

## Education

- 2009-2012      Master of Fine Arts, Film & Media Arts  
Temple University, Philadelphia, USA  
Fulbright-Nehru Leadership Development Fellow
- 2000-2002      Master of Arts, Mass Communication  
AJK Mass Communication Research Center  
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India  
First Division, Second Position Honors
- 1998-2000      Bachelor of Arts, English Literature and Modern European Languages  
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India  
First Division, First Position Honors with President's Award

## Teaching Experience

- 2015- present      **Assistant Professor**, College of Art and Design  
Rochester Institute of Technology, NY  
Courses taught:  
Film History and Theory, I  
Hybrid Forms: Theory and Practice  
Documentary Processes  
Film Production I  
Fiction Film Workshop  
Screenwriting I  
Diversity Theater: Exploring Unconscious Bias in Film Production  
Capstone Advising, Thesis Advising, Independent Studies
- 2012-2014      **Assistant Professor**, Anwar Jamal Kidwai Mass Communication  
Research Center  
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India  
Courses taught:  
Advanced Workshop for Graduate Thesis Projects  
Graduate Documentary Seminar  
Graduate Screenwriting  
Filmmaking Seminar  
Thesis Advising
- 2009      **Assistant Professor**, Anwar Jamal Kidwai Mass Communication  
Research Center  
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India  
Courses taught:  
Advanced Workshop for Thesis Projects  
Aesthetics of Editing and Post Production
- 2007-2009      **Lecturer**, Anwar Jamal Kidwai Mass Communication Research Center

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India

Courses taught:

Live Editing and TV Studio Production

Lighting for Television

Editing and Post Production

Filmmaking Seminar

2003-06

**Teaching Associate**, Anwar Jamal Kidwai Mass Communication Research Center, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India

Courses taught:

TV Studio Production

Lighting for Television

Editing and Post Production

Fundraising

#### Curriculum Development

**Film History and Theory II:** Graduate course on advanced Film History and Theory. College of Art and Design, Rochester Institute of Technology, Fall 2019.

**Documentary Processes: Practice and Theory:** Documentary production workshop based on application of critical perspectives. College of Art and Design, Rochester Institute of Technology, Fall 2017.

**Hybrid Forms: Theory and Practice**, Graduate course exploring new forms of storytelling including Virtual Reality. College of Art and Design, Rochester Institute of Technology, Fall 2017.

**Film History and Theory, I:** Undergraduate course on foundational Film History and Theory. College of Art and Design, Rochester Institute of Technology, Fall 2015.

#### **Digital Image Arts-I, II, Introduction to New Media, Screenwriting**

Digital Cinema Arts Program, syllabi development workshop in collaboration with York University, Canada. AJK Mass Communication Research Center, Jamia Millia Islamia, January 2013.

**Practice Based PhD for Artists** in India, collaborative workshop with University of Westminster, UK. AJK Mass Communication Research Center, Jamia Millia Islamia, February 2013.

#### Creative Projects/ Research

2018 *Homecoming*

4K, Documentary, USA, (Research and Development)

Director- Producer of a documentary about of two immigrant Muslim families in Albany, NY whose fathers were preemptively prosecuted on terrorism charges and sentenced in 2004. After 16 years, the fathers are coming home.

#### *My American Dream*

HD, Documentary, USA – India, (Production)

Director, Second-Camera, Editor of a documentary that follows an Indian, immigrant Taxi driver in US since 2011 as he writes and shoots his own versions of Bollywood movies.

