

Abhimanyu Acharya

Curriculum Vitae

Institutional Address:

Western University, 1151 Richmond St London ON Canada N6A3K7

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EDUCATION:

2023. Ph.D. Comparative Literature. Western University, London, ON, Canada. Dissertation: *Civilizing the Stage: Reform and Theatrical Aesthetics in Colonial Western India (1850-1920)*. Supervisor: Dr. Nandi Bhatia

M.A. English. Manipal University, Manipal, Karnataka, India.

2016. B.A. English. St. Xavier's College, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India.

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

2024-2025. Postdoctoral Associate. English and Writing Studies. Western University. Project topic: *Crime Fiction and Colonialism in South Asia*. Project supervisor: Dr. Manina Jones

2022-2025. Creative and Academic Writing Specialist. The Write Place. Kings University College, London, ON, Canada.

2023-2024. Assistant Artistic Director. South Asian Women's Theatre and Research Initiative (SAWITRI). Mississauga, ON, Canada.

PUBLICATIONS:

Book Chapters

Author. "Foreignness and Nationalism: Detective Fiction in Gujarati post Indian Independence," *South Asian Crime Fiction since the 1950s*. Eds. Garima Yadav and Shweta Jha. Routledge. (Forthcoming).

Book Reviews

Planetary Longings, by Mary Louise Pratt. *Crime Fiction Studies*, The University of Edinburgh Press (Forthcoming).

Critical Discourse in Gujarati, by Sitanshu Yashaschandra. *South Asian History and Culture*. (Forthcoming).

The Colonial Public and the Parsi Stage: The Making of the Theatre of Empire (1853-1893), by Rashna Darius Nicholson. *Modern Drama*, The University of Toronto Press, Vol. 65, no. 3, Sept 2022.

Manuscripts in Preparation

“Occultism, Reform, and Detective Fiction in Colonial India.” *Studies in the Fantastic. Special issue: Speculative Detectives*.

“Supernaturalism and Shakespearean adaptations in Gujarati.” *Modern Drama*, The University of Toronto Press.

Disciplinary Drama: Reform and Theatrical Aesthetics in the British Raj (1850-1920). (Monograph).

Other Publications

2024. *Lagbhagpanu*. A collection of short fiction in Gujarati. Divine Publications, India.

2023. “The Laundry Room.” *Identity Theory*. September issue.

2022. “Literary Lessons with Nazim Hikmet.” *Gulmohar Quarterly*. Issue 7/8.

2022. “Blackie.” *Sanglap Journal of Literary and Cultural Inquiry*. Vol 8, No.2.

2022. “Chunni.” *The Greatest Gujarati Stories Ever Told*. Ed. Rita Kothari. Aleph Publications.

2021. “Inertia.” *Out of Print*. Issue 42.

2018. *Padchayao Vacche*. A collection of short fiction in Gujarati. Rangdwar Publications, India.

Translations

The Agony of Displacement. A partition memoir in Hindi. By Usha Upal. (with Dr. Nandi Bhatia) (in preparation).

“Crematorium”. Short story in Gujarati. By Sumant Rawal. *Indian Literature*, Aug-Sept 2020.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

2023. American Distinguished Dissertation Awards (Nominated). Proquest Dissertation Publishing and Council of Graduate Schools.
2023. Majdi Bou-Matar Bursary. Multicultural Theatre Space.
2021. Pradeep Khare Memorial Scholarship. Khare Family and Canada-India Research Centre for Excellence.
2021. Graduate Research Thesis Award. Arts and Humanities, Western University, Canada.
2020. Yuva Puraskar for promising fiction. National Academy of Letters, India.
2020. Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship (Nominated). Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Canada.
2020. Ontario Graduate Scholarship. Ontario Students Assistance Program, Canada.
2020. Mary Routledge Fellowship, Arts and Humanities, Western University.
2019. Sahapedia-UNESCO Fellowship.
2018. Grad Chair's Entrance Scholarship, Department of Comparative Literature, Western University.

