

SUPRITHA RAJAN

University of Rochester
Department of English
415 Morey Hall
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Rochester, NY 14627
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(585) 275-4092 (office)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of English, University of Rochester, 2015-present
Assistant Professor of English, University of Rochester, 2007-2015
Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2002-2007
Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Washington at Seattle, 1999-2001

EDUCATION

Ph.D. English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2007
M.A. Comparative Literature, University of Washington at Seattle, 2001
A.B. Philosophy, Oberlin College, 1995

ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

Bridging Fellowship, Humanities Center, University of Rochester, Spring 2023.

Modern Language Association Prize for a First Book, 2016.

Research Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies, 2015-2016.

William Dougald MacMillan Award for the best dissertation of the year, Department of English, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2008-2009.

Fred and Joan Thomson Award for outstanding dissertation work in eighteenth- or nineteenth-century British studies, Department of English, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2005-2006.

Evan Frankel Dissertation Fellowship, Department of English, UNC-Chapel Hill, Fall 2006.

Stipended Participant, Mellon Foundation Dissertation Seminar, "History, Memory, and the Literary Text," UNC-Chapel Hill, Summer 2005.

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Books

A Tale of Two Capitalisms: Sacred Economics in Nineteenth-Century Britain (University of Michigan Press, 2015)

Winner of the 23rd annual Modern Language Association Prize for a First Book

Transparent Forms: Thinking, Feeling, and Doing in the Human and Natural Sciences, 1780-1890 (book manuscript; in preparation)

Articles in Journals/Edited Collections

“Eliot Among Philosophers and Scientists,” *The Oxford Handbook of George Eliot*. Eds. Juliette Atkinson and Elisha Cohn. New York: Oxford University Press, 2025, 61-79. (invited essay)

“Pictures of Nature: Observation and Description in Charlotte Brontë’s *Villette* and Charles Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species*,” *Nineteenth-Century Literatures in Transition Series: the 1850s*. Cambridge University Press. Eds. Gail Marshall, Marion Thain, Andrew Stauffer, 2025, 18-44. (invited essay)

“Regret Without Limit: the Ends of Agency and Genre in George Eliot’s *Middlemarch*.” *Victorian Literature and Culture*. 49.2 (2021): 259-300.

“The Future of Economic Criticisms Past.” *Routledge Companion to Victorian Literature*. Eds. Talia Schaffer and Dennis Denisoff. New York: Taylor and Francis, 2020, 237-247. (invited essay)

“The Epistemology of Trust and Realist Effect in Charles Dickens’s *Bleak House*.” *Nineteenth-Century Literature*. 72.1 (June 2017): 64-106.

“Animating Household Gods: Value, Totems, and Kinship in Victorian Anthropology and Dickens’s *Dombey and Son*.” *Victorian Literature and Culture*. 42.1 (March 2014): 33-58.

“Networking Magic: Andrew Lang and the Science of Self-Interest.” *Romanticism and Victorianism on the Net*. 64 (October 2013). (invited essay)

“Sacred Commerce: Rites of Reciprocity in Ruskin.” *Nineteenth-Century Prose*. 35.1 (Spring 2008): 181-199.

Book Reviews

Review of *Primitive Marriage: Victorian Anthropology, the Novel, and Sexual Modernity* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023). By Kathy Alexis Psomiades. *Nineteenth-Century Literature*. 79.3 (2024): 236-240.

Review of *When Fiction Feels Real: Representation and the Reading Mind* (Oxford University Press, 2018). By Elaine Auyoung. *Victorian Studies*. 62:3 (2020): 536-538.

Review of *Romanticism and the Gold Standard: Money, Literature, and Economic Debate in Britain, 1790-1830*. (Palgrave, 2013). By Alexander Dick. *Keats-Shelley Journal*. 64 (2015): 147-148.

Review of *Bodies and Things in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture*. (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012). Edited by Katharina Boehm. *Review of English Studies*. 65.269 (2014): 363-365.

Review of *The Vulgar Question of Money: Heiresses, Materialism, and the Novel of Manners from Jane Austen to Henry James* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011). By Elsie B. Michie. *Studies in the Novel*. 45.1 (Spring 2013): 132-134.

“The Ends of Excess in Nineteenth-Century Political Economy and the Novel.” Review of *Economic Woman: Gender and Narrative Closure in Eliot and Hardy* (University of Toronto Press, 2011). By Deanna K. Kreisel. *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*. 8.3 (Winter 2012).

