

Aneeta Rajendran

Associate Professor, Department of English, Gargi College, University of Delhi, India

Email: aneetar@gmail.com

Age: 43

Nationality: Indian

Teaching Experience:

Associate Professor (permanent position since 2010) at the Department of English, Gargi College, with a total teaching experience of approximately **seventeen years**.

Areas of specialization/interest include:

Gender, sexuality and queer studies
Popular/contemporary cultural texts and cultural studies
Cinema studies
Contemporary literatures
Literary Theory

Publications:

Authored Book:

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

Papers in Peer-reviewed Journals:

“You are Woman: Arguments with Normative Femininities in Recent Malayalam cinema.” *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.

Chapters in Edited Volumes:

“Feminisms, Borders, Comic Books and Graphic Narratives.” *In-between Spaces: Culture and Territoriality in Literature, Art and Cinema*. Eds, Rekha Karim and Rekha E. Delhi: Akhand books, 2021.

“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.

“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.

“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).

Edited Book: *English Studies, Indian Perspectives* (New Delhi: Mantra Books, 2006), with Makarand Paranjape and Amit Sarwal, with 2 chapters authored:

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

“African Studies in India: An Overview” *English Studies, Indian Perspectives*, co-authored with Amit Sarwal.

Research Grants Received:

UGC Major Research Project grant for work on: “Narrative, Public Cultures and Visuality in Indian Comic Strips and Graphic Novels (1947 to the present)” (2016-18).

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**.

Papers in International Seminars/Conferences/Workshops:

Keynote speaker at the 'The Varieties of Religions and Secularities: The case of equal rights' held at University College London (UCL), 4 March 2019. **Travel and all costs funded** by The Transforming Values: Gender, Religiosities and Secularities across the Globe network/The Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Science.

Presented the paper “Mythologies: Revisionism and an Intersectional Feminist Aesthetics in the contemporary graphic novel in India” at the 10th European Feminist Research Conference, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Goettingen, Germany, 12-15 September, 2018.

“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,” **Travel and all costs funded** by the 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. **Travel and all costs funded** by the University of Delhi’s research travel grant.

“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; **Travel and all costs funded** by the UGC, India.

“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.

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

“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).

Papers in National Seminars/Conferences/Workshops:

Invited paper, “Imagining a Suitable body: otherness in Indian cultural and literary texts”. Two-Day Multidisciplinary Online National Conference on Embodied Identities: The Body in Cultural Spaces. 21 February, 2023. 2-day online National Conference, Research forum, Dept of English, Farook College, Kerala.

Keynote speaker. National Seminar on "Remapping Eco-criticism: Postmodern Eco-consciousness in Literature." 22.12.2019. Post Graduate Government Autonomous College, Rourkela, Orissa. **Travel and all costs funded by host.**

Invited panelist to the session on “Language, Literature and Gender in the Contemporary Scenario” at the National Seminar on language education, the Department of Education (CIE) on Saturday, 17th February, 2018, University of Delhi, Delhi.

Invited paper, "His-Story/ Her-Story: Intersections of Gender, History, Myth in Contemporary Indian Graphic Novel Narrative. Writing Women's History: Locating Visibility, Voices and Agency", at the Department of History, Gargi College, Golden Jubilee Seminar, Gargi College, 24-25 Oct 2017.

Presented paper titled “Sexual Harassment Law as a Transformative Pedagogy: Feminist resistance and commonplace administrative work in the contemporary university” as part of the sub-theme “Inevitability of the Law and Impossibility of the Law” at the Indian Association of Women's Studies Biennial National Conference, January 21-25, 2017, Chennai.

Keynote address titled “Popular Cinema and Female Citizenships” at the two-day National Seminar on “Popular Discourses: Praxis, Politics and More”, Govt. College at Tripunithara, M. G. University, November 17-18, 2016. **Travel and all costs funded by host university.**

“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.

“Malleable Bodies: Deconstructing 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.

“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).

“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 as Erasmus Mundus Fellow in residence:

“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 Invited Papers/presentations

Invited Resourceperson. Talk titled “Queer stories: studies in contemporary Indian literary and cultural texts”. Seven Day Online Faculty Development Program, organized by the Department of English, National P.G. College Lucknow. 3 November, 2023.

Invited paper, “Queerness, women, personhood” for the Literati Online Webinar series of the Department of English, Maharaja’s College Ernakulam and Department of English, Government College, Tripunithara, 25 October, 2023.

“Female Rage in Literature” on the invitation of BlueQuill, the English Creative Writing Club and the Women’s Development Cell, Miranda House annual fest themed “BlueQuill Reputation Era” 25.02.2022. Online presentation.

“Desirous Viewers: what we get and what we want from films” on the invitation of Cinaesthesia, Film Club, Department of English, Laxmibai College, 03.02.2022.

