

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Sumita S. Chakravarty

### Office Address:

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### **PRESENT POSITION:**

Associate Professor of Media Studies, The New School

### **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:**

2005- present	Associate Professor of Media Studies
2000- 2008	Chair, Culture and Media, Eugene Lang College
1991- 2000	Core Faculty, Media Studies and Film
1993 -1999	Faculty Member, Graduate Faculty of Political and Social Science
1999 -2000	Adjunct Faculty, SCPS, New York University
1988 -1991	Faculty Member, Vera List Center, The New School
1977 -1980	Teaching Assistant, Dept. of English, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
1974-1977	Lecturer (tenure-track) in English, Lucknow University, India

### **EDUCATION:**

Ph.D. Communications (1987), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.  
Dissertation topic: "Identity and Authenticity: Nationhood and the Popular  
Indian Cinema, 1947-1962."

Areas of Specialization: Media Theory/History/Criticism  
Cultural Studies  
Film Theory and Criticism  
Third World Cinema  
Visual Cultures  
Globalization, Comparative Media Studies

M.A. English Literature (1979), University of Illinois.

Ph.D. English (1974), Lucknow University, India.

M.A. English (1971), Lucknow University, India.

B.A. English, Political Science, Mathematics (1969), Isabella Thoburn

College, Lucknow, India.

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

### **i. Books**

*National Identity in Indian Popular Cinema, 1947-1987*. University of Texas Press, 1993;  
New Delhi: OUP, 1996.

*The Enemy Within: The Films of Mrinal Sen*. Ed. London: Flicks Books, 2000.

### **ii. Book Chapters/ Special Issues**

“Cultural Studies Legacies: Visiting James Carey’s Border Country.” Invited submission for commemorative issue of *Cultural Studies/Critical Methodologies* (2008), forthcoming.

“Some Thoughts on Teaching Bollywood Cinema.” Invited essay for ‘In Focus’ section of *Cinema Journal* (Fall 2007).

“Globalization and Media” editor of special issue of *Immediacy*, an online journal of the Media Studies program, Spring 2005.

“Fragmenting the Nation: Images of Terrorism in Indian Popular Cinema” in *Cinema and Nation: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Nationalism and National Identity*, eds. Mette Hjort and Scott MacKenzie (London: Routledge, 2000).  
Included in *Terrorism, Media, Liberation*, ed. David Slocum (Rutgers University Press, 2005).

“The Erotics of History: Gender and Transgression in New Asian Cinemas” in *Rethinking Third World Cinema*, eds. Anthony Guneratne and Wimal Dissanayake (London: Routledge, 2003).

“Can the Subaltern Weep?: Mourning as Metaphor in *Rudaali* (The Crier)” in *Redirecting the Gaze: Gender, Theory and Cinema in the Third World*, eds. Diana Robin and Ira Jaffe (New York: SUNY Press, 1999).

### **iii. Articles**

"Communications and Community in the Global Era: Revisiting Raymond Williams" (in preparation for *Cultural Politics*).

"Colonialism's Other Face: The Reception of Visual Technologies in India, 1850-1930" (in preparation for *Critical Studies in Media Communication*).

“Crossings” in [www.theblowup.com](http://www.theblowup.com). 2002.

“A Conversation with Meaghan Morris,” *Interstices*, 2:1 (Spring 1994).

“National Identity and the Realist Aesthetic: Indian Cinema of the Fifties,” *Quarterly Review of Film and Video*, 2:3 (1989), 31-48.

“A Report on the Third World Cinema Conference at Hunter College, NYC,” *Quarterly Review of Film Studies*, 8:3 (Summer 1983), 86-87.

“An Interview with Mrinal Sen,” *Cine-Tracts*, 4:2/3 (Summer/Fall 1981), 278-32.

#### **iv. Book Reviews**

Encyclopedia of Indian Cinema by Ashish Rajadhyaksha and Paul Willemen (London: BFI, 1995) in *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television* (June, 1996).

