NATASSJA B. GUNASENA

Curriculum Vitae

Program of International Studies
Trinity College
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EDUCATION

2019 **Ph.D, African and African Diaspora Studies**
Department of African and African Diaspora Studies
University of Texas Austin, Austin, TX, USA

Dissertation: "*All the Places Your Heart Lives*: *Afro/Asian Subjectivity and the Poetics of Diaspora"*

Committee: Randolph R. Lewis (chair), Sharmila Rudrappa, Sureshi Jayawardene, Jennifer M. Wilks, Minkah Makalani

2015 **M.A, African and African Diaspora Studies**
Department of African and African Diaspora Studies
University of Texas Austin, Austin, TX, USA

2011 **B.A. English and Women's and Gender Studies**
Department of English, Women's and Gender Studies Program
Minnesota State University, Moorhead, MN, USA

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2020-2021 Visiting Assistant Professor
Program of International Studies, Trinity College

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

2019 "*Something Like Kali and Durga Must've Rocked*: Sri Lankan Femininity and the Poetics of Diaspora" *Women's Studies Quarterly,* Special Issue: *Asian Diasporas.*

Book Chapters

2019 "A Handful of Mustard Seeds: Death, Community and Belonging Beyond the Neo-Liberal Academy", *A Love Letter to this Bridge Called my Back*, edited by Gloria J.

Wilson, Joni Boyd Acuff and Amelia M. Kraehe. Invited Submission. Forthcoming.

Online Publications

2020 *The Pitfalls of Fandom for Women of Color*, Contingent Magazine

2016 *Beyoncé as a Bollywood Star is Not Cultural Appropriation*, Time Magazine (co-authored)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION
Papers Presented

2020 "Cobra-Women: Sridevi, *Harry Potter* and Queer Afro/Asian Subcultures," Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Denver, CO, April [cancelled due to COVID-19]

2019 **"**Nagini's Dance: Cobra Affects, Crossplay and Women of Color Subcultures," *National Women's Studies Association Conference*, San Francisco, CA, November

2019 "Revisioning Orisha Religions, Death and the Neo-Liberal Academy", *44th Annual Caribbean Studies Association Conference*, Santa Marta, Colombia

2019 **"**To Freedom: Questioning and Queering the Undercommons", *Fugitive Futures: Graduate Students of Color Un-Settling the University,* The University of Texas, Austin, TX, March

2018 "A Handful of Mustard Seeds: Theorizing at the Intersection of Death, Violence and Academia", *National Women's Studies Association Conference*, Atlanta, GA, November

2013 "Nagini and Coatlicue: Tracing the Serpent in Diasporic Consciousness" *El Mundo Zurdo: An International Conference on the Life and Work of Gloria Anzaldúa*, University of Texas San Antonio, San Antonio, TX, November

2011 "Storytelling in the Internet Age: Digital Stories and the Intersections of Race, Gender and Social Media" *Red River Women's Studies Conference*, University of North Dakota, North Dakota, October

2011 "Museality and Resistance: The Museum Gaze in Academia" *Annual Women's Studies and LGBTQ Studies Conference, University of Wisconsin Madison*, Wisconsin, March

Invited Discussant

2020 "South Asian Women, Representation and Media," G*ender, Race and Global Pop Culture* Course, Trinity College [cancelled due to COVID-19]

2019 "Diasporic Materialities and Critique" Panel, WSQ *Asian Diasporas Special Issue Launch*, City University of New York, Manhattan, NY, October

2019` "Feminism as a Way of Diasporic Life" Roundtable, WSQ *Asian Diasporas Special Issue Launch*, City University of New York, Manhattan, NY, October

2018 "Inside the Ivory Tower: a Look at Diversity in Academy" Panel, *Students for Diversity and Equity*, University of Texas, Austin, TX, October

2018 "Black, Indigenous, Women of Color in Academia" Panel, *BIWOC Week*, University of Texas, Austin, TX, March

2015 "Dangerous Possibilities: Femme of Color Histories and the Erotics of Home", *Women's and Gender Studies Colloquium Series,* Minnesota State University Moorhead, MN, September

2012 "Activism and Advocacy": Panel, *National Education for Women (NEW) Leadership Institute*, Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, June

Organized Conferences and Symposia

2013-14 "Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies" Conference

2014-15 "Mapping the Afro-Imaginative: Black Queer Diaspora Studies and the Work of the Imagination" Symposium (co-organizer)

Campus Presentations

University of Texas Austin

2018 "Cleopatra Jones, Titus Andromedon and Queer Afro/Asianisms in Popular Culture", *University of Texas Austin American Studies Pecha Kucha*, October

2016 "Blackness, Queerness and the National Imaginary: Re-reading Sri Lanka's Sigiri Frescoes", *University of Texas Austin African and African Diaspora Studies Department Brown Bag Series*, March

2015 "Blue Flowers, Brown Water: Women's Waterscapes of New Orleans and Sri Lanka", *University of Texas Austin African and African Diaspora Studies Department Brown Bag Series*, March

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Under Review

2020 Semi Finalist, Research Grant
Fulbright Scholar Program, ($15,000)

Received

2020 Travel and Speaking Grant
Society for Cinema and Media Studies ($550)

2019 Travel and Speaking Grant
Asian American/ Asian Research Institute, City University of New York, ($250)

2019 Dissertation Fellowship
The Graduate School, The University of Texas Austin ($10,000)

2017 Summer Research Grant
African and African Diaspora Studies, The University of Texas Austin ($5,000)

2015 -16 Research Fellowship
African and African Diaspora Studies, The University of Texas Austin ($20,000)

2015 Summer Research Grant
African and African Diaspora Studies, The University of Texas Austin ($6,650)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

University of Texas Austin

2016-2018 Race, Immigration and Family, instructor of record, (Fall)
2017 Mixed Race Identities, instructor of record (Spring)
2017 Race, Law and US Society, teaching assistant (Spring)
2015 Beyoncé Feminism, Rihanna Womanism, teaching assistant (Spring)
2014 US Public Education: Promise or Peril, teaching assistant (Fall)
2013 The Face of Justice, teaching assistant (Fall)

Minnesota State University Moorhead

2019 Media and Diverse Identities, (Fall, online)

LANGUAGES

Sinhala, heritage

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Caribbean Studies Association
National Women's Studies Association
Southern Historical Association
American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies
Society for Cinema and Media Studies

REFERENCES

Randolph R. Lewis, Ph.D
Professor and Chair, Department of American Studies
University of Texas Austin, Austin, TX
Email: randolph.lewis@austin.utexas.edu
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Kali Gross, Ph.D
Professor, Department of History
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
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Sureshi Jayawardene, Ph.D
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San Diego State University, San Diego, CA
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