

## **Aneeta Rajendran**

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Age: 35 (Date of birth: 16.02.1981)

Nationality: Indian

### **Major Research Project, UGC**

**UGC Major Research Project grant of three years**, beginning July 2014 for work on: “Narrative, Public Cultures and Visuality in Indian Comic Strips and Graphic Novels (1947 to the present)”; first installment of grant (approximately Rs. 4.5 Lakh) received in institution in **January 2015** for commencement.

### **Fellowships Received:**

**Erasmus Mundus Postdoctoral Fellowship**, to spend the academic year (September 2012 to May 2013) in residence at the **Center of Gender Studies, Lund University, Sweden**.

### **Teaching Experience:**

Assistant Professor (since 2010) at the Department of English, Gargi College.

Total teaching experience adds up to approximately nine years.

Areas of specialization include:

- **Gender studies**
- **Sexuality studies and queerness**
- **Popular cultural texts and cultural studies, especially comics and graphic novels**
- **Moving image and sound studies**
- Indian Literature with primary focus on writing from the twentieth century
- Contemporary Literature (primary focus on postcolonial literatures, including African and West-Indian literatures)

### **Publications**

**Authored Books:** *(Un)familiar Femininities: Studies in Contemporary Lesbian Indian Texts*. Delhi: OUP, 2015.

**Edited Books:** *English Studies, Indian Perspectives* (New Delhi: Mantra Books, 2006), with Makarand Paranjape and Amit Sarwal.

### **Papers in Peer-reviewed Publications:**

“Popular Forms, Altering Normativities: Queer Buddies in Contemporary Mainstream Hindi Cinema.” In: Kishore, V., A. Sarwal, and P. Patra, eds. 2014. *Bollywood and Its Other(s): Towards New Configurations*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

“You are Woman: Arguments with Normative Femininities in Recent Malayalam cinema.” In: *Economic and Political Weekly* April 2014. Special Issue: Research on Kerala.

“Lesbians in the House: Female Queerness in *Bend It Like Beckham* and *Chutney Popcorn*.” In: *New Cinemas: Journal of Contemporary Film* 10.2&3. Special Issue: Queer Cinema in the Twenty-first Century. 145–166.

“A Pedagogy of Enablement: The Women’s College and Gender Liberation,” in the volume *Quest for Excellence*, New Delhi: 2013, pp. 226–43.

“Apparitions of Desire: Homo-Eros in Elizabeth Jolley’s Fiction,” in *Fact and Fiction: Readings in Australian Literature*, Melbourne: Authorpress, 2007.

“Artificial Intelligence and the Other Side of Theory,” in *English Studies, Indian Perspectives*.

“African Studies in India: An Overview” in the same volume, co-authored with Amit Sarwal.

“Literary Theory: An Indian Conceptual Framework,” in *Sabda: Text and Interpretation in Indian Thought*, ed. S. K. Sareen and Makarand Paranjape (New Delhi: Mantra Books, 2004).

### Other Publications:

**Review** of *In My Kingdom of the Sun and the Holy Peak* in *Indian Horizons*, March 2007; also published in Sri Lanka in *The Island* in two Sunday supplements, dated 8.04.07 and 22.04.07.

**Interview** with Daksha Seth, “To the Beat of a Different Drummer,” *Indian Horizons*, June 2006.

### Conference/Seminar /Workshop Papers:

“Locating the Indian Lesbian: Queer Politics and Civil Society,” at the Global Gender Matters Network Workshop on Civil Society, Politics and Opposition, May 21, 2013, Lund University, Sweden.

“‘Indigenous’ versus ‘Western’: Scripts for Sexual Subjectivities in Indian Texts,” at the International Workshop on “Global Thought, Local Lives: Cultural Politics of Multiculturalisms, Cosmopolitanisms and Secularisms,” April 18–19, Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania.

“Queer Femininities in Indian Narratives,” at the SASNET/GADNET seminar, Lund University, 22 March, 2013.

“The Pardesi as Woman: Female Homosociality and Community in Indian Cinemas,” at the Workshop on “Urbanization and Migration in Transnational India: Work and Family Life from a Welfare Perspective,” Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore, India, 5–7 March 2013.

“Problematising the Narrative of Coming Out: Explorations in Indian literary texts,” at the Queer Seminar, Lund, Sweden, December 14, 2012.

“Popular Forms: Escapes from Alter-normativity?” at the International Indian Phantasm conference, Oslo, Norway, December 10–11, 2012.

“The popular as(alter)normative” at the International Conference on “Popular culture and social transformation” at the University of Oslo, Norway, October 4–5, 2012.

“Peripatetic Longings, Queer Spaces,” at the Gender/Violence International Conference, Izmir University of Economics, Izmir, Turkey, 4 – 6 April, 2012. This trip was fully funded by the University of Delhi’s research travel grant.

“The Home as A Place of Rage: Ismat Chughtai, Katherine Mansfield and Alice Walker” at the National Seminar on Gender and Literature, Ramjas College, February 16–17, 2012.

“Subversive Bodies: Beyond Heteronormativity in Film,” at the International Seminar “The Body in the Cinemas of South Asia,” June 30, 2011–July 02, 2011, Vilnius, Lithuania; this trip was fully funded by the UGC, India.

Invited speaker at the Annual Literary Festival centering around the theme “Indian Writers in a Globalised World,” Rajdhani College, March 24, 2011.

