

AMRITA DHAR

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EMPLOYMENT

2018-present Assistant Professor of English, The Ohio State University

EDUCATION

2018 PhD in English Language and Literature, University of Michigan, USA
Dissertation: “Writing Sight and Blindness in Early Modern England”
Committee: Michael Schoenfeldt (Co-Chair), Valerie Traub (Co-Chair),
Theresa Tinkle, Linda Gregerson, Peggy McCracken (Cognate)

2009 MPhil in Renaissance English Literature, University of Cambridge, UK
Dissertation: “‘Light Denied’: Milton and His Blindness 1645-1656”
Supervisor: John Kerrigan

2006 MA in English Literature, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India

2004 BA in English Literature, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India

SCHOLARSHIP

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Early Modern English Literature
Shakespeare
Milton
Poetry and Poetics
Early Broadside Ballads
Disability Studies
World Mountaineering Literatures
Environmental Humanities
Digital Humanities

MONOGRAPHS

Milton's Blind Language (manuscript nearing completion)

A study of the workings of blindness towards the making of John Milton's poetic language in his years of approaching and complete loss of sight; the poetry examined includes Milton's psalm translations in his years of going blind, his later sonnets, and his last great poetic works, *Paradise Lost*, *Paradise Regained*, and *Samson Agonistes*.

PLANNED PROJECTS

Regarding Sight and Blindness in Early Modern English Literature (work in progress)

Tracing attitudes towards sight and blindness in the literature of the early modern period, with special attention to heretofore unexamined texts; primary sources for this study include canonical and marginal plays, remarkable and unremarkable poetry, broadside ballads, manuscript accounts of visual affliction and proposed remedies, printed and manuscript medicinal and culinary recipes, and religious and social tracts and sermons.

A Social History of Indian Mountaineering (work in progress)

An accessible account of Indian mountaineering, particularly Himalayan mountaineering, from its colonial "Golden Age" in the mid-twentieth century to the emerging models of the twenty-first; the social and historical investment of this work is in claiming space for mountaineers of the "non-traditional" kind—such as individuals at the intersections of less privileged genders, castes, social standing, financial reach, geography, and age—who have historically enlarged the scope of the sport but remain the least credited for this work.

ARTICLES

"When They Consider How Their Light Is Spent: On Intersectional Race and Disability Theories in the Classroom" in *Race in the European Renaissance: A Classroom Guide*, edited by Anna Wainwright and Matthieu Chapman (forthcoming from the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Press, 2020)

"Confessions of the Half-Caste, or Wheeling Strangers of Here and Everywhere" (forthcoming in *postmedieval*, 2019)

"Travel and Mountains" in *The Cambridge History of Travel Writing*, edited by Nandini Das and Tim Youngs (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019), pp. 345-360

"Toward Blind Language: John Milton Writing, 1648-1656," *Milton Studies* 60:1-2 (2018), pp. 75-107

"[Seeing Feelingly: Sight and Service in King Lear](#)" in *Disability, Health, and Happiness in the Shakespearean Body*, edited by Sujata Iyengar (New York: Routledge, 2015), pp. 76-92

“Food and Literature of the Himalayan Heights” in *The Writer’s Feast: Food and the Cultures of Representation*, edited by Supriya Chaudhuri and Rimi B. Chatterjee (New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, 2011), pp. 206-222

“Milton and His Created World” in *The Word and the World*, edited by Sukanya Dasgupta and Mangala Gauri Chakraborty (Kolkata: Loreto College, 2009), pp. 125-136

BOOK AND THEATRE REVIEWS

“*Early Modern Theatre and the Figure of Disability*, by Genevieve Love” (invited for and forthcoming in *Renaissance Quarterly*, 2019)

“*Monstrous Kinds: Body, Space, and Narrative in Renaissance Representations of Disability*, by Elizabeth Bearden” (invited for and forthcoming in *College Literature*, 2019)

“*Much Ado About Nothing* [by Silicon Valley Shakespeare]” (invited for and forthcoming in *Shakespeare Bulletin*, 2019)

“*Hamlet* [by Silicon Valley Shakespeare],” *Shakespeare Bulletin* 36:1 (2018), pp. 156-159

