4. Gaurav Desai and Supriya Nair, eds., *Postcolonialisms: An Anthology of Cultural Theory and Criticism*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2005. Co-published in the United Kingdom by Berg Publishers (London).

3. Gaurav Desai, Felipe Smith and Supriya Nair, (guest editors), *Multi-Ethnic Literatures and the Idea of Social Justice*. Special Issue of *MELUS: The Journal of the Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*, Vol. 28, no. 1, Spring 2003.

2. Gaurav Desai (guest editor), *Culture and the Law*. Special Issue of *South Atlantic Quarterly*, Vol. 100, no. 4, Fall 2001.

1. Gaurav Desai (guest section editor), "Theater and Development in Africa," *Research in African Literatures*, Vol. 22, no. 3, Fall 1991.

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS:

22. "The Novel in Africa: Theories and Debates," in *The Oxford History of the Novel in English: The Novel in Africa and the Atlantic World*, vol. 11, ed. Simon Gikandi, (Oxford : Oxford University Press, 2016), 515-25.

21. "'Ye Zindagi Usi Ki Hai': Illicit Desire and (Post)colonial Romance in M.G. Vassanji's *The Book of Secrets*," *Summerhill* (IIAS), Vol 20, no. 1 (Summer 2014): 18-26.

20. "Introduction: The Virtual Transformation of the Public Sphere," in *The Virtual Transformation of the Public Sphere*, ed. Gaurav Desai (New Delhi: Routledge, 2013), 1-15.

19. "Asian African Literatures: Genealogies in the Making," *Research in African Literatures*, Vol 42, no. 3 (Fall 2011): v-xxx.

18. "Commerce as Romance: Nanji Kalidas Mehta's *Dream Half-Expressed*," *Research in African Literatures*, Vol 42, no. 3 (Fall 2011): 147-65.

17. "Between Indigeneity and Diaspora: Questions from a Scholar-Tourist," *Interventions*, Vol. 13, no. 1 (March 2011): 53-66.

16. "Oceans Connect: The Indian Ocean and African Identities," *PMLA*, Vol. 125, no. 3 (May 2010): 713-20.

15. "Introduction: Teaching the African Novel," in *Teaching the African Novel*, ed. Gaurav Desai (New York: Modern Language Association, 2009), 1-15.

14. "The Scholar and the State," *The Global South*, Vol 1, no. 1 (2007): 98-108.

13. "Actually Existing Colonialisms," *Journal of Contemporary Thought*, no. 24 (Winter 2006): 5-13.

12. "Traveling Culture and the 'Cultural Defense,'" in *Sexual Justice / Cultural Justice: Critical Perspectives in Political Theory and Practice*, eds. Barbara Arneil, Monique Deveaux, Rita Dhamoon and Avigail Eisenberg (London: Routledge, 2006), 69-85.

11. "Capitalism, Sovereignty and the Dilemmas of Postcoloniality," *Boundary2*, Vol. 33, no. 2 (2006): 177-201.

10. "Old World Orders: Amitav Ghosh and the Writing of Nostalgia," *Representations*, Vol. 85 (Winter 2004): 125-148.

9. "Edward Said, Area Studies and Postcoloniality," *Journal of Contemporary Thought*, Vol.18 (Winter 2003): 139-147. Reprinted in *Rethinking Modernity*. eds. Santosh Gupta, Prafulla Kar and Parul Dave Mukherjee, (New Delhi: Pencraft, 2004), 90-98.

