

Shaj Mathew

curriculum vitae

(August 2025)

Department of English
Hunter College, CUNY
695 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10065

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Comparative Literature, Yale University, 2019

B.A. Comparative Literature (*summa cum laude*), University of Pennsylvania, 2014

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025-present Assistant Professor, Department of English, Hunter College, CUNY

2020-2025 Assistant Professor, Department of English, Trinity University

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Books

2025 *The Dialectic of Cosmopolitan Time* (Oxford University Press)

in progress *The Mind of Global Modernism: Panpsychism, Consciousness, Literature*

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

in press “Comparative, Cross-Cultural, Connected.” ACLA State of the Discipline Report.

2025 “Beyond Epistemic Pluralism.” *Philosophy and Literature* 49.1: 245-253.

2023 “Letter to a Young Girl in Antalya.” From the Turkish (“Antalyalı Genç Kıza Mektup”) by Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar. Introduction and translation with Selin Ünlüönen. *PMLA* 138.2: 356-361

2022 “Global Autofictional Flanerie.” *Modernism/modernity* 29.2: 219-239.
*Reprinted in *M/m* Print +.

2021 “The Multiple Simultaneous Temporalities of Global Modernity: Pamuk, Tanpınar, Proust.” *MLQ* 82.4: 473-498. *Reprinted in *Stanford Arcade Colloquy*.

2021 “Ekphrastic Temporality.” *New Literary History* 52.2: 239-260.
*Winner, Ralph Cohen Prize

- 2019 “Traveling Realisms, Shared Modernities, Eternal Moods: The Uses of Chekhov in Nuri Bilge Ceylan’s *Winter Sleep*.” *Adaptation* 12.1: 12-26.
- 2016 “Ciudad Juárez in Roberto Bolaño’s *2666*: Mexico’s Violent Cradle of Modernity.” *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction* 57.4: 402-416.

Scholarly Book Reviews

- 2024 Zeynep Çelik’s *Europe Knows Nothing about the Orient*. *Modernism/modernity* 31.1: 176-77.
- 2024 Ayşe Zarakol’s *Before the West*. *Critical Inquiry* 50.4: 791-92.
- 2019 Hamid Dabashi’s *Persophilia*. *Critical Inquiry* 46.1: 249-251.

Public Scholarship

- 2024 “Clarice Lispector’s Cosmology.” *The Nation*.
- 2023 “Cracks in the Louvre Abu Dhabi.” *Public Books*.
- 2023 “The Mind of a Materialist.” *The Nation*.
- 2020 “Alter Egos.” *New York Times Book Review*.
- 2019 “A Bridge Between Worlds.” *New York Times Book Review*.
- 2019 “A Searching Memoir about India’s Identity Crisis.” *The New Yorker*.
- 2018 “Picking Up the Pieces.” *New York Times Book Review*.
- 2017 “The Power of the Louvre Abu Dhabi.” *The New Republic*.
- 2017 “Fathers, Sons, and the West in Pamuk’s Turkey.” *The New Yorker*.
 Persian translation: *Tarjomaan*, December 2017
 Azerbaijani translation: *Azadliq*, November 2017
- 2017 “Unwelcome Guests.” *New York Times Book Review*.
- 2016 “Roman Holiday.” *The New Republic*.
- 2015 “Orhan Pamuk’s Working-Class Flâneurs.” *The New Republic*.
- 2015 “The Readymade Novel.” *The New Republic*.
 Spanish translation: *Revista Nexos*, March 2016
 Portuguese translation: *Antunes Blog*, January 2016
 Italian translation: *Grafiyas*, July 2015
 Tamil translation: *Padhaakai*, July 2015
- 2015 “The Tempest.” *New York Times Book Review*.
- 2014 “Why Did Borges Hate Soccer?” *The New Republic*.
 Portuguese translation: *Pensar Contemporâneo*, June 2014
 Turkish translation: *Sabitfikir*, June 2014
 Malay translation: *Rupaca*, June 2014
 Croatian translation: *Index HR*, June 2014

2014	“Forugh Farrokhzad: Poetry as Life, Life as Poetry.” <i>Guernica</i> .
2013	“Poring Through Bolaño’s Archives.” <i>Guernica</i> .
2013	“Egyptian Fiction and the Egyptian Revolution.” <i>Huffington Post</i> .
2012	“Aide-Mémoire.” <i>The New Inquiry</i> .
2011	“Predicting Their Own Demise.” <i>Lapham’s Quarterly</i> .