- Play*  
4K, 6 mins, Narrative, USA, (Post-Production)  
Writer-Director, Producer, Editor of a coming-of-age short about Chloe; a homeless African-American teenager on the street.
- Cry, My Beloved Country*  
Feature-length screenplay, (Development). Writer.  
After her father is subjected to solitary confinement in a Federal Communications Management Unit 1700 mile away from home, a 19-yr. old Asian American Muslim daughter has to undertake arduous journeys to meet him while keeping her family from falling apart.
- 2017 *Ayesha*  
HD, 18 min, Narrative, USA  
Writer-Director, Editor, Co-Producer of a short about 24 yr. Asian American Muslim woman whose secret weekend plans with her boyfriend takes an unexpected turn when her immigrant father encounters a US veteran suffering from post-traumatic stress.
- Rebellious as the Wind*  
Feature-length screenplay, (Development). Writer.  
A coming-of-age story about Asian American Muslim woman as she navigates the fault lines between traditional Islamic values of her first-generation immigrant mother and western notions of love, freedom and intimacy in post 9/11 America.
- Leila has Horns*  
Short Screenplay. Writer  
In the time leading up to a high school swim team competition, Leila has decided to wear a *Burkini*; a conservative swim suit which in her words, “is worn by voiceless women chased off the summer beaches in Cannes”. But in reality, Leila has a ‘winning’ plan.
- 2016 *A Letter Home*  
Virtual Reality Micro Documentary  
Writer, director of a virtual reality experience about America to be experienced by Muslim women in a segregated beauty salon in India.
- 2014 *Between Leaving and Arriving*  
Interactive web-based documentary-fiction hybrid  
Writer-Director, Editor, Interface Designer for a transmedia adaptation of *The Ghetto Girl*.
- 2012 *The Ghetto Girl*  
HD & Mixed Media, 28 mins, Experimental Documentary, USA-India  
Writer-director, Editor, Sound Designer of a personal-essay documentary that unfolds as a third person narrative of a girl who walks the streets of her segregated Muslim neighborhood in India and interrogates how the Partition of 1947 is present in the everyday lives of Muslims.
- 2008 *Four Women and a Room*  
SD, 28 mins, Documentary, India

Writer-director, Second Camera, Editor, Sound Designer about a documentary on sex selective abortions, reproductive rights and son preference in India.

2005 *Elsewhere*

SD, 28 min, Documentary, India-Spain

Co-Director, Videographer, Editor about a documentary that explores the worlds of two young Muslims between India and Spain.

2003 *Who Can Speak of Men?*

SD Betacam, 28 mins, Documentary, India

Director, Cinematographer, Editor of a documentary that follows three Muslim women who cross dress as men and live in one of the largest segregated neighborhoods for Muslims in India.

#### Collaborative Projects

2017 *Outside a Mosque*

Borders in a Single Shot: After Farocki / Ehmann's Labor in a Single Shot, The Farocki Academy, Berlin. Video, 3 mins.

Collaborative installation with Temple Film and Media Arts Program.

2016 *Beyond Borders*

A community project celebrating the legacy of Susan B. Anthony.

Video, 2 mins.

#### Awards and Screenings

##### *Ayesha*

Emerging Filmmaker Award, 8<sup>th</sup> Queens World Film Festival 2018

Award of Distinction, Canada Shorts Film Festival 2017

Honorable Mention, Experimental Forum 2017

Best Ensemble Narrative Short Nomination, 8<sup>th</sup> Queens World Film Festival 2018

Official Selection, New Filmmakers, Anthology Film Archives, NY 2018

Official Selection, Canada Shorts Film Festival, 2017

Official Selection, Oil Valley Film Festival 2017

Official Selection, Trenton Film Festival 2017

Official Selection, 8<sup>th</sup> Queens World Film Festival 2017

The Virginia Center for the Creative Arts 2017

Indo-US Week, The American Center, India 2017

College of Art and Design Faculty Showcase, Rochester Institute of Technology 2017

Ben Lazaroff Screenwriting Award for Best Original Screenplay, Temple University

Graduate Thesis Award, Temple University

##### *My American Dream*

Indo-US Week, The American Center, India 2017

College of Art and Design Faculty Showcase, Rochester Institute of Technology 2016

The Little Theatre, Rochester 2016

India National Television Broadcast 2012

Indian Parliament Channel 2016

##### *Cry, My Beloved Country*

Shortlist, Sundance Screenwriters Lab 2018

Sundance Co//ab Mentoring Workshop, 2018  
The Athena Screenwriters Lab, Columbia University, NYC, 2019

*Rebellious as the Wind*

Shortlist, Sundance Screenwriters Lab 2017

*The Ghetto Girl*

Society for Visual Anthropology Film Festival, American Anthropological Association  
Best Graduate Student Film Award, USA 2014  
Indian Documentary Producers Association Award for Excellence, India 2012  
Special Jury Award, Federation of Film Societies of India-SIGNS 2012  
Official Selection, International Women's Film Festival in Seoul, Korea 2013  
Official Selection, Tempo Dokumentär Festival, Stockholm 2013  
Official Selection International Association of Women in Radio and Television, Our  
Lives to Live 2012  
Official Selection, The Open Frame Film Festival, India, September 2011  
Elephants in the Dark, Refractions on Muslim Identity, Pennsylvania Museum of  
Archeology and Anthropology, USA 2012  
International Visual Sociology Association 2012  
International Conference on Islam, Gender and Youth in South and South-East Asia,  
Berlin, Germany 2012  
Deptt. of Visual Anthropology, Towson University, Maryland, USA 2013  
Huret and Specter Gallery Boston, MA (work in progress, interactive version) 2013  
William Harris Gallery, Rochester Institute of Technology, September 2015  
India National Television Broadcast 2011