8. "Introduction: Law, Literature and Ethnic Subjects," (with Felipe Smith and Supriya Nair), *MELUS: The Journal of the Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*, Vol. 28, no. 1 (Spring 2003): 3-16.
7. "Introduction: Culture before the Law," *South Atlantic Quarterly*, Vol. 100, no. 4 (Fall 2001): 855-67.
6. "Being Under Erasure: Soundings on some Heideggerian Themes," *Journal of Contemporary Thought*, Vol. 12 (2000): 17-27.
5. "Rethinking English: Postcolonial English Studies" in *A Companion to Postcolonial Studies*, eds. Sangeeta Ray and Henry Schwarz (London: Basil Blackwell, 2000), 523-39.
4. "Out in Africa," *Genders*, Vol. 25 (1997): 120-43. Re-printed in *Postcolonial, Queer: Theoretical Intersections*, ed. John Hawley (Albany: SUNY Press 2001), 139-164. Excerpts re-printed in *African Literature: An Anthology of Criticism and Theory*, eds. Tejumola Olaniyan and Ato Quayson (London: Blackwell, 2007), 736-745.
3. "English as an African Language," *English Today*, Vol. 9, no. 2 (Apr. 1993): 4-11.
2. "The Invention of Invention," *Cultural Critique*, Vol. 24 (Spring 1993): 119-42.
1. "Theater as Praxis: Discursive Strategies in African Popular Theater," *African Studies Review*, Vol. 33, no. 1 (Apr. 90): 65-92.

INTERVIEWS, REVIEWS AND OCCASIONAL PIECES:

35. "Ancestral and Territorial Homelands: The Politics of the Indian Diaspora in Kenya," (Review Essay of Sana Aiyar, *Indians in Kenya*), *Diaspora*. (forthcoming).
34. "Doing What Comes Naturally: or, Being Interdisciplinary Isn't All That Hard To Do," *Items* (online journal of the Social Science Research Council), <http://items.ssrc.org/doing-what-comes-naturally-or-being-interdisciplinary-isnt-all-that-hard-to-do/> Posted January 10, 2017.
33. "The Novelist as Linkster," *American Historical Review*, Vol 121, no.5 (2016): 1531-6.
32. Review of Isabel Hofmeyr, *Gandhi's Printing Press* in *Interventions*, Vol 18, no.5 (2016): 757-59.
31. Review of Dan Ojwang, *Reading Migration and Culture* in *Research in African Literatures*, Vol. 46, no. 3 (Fall 2015): 241-242.
30. "Introduction: Katrina, Ten Years Later," *The Minnesota Review*, no.84 (Summer 2015): 56-59.
29. "Response to R. Radhakrishnan and Simon Gikandi," *Interventions*, Vol 17, no.2 (2015): 294-96. (Part of a Review Forum on *Commerce with the Universe*).
28. Review of John Su, *Imagination and the Contemporary Novel* in *Modern Philology*, Vol. 112, no.1 (2014): E145-E147.