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND PODCASTS

“Gifts for a Girl: Women in Indian Mountaineering” (invited for and forthcoming in *Alpinist*, 2020)

“What Would a New Kind of Himalayan Mountaineering Narrative Look Like?” (invited for and forthcoming in *The Himalayan Journal*, 2020)

“On the Margins of Himalayan Mountaineering Archives,” *The Alpinist Podcast* (by invitation; recorded and forthcoming in 2019)

“[The Matter of History: Himalayan Mountaineering and Its Archives](#),” *The Himalayan Journal* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2016), pp. 26-40

“Two Walks in the Kishtwar” co-authored with Harish Kapadia, *The Himalayan Journal* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2015), pp. 135-150

“[The Unaccommodated: The Himalaya and the Makers of Their Literature](#),” *The Himalayan Journal* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2013), pp. 1-16

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

- April 2020 “Of Vision Multiplied through Air: The Poetic Work of Blindness in Milton’s *Paradise Regained*,” Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Philadelphia (confirmed; invited for a guaranteed session)
- April 2020 “Which Characters Enforce the Ideology of Ability in Shakespeare’s Plays, and Why?,” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Denver (confirmed)
- January 2020 “Towards Anti-Colonial Shakespeare Studies,” Modern Language Association Convention, Seattle (confirmed)
- April 2019 Respondent for “Disability and Its Intersections,” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Washington, D.C. (by invitation)
- April 2019 “The Future of Early Modern Disability Studies,” Society for Disability Studies Annual Meeting, The Ohio State University, Columbus
- January 2019 “Further(ing) Early Modern Disability Studies,” Early Modern Conversions Conference, McGill University, Montreal (by invitation)
- January 2019 “Look At Will Through Every Pore: Milton’s Fantasy of Bodily Vision,” Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago
- March 2018 “Milton’s Blind Verse in *Paradise Lost*,” Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans (panel organiser)
- March 2018 Discussant for “Teaching Race: A Roundtable,” Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans (by invitation)
- March 2018 “*Sushila-Birshingha*: Shakespeare Gone Local in Nineteenth-Century Bengal,” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Los Angeles
- November 2017 “Student as Knowledge-Maker: Digital Pedagogy in the Early Modern Classroom,” [Digital Pedagogies Lightning Talks and Workshop](#), Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan (by invitation)
- September 2017 “When the Personal is Political: Conversions in George Herbert’s Devotional Verse,” [The Politics of Conversion](#), Newberry Library, Chicago
- April 2017 “Playing the Crip: The Simpcox Affair in *2 Henry VI*,” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Atlanta
- March-April 2017 Discussant for “[Teaching Inclusivity through Early Modern English Literature: A Roundtable](#),” Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Chicago

- December 2016 “From Marrakesh to the Tower of London: A Case Study in Jesuit Sixteenth-Century Epistolary and Textual Culture,” with John Paul Hampstead, [Beyond Borders: Mutual Imaginings of Europe and the Middle East 800-1700](#), Barnard College, New York
- November 2016 “Distant Reading Blind Language?,” Early Modern Conversions Digital Humanities Workshop [How To Do Things With Millions of Words](#), Green College, University of British Columbia, Vancouver
- May 2016 “Hameter/Elcius: The Construction of a Jesuit Martyrology, 1580-2,” with John Paul Hampstead, [Early Modern Conversions Team Meeting](#), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
- March 2016 Respondent for “[Performing Disability on the Early Modern Stage](#),” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, New Orleans (by invitation)
- August 2015 “Mountaineering and Its Archives in India: The Present Past and the Present Future,” International Workshop on Digitization and Archiving, Jadavpur University, Kolkata
- July 2015 “Writing Blind,” [Eleventh International Milton Symposium](#), University of Exeter, Exeter
- May 2015 “The Pundits: High Knowledge across Peaks and Passes of the Himalaya in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries,” [Thinking Mountains Interdisciplinary Summit, Conference of the Canadian Mountain Studies Initiative](#), University of Alberta, Jasper
- April 2015 “The Ballads of Poor-Tom-ness,” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Vancouver
- April 2014 “The Safer Sense and the Case of Eyes: Lear and Gloucester at the Cliffs of Dover,” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, St Louis
- March 2013 “Sight and Service in *King Lear*,” Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Toronto
- June 2012 “Satan Travels to the New World: Milton and Empire,” Renaissance Old Worlds: English Encounters from the Levant to the Far East, British Library, London
- July 2011 “Robert Hooke’s Accommodation of Science to Text,” The Book in Art and Science, Nineteenth Annual Conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing, Washington, DC

