

## **SAMADRITA KUITI**

PhD Candidate  
Office: Department of English.  
University of Connecticut.  
215 Glenbrook Road. U-4025.  
Storrs, CT 06269.  
Austin 153.

Home: 345 Buckland Hills Dr.  
Apt 12134.  
Manchester, CT 06042.  
Phone: 860-455-5441.  
Email: [samadrita.kuiti@uconn.edu](mailto:samadrita.kuiti@uconn.edu)  
Personal website: <https://samadritakuiti.com/>

## **EDUCATION**

**PhD**, English, University of Connecticut, expected May 2023 | Dissertation title - “Spacetimes of Hope: Feminist & Queer Utopias in Postcolonial Literatures (1905 - present)” | Committee: Eleni Coundouriotis (chair), Bhakti Shringarpure, Pamela Bedore | **Feminist Studies Graduate Certificate**

**M.A.**, First-Class Honors, English (with a specialization in 20<sup>th</sup> century American Literatures), Indira Gandhi National Open University (India), 2016

**B.Tech**, Computer Science & Engineering, West Bengal University of Technology (India), 2011

**Dissertation Abstract:** My dissertation entitled “SpaceTimes of Hope: Feminist and Queer Utopias in Anglophone Postcolonial Literatures (1905-Present)” theorizes a politics of the future for gendered and queered subjects within postcolonial societies in Africa & South Asia. I use the frameworks of “utopia” and “utopianism” to unpack feminist and queer re-articulations of the idea of nation. The dissertation adds to the ongoing conversation on decolonizing the Anglo-American framework of utopian studies and uses utopianism as a paradigm to locate (both in space and time) postcolonial “others”. By postcolonial “others”, I specifically refer to the victims of gender, religion, caste, sexuality-based oppressions, neo-colonial capitalist exploitation and their diverse intersections both during the time of and beyond the colonial period in the nations of South Africa, Nigeria, Namibia, & India. De-centering the focus on male-centric postcolonial narratives that foreground the experiences of archetypal son-of-the-soil figures, this study analyzes an archive of fiction by women writers such as Buchi Emecheta, Nadine Gordimer, Nnedi Okorafor, Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain, Manjula Padmanabhan, & Arundhati Roy aside from secondary texts such as photojournalistic work, video commercials, and full-length feature films (such as *Matrubhoomi*) among others. I organize my project around select historical events in colonial India such as the Indigo Rebellion (1859), the rise of aggressive Hindu nationalism in *fin-de-siècle* British India and its consequences, as well as chart the landscapes on contemporary trans and queer rights activisms in India and Nigeria.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

- “Decolonizing the Feminist Utopia: Interfaith Sisterhood and Anticolonial Feminist Resistance in Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain’s *Sultana’s Dream* and *Padmarag*.” *Utopian Studies*, vol. 33, no. 2, 2022, pp. 240–56, <https://doi.org/10.5325/utopianstudies.33.2.0240>.
- ““Mother-Warriors”: Queer Motherhood as Resistance in Arundhati Roy’s *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*.” *South Asian Review*, vol. 42, no. 3, 2021, pp. 250-264, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02759527.2020.1863737>

### Currently under review

- “Anticipating the Afrotopia: Queer Monsters & Utopian Futurities in Nnedi Okorafor’s *Lagoon*” (*Research in African Literatures*)

### Creative Writing, Reviews, & Other Public-Facing Work

- “Flowers”. *Flash Fiction Magazine*, 31 July 2021. <https://flashfictionmagazine.com/blog/2021/07/31/flowers-2/>
- "Assessing Learner Needs, Maintaining Instructor Presence, & Building Community in Asynchronous Courses." Edited by Kristi Kaepfel. *Graduate Certificate in College Instruction*, 28 December 2020. <https://gcci.uconn.edu/2020/12/28/assessing-learner-needs-maintaining-instructor-presence-building-community-in-asynchronous-courses/>
- "Caught between closing borders: International Graduate Students in a Global Pandemic". Edited by Didem Uca. *MLA Grads Blog*, 13 May 2020. <https://mlagrads.mla.hcommons.org/2020/05/13/grad-studies-in-coronavirus-post-4/>.
- "Queer, Digital, Indian, Neoliberal?" Review of *Queering Digital India: Activisms, Identities, Subjectivities* edited by Rohit K. Dasgupta & Debanuj DasGupta. *Warscapes*, 9 September 2019. <http://www.warscapes.com/reviews/queer-digital-indian-neoliberal>.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT - Instructor of Record (2016-present)