INVITED TALKS

2024. "Writing Bilingually." School of Arts and Sciences, Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad.
2022. "Folk Theatres in India." Wilson College, Mumbai.
2019. "Introduction to Fiction Writing." Department of Engineering, Ahmedabad University.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY/PARTICIPATION

Papers Presented:

2024. "Competing Systems of Law and the Complex/Colonial Nature of Truth in Sujata Massey's Historical Thriller *Widows of Malabar Hill*". British Crime Historians Conference, 5-6 September, Manchester.
2024. "Accidentally Decolonizing Theatre: Notes from Writing and Directing a Non-Verbal Play". Canadian Association of Theatre Research, 8-10 June, Canada.
2022. "Bhavai, Gender and Caste: A Case from Nineteenth Century Gujarati Folk Performance." International Federation for Theatre Research. 20-24 June, Reykjavik.
2022. "Shakespeare and Supernaturalism in Nineteenth Century India." Literature and Capitalism in the Long Nineteenth Century, Institute of Literary Studies, Budapest.

2021. "Gandhi and the new aesthetics of drama." South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

2021. "Neo-Imperialism and Nation Building in Rahul Varma's *Bhopal*." International Federation of Theatre Research, Galway.

2019. "Blindness and Seeing in Abhishek Majumdar's Plays." Comparative Drama Conference, University of Florida.

Discussant:

2024. "Partition, Self, and Writing." Book reading and discussion with Bhaswati Ghosh. Kings University College, March.

2024. "Technology, Community and Identity." Book reading and discussion with Elliot K. Cooper. Kings University College. March.

2024. "Race, Curation and Community leadership." Discussion with Sandie Thomas. Kings University College, February.

2023. "How to fail at everything and publish a book anyways." Discussion with Tea Mutonji. Kings University College, October.

2023. "Race, Colonialism, and the Refugee Crisis." Discussion with Gabriel Ndayishimaye. Kings University College. February.

CAMPUS/DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

2024. "Basics of Writing Crime Fiction". English and Writing Studies, Western University. March 17.

2021. "Dialogue writing in Fiction and Theatre". Department of Languages and Cultures, Western University. October 29.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor:

"Parsi Theatre: History, Politics, Aesthetics.", Parzor-Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. January-March 2025

"Reason and Writing- Art and Design", Fanshawe College, Canada. September-December 2024.

"Reason and Writing- Art and Design, section 2", Fanshawe College, Canada. September-December 2024.

Teaching Assistant:

“Introduction to Film Studies”, English and Writing Studies, Western University. Sept 2022-April 2023.

“Creative Writing and Community”, Languages and Cultures, Western University. Jan- April 2022.

“Scholars Elective”, Languages and Cultures, Western University. Sept-Dec 2021.

“Toronto Culture and Performance”, English and Writing Studies, Western University. Jan-April 2021.

“Intercultural Communication”, Languages and Cultures, June-Jul 2020.

“Destination Theatre”, English and Writing Studies, Western University. Jan-April 2020.

“World Literature and Culture”, Modern Languages and Literatures, Western University. Sept 2018-April 2019.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant:

2022. “South Asian Performing Arts in Canada”, led by Dr. Asma Sayed. Funded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

2016. *Agni-Pariksha*. Translation of a memoir on communal riots in Gujarat. Led by Dr. Rita Kothari. Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Editorial Work:

Editor-in-Chief. Liven Books, London, ON, Canada. 2023.

Manuscript Reviewer. *Neohelicon*. 2022.

Plays Performed:

2023. *Execution*. Dir. Abhimanyu Acharya. SAWITRI Theatre. AN1 Studios, Mississauga, Canada.

2022. *Boundaries*. Dir. Alexandra Rizkallah. First Steps Theatre. London Fringe Festival, London, Canada.

2021. *Disdained*. Dir. Joshua Patrick. First Steps Theatre. A Zoom Play.

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2024. Jury Member, Western Student Research Conference.

2024-2025. Representative of Arts and Humanities. Postdoctoral Association at Western University.

2019-2020. Editor-in-Chief of *The Scattered Pelican*, Graduate Journal of Comparative Literature, Western University.

2019. Conference Co-organizer. Coding/Decoding/Recoding- Comparative Literature Graduate Conference, Western University.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

2024. Certificate in Responsible Conduct of Research (Canada). Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) Program.

2021. Writing the Pilot Episode for Television. Playwrights Centre, Minneapolis.

2013. Certificate in Writing for Radio and Television. Ahmedabad Management Association.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

The Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE)

International Federation for Theatre Research

International Crime Fiction Association