INVITED TALKS

- July 2020 “Building the Archives that Reflect the Climbers: A Different Kind of Mountaineer and a Different Kind of Storytelling,” Institute of Slovenian Literature and Literary Studies, Ljubljana (confirmed)
- October 2018 “Climb like a Girl: The Intersections of Gender, Caste, Class, and Youth in a Social History of Mountaineering in India,” [Thinking Mountains Interdisciplinary Summit, Conference of the Canadian Mountain Studies Initiative](#), University of Alberta, Banff

SELECTED HONOURS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

- 2020 Renaissance Society of America Scholarship for the Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria (confirmed)
- 2017 Digital Humanities Summer Institute Scholarship, University of Victoria
- 2017 Data and Society Grant, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan
- 2017 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Travel Grant, Department of English, University of Michigan
- 2016 Research Travel Dissemination Award, SSHRC Early Modern Conversions Project, McGill University
- 2016 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (Candidacy), University of Michigan
- 2015 Institute for Research on Women and Gender Graduate Student Research Award, University of Michigan
- 2015-2016 Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Michigan (competitive fellowship; full support)
- 2014-2015 Rackham Humanities Research Fellowship, University of Michigan (competitive fellowship; full support)
- 2014 Rackham International Research Award, University of Michigan (competitive fellowship; summer support)
- 2013-2014 Barbour Scholarship, University of Michigan (competitive fellowship; full support)
- 2012 Lora Hutchins Heberle Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Critical Writing, Department of English, University of Michigan (competitive essay prize)

2012	Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (Pre-candidacy), University of Michigan
2011	M. Rick Smith Memorial Graduate Student Essay Prize, Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference, Michigan State University (competitive essay prize)
2008-2009	Kathleen Hannay Scholarship, Faculty of English, University of Cambridge (competitive fellowship; full support)
2009	Le Bas Graduate Student Essay Prize, University of Cambridge (competitive essay prize)
2008	Junior Research Fellowship, University Grants Commission, New Delhi (declined)

TEACHING

The Ohio State University at Newark

ENGLISH 4598 – Studying the Margins: Movements, Migrations, Memories (Winter 2020; Instructor of Record)

Advanced undergraduate seminar studying twenty-first century margins—national, political, social, cultural, religious, or even physical/physiological—through consideration of a broad range of contemporary literary works in a variety of genres; authors considered include Malik Sajad, Valeria Luiselli, Thi Bui, Marjane Satrapi, Amitav Ghosh, and Mohsin Hamid

ENGLISH 2220 – Introduction to Shakespeare (Winter 2020; Instructor of Record)

General education course, serving as a key conduit to the English Major, on Shakespeare’s life and works; meticulous attention to five major plays while discussing their relevance in our time: The Comedy of Errors, Measure for Measure, Othello, Macbeth, The Tempest

ENGLISH 4520 – Shakespeare’s Major Plays (Winter 2019; Instructor of Record)

Advanced undergraduate seminar towards in-depth literary critical evaluation of five of Shakespeare’s major plays, along with a select consideration of their afterlives; Richard III, The Merchant of Venice, Othello, King Lear, The Tempest

ENGLISH 3378 – Special Topics in Film and Literature: World Film Shakespeares (Winter 2019; Instructor of Record)

Advanced undergraduate lecture developing students’ close-reading skills of visual and verbal narrative through critical evaluation of film adaptations of seven Shakespearean comedies and tragedies; The Taming of the Shrew, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, The Tempest, Macbeth, Othello, Hamlet, King Lear

ENGLISH 4597 – The Disability Experience in the Contemporary World (Autumn 2018; Instructor of Record)

Advanced undergraduate seminar at the intersection of disability studies and cultural studies; materials considered include life writing, contemporary art and film, podcasts, critical essays, opinion pieces in newspapers, and novels

ENGLISH 2201 – Selected Works of British Literature: Medieval through 1800 (Autumn 2018; Instructor of Record)