Resourceperson for session titled “Visualizing Queerness: studies in visual media” at the Faculty Development program on “Interrogating Queerness”, College of Vocational Studies, University of Delhi, 17.12. 2021

“Literatures of Diaspora” on the invitation of the Department of English, Dyal Singh College, 18.11.2021.

Resourceperson for one session in Refresher Course on Film Studies for college, university teachers and research scholars from 23th August - 4th September 2021. Organized by Ramanujan College TLC. E-materials/recording.

Invited Speaker, “Studies in the Indian Comic Book and Graphic Novel.” Department of English and Foreign Languages, M.D. University Rohtak. Online Extension Lecture. 08.08.2021. Online presentation.

Invited speaker on “Literatures of 21st Century: Fan Fiction, Graphic Novels and Memes,” at Traversing Texts: Literature and Arts of our Times, the Ramjas College Annual Seminar 2020-

21, 12.03.2021. Online presentation.

Invited to present the paper “Reading the intersecting ecologies of gender and caste in select graphic novels and films” at “Literati: The Literary Exploration,” Summer Cycle of lectures, organized by Maharaja's College Ernakulam and Government College Tripunithura, 20.02.2021. Online presentation.

Panel Discussion on the theme of “Democracy & Inclusive Governance for Gender Equality and Sustainable Development” on 25th December 2020. Invited by host AGAM: An Initiative for Good Governance, a non-profit NGO working in the area of transparency, anti-corruption, good governance. Online presentation.

“Research Writing and the Classroom.” Resourceperson for FDP on “Research Writing and Publication in English Studies.” Department of Languages. (December 04-09) December 07, 2020. Christ University (deemed). Online presentation.

Invited speaker to the Annual Festival of The Enabling Unit, Gargi College, panel discussion on the topic- Disability, Sexuality and Mental Illness. 13th April, 2018.

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

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?”

Orientations/Refreshers/FDPs Completed:

Completed Orientation Course at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Academic Staff College, 08.11.2011 to 02.12.2011.

Completed Refresher Course in English Language, Literature and Culture, 02--22 March, 2016, UGC-HRDC Centre for Professional Development in Higher Education, University of Delhi

Completed 2-day FDP organized by Dept of English, Gargi College, 2017.

Completed Two Weeks Faculty Development Programme on “Gender, Research Methods and Pedagogies” (Interdisciplinary), Mahatma Hansraj Faculty Development Centre, A center of MHRD, Govt. of India, Under Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNTT), Hansraj College, University of Delhi, 20th November to 3rd December 2018.

Completed Two Weeks Faculty Development Programme on “Feminist Theories and Human Rights” (Interdisciplinary), Mahatma Hansraj Faculty Development Centre, A center of MHRD, Govt. of India, Under Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNTT), Hansraj College, University of Delhi, 15 December to 28 December, 2018.

Completed Two Weeks Faculty Development Programme ICT BASED NEW PARADIGMS OF E-TEACHING AND E-LEARNING: DIGITAL PEDAGOGY, 15--30 September 2020, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMMMNTT), organized by Teaching Learning Centre (TLC), Ramanujan College in association with Research Development and Services Cell, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi and Department of Computer Science, Mata Sundri College For Women, University of Delhi.

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

Administrative Responsibilities/Extension activity:

Committees served on/Administrative responsibilities in College:

1. Women’s Development Centre, 2010-12, 2013-present; Convenor/Co-Convenor/Member
2. College Committee Against Sexual Harassment, 2011-12 (elected member), 2013-14, Convenor.
3. College Internal Complaints Committee against Sexual Harassment, 2014-17, Presiding Officer.
4. College Timetable Committee: 2011-12, 2013-14, 2017-present, Convenor.
5. College Workload Committee, 2011-12, member.
6. College Admissions Committee, 2011-12, member.
7. College Internal Assessment Committee, 2012-13, member.
8. College Book Club 2011-13, member.
9. College Website Committee, 2015-16, member.
10. Committee for Antardhwani 2016, member.
11. College Foreign Students Committee, 2015-16, member.
12. Admissions Grievances Committee, 2016-2019, member.
13. Pathfinder Award Committee, 2016-19, member.
14. College Library Committee, 2017-18, member.
15. English Department National Seminar Committee, 2016-17, Convenor.
16. Departmental committees for Workload, Timetable, Library, Co-curricular activities etc, 2010-present, Convenor and member.

Membership of University-level committees

1. University Admissions Committee: Bulletin subcommittee, 2019-present, member.
2. University Extended Grievances Committee, 2019-20, member.
3. University Grievances Committee, Admissions 2020-21, member.

Membership of Learned societies:

1. Life member IACLALS
2. Life member IAWS