*Four Women and a Room*

Indian Documentary Producers Association Award for Excellence, India 2009  
Official Selection, Indian Panorama Section, International Film Festival of India 2008  
Official Selection, Federation of Film Societies of India SIGNS 2008  
Official Selection, Mumbai International Film Festival 2010  
Official Selection, International Documentary and Short Film Festival, Kerala 2009  
Official Selection, Karachi International Film Festival, Pakistan, 2009  
Official Selection, Indo-Korea International Women's Film Festival 2009  
Official Selection, 9<sup>th</sup> International Social Communication Cinema, India 2009  
Included in UNESCO package on gender training and sexual health distributed by The  
Public Service Broadcasting Trust, New Delhi  
India National Television Broadcast 2008

*Elsewhere*

Best Documentary Gold, International Digital Film Festival of India 2006  
The British Council Library, New Delhi, India 2006  
The Thompson Foundation, Cardiff, UK 2007  
Channel 4 Community Network, 60 years of Indian Independence, UK 2007

*Who Can Speak of Men?*

Official Selection, The British Film Institute Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, UK 2004  
Official Selection, The Berlin Gay and Lesbian Film Festival 2005  
Official Selection, London Gay and Lesbian Film Festival 2005  
Official Selection, Copenhagen Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, Denmark 2005

Official Selection, Paris Feminist and Lesbian Film Festival Cineffable 2005  
 Official Selection, Austin Gay and Lesbian Film Festival 2005  
 Official Selection, Larzish International Festival of Gender and Sexuality Mumbai 2004  
 Official Selection, The Indo-Korea International Women's Film Festival 2009  
 Official Selection, The Public Service Broadcasting Trust International Film Festival on Gender and Sexuality, India 2007  
 The Rialto Theatre, Amsterdam 2006

Community Engagement Screenings

Jagori, India (Non-Profit Community organization working on empowerment of women)  
 TARSHI (Talking About Reproductive and Sexual Health in India)  
 Action India  
 Kriti Film Club, New Delhi  
 Aawaz-e-Niswan (Voice of Women) Mumbai, India  
 Bebaak Collective (Fearless Collective), Mumbai  
 Umang (Support group for Lesbian, Bisexual and Transpersons) India

Fellowships

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| 2017 | The Virginia Center for The Creative Arts, Amherst, Virginia.<br><i>Competitive International Artist Fellowship. All expenses paid for a three-week artist residency.</i>                         |
| 2017 | Mid Atlantic Creative Arts Fellowship Award<br><i>Competitive Artist Fellowship in Mid-Atlantic region.</i>   |
| 2013 | International Television Services (ITVS) Women and Girls Lead Global Fellow, India<br><i>Competitive International Fellowship.</i>  |
| 2012 | Temple University Graduate Thesis Award<br><i>Competitive Temple University Thesis Award.</i>   |
| 2012 | Ben Lazaroff Screenwriting Award<br><i>Competitive Temple University Award for Screenwriting.</i>   |
| 2010 | Temple University Exhibition and Distribution Grant<br><i>Competitive Temple University Award.</i>  |
| 2009 | Fulbright-Nehru Leadership Development Fellow, Temple University<br><i>Competitive International Fellowship.</i>  |
| 2005 | The Thompson Foundation, European Union-India Documentary and Conflict Resolution Exchange Program UK<br><i>Competitive International Award.</i>  |
| 2002 | Center for the Study of Developing Societies (SARAI), New Delhi, India<br>Independent Research Fellow. <i>Competitive National Fellowship in India for media practioners writers and artists.</i> |

## Grants

- 2018 Advance Connect Grant, Rochester Institute of Technology  
*Competitive University Award* sponsored by The National Science Foundation.
- 2017 Faculty Development Grant, Rochester Institute of Technology  
*Competitive Department Award.*
- 2016 Faculty Development Grant, Rochester Institute of Technology  
*Competitive Department Award.*
- 2012 Philadelphia Independent Film and Video Association Grant  
Pennsylvania Council for the Arts.  
*Competitive Regional Grant.*
- 2012 The Carole Fielding Grant, University Film and Video Association  
*Competitive National University Award.*
- 2011 Philadelphia Independent Film and Video Association Grant  
Pennsylvania Council for the Arts.  
*Competitive Regional Grant.*
- 2012 The Public Service Broadcasting Trust India, National Film Commission  
Competitive International Grant.
- 2009 The Public Service Broadcasting Trust, India National Film Commission  
Competitive International Grant.
- 2007 The Public Service Broadcasting Trust, India National Film Commission  
Competitive International Grant.