Survey course exploring the canon of English Literature from its beginnings to 1800

ENGLISH 1110 – First-Year English Composition (Autumn 2018; Instructor of Record)

Academic writing course on the fundamentals of college-level writing, with an introduction to literary analysis

University of Michigan

ENGLISH 420 – Reading With Your Laptop (Winter 2018; Teaching/Writing Fellow)

Upper-level course in literature and the digital humanities; authors considered include Aphra Behn, Mary Shelley, and Jane Austen; coursework includes use of the open-source programming language R to develop novel interpretations of literary texts

ENGLISH 124 – The Literature of Adventure (Fall 2017; Instructor of Record)

Academic writing course with critical evaluation of significant literatures of adventure generated across the world; authors considered include Homer, Tenzing Norgay, Lauret Savoy, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, and Robyn Davidson

ENGLISH 124 – Mountain Literatures (Winter 2017; Instructor of Record)

Academic writing course with critical evaluation of significant literatures of mountains and mountaineering across the world; authors considered include Leslie Stephen, Dorothy Pilley, Ang Tharkay, Nan Shepherd, and Robert Macfarlane

ENGLISH 124 – The Literature of Wilderness and Exploration (Fall 2016; Instructor of Record)

Academic writing course with critical evaluation of Western literature of wild and unknown places, discovery, exploration, and conservation; authors considered include John Muir, Isabella Bird, Eric Shipton, Aldo Leopold, and Gary Snyder

ENGLISH 125 – Bodies at Work and Play (Winter 2013; Instructor of Record)

Academic writing course with critical discussion of the inter-relationships between our physical and intellectual selves; authors considered include Jamaica Kincaid, Barack Obama, Elie Wiesel, and David Foster Wallace

ENGLISH 125 – The Literature of Embodiment (Fall 2012; Instructor of Record)

Academic writing course with consideration of selected texts from the literatures of sport, performance, and medicine; authors considered include Alan Sillitoe, Carol Ann Duffy, Marilyn Hacker, and Antony Sher

[ENGLISH 366 – Shakespeare’s Contemporaries](#) (Winter 2012; Discussion Section Instructor)

Advanced undergraduate lecture and discussion class covering ten plays by some of Shakespeare’s best-known contemporary playwrights, such as Christopher Marlowe, Ben Jonson, Thomas Middleton, John Webster, and Thomas Dekker

[ENGLISH 350 – English Literature before 1700](#) (Fall 2011; Discussion Section Instructor)

Advanced undergraduate lecture and discussion class of a survey of English literature from its beginnings to 1700

University of Michigan’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

[Fiction in English Today](#) (Fall 2016; Instructor of Record)

Reading and discussion—with adult learners—of themes, interests, and urgencies of contemporary English fiction well received in the US; authors considered: Dina Nayeri, Alice Munro, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Anthony Doerr, and Richard Flanagan

University of Cambridge

Cambridge University Summer School (June-July 2009; Guest Lecturer)

Two in-depth lectures and discussion sections: “Milton and Cambridge,” and “Milton and the English Civil War”

Jadavpur University

Intermediate French Language and Literature (2007-2008; Instructor of Record)

Critical consideration of eight recent or contemporary French texts—Albert Camus to Marguerite Duras to Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio—to interrogate the social, cultural, and political inheritance of the francophone world

Introduction to French Language and Literature (2006-2008; Instructor of Record)

The basics of French language, and critical consideration of some contemporary French texts (with parallel English or Bengali translation)

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AND PEDADOGICAL TRAINING

2019	Research Mentoring Award Honorable Mention, The Ohio State University
2017	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Nomination, University of Michigan
2015-2016	Graduate Teacher Certificate, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, University of Michigan

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Undergraduate students whom I have taught at Jadavpur University and the University of Michigan have been accepted to the following (in chronological order):

PhD programme in Art and Archaeology, Princeton University
PhD programme in Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University
PhD programme in English Literature, Delhi University
PhD programme in Film Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
University of Michigan Law School
University of Michigan Medical School
University of Michigan Ross School of Business
University of Michigan New England Literature Program
University of Michigan Camp Davis/Biological Station
Jewish History Summer Internship, New York
Teach for America
University of Michigan Semester in Detroit
Council on International Educational Exchange, Teach Abroad in Spain