The Intimate Enemy: Loss and Recovery of Self under Colonialism by Ashis Nandy (Delhi: OUP, 1983) in *South Asia Bulletin*, 5:2 (Spring 1985), 46-47.

#### **v. Encyclopedia Entries**

“Globalization” in *Encyclopedia of Media and Communication*, 3 volumes. Edited by Marcel Danesi and Peter Mavrikis. NY; M.E. Sharpe, 2007 (in preparation).

“Mani Kaul” in *World Film Directors*. New York: H.W. Wilson Company, 1985.

#### **vi. Other Writings**

“Structuralism and Semiotics in Film Theory: A Critique of Will Wright and Christian Metz.” Unpublished paper.

“An Investigation of the Role of Communications Technologies in Theories of Imperialism.” Unpublished paper.

“Exploring the Mythology of Cookbooks: A Barthesian Analysis.” Unpublished paper.

#### **INVITED EXTERNAL REVIEWER:**

Pomona College Media Studies Program Review (one of three external reviewers invited for on-campus visit), Feb. 9-11, 2005.

#### **INVITED TALKS/ LECTURES/ DISCUSSIONS:**

April 17, 2008: The New India Seminar at Temple University. I was one of three panelists in a book discussion on *Global Bollywood: Transnational Travels of the Song-Dance Sequence* (University of Minnesota Press, 2008).

April 16, 2008 : I was invited to speak at a conference entitled, “Hotspots: Key issues in Contemporary Globalization,” at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. (Declined due to scheduling conflict.)

May 2007: History Conference at Smithtown High School, Smithtown, NY. I spoke on the topic: portrayals of the environment in cinema and television.

April, 2006: Conference on Indian Cinema, Dept. of Cinema Studies, New York University.

Sept 2001: "Global Hollywood" conference sponsored by the German Historical Institute in Victoria, Canada.

Paper presented: "Hollywood in Bollywood: Reflections on the Global Imagination."

December 2000: Harvard University

Paper presented: "Fragmenting the Nation: Mani Ratnam's 'terrorism trilogy.'"

May 1998: "Visualizing Eros" conference hosted by University of California at Irvine.

Paper presented: "The Erotics of Nationalism."

April 1998: "Bollywood Unlimited: The Globalization of Indian Cinema" conference hosted by University of Iowa

Keynote Paper: "Bollywood and/in the Global Imagination."

July 25, 1996: Nanyang Technological Institute, Singapore

Title of talk: "Cultural Studies in America."

July 24, 1996: National University of Singapore

Title of talk: "Imperso-nation and the Making of Culture."

May 1996: Princeton University

Participated in "History, Politics, Culture: An Interdisciplinary Workshop."

November 14, 1995: Randolph-Macon Woman's College, Virginia

Title of talk: "Gender and Nation."

October 6, 1995: Center for Twentieth Century Studies, University of Wisconsin

-Milwaukee Invited Lectures

Title of talk: "The Erotics of History: Representing the Third World (as) Body in Film and Literature."

March 13, 1995: UC-Santa Barbara Film Studies Program

"The Angel of Progress": Gender and Historical Vision in Third World Film."

March 1, 1995: Atkinson College, York University, Toronto

Title of talk: "Hybrid Identities and the National Imaginary."

February 17, 1995: International Cinema Lecture Series, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque

Title of talk: "India's New Cinema."

April 1994: Panel discussion on South Asian Cinema at the University of Pennsylvania, South Asian Regional Studies.

October 1991: Summer Teaching Institute on Third World Cinema, New York University, Cinema Studies.

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:**

Society for Cinema and Media Studies annual conference, Philadelphia, March 2008. Paper presented: "Crafting the Transnational: Accident and Design in Mira Nair's *The Namesake*."