27. Review of S. Shankar, *Flesh and Fish Blood: Postcolonialism, Translation and the Vernacular* in *Interventions*, Vol. 15, no.2 (2013): 314-17.
26. "How I Have Changed My Mind," *College English*, Vol. 74, no. 2 (Nov. 2011): 110-12.
25. "Ambiguity is the Driving Force or the Nuclear Reaction Behind my Creativity: An E-Conversation with M.G. Vassanji," *Research in African Literatures*, Vol. 42, no. 3 (Fall 2011): 187-97.
24. "Further Resources for Teaching the African Novel," in *Teaching the African Novel*, ed. Gaurav Desai (New York: Modern Language Association, 2009), 405-13.
23. Review of John Hawley, (ed.), *India in Africa / Africa in India: Indian Ocean Cosmopolitanisms* and Pallavi Rastogi, *Afrindian Fictions: Diaspora, Race and National Desire in South Africa* in *Research in African Literatures*, Vol. 40, no. 3 (Fall 2009): 243-45.
22. "Editor's Column: The End of Postcolonial Theory? A Roundtable with Sunil Agnani, Fernando Coronil, Gaurav Desai, Mamadou Diouf, Simon Gikandi, Susie Tharu, and Jennifer Wenzel," *PMLA*, Vol. 122, no. 3 (May 2007): 633-651. (Collaborative publication co-ordinated by Patricia Yaeger).
21. "Response to Professor John Oliver Perry's Note on *Actually Existing Colonialisms*," *Journal of Contemporary Thought*, 25 (Summer 2007): 130-32.
20. "Isn't Multiculturalism Bad for Asylum?" *Texas International Law Journal*, Vol. 41, no. 3 (Summer 2006): 507-511.
19. "Introduction," and Section Introductions (with Supriya Nair), in *Postcolonialisms: An Anthology of Cultural Theory and Criticism*, eds. Gaurav Desai and Supriya Nair (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2005), 1-12; 13-17; 47-50; 117-20; 179-82; 249-52; 311-14; 399-402; 469-72; 539-43; 635-41.
18. Review of Abiola Irele and Simon Gikandi, (eds.), *Cambridge History of African and Caribbean Literature, Vols. 1 and 2*, in *Research in African Literatures*, Vol. 36, no. 3 (Fall 2005): 158-59.
17. "Gendered Self-Fashioning: Adelaide Casely Hayford's Black Atlantic," *Research in African Literatures*, Vol. 35, no. 3 (Fall 2004): 141-60.
16. Review of Olakunle George, *Relocating Agency: Modernity and African Letters*, in *Comparative Literature*, Vol. 56, no. 3 (Summer 2004): 274-75.
15. "Homosexuality," Encyclopedia Entry in *Encyclopedia of African Literature*, ed. Simon Gikandi (New York: Routledge. 2002), 93-96.
14. Review of Ato Quayson, *Postcolonialism: Theory, Practice or Process?* in *Research in African Literatures*, Vol. 32, no. 4, (Winter 2001): 201-02.
13. Review of Carolyn Martin Shaw, *Colonial Inscriptions: Race, Sex, and Class in Kenya*, in *Research in African Literatures*, Vol. 31, no. 2 (Summer 2000): 235-36.

12. "Moyez Vassanji," "Kobena Sekyi." Encyclopedia Entries in *The Companion to African Literatures in English*, eds. Douglas Killam & Ruth Rowe. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1999), 292, 260.
11. "Postcolonial Criticism in an African(ist) Frame," *Research in African Literatures*, Vol. 29, no.1 (Spring 1998): 211-18.
10. Review of Eckhard Breiting (ed.), *Theatre and Performance in Africa* in *Research in African Literatures*, Vol. 26, no. 4 (Winter 1995): 227-8.
9. "Stories of Difference: A Conversation with Richard Rorty," *Society of African Philosophy in North America Newsletter*, Vol. 5, nos. 2&3 (July-December 1993): 23-45. Reprinted in the Special Tenth Anniversary Issue "An African Practice of Philosophy" SAPINA, Vol. 10, no. 2 (December 1997): 393-414.
8. "Feminism and an Arab Humanism: An Interview with Nawal El Saadawi & Sherif Hetata," (with David Chioni Moore), *Society of African Philosophy in North America Newsletter*, Vol. 5, no. 1 (Jan-Jun. 1993): 28-51.
7. "Theater for Development in Africa," and "Research Resources on Popular Theater and Development in Africa," *Research in African Literatures*, Vol. 22, no. 3 (Fall 1991), 7-10; 91-132.
6. Guest Editor, *Passages: A Chronicle of the Humanities*, no. 2 (Evanston: Program of African Studies, Northwestern University, November 1991). Personal Contribution: "Rethinking Censorship," 7.
5. Guest Editor, *Passages: A Chronicle of the Humanities*, no. 1 (Evanston: Program of African Studies, Northwestern University, April 1991). Personal Contribution: "Only Connect. . .," 11.
4. "V.Y. Mudimbe - A Portrait," *Callaloo*, Vol. 14, no. 4 (Fall 1991): 931-43.
3. Review of Renato Rosaldo, *Culture and Truth* and David Cohen and E.S. Atieno Odhiambo, *Siaya*, in *Text and Performance Quarterly*, Vol. 10, no. 1 (Jan 1990): 79-81.
2. "Language and Identity in Africa," *ALA Bulletin*, Vol. 15, no. 2 (Spring 1989): 6-8.
1. "Rethinking the First Annual Graduate Student Conference," (Editor's Introduction to *Communitas*, CIRA Monograph Series, Center for Inter-disciplinary Research in the Arts, Northwestern University, 1989), 1-3.