*I was the sole instructor for the following courses and was responsible for syllabus design, course materials, and assignment architecture at the University of Connecticut.*

- **ENGL 1010:** Seminar in Academic Writing (Fall 2016 & Spring 2017) - General Education Course | 48 students
- **ENGL 1011:** Seminar in Writing Through Literatures (Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019 & Fall 2019) - General Education Course | 120 students
- **ENGL 2301W** (4 sections): Anglophone Literatures (Spring 2020 & Fall 2021) | 76

students

- **ENGL 1007** (7 sections): Seminar in Writing & Multimodal Composition (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022) - General Education Course | 128 students
- Upcoming Courses: **WGSS 3253 (2 sections)**: Gender Representations in US Popular Culture (Spring 2023) - WGSS elective | 38 students

### **UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT - GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT (Fall 2022)**

*I served as a teaching assistant for the following courses with a different primary instructor who was in charge of syllabus design, course materials, & assignment architecture.*

- **WGSS 1104**: Feminisms & the Arts (4 discussion sections with 25 students each - sec 001D, 002D, 009D, 010D) - General Education Course/WGSS Elective

### **GRANTS, AWARDS, & HONORS**

- **2022** NeMLA Graduate Communications Fellowship; \$2000
- **2022** Wood/Raith Summer Graduate Fellowship (awarded by the Wood-Raith Living Trust competitively across departments at UConn for research on gender & sexuality studies); \$4000
- **2022** UConn WGSS Susan Porter Benson Graduate Research Paper Award; \$250
- **2022** NeMLA Women's & Gender Studies Caucus Essay Award; \$100
- **2021** Conference Participation Award (\$1000). The Graduate School, University of Connecticut.
- **2021** Dr. Radenka Maric Graduate Fellowship Runner-Up (Awarded by the Graduate School at UConn competitively); \$1000
- **2021** Aetna Chair Graduate Critical Writing Award (awarded by the Aetna Life and Casualty Foundation's Aetna Endowment & UConn Writing Programs); \$500
- **Fall 2020** Provost's Commendation for Excellence in Teaching
- **Spring 2020** Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (awarded by the Graduate School at UConn); \$2000
- **2019** Wood/Raith Summer Graduate Fellowship (awarded by the Wood-Raith Living Trust competitively across departments at UConn for research on gender & sexuality studies); \$4000
- **2019** Nicole LaRose Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant (awarded by the Society for Utopian Studies on a competitive basis); \$500
- **2019** Predoctoral Dissertation Fellowship (awarded by the Graduate School & the English Department); \$2450
- **2019** NeMLA Graduate Student Caucus Conference Travel Award (awarded by the Northeast Modern Language Association's Graduate Student Caucus on a competitive basis); \$250

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE & OTHER APPOINTMENTS**

### **NORTHEAST MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION (NeMLA) - Graduate Communications Fellow (June 2022- Present)**

- Maintained official NeMLA social media handles on Twitter, Facebook, & Instagram
- Created interactive digital content like posters, infographics with information on upcoming NeMLA events as well as posting CFAs and CFPs for the upcoming annual NeMLA convention in March, 2023
- Coordinated with the NeMLA Executive Director, board members, and other graduate fellows to create and circulate social media updates about upcoming events geared toward NeMLA 2023

### **NORTHEAST MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION (NeMLA) - Graduate Student Caucus (GSC) Communications Director (April 2020 - Present)**

- Proposed, planned, coordinated GSC-sponsored panels at the annual NeMLA convention in 2021
- Organized & led informal networking events for graduate students at the annual NeMLA convention in 2021
- Amplified news about academic job postings, graduate student concerns across GSC social media channels
- Created interactive digital content like posters, infographics with information on upcoming GSC application deadlines & other opportunities
- Enhanced user accessibility by redesigning pages of the GSC Wordpress website

### **MENTEE Global (NGO) - Global Mentor (April 2021 - Present)**

- Helped vulnerable students from various underrepresented backgrounds in countries from South Asia & Africa take charge of their professional trajectories
- Advised second-language learners on best practices to improve their English proficiency and conducting research involving human subjects
- Advised 3 female students in one-on-one online meetings on resolving the discord between their personal lives & professional trajectories