Panel Organizer at Sixth International Crossroads in Cultural Studies conference, Istanbul, Turkey, July 20-23, 2006. Panel: "Cinema and Transnationalism."

Second Global conference on 'The Erotic: Critical Issues.' Budapest, Hungary. May 9-11, 2005. Paper presented: "Erotics of the Visual: Photography and Social Change in Egypt and India."

Fifth International Crossroads in Cultural Studies conference, June 25-28, 2004. Paper presented: "Communications and Community in the Global Era: Revisiting Raymond Williams."

New York State Communication Association annual meeting, Oct 25-27, 2002. Coordinator of panel on "Globalization and Media."

International Communication Association conference held in Sydney, Australia, July 1994. Paper presented: "The Erotics of Emancipation: Deploying the Female Body in Filmic Space-Time."

International Communication Association conference held in Montreal, Canada, May 1987. Topic: "National Identity and Culture: a Third World Perspective."

### **MEDIA INTERVIEWS:**

Interviewed by video journalist Karrin Ellertson for Associated Press website on the topic of virtual communities and their impact on real communities.

Interviewed by Carolina Larrain on cinema and national identity for the Chilean website [lafuga.cl](http://lafuga.cl) and [cinemattraction.com](http://cinemattraction.com).

Interviewed by BBC-Radio for a show entitled, "The Empire and the Postcolonial World," part of a series celebrating 100 years of cinema, November 1995.

Invited guest on the show “World Communication,” BCTV Center, Brooklyn, New York.  
Panel discussion on “The Disney Mystique.” Aired on PBS stations in April 1995.

### **TENURE REVIEWS /EDITORIAL WORK/CONSULTANCIES:**

Member of Fulbright National Screening Committee, 2009-2010

Outsider reader for tenure committee at:

University of Michigan School of Art and Design, 2007;  
Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University, 2005;  
University of Washington, 2004;  
Utah State University, 1999.

Review of book proposal for Indiana University Press (Oct 2002).

Review of book proposal, *Shoemith: Cambridge Guide to Asian Cinema*, Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Reviewed several book proposals for Routledge, Chapman and Hall ( 1993, 2000, 2001).  
Reviewed book proposal for Westview Press (1995).

Consultant in a day long meeting for a new series on multiculturalism with PBS, Minnesota in August 1991.

Served on the editorial board of the journal *Critical Studies in Mass Communication and International Communication* Association Philcom division.

### **SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:**

Organized and led the first study abroad program for Culture and Media, Lang College in Bangalore, India (July-August 2007; June-July 2008). Currently, negotiations are underway to establish a partnership between Lang College and Christ College in Bangalore for semester-long study for undergraduates in both institutions.

Faculty organizer (with Paolo Carpi gnano) of student-run conference, “Critical Themes in Media Studies,” 2000, 2001. Respondent, 2000-2004.

Founder and Coordinator of the Project in Global Cultural Studies (PGCS), Dept. of Communication, the New School for Social Research, 1993.

Founding editor of *Interstices* (1993-4), a publication of PGCS (discontinued).

Organized the Paulo Freire Seminar at the New School Dept. of Communication. Topic: “Extension or Communication Revisited: Implications of Foreign Thought for Communication Theory,” December 1991.