## Selected Lectures and Artist Talks

- 2017 *The Artist as a Muslim Woman: Community and Gender vs, State*  
Ashoka University, New Delhi, India
- 2013 *Improvisation and Indian Theatre: an illustrated conversation with actor and theatre-director Mr. M.K. Raina*, New Delhi, India
- 2012 *Documentary Practice, Personal and Political Spaces: The works of Nishtha Jain*  
Vadhera Art Gallery, Modern Indian and Contemporary Art, India
- New Mobilities and Evolving Identities: Islam, Gender and Youth in South and South-East Asia*  
Humbolt University, Berlin; Goethe University, Frankfurt and the Berlin Graduate School of Muslim Cultures and Societies, Berlin
- 2010 *Community as site of Refuge, Stereotyping, Violence and Autobiographical Filmmaking*

The Kym Preusse Speaker Series at The Ontario College of Art and Design University of Toronto and The York University Film Programme

2009 *Personal, Political and Autobiographical Filmmaking*  
Indo-Korea Women's International Film Festival, Chennai, India

2008 *Women, Conflict and Filmmaking*  
The Open Frame Film Festival, New Delhi, India

#### Academic Conferences/Lectures

2018 *The Ghetto Girl: Experiments in Transmedia Storytelling*  
Frameless Labs Symposium, Rochester Institute of Technology

2017 *The Facebook Surround 360 Virtual Reality Camera Project*  
Frameless Labs Symposium, Rochester Institute of Technology

2016 *Cinema and Virtual Reality: Making of A Letter Home*  
Frameless Labs Symposium, Rochester Institute of Technology

*Found in Transit: Notes on Hybrid Practice*  
Faculty Speaker Series, Rochester Institute of Technology

*Transmedia Storytelling*  
AJK Mass Communication Research Center, Jamia Millia Islamia  
New Delhi, India

2011 Peer reviewed *Jeffu's Marginalia*, performance-based video projection  
by Jeff Warmouth, Fitchburg State University  
University Film and Video Conference

Peer Review New Media Exhibition: *Between Leaving and Arriving*  
University Film and Video National Conference  
Huret and Specter Gallery, Emerson College, Boston, MA

#### Selected University Service

2018 *Rewriting an inclusive and diverse Film and Animation curriculum.*  
School of Film and Animation, RIT

*Undergraduate Curriculum Committee*, College of Art and Design, RIT

*Women Faculty Social: Challenges on path to Tenure.*  
College of Art and Design, RIT

*Search Committee*, Tenure Track Assistant Professor, Film Production  
College of Art and Design, RIT

2017 *Women and Gender Committee*, School of Film and Animation, RIT

*Foundations Curriculum Committee*, School of Film and Animation  
RIT



*Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities*, College of Art and Design Representative.

*Search Committee*, Tenure Track Assistant Professor, Animation, College of Art and Design, RIT

*Search Committee*, Lecturer, Animation, College of Art and Design, RIT

*Program Outreach*, Master of Fine Arts Film and Animation, RIT

*Frameless Labs Virtual Reality Symposium Planning Committee*, Magic Spell Studios, RIT

2016 *Storytelling for Social Transformation Workshop*  
Transcendent Leadership Conference  
Leadership Institute, Community Service Center, Rochester Institute of Technology and Monroe Community College

*Women and Gender Committee*, School of Film and Animation, RIT

2013 Student Internships Coordinator, AJK MCRC, Jamia University, New Delhi

International Collaborations Coordinator, AJK MCRC, Jamia University, New Delhi

#### Professional Development Training

Sundance Documentary Fundraising Webinar 2018  
Sundance Screenwriting Webinar, 2018  
Catapult Documentary Funding Webinar 2018  
ITVS How to Create an effective work sample Webinar 2018  
Development Funds for Documentary Filmmakers, Women Make Movies Webinar, 2018  
Documentary Fundamentals: Post Production, Union Docs, NYC 2017  
Filming in Cuba with Abbas Kiarostami 2016