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2025	Summer Stipend, Trinity University [\$9,000] (declined)
2022-3	Public Humanities Fellowship, Trinity University [\$5,000]
2023, 2022	Northrup Faculty Fellowship, Trinity University [\$5,000]
2020	Ralph Cohen Prize, <i>New Literary History</i> [\$2,000]
2019	Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Writing-in-Residence Award, Yale University [\$2,000]
2018	Poynter Fellowship Event Grant, Yale University [\$2,000]
2017	Macmillan International Dissertation Fellowship, Yale University [\$19,000]
2017	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Yale University (Persian) [\$5,000]
2015	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Yale University (Turkish) [\$5,000]
2014	Phi Beta Kappa, University of Pennsylvania
2012-2014	Andrew W. Mellon Fellow, Penn Humanities Forum [\$1,500]

INVITED TALKS

2024	“The Dialectic of Cosmopolitan Time.” Hunter College, CUNY. February 6.
2020	“Class-Conscious Flânerie.” Trinity University. January 21.
2019	“Class-Conscious Flânerie.” Georgetown University in Qatar. October 27.
2019	Research Presentation. Harvard Society of Fellows. September 23.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conference Panels Organized

2025	“Global Modernism and the Global Philosophy of Mind.” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA). May 29-June 1.
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Conference Papers

2025	“Beyond Epistemic Pluralism.” Modernist Studies Association (MSA). October 9-12.
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- 2025 “Global Modernist Panpsychism: Ahmet Hamdi Tanpınar.” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA). May 29-June 1.
- 2024 “Rabindranath Tagore’s Lectures in China.” Modernism in 1924. University of Birmingham. Online. July 17.
- 2022 “The Multiple Simultaneous Temporalities of Global Modernity.” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Meeting. June 17.
- 2021 “Autofictional Flânerie.” Modernist Studies Association (MSA) Meeting. Cancelled due to COVID-19.
- 2021 “Autofictional Flânerie.” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Meeting. April 9.
- 2020 Panelist, Asian American Journalists Association Anniversary Summit. July 11.

Campus Lectures

- 2023 “Indian Philosophy, Global Culture.” Lecture for First-Year Experience Course. Trinity University. November 2.
- 2023 “The Louvre Abu Dhabi’s History of History.” Brown Bag Talk. Trinity University. January 20.
- 2022 “Literature and the World.” Trinity University. Lecture for First-Year Experience Course. October 18.
- 2022 “What Is Time?” Dicke Hall Grand Opening. Trinity University. September 22.
- 2020 “Jia Zhangke’s *Still Life*.” Lecture for First-Year Experience Course. Trinity University. November 5.
- 2020 “Iranian Cinema: *Crimson Gold*.” Lecture for First-Year Experience Course. Trinity University. October 22.

CAMPUS EVENTS ORGANIZED

- 2023 “Lyric Histories, Lyric Alterities: Petrarch & Césaire.” Ayesha Ramachandran (Yale University). Cross-Cultural Colloquium. Trinity University. Online. November 9.
- 2023 “What Is Indo-Persian?” Mana Kia (Columbia University). Cross-Cultural Colloquium. Trinity University. Online. October 19.
- 2023 “Erich Auerbach’s Hunger.” Marta Figlerowicz (Yale University). Cross-Cultural Colloquium. Trinity University. Online. September 28.
- 2023 “The Aesthetic Cold War.” Peter Kalliney (University of Kentucky). Cross-Cultural Colloquium. Trinity University. Online. September 14.
- 2023 “Middle East Film Festival.” Screenings of Four Contemporary Films from Iran, Israel-Palestine, Lebanon, and Turkey. With Patrick Keating and Robert Watson. Trinity University. March.