### **UCONN CENTER FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT - Member of the Graduate Student Career Council (GSCC) (August 2019-May 2021)**

- Proposed, planned, co-hosted panels & discussions on grad student professionalization directed at the university's graduate student body at large
- Served as liaison between the UConn EGSA & the GSCC
- Revamped the GSCC's "Graduate Student Intern of the Year Award" format & eligibility criteria along with other GSCC stakeholders to make it more equitable

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE of the UCONN ENGLISH GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (EGSA) - Chair** (August 2020-May 2021)

- Created & moderated a UConn EGSA Discord server for English graduate students to use as an informal networking tool during the height of the pandemic
- Organized & hosted virtual roundtables, workshops on alternative career trajectories outside of academia especially for humanities graduate students

**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT - UConn Human Rights Institute Summer Intern** (May 2018-August 2018)

- Copy-edited 3 academic articles at the intersection of divinity studies & Kurdish gender studies (consisting of 60 pages) for visiting scholar Dr. Dilsa Deniz
- Edited a proposal for Dr. Deniz's forthcoming book that was accepted by the academic publisher Lexington Books in 2018.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- "Afrofutures of the Past: Women's Utopian Dreams in Buchi Emecheta's *The Rape of Shavi* and Nadine Gordimer's *A Sport of Nature*." American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Annual Convention. Online, 16 June **2022**.
- "Afrofuturist Dystopias: Anticipating the Postcolonial Queer Utopia in Nnedi Okorafor's *Lagoon*." Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA). Online, 11 Mar. **2021**.
- "Queer Space as Utopia: Queer kinship and Community in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*." Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA). Boston, Massachusetts, 5 Mar. **2020**.
- "Feminist Utopian Longing: Interfaith Sisterhood and Anticolonial Resistance in Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain's *Sultana's Dream & Padmarag*". The Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference (SUS). East Lansing, Michigan, 19 October **2019**.
- "Confessions of an Unlikely Murderess: Flawed Motherhood in Nayomi Munaweera's *What Lies Between Us*." Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA), Washington D.C., 24 March **2019**.

- “The Queering of Indian Motherhood as a Strategy of Resistance in Arundhati Roy’s *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*.” Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA), Pittsburgh, 12 April **2018**.
- “The Graveyard of Utmost Happiness: Resistance, Resilience, and a Requiem for the ‘Disappeared’ in Arundhati Roy’s *The Ministry of Utmost Happiness*.” South Asian Literary Association’s Annual Conference (SALA), New York, 8 Jan. **2018**.

### **OTHER CONFERENCE ACTIVITY**

- “Queer Utopias: Decolonizing Utopianism in Contemporary Literary Studies Part I & Part II.” Chair & Panel Organizer. Co-chair with Julia Brush. Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA), Online, 11 March **2021**.
- “Reimagining Transferable Skills: Professional Development in a Post-Covid World.” Chair & Roundtable Organizer. Co-chair with Saronik Bosu. Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA), Online, 11 March **2021**.

### **INVITED TALK**

- “Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain as Feminist Activist, Educator, & Writer”. Panelist on Baithak UK Arts’ “Utopia Across Cultures: South Asia, Britain, & Beyond” Event, Online (Facebook Live), 25 September 2022. <https://fb.watch/fQe9ppNDWT/>

### **LANGUAGES**

Bengali (reading & writing fluency)

Hindi (reading & writing proficiency)

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

Modern Language Association

Northeast Modern Language Association

Society for Utopian Studies

National Women’s Studies Association

American Comparative Literature Association

### **REFERENCES**

Dr. Eleni Coundouriotis, Professor of English, University of Connecticut.

[eleni.coundouriotis@uconn.edu](mailto:eleni.coundouriotis@uconn.edu)

Dr. Bhakti Shringarpure, Associate Professor of English, University of Connecticut.

[bhakti.shringarpure@uconn.edu](mailto:bhakti.shringarpure@uconn.edu)

Dr. Pamela Bedore, Associate Professor of English, University of Connecticut.  
[pamela.bedore@uconn.edu](mailto:pamela.bedore@uconn.edu)