#### Selected Non-Fiction Writings

*The Ghetto Girl*  
Media Fields Journal, Issue 5: Critical Explorations in Memory and Space University of California Santa Barbara 2012

*My Fear Begins Where Your Fear Ends*  
Fear, SARAI Reader 08  
Center for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi India

Translated *Doosra Kafan* by renowned Indian writer Premchand as *The Second Shroud*, New Urdu Fictions, Katha India-Jamia Millia Islamia

#### Professional Experience

- 2009 Editor/Sound Designer/ Sound Mixer for *Laying Sita to Rest*.  
Documentary about the symbolic relationship of Sita, the Goddess from the epic Ramayana, with the image of women in India.  
Public Service Broadcasting Trust, India.
- 2008 Producer for *We Can*, an Oxfam India campaign to end violence against women. Client: Oxfam World Trust.
- 2007 Co-editor for *Dinner with the President*.  
From on-the-street interviews, audiences with religious leaders to dinner with the President of Pakistan; the film takes the temperature of a culture on issues from politics to women's rights.  
Supported by the Sundance Film Institute, ZDF, Arté and Vidhi Films, the film has been broadcast on PBS Independent Lens. Directed by Sabiha Sumar.
- 2005 Producer/Director/Editor for *Barefoot Doctors: Experiments in Rural Health*. HIVOS India.
- 2004 Producer/Director/Editor for *Rainbows*.  
A documentary on primary school education in India.  
National Council for Education, Research and Training, India.
- 2003 Assistant Director/Assistant Editor of *The City Beautiful*. Documentary about a community of traditional weavers facing loss of livelihood under globalization. Directed by Rahul Roy.

#### Selected Visiting Lectures

- 2013 Digital Videography Workshop for Journalists from Nepal and Bhutan, Ministry of External Affairs, India.
- 2008 Non-Linear Editing Workshop, Lady Sri Ram College University of Delhi.
- 2006 Non-Linear Editing Workshop, Lady Sri Ram College University of Delhi.

#### Selected Other Professional Experience

- 2009 Editor, Sound Designer and Mixer for *Laying Janaki to Rest* Director Madhureeta Anand, Public Service Broadcasting Trust, India.
- 2008 Producer for *We Can*, an Oxfam India campaign to stop violence against women, OXFAM India.
- 2007 Co-editor for *Dinner with the President*. Director Sabiha Sumar, Sundance Film Institute, ZDF, Arté, Vidhi Films.
- 2005 Producer, Director, Editor for *Barefoot Doctors: Experiments in Rural Health in India*, HIVOS India.

- 2004 Producer-Director, Co-Editor for *The Rainbow* -A Delhi State Council for Educational Research Training initiative on learner friendly school textbooks for primary schools.
- 2003 Assistant Director, Assistant Editor in *The City Beautiful* Director Rahul Roy Aakar Films and UNESCO, India
- 2002 Production Department, *Silent Waters*. Director Sabiha Sumar, Golden Leopard Locarno Film Festival 2003

#### Selected Voluntary Work

- 2017 RIT Virtual Reality Gardens, The Little Theater, One Take Documentary Festival.
- 2008 - Present Jamia Teachers' Solidarity Association, New Delhi, India.
- 2014 Storytelling Workshop with at-risk youth, New Delhi, ITVS
- 2002 - Present Shared Footage Group, Mumbai, India.  
*Awaz-e-Niswan*, The Voice of Women, Mumbai, India.  
*Jagori* (Wake Up Sister) New Delhi, India.  
 Action India, New Delhi, India.  
 All India Democratic Women's Association, New Delhi, India.

#### Professional Affiliations

- 2018 Asian American Documentary Filmmakers Collective  
 Women Make Movies  
 Center for Asian American Media
- 2017 Union Docs, New York City
- 2016- Fulbright Alumni Association
- 2015- Independent Filmmaker Project, New York City
- 2013-Present International Women's Association for Radio and Television
- 2011-Present University Film and Video Association
- 2011-Present Philadelphia Independent Film and Video Association
- 2016-Present Rochester Documentary Filmmakers

#### Selected Additional Skills

Digital Videography: High Definition Workflows and Formats  
 Digital and Analog Post Production workflows  
 Adobe Creative Cloud  
 Distribution, Grant writing, Fundraising

#### Languages

English, Hindi, Arabic, Urdu

Ambarien Alqadar

Rochester, New York, November 2018.