- 2022 “Lab-Leak Theory and the ‘Asiatic’ Form.” Andrew Liu (Villanova University). Lecture for Being Young in Asia First-Year Experience. Trinity University. Online. November 3.
- 2019 “Fanon in America.” Adam Shatz. Co-sponsored by Poynter Institute, Departments of Comparative Literature and French, and Theory and Media Studies Colloquium. Yale University. April 8.
- 2014 “What’s Wrong with World Literature?” With Jean-Michel Rabaté, Nikil Saval, and Marco Roth. Co-sponsored by *n+1* magazine and the Slought Foundation. University of Pennsylvania. January 30.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Hunter College, CUNY

- “MA Seminar: Studies in Comparative Literature” (Spring 2026)
- “Postcolonial Literatures in English” (Spring 2026)
- “Introduction to Literary Theory” (Fall 2025 [two sections] and Spring 2026)
- “Time and Narrative” (Fall 2025)

Trinity University

- “Global Modernism” (Spring 2025)
- “Global Modernity and Its Discontents” (Fall 2024)
- “World Literature: Time and Narrative” (Fall 2024, Spring 2022)
- “Literature and Asia: First-Year Experience” (Fall 2024)
- “Introduction to Comparative Literature” (Spring 2025, 2024; Fall 2022, 2021, 2020)
- “Indian Philosophy, Global Literature” (Spring 2024)
- “Cosmopolitanism” (Spring 2023)
- “World Literature: Confession” (Spring 2023, 2021)
- “Consciousness and the Novel” (Fall 2022)
- “Being Young in Asia: First-Year Experience” (Fall 2022, 2021, 2020)
- “Attention/Distracted” (Spring 2022)
- “Global Anglophone Literature” (Fall 2021)
- “Transformations of Time in Global Modernist Fiction” (Spring 2021)
- “Walking and Writing the Global City” (Fall 2020)

Yale University (Teaching Assistant)

- “Daily Themes” (Spring 2020)
- “Radical Cinemas of Latin America” (Fall 2019)
- “World Cinema” (Spring 2019)
- “Tolstoy and Dostoevsky” (Spring 2018)

“Introduction to Theory of Literature” (Spring 2017)

“Mad (French) Poets” (Fall 2016)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer Review

Book Manuscript Referee, University of California Press, 2023

Article Referee, *Time and Society*, 2024

Article Referee, *Turkish Studies*, 2024

Article Referee, *College Literature*, 2023

Article Referee, *Comparative Literature Studies*, 2022

Article Referee, *Spenser Studies*, 2022

Article Referee, *Journal of Arabian Studies*, 2022

Film Referee, “People of Color: The International Film Exchange,” 2020

To University

English Honors Thesis Committee, 2020-2025

Faculty Advisor, Comparative Literature Minor, 2021-2025

University Curriculum Committee, 2024-2025

Fulbright Selection Committee, 2023-2025

SLSA Selection Committee, 2023

Senior Thesis Co-advisor, Philosophy Department, 2023

Job Search Committee, English Department, 2022

FYE Coordinator Search Committee, 2022

Faculty Development Committee, 2022

Ad-hoc Pathways Assessment Committee, 2022

English Department Curriculum Committee, 2022

English Department Representative, Virtual Tiger Days, 2022

English Department Representative, Honors Convocation, 2022

University Standards Committee, 2021-2022

Senior Thesis Co-advisor, Anthropology Department, 2021

Senior Thesis Second Reader, English Department, 2021

Website Committee, English Department, 2020

Close Reads Committee, English Department, 2020-2025

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Literary intern, *The New Republic*, Summer 2014

Reporting intern, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, Fall 2012

Editorial intern, *Lapham's Quarterly*, Summer 2011

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Modern Language Association

American Comparative Literature Association

LANGUAGES

Persian: advanced reading & speaking

Turkish: advanced reading, intermediate speaking

Spanish: advanced reading, intermediate speaking