

Surabhi Balachander
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(9.9.24)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Oregon State University

Assistant Professor, School of Writing, Literature, and Film, 2024-.

EDUCATION

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

Dissertation: "Rewriting Rural America: Race, Environment, and Identity, 1920-2020"

Graduate Teacher Certificate from Center for Research on Teaching and Learning

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.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Rural Asian American Wests: Racial Distance, Cross-Racial Encounter, and Settler Solidarity in the Fiction of Hisaye Yamamoto, Jung Yun, and Linda Sue Park," *Western American Literature*, vol. 59, no. 2, summer 2024.

"Towards a Rural Ethnic Studies, via Ruth L. Ozeki's *My Year of Meats*," *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, 13 June 2023 (Advance article).

Other Academic Articles

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.

Book Reviews

Solicited review of *Hydronarratives* by Matthew S. Henry, *Western American Literature* vol. 59, no. 1, spring 2024.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2023 Rackham Humanities Research Dissertation Fellowship, University of Michigan
- 2022 Paul and Barbara Couture Graduate Student Award, University of Michigan
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

COURSES TAUGHT

Oregon State University

English 362, American Women Writers (Theme: Asian American Memoir). Fall 2024.

University of Michigan (all as instructor of record)

English 230/American Culture 301/Asian and Pacific Islander American Studies 301, Introduction to the Short Story and Novel (Theme: Constructing Asian American Stories). Winter 2022.

English 126, Community-Engaged Writing (Community Partner: Michigan Food and Farming Systems). Fall 2021.

English 320/Program in the Environment 377, Literature and Environment (Theme: Country and City). Winter 2021.

English 124, Academic Writing and Literature (Theme: U.S. National Parks and Public Lands). Fall 2020.

English 125, Writing and Academic Inquiry (Theme: Rural America). Fall 2019, Winter 2020.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “Returning Westward from the West: On Asian American Memoirs of Diasporic Return.” Western Literature Association Conference, Tucson, AZ, 2-5 October.
“Managing Goals and Multitasking: A Conversation for the Overwhelmed,” roundtable participant. Western Literature Association Conference, Tucson, AZ, 2-5 October.
“Two Kinds of Indian: South Asian and Native American Confusions in the West.” Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, 25-27 April.

- 2023 “Indians Playing Indian: South Asian American Wests and Indigeneity,” in “Asian Americans and Settler Colonialism in the West.” Western Literature Association Conference, Fort Hall, ID, 11-14 October. Panel organizer.
 “Words with Friends: A Roundtable on Collaborative Writing.” Association of Asian American Studies Annual Conference, Long Beach, CA, 6-9 April.
 “Towards a Rural Asian American Studies,” in “New Working Conditions in Asian American Studies.” Modern Language Association Convention, San Francisco, CA, 5-8 January.
- 2022 “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.
 “Navigating Institutional Responsibility,” organizer and chair. Western Literature Association Conference, Santa Fe, NM, 19-22 October.
 “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.
- 2021 “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.
 “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.
- 2020 “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.
 “Teaching Race: Identifying Challenges,” organizer and chair. Western Literature Association Conference, online, 21-24 October.
 “Towards a Rural Ethnic Studies.” Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2-5 April. *Cancelled due to COVID.
- 2019 “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.
 “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.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 “Reading Settler Solidarities in Literature of the Rural Asian American West,” American West Working Group, Stanford University, 17 November.
 “Reading 50 States in 2023,” Ann Arbor District Library, 13 September.
 “Rewriting Rural America,” in “Critical Conversations: Dissertation Showcase,” University of Michigan, 16 March.
 “Literary Master Narratives of American Rurality,” American West Working Group, Stanford University, 20 January.
- 2022 “On Anti-Racist Pedagogy,” guest lecture, English 695 (Graduate Pedagogy), University of Michigan, 1 December.

- “Editing in a Moment of Crisis,” demi-plenary panel session. Western Literature Association Conference, Santa Fe, NM, 19-22 October.
- “Cottagecore: Romanticization of Rural Life,” panel session. School of Information, University of Michigan, 7 September.
- 2021 “Ecofascism: A Humanistic Primer,” presentation with Jeremy Glover, MUSE Workshop, University of Michigan, 1 October.
- “Exploring Rural America: A Discussion on Race,” panel session. Stanford Rural Engagement Network, 9 March.
- “Towards a Rural Ethnic Studies,” American West Working Group, Stanford University, 22 January.
- 2019 “Visiting Poet,” guest lecture, English 223 (Creative Writing), University of Michigan, 3 December.

SERVICE

Founder and Co-Coordinator, Rural America Interdisciplinary Working Group, University of Michigan, 2019-2024.

Louis Owens Award Committee Member, Western Literature Association, 2022 and 2023.

Emerging Scholars Special Issue Co-Editor, *Western American Literature*, Summer 2022 issue.

Executive Council Graduate Student Representative, Western Literature Association, 2019-2022.

Graduate Student Representative, Ad Hoc Committee on Anti-Racist Pedagogy and Policy, University of Michigan Department of English, 2020-2022.

Dragon Fruit Online Museum (oral history archive) Committee, Lavender Phoenix, 2021.

Conference Co-Chair, Michigan University-Wide Sustainability and Environment (MUSE) Conference, 2020-2021.

Communications Chair, Michigan University-Wide Sustainability and Environment (MUSE) Conference, 2019-2020.

Speaker, Welcome Weekend Diversity Panel, University of Michigan Department of English, 2019.

PAID EXPERIENCE

Program and Research Associate; Coordinator, Eccles Family Rural West Conference and Undergraduate Research Program, Bill Lane Center for the American West, Stanford University, 2019-2024.

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 Susan Scott Parrish, University of Michigan, 2019.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Participant, Teaching Social Action Institute, Teaching Social Action Initiative, 2024.

Participant, Diversity and Inclusive Teaching Seminar, University of Michigan, 2022.

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

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Western Literature Association
Association for Asian American Studies

LANGUAGES

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