

Surabhi Balachander

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(9.9.22)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., English Language and Literature, University of Michigan, expected 2024.

Fields of study: American literature 1920-present, comparative ethnic studies, ecocriticism and environmental studies. Emphasis on race, ethnicity, and environment in rural America.

M.A., English Language and Literature, University of Michigan, 2020.

**B.A., English and Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity, Stanford University, 2017.
With Honors, With Distinction.**

Honors Thesis: "Our Color in the Fields: Exploring the Intersections of Agriculture and Race in American Literature"

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2022 Rackham Humanities Research Candidacy Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2021 Anti-Racism Summer Research Grant for Graduate Students, National Center for Institutional Diversity (awarded jointly with Jeremy Glover)
Spring/Summer Diversity Allies Research Project Grant, University of Michigan English Department (awarded jointly with Jeremy Glover)
- 2020 J. Golden Taylor Award, Western Literature Association
Katharine A. Rodier Graduate Travel Award, Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States *Cancelled due to COVID-19
- 2019 Louis Owens Award, Western Literature Association
- 2017 Robert M. Golden Medal for Excellence in the Humanities and Creative Arts, Stanford University
Phi Beta Kappa, Beta of California Chapter
Louis Sudler Prize in the Performing and Creative Arts (Creative Writing), Stanford University
- 2016 Major Grant, Stanford University Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- English 230/American Culture 301/Asian and Pacific Islander American Studies 301, Introduction to the Short Story and Novel (Section Theme: Constructing Asian American Stories). University of Michigan, Winter 2022. Instructor of record.
- English 126, Community-Engaged Writing (Community Partner: Michigan Food and Farming Systems). University of Michigan, Fall 2021. Instructor of record.
- English 320/Program in the Environment 377, Literature and Environment (Theme: Country and City). University of Michigan, Winter 2021. Instructor of record.
- English 124, Academic Writing and Literature (Section Theme: U.S. National Parks and Public Lands). University of Michigan, Fall 2020. Instructor of record.
- English 125, Writing and Academic Inquiry (Section Theme: Rural America). University of Michigan, Fall 2019, Winter 2020. Instructor of record.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Towards a Rural Asian American Studies," in "New Directions in Asian American Literary Studies." Modern Language Association Convention, San Francisco, 5-8 January 2023.
- "Racial Distance, Cross-Racial Encounter, and Rural Coming-of-Age in the Stories of Hisaye Yamamoto," in "Coming of Age in the West." Western Literature Association Conference, Santa Fe, NM, 19-22 October 2022.
- "Food, Race, Land, and Labor: Teaching Literature and the Environment for an Interdisciplinary Audience," in "Food Systems & Agriculture." Michigan University-wide Sustainability and Environment Conference, online, 2-4 February 2022.
- "Teaching Western Literature to Midwestern Students I Will Never Meet in Person," in "Ecocritical Pedagogies and Western Literature." Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment Conference, online, 26 July-6 August 2021.
- "Border-Collapsers: Scale and Environmentality in Juan Felipe Herrera's *Border-Crosser with a Lamborghini Dream*," in "Loneliness and Borders." Poetry & Poetics of Loneliness Conference, online, 26 March 2021.
- "Border-Collapsers: Scale and Environmentality in Juan Felipe Herrera's *Border-Crosser with a Lamborghini Dream*," in "Contemporary Multi-Ethnic Literature of the West." Western Literature Association Conference, online, 21-24 October 2020.
- "Teaching Race: Identifying Challenges," organizer and chair. Western Literature Association Conference, online, 21-24 October 2020.
- "Towards a Rural Ethnic Studies." Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2-5 April 2020. *Cancelled due to COVID-19
- "Towards a Rural Ethnic Studies," in "Reflexivity and Estrangement." Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present Conference, College Park, MD, 9-12 October 2019.
- "Seasonal Logics of Farming and Migration in the West," in "Farmers, Cowboys, Railroads, and Dirtbags: Seasonal Labor and Western Literature." Western Literature Association Conference, Estes Park, CO, 18-21 September 2019.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- "Editing in a Moment of Crisis," Plenary Session. Western Literature Association Conference, Santa Fe, NM, 19-22 October 2022.
- "Towards a Rural Ethnic Studies," American West Working Group, Stanford University, 22 January 2021.

PUBLICATIONS

- With Jillian Moore, "Introduction: Pedagogical and Personal Perspectives," *Western American Literature*, vol. 57, no. 2, July 2022.
- With Jeremy Glover, "Assistants on the Rise: Academic Trainees Offer Perspectives on the Graduate Student Worker Movement and Visions for the Future of Academic Labor," *Academe*, 4 May 2021.

Poetry

- "Writing Home." *The Margins*, 11 June 2019.
- "Pregnancy Dreams #1 (Redwoods)," "Sri Venkateswara Swami Temple, Aurora, Illinois." *The Indianapolis Review*, 20 July 2018.
- "Always the possibility," "no space," "The Heads Claudia & Hermann," "poisoning a goddess." *jmnw*, 23 February 2018.
- "The Fall of the I-Hotel," "Remapping Ramayana," "The Old Farmers Almanac Founded in 1792,"

“The pressure is exhilarating,” “*Miss Rumphius*,” “Seattle,” “These Days.” *The Wanderer*, 4 January 2018.
“incorrigible disturbers of the peace,” “Apogee.” *Yes Poetry* (featured as May 2017 Poet of the Month).

SERVICE

Emerging Scholars Special Issue Co-Editor, *Western American Literature*, Summer 2022 Issue.
Founder and Co-coordinator, Rural America Interdisciplinary Working Group, University of Michigan, February 2019-.
Executive Council Graduate Student Representative, Western Literature Association, 2019-22.
Graduate Student Representative, Ad Hoc Committee on Anti-Racist Pedagogy and Policy, University of Michigan Department of English, Fall 2020-Spring 2022.
Conference Co-Chair, Michigan University-Wide Sustainability and Environment (MUSE) Conference, April 2020-March 2021.
Communications Chair, Michigan University-Wide Sustainability and Environment (MUSE) Conference, August 2019-February 2020.
Speaker, Welcome Weekend Diversity Panel, University of Michigan Department of English, March 2019.

PAID EXPERIENCE

Program and Research Associate; Project Manager, Eccles Family Rural West Conference, Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University, 2019-
English Department Writing Program Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Working Group, University of Michigan, 2020.
Copyeditor, *The Cambridge Companion to American Literature and the Environment*, 2020.
Research assistant to Prof. Susan Scott Parrish, University of Michigan, 2019.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Participant, Engaged Pedagogy Initiative, University of Michigan, 2021.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Western Literature Association
Modern Language Association

LANGUAGES

French (advanced speaking, reading, and writing)
Tamil (native speaker)