

## DEBOTRI DHAR, PH.D

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### RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Feminist theories; South Asian Studies; India; Transnational feminisms; Women's writing, esp. fiction; Culture; Rights; Nationalisms; Sexual violence and the state; Post-colonialism; Gender, race and representation; Literature and politics; Women and religion; Thanatopolitics; Bodies; Gender and education; Critical/Feminist pedagogies; Love; Epistemology; Cultural Studies; Interdisciplinary research methods

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### EDUCATION

2013: Ph.D. in Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University, USA

**Dissertation** Between *Samskaras* and *Adhikaras*: Rape, Suicide and the State in Contemporary India

2006: Masters in Women's Studies, University of Oxford, UK (Distinction)

**Dissertation** Another Bondage: Women, Education, and Empowerment

**Theory Paper** Colonial 'Homes,' Postcolonial Homelessness: Literary Fiction as a Site for Postcolonial Feminist Reconstruction

2002: Bachelors (Honors), University of Delhi, India

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### PREVIOUS POSITIONS HELD

2014-15 Visiting Assistant Professor in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies  
College of Wooster, Kauke Hall, 400 E. University Street, Wooster, Ohio 44691

2013-14 Lecturer, Women's & Gender Studies  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 162 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
&  
Postdoctoral Visiting Scholar, Women's & Gender Studies  
Boston University, 704 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 101, Boston, MA 02215

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**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- *Violence, Knowledge and the Female Body: Interrogating Rape Narratives in Contemporary India* (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Center for the Education of Women, 2016), forthcoming.
- Debotri Dhar, ed. *Love: Critical Essays* (New Delhi: Speaking Tiger Books, 2016), forthcoming.
- *Education in South Asia and the Indian Ocean Islands* (Co-ed. with Hema Lachamanan, University of Cambridge) (London/NY/New Delhi: Bloomsbury Academic, 2016).
- “India’s Daughters”: Women’s Issues since Independence,’ in the *German Journal of World History*, guest issue on India ed. Gita Dharampal-Frick, fall 2015. (Trans. German.)
- Debotri Dhar, ed. *Education and Gender* (London/NY: Bloomsbury Academic, 2014).
- ‘Teaching for the Future: Feminist Pedagogy and Humanitarian Education,’ in Debotri Dhar, ed. *Education and Gender* (London/NY: Bloomsbury Academic, 2014), 157-174.
- ‘Women, Homes, Histories: Main Trends in Modern Indian Literary Fiction,’ in Saurabh Dube and Ishita Banerjee eds. *India: Histories of the Present, Istor 59*, Dec 2014. (Trans. Spanish.)
- ‘Recuperating Postcolonial Shame: Self, Sovereignty and the Indic (Imagi)Nation.’ Review article. *Dialog* No. 25 (Spring 2014), 138-144.
- ‘Sarita’s Suicide: Rape, Gendered Citizenship, and the Politics of Compassion in India.’ Completed peer-review by the *Frontiers Journal of Women’s Studies*. In revision.
- ‘Mad Adulteress, Moral Wife: Sex, Sin and Psychiatry in Aparna Sen’s *Parama*,’ in *Portrayal of Women in Media and Literature*, eds. Nawale, Vashist and Roy (New Delhi: Authorspress, 2013).
- ‘Radha’s Revenge: Feminist Agency, Postcoloniality and the Politics of Desire in Anita Nair’s *Mistress*,’ *Postcolonial Text*, Vol 7, No 4 (2012).
- ‘The Class Dimensions of Rape in India,’ in Ranjay Vardhan and Manoj Kumar eds. *Indian Women: Issues and Perspectives* (Delhi: Indian Publishers, 2012), 180-199.
- ‘Cultures in/and the Classroom: Pedagogy, Sexual Violence and ‘South Asianness’ in the United States’ (New Brunswick: Manavi, 2011). Office on Violence against Women, U.S. Dept. of Justice.

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**COURSES TAUGHT**

- Feminist Theory
  - South Asian Gender Studies
  - Introduction to Social Justice: Literature and Politics
  - Sexual Violence and the State: Global Perspectives
  - Women, Culture, Society
  - Doing Feminist Research: Theory and practice
  - Gender and Representation: Narratives of the Nation-State
  - Introduction to Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies
  - Knowledge & Power: Issues in Women’s Leadership
  - The Gendered Body
  - Gender and Bollywood
  - Transnational Feminisms (cross-listed with Religious Studies)
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**SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS, SEMINARS, LECTURES, AND PUBLIC TALKS**

