

Raina Bhagat

raina.bhagat@hunter.cuny.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of English, Hunter College, City University of New York (CUNY)

New York, NY, USA
Aug. 2025 - Present

EDUCATION

PhD (Comparative Literary Studies), Northwestern University

Home Department, English

Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory

Dissertation: *Nucleopoesis: Racializing Atomic Energy in Global Science Fictions*

Committee: Evan Mwangi (chair), Michelle N. Huang, Kalyan Nadiminti, Anindita Banerjee (external)

Evanston, IL, USA
Sept. 2019 - August
2025

MA (English), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)

Graduated with High First Class, FGPA: 8.75/9.00

Dissertation: Nationhood and Cultural Diplomacy in a Speculative Age

New Delhi, India
July 2017 - May 2019

BA (English), St. Xavier's College, Autonomous

Graduated with Distinction, FGPA: 3.88/4.00

Mumbai, India
June 2014 - Mar. 2017

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

20th and 21st-century Global Anglophone literature, environmental humanities, energy studies, critical race and ethnic studies, postcolonial studies, science and technology studies, Global South studies, Asian American studies, gender and sexuality studies, science and speculative fiction, public humanities

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

"Subterranean Asias: Cold War Extraction in Russian and Indian Science Fiction."
Forthcoming in *Comparative Literature*, 77.3

Expected September
2025

"Supercharged: Writing the Nuclear Body in Science Fiction of the Global South."
Forthcoming in *Global South*, 20.1

Expected Fall 2026

Contributed Chapters in Edited Collections

"Subterranean Asias: Cold War Extraction and Reactionary Worldbuilding."
Reactionary Worldbuilding, ed. Anindita Banerjee and Sherryl Vint. Forthcoming with MIT Press.

Expected 2026

PUBLICATIONS (con.)

Book Reviews

- Bhagat on Hamblin, *Making the Unseen Visible: Science and the Contested Histories of Radiation Exposure*. Oregon State University Press (2023). *HNet: Humanities and Social Sciences Online*. <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=60257> February 2025
- Bhagat on Monnet, *Toxic Immanence: Decolonizing Nuclear Legacies and Futures*, Ed. Livia Monnet. McGill-Queen's University Press (2022). *H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online*. <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=58476> July 2023

SCHOLARSHIPS AND ACADEMIC HONORS (selected)

- Department Nominee for Presidential Fellowship**, Comparative Literary Studies, Northwestern University 2022-2023
- Fulbright-Hays Scholarship**, American Councils (for advanced Russian study) 2023
- Title VIII Scholarship**, American Councils (for advanced Russian study) 2023
- Conference Travel Award**, The Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern University 2024
- Research and Travel Grant**, Environment, Culture and Science Cluster, Northwestern University 2023
- Travel Grant**, Radulovacki Slavic Studies and the Irwin and Vivian M. Weil Funds, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Northwestern University 2023
2020 (unable to use due to Covid-19)
- Graduate Assistantship**, The Race, Caste, and Colorism Working Group, The Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern University 2021-22
- Institute for World Literature (IWL) Fellowship**, Comparative Literary Studies, Northwestern University 2021
- Summer Language Grant**, The Graduate School, Northwestern University 2020
- Mellon Cluster Fellowship**, Science Studies, Northwestern University 2019-20

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED TALKS

- Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE) 2025 Conference (co-chair and presenter)** July 8-11, 2025
Panel title: Planetary Contaminations: Literary Metaphors of Pollution and Colonialism in the Global South
Paper presented: "Toxic Waste, Toxic Caste: Transnational Contaminations in "The Shit Flower" and *Waste Tide*"
- Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) Annual Meeting** April 17-19, 2025
Panel title: Beyond the Politics of Authenticity
Paper presented: "'Aliens, Outcast(e)s, and Villains: Contemporary South Asian American Science Fiction and the Global Anti-Caste Movement."

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED TALKS (con.)

56th Association for Slavic, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention November 21-24, 2024

Panel title: The Social Fallout of Socialist Extractivism

Paper presented: "Abandon Hope All Ye?: Hellish Infrastructures in Russian Dystopia

American Comparative Literary Association (ACLA) Annual Meeting March 13-17, 2024

Seminar title: Archives of the Planetary

Paper presented: "Supercharged: Cataloguing the Nuclear Body in Science Fiction of the Global South."

Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) Conference March 7-10, 2024

Seminar title: Toxic Ecologies of the Global South

Paper presented: "Supercharged: Writing the Nuclear Body in Science Fiction of the Global South."

Symposium on Crisis and Postcolonial Thought, The Association of Postcolonial Thought September 29-30, 2023

Panel title: Fugitive Forms of Becoming

Paper presented: "Supercharged: Writing the Nuclear Body in Science Fiction of the Global South."