INVITED LECTURES

"Deconstructing Stereotypes in African Literature," Invited presentation on panel "From Tarzan to Tonto: Stereotypes as Obstacles to Progress Toward a More Perfect Union." National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, Feb 2017.

“Migritude and Coolitude: African and Caribbean Inflections,” Joint Keynote Lecture presented with Supriya Nair at the symposium “Traveling Texts and Translated Men: Migration and Postcolonialism Across the Disciplines,” American University of Paris, Oct 2016.

“Crabs that Rule the Tide of Destiny: Imagining the Ecotone in Amitav Ghosh’s *The Hungry Tide*.” Keynote Lecture delivered at the New Ecotones Conference, Universite Paul-Valery, Montpellier, France, June 2015.

“The Oceanic Turn in the Humanities and Interpretive Social Sciences,” Plenary Address presented at the International Conference of the Forum on Contemporary Theory, Goa, Dec 2014.

“‘Ye Zindagi Usi Ki Hai’: Illicit Desire and (Post)colonial Romance in M.G. Vassanji’s *The Book of Secrets*,” Invited presentation at symposium on the Indian Diaspora in Africa at Indiana University, Bloomington, Sept 2013; Also presented at the conference “The Transnational Imaginaries of M.G Vassanji,” SOAS, London, Nov 2013; Stanford University, April 2014; University of Chicago, Oct 2014; Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, Dec 2015.

“Commerce with the Universe: Travel, Trade and the Afrasian Imagination,” Lecture presented at the Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai, Dec 2011; Also presented at the University of Louisville, Jan 2012; University of Richmond, Sept 2012; UCLA, Oct 2012; Economic and Social Research Foundation, Dar es Salaam, Mar 2013; Leeds University, May 2013; University of Southampton, May 2013; British Institute in Eastern Africa, Nairobi, July 2013; University of North Carolina, Nov 2013; Georgetown University, Qatar, April 2016.

“Mutual Enchantments or Distrust? China and the U.S. in Global Terms,” Lecture presented at Zhejiang University Graduate School of Business, Hangzhou (China), June 2011.

“Is the World Flat?” Lecture presented at Zhejiang University Graduate School of Business, Hangzhou (China), June 2011.

“African Literature and the Idea of Ethnicity,” Lecture presented at Albany State University, Georgia, April 2011.

“Oceans Connect: The Indian Ocean and African Identities,” Lecture presented at North Carolina State University, April 2010.

“Gandhi as Allegory,” Keynote address delivered at the *Migrations* Conference, Center for the Humanities, University of Colorado, Boulder, April 2010. Revised versions presented at the Triangle South Asia Scholars Workshop, Duke University, April 2010; Forum on Contemporary Theory, Mysore, India, Dec 2013; University of Michigan, Jan 2014; Texas Tech University, Feb 2014; University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Oct 2014; University of Liege, Nov 2014; Brigham Young University, Mar 2015; Duquesne University, Oct 2015; University of Florida, Sept 2016.

“The Meaning of Barack Obama,” Lecture presented (with Thomas Langston) at Zhejiang University Graduate Institute of Business, Hangzhou (China), June 2009.

“Frail Skiffs Tossed on the Ocean of Life: Gender and Romance in Nineteenth Century Zanzibar,” Lecture presented at the Program of African Studies, Northwestern University, Evanston, May 2009; Revised versions presented at CRASSH, Cambridge University, May 2013;

University of California, Davis, Oct 2015; Institut des Mondes Africains, Paris, Nov 2015; Georgetown University, April 2016.

“Reading the African Novel,” Lecture presented at Williams College, Williamstown (MA), March 2009.