- Dec 8, 2015: 'Feminist Pedagogy and Humanitarian Education.' Department of Education Studies, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. Invited colloquium talk.
- Nov 17, 2015: 'Conversions: (Re)Writing Women and the Politics of Religion in India.' Institute for the Humanities talk, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.
- Feb 12, 2015: 'What's God(ess) Got to Do with It?: A Conversation Between Comparative Religion and Transnational Feminist Praxis.' College of Wooster lecture.
- August 26-27, 2014: Exploratory seminar on Gender Violence and Education Reform, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University. Invited presentation.
- April 9, 2014: 'Women's Sexuality and the Indian State,' University of Pennsylvania. Course on Women and Conflict: Sexuality, Terrorism and Human Rights. Invited lecture.
- November 15, 2013, Massachusetts: 'Of Pitfalls and Possibilities: Feminist Transnational Anti-rape Organizing Across Difference' (Public talk co-sponsored by Boston and Brandeis Universities)
- March 7, 2013, NJ: 'Bollywood: Cultivating Social Change through Arts and Media,' East Brunswick Public Library and New Jersey Council for the Humanities. Public Talk.
- April 8, 2012, NJ: 'Sexualities in South Asia,' Salaam Namaste Indo-Pakistan Conference
- April 9-10, 2011: 'Beyond the Binary: Rape, Suicide and the Contemporary Indian State' Modern South Asia Conference, Yale University, USA.
- Dec 13, 2011: 'Death, Masculinity and the Nation in the writings of Rabindranath Tagore' Graduate Colloquium on Gender and Sexuality, Princeton University, USA.
- November 9-11, 2010: 'Positivism, Postmodernism and Pedagogy: Teaching Texts on Indian Culture in the U.S.' Theory at Work: Text, History and Culture Conference, BHU Dept. of English, in collaboration with Sahitya Academy and ICSSR, India.
- March 5-7, 2010: Love, Feminist Agency and the Nation in Anita Nair's *Mistress*' Modern Languages and Literatures Graduate Conference, University of Miami, USA.
- March 31, 2009, NJ: 'Gender and Hinduism,' Busch Campus Center, Rutgers University. Public talk.

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**SELECTED AWARDS, HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS AND DISTINCTIONS**

- 2014-15: Jean Campbell Visiting Scholar, CEW, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
  - 2013-14: Gillespie Visiting Scholar, College of Wooster
  - 2012-13: Scholar-Teacher in Women's & Gender Studies, Rutgers University
  - 2012: Linda Rothman Award for Outstanding Teaching in Women's & Gender Studies
  - 2010-11: Excellence Fellowship, Rutgers University
  - 2009: South Asian Studies Research Award, Rutgers South Asian Studies Program
  - 2008-09: Institute for Research on Women (IRW) Graduate Fellowship ('Culture of Rights / Rights of Culture'), Rutgers University
  - 2006: Distinction in Women's Studies, Oxford University
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**ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP****LITERATURE AND CREATIVE WRITING**

- *The Courtesans of Karim Street* (New Delhi, Niyogi Books, 2015). Novel.
- *Postcards from Oxford: Stories of Women and Travel* (London: Roman, 2013). Short story collection.
- Short fiction published in *The Copperfield Review; Staccato Fiction; River Poets Journal; Step Away Magazine; Asia Writes; Muse India; Cerebration; Fickle Muses, Everyday Fiction* and elsewhere.
- Columnist and contributor for *The Sunday Guardian* and other publications.
- Editor, *Kitaab*, Journal for South Asian Writing in English.

**SOCIAL JUSTICE**

- Gender Coordinator at Gram Vikas, rural development NGO in Orissa (2006); grassroots initiatives.
  - Scholar-activist collaborations with Manavi, South Asian Women's rights NGO, New Jersey.
  - Public talks on topics such as women and religion; LGBTQ rights; Gender violence and education reform; Transnational feminist praxis; and other instances of engaged scholarship previously noted.
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**MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

- National Women's Studies Association
  - American Association of University Women
  - American Academy of Religion
  - The Association for Asian Studies
  - South Asian Literary Association
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**REFERENCES**

- Dr. M. Josephine Diamond, Professor Emerita, Rutgers University, USA  
Women's & Gender Studies & Comparative Literature  
99, Reade Street, apt. 2E, New York 1001 (Res.) Ph. +1 212-571-9120  
Email: [mariejdiamond@yahoo.com](mailto:mariejdiamond@yahoo.com)
- Dr. Colin Brock, Honorary Professor, University of Durham, UK  
(Formerly, Senior Research Fellow in Comparative Education and UNESCO Chair in Education as a Humanitarian Response, Department of Education, University of Oxford, UK)  
27 South Street, Cottingham, East Yorkshire HU16 4AH  
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Other references available upon request.

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