American Comparative Literary Association (ACLA) Annual Meeting March 16-19, 2023

Seminar title: Environment as Comparative Method

Paper presented: "Subterranean Asias: Extraction in South Asian and Russian Science Fiction"

American Comparative Literary Association (ACLA) Annual Meeting April 8-11, 2021

Seminar title: Is Ecological Grief a Posthuman Affect? Emotion and the Environment Before, During (and After?) the Anthropocene

Paper presented: "Ecological Homelands: Grieving in a Time of Africanfuturist Posthumanism"

LANGUAGES

English (native fluency), **Hindi** (bilingual, heritage speaker), **Russian** (advanced proficiency; completed intensive Russian and Kazakh training in Summer 2023 through American Councils Advanced Russian Language and Area Studies Program in Almaty, Kazakhstan), **French** (DALF C1 and graduate-level seminars), **Sanskrit** (basic), **Persian** (basic), **Spanish** (basic)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor , "Introduction to Literary Theory" (English 306) (Hunter College)	Spring 2026
Instructor , "Introduction to Literary Studies: Race and Science Fiction" (English 252) (Hunter College)	Fall 2025, Spring 2026
Instructor of Record , "Readings in Genre - Wastelands of the Future: Global Science Fictions" (Comp Lit 211-0, offered through Northwestern School of Professional Studies, Summer Session) (Northwestern University)	Summer 2024
Guest Lecturer , "Urban Ecologies in <i>All That Breathes</i> ," for course "Environmental Justice in Modern South Asia" (Special Topics in Environment, Policy, and Culture 390-0-20, Special Topics in Humanities 370-3-20) (Northwestern University) Professor: Chandana Anusha	May 2, 2024
Teaching Assistant , "Introduction to Asian American Literature" (Asian Am 275/English 275) (Northwestern University) Professor: Raymond San Diego <i>Delivered guest lecture: "Caste in Asian American Literature"</i>	Spring 2023
Teaching Assistant , "What is Lyric Poetry?" (Slavic 255/Comp Lit 211) (Northwestern University) Professor: Clare Cavanagh	Winter 2023
Teaching Assistant , "Gender and Revolution in Soviet Russia" (Slavic 211/Comp Lit 202) (Northwestern University) Professor: Clare Cavanagh	Winter 2021
Teaching Assistant , "Introduction to Fiction" (English 213) (Northwestern University) Professor: Rebecca Johnson <i>Delivered guest lecture: "Finding the Fantastic in Ahmed Saadawi's Frankenstein in Baghdad"</i>	Fall 2020
English Language Assistant , XRCVC (Xavier's Resource Center for the Visually Challenged) (St. Xavier's College - Mumbai) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepared language-learning material for assigned students• Tutored assigned students in basic English grammar and academic vocabulary• Provided research assistance with final-year dissertations• Made academic materials accessible to low-vision students	2014-2015

SERVICE, ORGANIZING AND OUTREACH WORK

Founding President and Core Member, The Subcontinent Project, Northwestern University

- Founded organization, created budgets, funding applications
- Organized numerous events on gender, politics and social movements in India, Tibet, and the South Asian diaspora in collaboration with adjacent Northwestern groups
- Contributed to successful advocacy efforts to add caste to university non-discrimination policy in 2024, engaged with admin in Weinberg and Office of Diversity and Inclusion

President: 2020-2022
Core member: 2020-2024

Fellow, Chicago United for Equity

- Developed anti-racist training for higher education administrators on caste-based discrimination in American institutions
- Collaborated in cohort of Chicago-based organizers to reimagine Chicago's structures, policies, and practices from racial equity perspective
- Built local networks of researchers and academics working on civic trauma, decolonizing research and power mapping

2024-2025

Graduate Assistant, The Race, Caste and Colorism Working Group, Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern University

- Ideated academic and community-based programming, worked to seek external funding opportunities with group leaders, Profs. Laura Brueck and Ivy Wilson
- Managed all communication and logistical arrangements for in-person, online and hybrid events with Northwestern Buffett, IT and group speakers
- Administered and grew group's social media (Twitter) ex nihilo
- Worked on backdoor security for Dismantling Global Hindutva conference

2021-2022

Senior Research Associate, South Asian American Coalition to Renew Democracy (SACRED)

- Composed and edited research reports pertaining to Illinois-based organizations and the South Asian diaspora
- Conducted donor research on local and state-level representatives
- Analyzed campaign finance data for public-facing research reports
- Worked with legal and communication experts to conduct public education campaign

Senior Research Associate: 2023-Present
Fellow: 2022-2023

Graduate Student Representative, Comparative Literary Studies, Northwestern University

- Planned and organized reading group and presentation for Comparative Literary Studies Speaker Series, Fall 2020
- Organized anti-racist winter reading group on Audre Lorde
- With co-rep, planned and conducted first Virtual Recruitment event for prospective students for Comparative Literary Studies PhD

2020-2021

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Comparative Literature Association (**ACLA**)

Northeast Modern Language Association (**NeMLA**)

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (**ASEEES**)

Association for Asian American Studies (**AAAS**)

Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (**ASLE**)

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance Editor , Jaico Publishing House	2019
Freelance Proofreader , Sahitya Akademi	2018
Editorial Assistant , <i>Penguin Blue Salt</i>	2016
Editor-in-Chief , <i>thaka</i> (English Department Literary Journal), St. Xavier's College	2015

REFERENCES

Evan Mwangi

Melville J. Herskovits Professor of African Studies; Professor of English, Northwestern University
University Hall 119 • 1897 Sheridan Rd. • Evanston, IL 60208
evan-mwangi@northwestern.edu

Michelle N. Huang

Assistant Professor of Asian American Studies and the Department of English, Northwestern University
University Hall 226 • 1897 Sheridan Rd. • Evanston, IL 60208
michelle.n.huang@northwestern.edu

Kalyan Nadiminti

Assistant Professor of English, Northwestern University
University Hall 403 • 1897 Sheridan Rd. • Evanston, IL 60208
kalyan.nadiminti@northwestern.edu

Anindita Banerjee

Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, Cornell University
K216 Klarman Hall • 232 Feeney Wy • Ithaca, NY 14850
ab425@cornell.edu