“Between Indigeneity and Diaspora: Some Questions for Postcolonial Theory,” Talk presented at the Unit of Criticism and Theory, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, May 2008. Revised versions presented at the Forum on Contemporary Theory, Baroda, India, July 2008; Albany State University, Georgia, April 2011.

“Kurtz’s New Horror: The Politics of International and Area Studies,” Lecture presented at the Department of English, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, March 2008.

“Teaching Literatures in English: An Africanist Perspective,” Keynote Address delivered at the Literatures in English Conference, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, June 2007. Revised versions presented at the Catholic University of Quito, April 2008; Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea, Nov 2008; Vidya Bharati Mahavidyalaya, Amravati, India, Nov 2009.

“Actually Existing Colonialisms,” Invited presentation on a forum on the State of Contemporary Postcolonial Studies, Department of English, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, November 2006.

“Post-Manichean Aesthetics,” Keynote Lecture presented at the Dialogics of Cultural Encounters Conference, Visakhapatnam, India, Dec 2004. Revised versions presented at Washington and Lee University, March 2005; Stanford Humanities Center, May 2005; University of Hawaii at Manoa, April 2006. South Asian Literary Association (Keynote Address), Philadelphia, Dec 2006; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Dec 2009.

“Globalization, Empire and the Postcolonial Critic,” Lecture presented at Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia, April 2004.

“Africa, African Studies and the Limits of Globalization,” Lecture presented at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 2002; Also presented at the Center for Afro-Asian Studies, Federal University of Bahia, Brazil, November 2002. Revised version presented at the Rockefeller Foundation’s Bellagio Conference and Study Center, Bellagio, Italy, May 2003.

“Globalization, Diaspora and the Old World Order,” Lecture presented at the National Humanities Center Workshop on Imperialism, Nov 2001; Revised versions presented at the Mellon Symposium on Postcolonial Theory at Tulane University, Dec 2001; UCLA Center for Modern and Contemporary Studies, March 2002; University of Connecticut, April 2002; Duke University (Oceans Connect -- Atlantic Basin Group), April 2002; Yale University Center for International and Area Studies, Oct 2002; Bombay English Association, Dec 2003; SNTD College, Mumbai, India, Dec 2003; University of Michigan, April 2004.

“Subject to Colonialism: African Self-fashioning and the Colonial Library,” Lecture presented at the University of Mauritius, May 1998. Revised versions presented at the University of Binghamton, April 2000; University of Texas - Austin, March 2001; Boston University (as Keynote Address of the Graduate Conference in African Studies), Boston, March 2001; Brandeis University, March 2001; Northwestern University/University of Chicago (Red Lion Seminar), Chicago, April 2001; University of Amsterdam, May 2001.

“Dangerous Liaisons: Anthropology and the Colonial Order of Things,” Lecture presented at Florida International University, Miami, November 1999.

“Rape in the Colonial Imagination,” Lecture presented at Florida International University, Miami, April 1999.

“Rethinking English: Postcolonial English Studies,” Lecture presented at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, November 1998.

“Gender in the (Post)colonial Imagination,” Keynote Address at the *Towards 2000: Gender and Race* conference organized by the Louisiana Women’s Studies Consortium, New Orleans, LA, April 1998.

“Multicultural Literacy and the Performance Paradigm,” Keynote Address at the Conference on Multicultural Pedagogy, Montclair State University, February 1995.

“Between Worlds: The Longing for Belonging,” Lecture presented at the Duke University Museum of Art in conjunction with the *Interrogating Identity* exhibit. Durham, N.C., February 1993. Revised version of paper presented at Oregon State University, Corvallis, February 1994 and Boston University School of Law, March 1994.

“English as an African Language,” Lecture presented at the Central University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, July 1990.

“Marxism, Class Analysis and the African Situation,” Lecture presented at the India International Center, New Delhi, June 1990.

CONFERENCES

Over seventy conference presentations in national and international conferences spanning a range of disciplines and areas of concentration from literary studies to history, anthropology, law, gender studies, international studies, African studies, postcolonial studies, ethnic studies, etc. A complete list of conference activities is available upon request.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

(MICHIGAN)

Associate Chair, Department of English, 2016-present.