“Normative Matrimonies, Queer Assaults,” at the International Seminar “In the Name of Honour: A Dialogue on Androcentric Matrimonial Practices and Women’s Subjugation in South Asia,” 16–18 February 2011, New Delhi.

“The Word is So Raw It Bleeds,” at the International Workshop “Enriched Relations: Cultural Diplomacy in Australian-Indian Relations, Past, Present and Prospective,” 2 December 2010, New Delhi

“Un/Making the Marginal,” at the International Seminar on “Indian and Cross-cultural Approaches to Marginality,” 22–24 March 2010, at the Centre of English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

“Popular Forms: Escapes from Alternormativity?” at the International Seminar “Improbable Plots,” at the German and Romance Studies Department, Delhi University, 4–6 March 2010.

“Malleable Bodies: Dykonstructing the Fe/Male Body,” at the WSDC National Seminar on “Agency, Autonomy and Power: A Dialogue on Women and Body,” February 23–25, 2010.

“Indecorous Diasporas: Femininity in the short stories of Mootoo and Parameswaran,” at the Canadian Studies Conference “Land of Promise,” February 3–5, 2010, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Invited speaker and panelist at the Gargi College Literary Festival, 12-13 December, 2005, Gargi College, New Delhi. Paper titled “Is there a Queer Literature in India?”

“Provincialising Post-colonialism: Encountering Gandhi and Freire in the Post-colonial Classroom,” at the IACLALS National Conference “Teaching Postcolonial Texts: Theory and Strategy,” at Chennai (February 2005).

“Sapphistries: The Writing into Being of a Lesbian Self in Elizabeth Jolley’s Trilogy,” at the ACLALS 13th Triennial International Conference “Nation and Imagination: the Changing Commonwealth,” at Hyderabad (August 2004).

“Literary Theory: Indian Conceptual Frameworks,” at the National Conference “Sabda: Text and Interpretation in Indian Thought,” CES, JNU (January 2004).

### Public Lectures at Lund University, Sweden:

“The Lesbian Challenge to Female Reproductive Heteronormativity” primarily for students of the Masters’ Courses on “The Body, Sexuality, Reproduction and Inequalities,” and “Gender, Class, Ethnicity and Sexualities,” 17 October, 2012.

“We Don’t All Come Out the Same,” primarily for students of the “Culture and Media” course, 6 November 2012.

“Femininity, Sexuality and the Space of the Household in Colonial India: A View Through Chughtai’s Lihaaf,” primarily for students of the SASA course, 13 March, 2013.

“There is no such thing as a normative coming out narrative,” primarily for students of the “Gender, Culture, Media” course, 4 April 2013.

“Film as Ethnography,” for the “Feminist Ethnography” course, 25 March 2013.

### Other Academic Work

Editorial Assistant (2003–06), *Evam: Forum of Indian Representations*, an international, academic, refereed journal.

### Education

PhD Awarded 2010	Centre of English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	“In the Realm of the (Un)Familiar,” Studies in Contemporary Lesbian Indian Texts
MPhil (Coursework)	Centre of English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi	4 papers including Research Methodology CGPA of 8.75/9.0 (Grade A/A+)
UGC NET-JRF	National Eligibility Test (NET) for Lecturership cleared in June 2003	Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) awarded in June 2003; Senior Research Fellowship awarded in August 2005

MA in English Language & Literature 2001–2003	Institute of English, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram	<b>79.6%</b> <b>First Rank in University</b> 22 papers including an MA dissertation
BA in English Language & Literature 1998–2001	Govt. College for Women, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram	<b>75.5% (604/800)</b> <b>First Rank in University</b>
ISC 1998 (Class X+II)	Mount Carmel Covent, Kollam	84.00%
ICSE 1996 (Class X)	Mount Carmel Covent, Kollam	91.33%

### **Community Service/Extension Work:**

Responsible for the creation and implementation of gender-sensitive programs as Convenor, Women's Development Centre, Gargi College, University of Delhi. These include:

Self-defence training workshop with the Delhi Police (January 2011) under the aegis of the WDC, Gargi College;

Talks, panel discussions and documentary film screenings for discussion of a range of gender-based issues;

Creation of a protocol for institutional intervention in case of domestic violence and organization of support/networks. Served actively in crisis intervention work ensuing therefrom.

Presiding Officer, College Internal Complaints Committee Against Sexual Harassment (February 2014-present).

Served as Member on the statutory College Committee against Sexual Harassment, 2010–12: key responsibilities include raising awareness about sexual harassment and work towards its mitigation in the workplace.

Organised As convenor of the Literary Society, Gargi College (2011–12), organised a variety of literary activities including seminars, panel discussions, talent competitions, and pedagogical workshops.

### **Other Administrative Responsibilities**

Convened humanities timetabling for the college for the years 2011–12.

Responsible for reserved category student admissions to the humanities courses for the year 2012–13.

Actively worked on college admissions, prospectus, annual report and internal assessment teams in course of teaching tenure.

### **Extra-Mural/Co-curricular Activities**

Head of a variety of school and college co-curricular societies and associations, including dramatics, quiz, debate and creative writing, besides cinema- and reading-clubs. Also was an active participant in inter-school and inter-collegiate competitions.

Core member of Samvad, an NGO for intercultural dialogue; work included helping to organise a Chinese film festival in 2004 as part of cultural engagement.

President of hall of residence and active member of committees for duration of studentship at Jawaharlal Nehru University.