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE (at The New School):**

Chair, Search Committee for hire in Culture and Media, 2007-08.  
Chair, Faculty Review Committee, 2007.  
Fulbright Committee, 2006-07, 07-08.  
Member of Provost's Interdivisional Media Bridge Committee, 2004-2007.  
Member of NS Honorary Degree Committee, 2002-2007.  
Member of Committee on Gender Studies, 2003-04.  
Member of South Asia Forum, 2005- .  
Mentoring graduate Media Studies students for a special issue of *Immediacy*, Spring 2005.  
Member of Lang College IRT Steering Committee, 2004-05.  
Chair, Freshman media course planning committee, 2004-2005.  
Member of Provost's Committee on Integrated Curriculum Undergraduate Honor's Program, 2002-03.  
Chair of Search Committee for faculty hiring in Cultural Studies and Media, Lang College, 2002-03.  
Chair, Theory Courses Review Committee, Media Studies Program, 2002-04.  
Member of Committee to oversee Ph.D. track in Sociology of Media, 2002-03.  
Search Committee for Core Faculty, Media Studies Program, 2002.  
Lang College Outcomes Assessment Committee, 2002.  
Lang College Executive Committee/Chairs Council, 2000-2007.  
Lang College Curriculum Committee, 2000-2005.  
Collaboration between Adult Division and Lang College in Media Studies, 2001-2007.  
Hiring and mentoring of instructors in CS, Lang College, 2000-  
Lang College Reappointment Review Committee, 2000.  
Media Studies Curriculum Review Committee, 1995-96.  
Search Committee for Writer-in-Residence, Lang College, 1993.  
Search Committee for Chair, Dept. of Communication, 1994.  
The President's Advisory Committee, 1992-94.  
The University Diversity Committee, 1991-94.

## **AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS:**

-Lang Faculty Development Grant, Spring 2004, Spring 2005.  
-Social Science Research Council Advanced Research Grant, 1996-97.  
-Selected for on-line training for instructors in the New School's DIAL (distanced learning) program, part of the US department of Education's Fund for the improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSC), 1996.  
-University Faculty Fellow for the New School Seminar on "Framing Knowledge" held yearlong in 1996.  
-Faculty Development Grant, The New School, Fall 1993, Spring 1994.  
-American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Research Fellowship, 1983-84.

- University of Illinois Graduate Fellowship, 1980-82.
- Government of India Research Fellowship, 1971-74.
- Lucknow University Scholarship, 1970-71.
- Two gold medals for standing first in the M.A. (English) examination, Lucknow University, 1970, 1971.
- Sarah Chakko Fellowship, Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow, 1969.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:**

International Communication Association  
 Association for Cultural Studies  
 Society for Cinema and Media Studies

**TEACHING AND ADVISING:**

Courses Designed and Taught: Graduate (1991- present)

- Immediacy: Designing and Editing an Online Media Journal
- Foundations of Media Theory
- Research Methods in Media Studies
- Woman as Signifier
- The Mass Culture Debate
- Introduction to Cultural Studies
- Television and Desire
- East Meets West: The Cinema of Satyajit Ray
- Indian Cinema: History and Theory (taught at NYU)
- Asian Cinemas
- Third World Cinema
- Understanding the Visual: Looking in/at Culture
- The Question of 'the Other': Human Diversity in Multicultural Perspective
- The Erotic Imagination: Issues in Gender and Representation Across Cultures
- Globalization and Media
- Cinema and the Erotic Imagination

Courses Designed and Taught: Undergraduate:

- Media and Immigration (Spring 2009)
- Introduction to Cultural Studies, (every Spring from 2000 - 2005)
- Critical Perspectives on Media (Spring 01)
- Introduction to Media Studies (every Fall since 2002)
- Asian Cinemas (Fall 2006)
- Indian Media and National Culture (summer 2007)

Director, Master's Theses: 25 completed (May 2007)

Sampling of Topics supervised:

Coverage of Women's Issues in the *New York Times*  
 Money as a Medium of Communication  
 Feminism and Cultural Reception of *Thelma and Louise*  
 Spike Lee: The Artist vs. the Leader  
 Ethnicity in the *New Yorker* Cartoon

National Identity and Post-war German Cinema  
Press Freedom in Post New-Order Indonesia: A Political History  
Scripting Diaspora: British Pakistani Dynamics in the Films of Hanif Kureishi.  
Cultural Geography of the Latina Woman in Film  
The Cell Phone as Cultural Technology

Served on doctoral dissertation committees at the New School for Social Research:  
The Art of Tattoo: From Outsider Culture to Institutionalization  
Globalization and Cultural Identity