(TULANE)

University-wide

Faculty Mentor, POSSE Scholars Program, 2012-2016.

Member, Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Workgroup, 2011-2012.

University Senate, School of Liberal Arts Representative, 2006-2008, 2012-2015.

University Senate, Graduate School Representative, Spring 2006.

Faculty Representative to the Tulane Board of Administrators, 2006-2009.

Member of Academic Affairs Committee of the Tulane Board of Administrators, 2006-2009.

Senate Representative to the President's Faculty Advisory Committee, 2007-2009.

Senior Faculty Fellow – Wall Residential College, 2006-2009.

Member – Graduate Council 2004-2006.

Director – Globalization Seminar, Honors Program, 2004-2005.

Member – Search Committee for Vice President for Student Affairs, 2002-2003.

Member -- Urban Village Steering Committee, 2000-2001.

Member -- NEH Regional Center Grant Planning Committee, Summer 1999.

Member -- Josephine Louise Newcomb Fellowship Award Committee, 1999-2001.

Member -- Tulane University Admissions Committee, 1999-2001.

Member -- Committee on Tulane College, 1998-1999.

Newcomb Fellow, 1996 – present.

School of Liberal Arts (formerly College of Liberals Arts and Sciences)

Professor of Practice and Lecturer Review Committee, 2012-2015 (Committee Chair).

Mellon Faculty Fellows Search Committee, 2011-2012.

Member – LAS (and later SLA) Promotions and Tenure Committee, 2004-2007.

Coordinator, Crossroads in the Sciences and Humanities Lecture, Fall 2001, 2002, 2004, 2006.

Alumni Faculty Salon Participant (New York), April 2001.

Member -- Student Academic Judiciary Committee, 2000-2001, 2002-2003.

Member -- Center for Scholars Awards Committee, 1998-1999, 2000-2001.

Department and Program

Chair, Search Committee for Faculty Search in British Modernism, 2012-2013.

Chair, Department of English, 2006-2009.

Chair – Search Committee for Pierce Butler Professorship in the Dept. of English, 2003-2004.

Member – Salary Committee, Dept. of English, 2002-2003.

Member -- Executive Committee, Department of English, 2002-2003, 2004-2006.

Speaker for the Tulane Literary Society, March 2000 and March 2001.

Adams Award Selection Committee -- Dept. of English, May 2000.

Co- Director, ADST Program, 1997-2000.

ADST Film Committee, 1996-1997.

ADST Africa Curriculum Development and Speaker Committee, 1996-1997.

Graduate Student Admissions Committee -- Dept. of English, 1997, 2001.

Department Chair Search Committee -- Dept of English, 1997, 2000, 2014.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Editorial Boards

Advisory Board, *African Identities*, 2016–present.

Advisory Board, *Postcolonial Lives* (Book Series, Rodopi Press), 2014-present.

Advisory Board, *Studies in the Novel*, 2013 – present.

Advisory Board, *Research in African Literatures*, 2010-present.

Advisory Board, *Minnesota Review*, 2010-present.

Advisory Board, *Journal of Contemporary Thought* (Baroda, India), 2004-present.

Advisory Board, *Atenea* (Puerto Rico), 2007-present.

Advisory Board, *Inter-Cultural Studies* (University of Newcastle, Australia), 2003-2007.

Advisory Committee, *PMLA*, 2008-2011.

Advisory Board, *Profession* (Modern Language Association of America), 2004-2006.

Conference Convenor

Conference Convener, "The Virtual Transformation of the Public Sphere," International Conference convened under the auspices of the Forum on Contemporary Theory, Baroda, India. Conference at Chandigarh, India, Dec 15-18, 2010;

Conference Convener, "Multi-Ethnic Literatures and the Idea of Social Justice," (MELUS 2000), March 9-12, 2000.