Undergraduate students whom I have taught at The Ohio State University have been invited to the following conferences (in chronological order):

The Society for Disability Studies Annual Conference
The Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2020	“Anti-Colonial DH Pedagogy” workshop, Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria (confirmed)
2018	“Buckeyes for Inclusive Excellence” workshop, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, The Ohio State University
2017	“Text Encoding Fundamentals and Their Application” workshop, Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria
2017	“Digital Humanities Pedagogy: Integration in the Curriculum” workshop, Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria
2017	“Tech and Texts” workshop series on Digital Humanities Methodology and Pedagogy, Hatcher Graduate Library, University of Michigan
2013-2015	Early Modern Palaeography Workshop, University of Michigan

- 2008 Printing on the Handpress Workshop, Historical Printing Room, Cambridge University Library
- 2006-2007 Research Assistant for international collaborative project “Travel in Renaissance England,” University of Liverpool and Jadavpur University
- 2002-2005 Diplôme de Langue Française and Diplôme Supérieur de Langue et Culture Françaises, Alliance Française du Bengale

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION AND THE HUMANITIES

- 2019-present Steering Committee Member for the [DISCO Ball](#) (a uniquely accessible intellectual and social event centring the disability community) at The Ohio State University
- 2018-present Publications Committee Member of the [Thinking Mountains Interdisciplinary Summit, Canadian Mountain Studies Initiative](#)
- 2018-present Contributor, performer, and participant in [On Board\(hers\)](#), an all-women dance production exploring the gendered experience of immigration in the twenty-first century
- 2017-present Consultant for [Bengali texts in the Miranda Digital Asset Platform](#), Folger Shakespeare Library
- 2016-present Consultant for scholarship and reporting on Himalayan mountaineering history for the world’s leading English-language alpine publication, [Alpinist magazine](#)
- 2011-2018 Founder and Coordinator, [Mountaineering Culture Studies Group](#), University of Michigan
- 2014-2018 [Graduate Student Associate](#), interdisciplinary multi-year research project [Early Modern Conversions](#), McGill University
- 2016-2017 Search Committee Member, University of Michigan’s Department of English and Program in the Environment Joint Search for Tenure Line Faculty Position (Open Rank) in the Environmental Humanities
- 2011-2017 Steering Committee Member, [Early Modern Colloquium](#), University of Michigan
- 2016 Transcriber for [Transcribathon organised by Early Modern Recipes Online Collective](#)
- 2016 Organiser, Digital Humanities Panel on [DREaM](#) (Distant Reading Early Modernity), Department of English, University of Michigan

- 2016 Organiser, Scholarspace Session on Text-Mining with the Early English Books Online Text Creation Partnership ([EEBO-TCP](#)) Dataset, Hatcher Graduate Library, University of Michigan
- 2015 Organiser and participant of Transcribathon—12-hour transcribing and digitization run of early modern manuscripts—at the University of Michigan, in partnership with the Folger Shakespeare Library
- 2014-2015 Transcriber and cataloguer of early modern manuscripts at [Special Collections, Hatcher Graduate Library](#), University of Michigan
- 2013 Co-organiser, Early Modern Colloquium Conference “Violence in the Early Modern Period,” University of Michigan

LANGUAGES

Bengali: strong reading, writing, and oral skills (mother tongue)
 French: strong reading and writing skills, general oral competence
 Italian: general reading competence
 Spanish: general reading competence
 Latin: general reading competence (with use of a dictionary)
 Hindi: good oral skills, general writing competence
 Axomiya: basic oral skills, general reading competence
 Nepali: basic oral skills
 Oriya: basic oral skills

MEMBERSHIP OF ACADEMIC BODIES

Modern Language Association
 Renaissance Society of America
 Milton Society of America
 Shakespeare Association of America
 Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing
 Society for Disability Studies

MOUNTAINEERING, ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY, AND PHOTOGRAPHY

2001-present Mountaineering expeditions to several Himalayan and North American peaks and passes, such as Jogin I (21,206 ft), Jogin III (20,060 ft), Kalindi Pass (19,600 ft), Gangotri III (21,986 ft), Sahale (8,681 ft), El Dorado (8,876 ft), and others