Conference Co-Convener : "Ethnologie Feminine : Autobiography, Identity and Global Culture," Tulane University, Spring 1998.

Service to Professional Organizations

Member of the Harry Levin Prize Committee, American Comparative Literature Association, 2015-2018; (Committee Chair, 2016).

Member of the Ad-Hoc Committee to Review Bylaws, American Comparative Literature Association, Aug 2014 – Aug 2015.

Member of the Executive Council of the Modern Language Association, Jan 2014 - Jan 2018.

Member of the Executive Committee of the Division on the Teaching of Literature, Modern Language Association of America, Service Term: 2012-2017.

Member of the Executive Committee of the Discussion Group on Travel Literature, Modern Language Association of America, Service Term: 2011-2016.

Member of the Delegate Assembly's Organizing Committee, Modern Language Association of America, Service Term: 2008 – 2011, Committee Chair, 2010-2011.

Member of the Executive Committee of the Division on English Literatures Other than British and American, Modern Language Association of America, Service Term: 2007-2012, Committee Chair, 2011-2012.

Member of the Executive Committee of the Discussion Group on Interdisciplinary Approaches to Culture and Society, Modern Language Association of America, Service Term: 2005-2009, Committee Chair, 2008-2009.

Division Chair for "Rethinking the African Diaspora" section of the African Studies Association Conference in San Francisco, November 2006.

Member of the Executive Committee of the Division of African Literatures, Modern Language Association of America, Service Term: 2001-2006, Committee Chair, 2005-2006.

Member of the Executive Committee of the Discussion Group on Postcolonial Studies in Literature and Language, Modern Language Association of America, Service Term: 2000-2005, Committee Chair, 2005-2006.

Delegate, Modern Language Association of America. Service Terms: 1997–1999, 2005-2007, 2008-2011, 2012-2018.

Member of the Commission on World and Comparative Literature, National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), Service Term: November 1996 - November 1999.

Member of the Executive Committee of the Division of Anthropological Approaches to Literature, Modern Language Association of America, Service Term: 1996-2000, Committee Chair, 1999-2000.

Reviewer

Member of Review Panel for the National Humanities Center, 2016.

Member of Review Panel for Finalists for the American Council of Learned Societies Fellowships, 2013-2016.

Member of Review Panel for Finalists for the Social Science Research Council International Dissertation Research Fellowship Awards, 2011-14.

Tenure and Promotion Reviews: University of Michigan, Brown, UCLA, Columbia, M.I.T., Mississippi, Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) and several others. (Various dates – dates not listed for reasons of confidentiality).

Reader for Fellowship Applications for the National Humanities Center, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Social Science Research Council and other similar funding bodies (various years).

Reader for a number of journals and academic/university presses (various years).

Other Professional Activities

Co-directed Workshop on Funding in the Humanities with John Cox (Program Officer, NEH), at the MLA Conference, Philadelphia, 2017.

Conducted Workshop on Funding in the Humanities, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT, Sept 11, 2015.

Faculty in Residence, Universite Paul-Valery, Montpellier, June 8-22nd 2015.

Faculty and Graduate Student Workshop on the Works of Amitav Ghosh, (co-moderated with John Hawley), Universite Paul-Valery, Montpellier, June 9th, 2015.

Interviewed on “Top of Mind” by Julie Rose, Brigham Young University Public Radio. March 19th, 2015. (Originally aired April 2nd, 2015).

Moderator of a Session of Readings and Discussion with Ngugi wa Thiong’o, Abdulrazak Gurnah and M.G. Vassanji, Hosted and Sponsored by the Museum of African Art, Smithsonian National Museum, March 2015. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OA2MW_C4gE&feature=em-share_video_user

Co-Director, Workshop on Oceanic Studies, June 2014 and September 2014, Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, Social Science Research Council.

Interviewed by Swedish Public Radio on “The Contemporary Relevance of the Humanities,” Broadcast date: June 10th, 2013.

Facilitator—SSRC Dissertation Writing Workshop, St. Louis, October 2012.

Director – Faculty and Graduate Student Workshop on Postcolonial Theory, Forum on Contemporary Theory, Hyderabad, India, June 2012.

Participant in NEH Summer Institute, “Re-Imagining Indigenous Cultures – The Pacific Islands,” Honolulu, Hawaii, June-August 2003.

Director – Faculty Development Seminar at the National Humanities Center on “Postcolonial Theory and the Globalization of Culture,” June 2003.

Attended the International School of Theory in the Humanities, Avignon, (France), July 2-28th, 2000.

HONORS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

External:

Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (Shimla), Visiting Scholar, Dec 2015.

Rockefeller Archive Travel to Collections Grant, 2015.

Visiting Faculty, Universite Paul-Valery, Montpellier, June 8-22nd, 2015.

Rene Wellek Prize for Outstanding Book in Comparative Literary Studies awarded by the American Comparative Literature Association for *Commerce with the Universe*, 2014.

Finalist, Bethwell Ogot Book Prize for Best Book in East African Studies awarded by the African Studies Association for *Commerce with the Universe*, 2014.

Shortlist, Asia-Africa Book Prize awarded by the Association of Asian Studies in Africa/International Convention of Asia Scholars for *Commerce with the Universe*, 2015.

Social Science Research Council DPDF Faculty Award, 2014.

Visiting Fellowship, Center for Research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CRASSH), Cambridge University, Easter Term, 2013.

Visiting Fellow, Wolfson College, Cambridge University, Easter Term, 2013.

Residency at the Valparaiso Foundation, Mojarca, Spain, May 2011.

Frederick Burkhardt Fellowship for Recently Tenured Scholars, American Council of Learned Societies, 2007 (Award residency taken at the National Humanities Center in 2009-2010).

Harry Ransom Research Center Travel Grant, University of Texas at Austin, 2005.

Life Member, Clare Hall, Cambridge University, 2004- .

Visiting Fellow, Clare Hall, Cambridge University, June-August, 2004.

Director of Faculty Development Seminar at the National Humanities Center, North Carolina.
Topic: Postcolonial Theory and the Globalization of Culture. Funded by the DuPont Foundation, 2003.

NEH Stipend to participate in the Summer Institute, 'Re-Imagining Indigenous Cultures – The Pacific Islands,' East-West Center, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii, June-August 2003.

Rockefeller Foundation Residency at the Bellagio Conference Center (Italy), 2003.

Residential Fellowship at the National Humanities Center (Research Triangle Park). Fellowship funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, 2001-2002.

Internal – At Tulane – Selective Listing:

Outstanding Research Award, School of Liberal Arts, 2015.

Center for Scholars George Lurcy Fund for Research, 2015, 2013, 2009, 2004, 2002, 2001, 1999.

Senate Committee on Research Grant, 2013.

Tulane University Research Enhancement Grant, 2007.

Duren Professorship – Tulane College, 2015-16, 2012-13, 2007-8, 2005-6.

Newcomb Fellows Grant, 2013, 2006, 2005, 1999, 1997.

Center for Teaching Excellence Grant for Teaching Needs, 2001.

Honors Colloquium Grant, 2014, 2012, 2004-5.

Faculty Award to attend the International School of Theory in the Humanities, 2000.

Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, 1998.

TEACHING

I have taught courses at all levels in the undergraduate and graduate curriculum at Tulane. Listed below are some of the titles of the courses I have taught. A more detailed teaching dossier is available upon request.

African Literature

Special Topics: Africa and the Indian Ocean

Africa and the Politics of Culture
Colonial and Postcolonial Discourse
Rape in the Colonial Imagination (Seminar)
Introduction to African and African Diaspora Studies
Honors Colloquium – Globalization (Year Long sequence)
Theory Seminar – Paradigms of Postcolonial Thought (Graduate Seminar)
Introduction to Literary Theory (Graduate Seminar)
Special Topic: Frantz Fanon.
Introduction to Literary Studies (Undergraduate).