POETRY PUBLICATIONS

Books

Fabula (under contract, Unbound Edition Press, expected date of publication: Fall 2027)

Mosaic (completed manuscript of poems, under consideration at various presses/contests)

Journals

“Malabar Daffodil Orchid.” *Colorado Review* (forthcoming)

“In the Languages of Rain.” *Colorado Review* (forthcoming)

“Villanelle: Migration Hour.” *Colorado Review* (forthcoming)

“Stone 284.” *Poetry London* (forthcoming)

“Ghazal.” *On the Seawall* (forthcoming)

“Rinsed Rice.” *On the Seawall* (forthcoming)

“Lion Body.” *Revel* (forthcoming)

“The Garden.” *Revel* (forthcoming)

“Future Conditional.” *Revel* (forthcoming)

“Stone 154.” *New American Writing*. Vol. 43, 2026. (forthcoming)

“Stone 209.” *New American Writing*. Vol. 43, 2026. (forthcoming)

“Stone 75.” *Diode Poetry Journal*. Volume 18, No 3, 2025. (online)

“Stone 365.” *Diode Poetry Journal*. Volume 18, No 3, 2025. (online)

“Stone 58.” *Sixth Finch*. Summer 2025. (online)

“Stone 55.” *Action, Spectacle*. Summer 2025. (online)

“Stone 47.” *Bennington Review*. Issue 14, 2025.

“Field Guide.” *Literary Matters*. Issue 15.3, Spring/Summer 2024.

“Caesura.” *Southern Indiana Review*. Spring 2024.

“Rasam and Beans Curry.” *Narrative Magazine*. April 29, 2024.

“National Tale.” *Seneca Review*. 54.1, Spring 2024.

“My Father Walks Out of an English Book and Into An English Field.” *The Threepenny Review*. Issue 176, Winter 2024. (featured on Poetry Daily)

“Boy on Cycle.” *Beloit Poetry Journal*. Vol. 73.1, Spring/Summer 2023.

“Stone 7.” *The Laurel Review*. Vol. 56.1, 2023.

“Stone 165.” *New American Writing*. Vol. 41, 2023.

“Stone 199.” *New American Writing*. Vol. 41, 2023.

“Inventory.” *Literary Matters*. Issue 15.3, Fall 2023.

“Fly Ball.” *Literary Matters*. Issue 15.3, Fall 2023.

“Meditations on the Peach, and Some Other Ideas Adhering Thereto.” *Poetry Northwest*. Vol. 18. Issue 1. Summer/Fall, 2023.

“Leave No Trace.” *Poetry Northwest*. October 10, 2022. (online)

“On Making a Child.” *Bennington Review*. Issue 11, 2022.

“Speak Animal.” *The Colorado Review*. 49.3. Fall/Winter 2022. (featured on Verse Daily)

“Home Accidens.” *New Orleans Review*. Issue 48. Spring/Summer, 2022.

“The River.” *Post Road*. No. 39, 2022.

“Landscape as Interior.” *Post Road*. No. 39, 2022.

“Straunge Languge.” *New American Writing*. No. 39, 2021.

“Mouth to Mouth.” *New American Writing*. No. 39, 2021.

“Articulate Body.” *Conjunctions* (online). March 10, 2021.

“Ode to Sea Sponge.” *Hampden-Sydney Poetry Review*. Issue 46, Winter 2020.

“What is it like to be a bat? (Study #1).” *American Literary Review*. Summer 2020. (online)

“The Heart of the Sonnet,” *Gulf Coast*, 32.2, 2020.

“Self (IV).” *Gulf Coast*, 32.2, 2020.

“Self-Portrait As.” *Washington Square Review*. No. 44, Fall 2019.

“Ordinary Dream.” *Southern Humanities Review*. Vol. 52.4, Winter 2019.

“L’Invitation au Voyage.” *New England Review*. Vol. 40. No. 3, 2019.

“Lie Still and Dream.” *Poetry Northwest*. Vol. 13.2. Winter & Spring, 2019.

“Solar Eclipse: Self-Portrait in Silhouette.” *The Cortland Review*. Issue 81, 2018.

“Self (III).” *The Cortland Review*. Issue 81, 2018.

“A Morality Play.” *Conjunctions* (online). October 30, 2018.

“Epithalamium.” *Conjunctions* (online). October 30, 2018.

“Landscape with Figure Turning.” *New England Review*. Vol. 39.3, 2018.

“Bharata’s Remorse.” *Salt Hill*. No. 38. Spring, 2017.

“Repair.” *The Colorado Review*. 43.1. Spring, 2016.

“Ode to an Error.” *The Antioch Review*. 73. 4. Fall, 2015.

“Domestic.” *The Cortland Review*. Issue 66. February, 2015.

“Daughter of the Sea.” *Poetry Northwest*. Fall/Winter, 2010-2011.

“The Preterite Tense.” *Poetry Northwest*. Spring/Summer, 2009.

“Fabula.” *Literary Imagination*. February 1, 2009.

“The Cook’s Daughter.” *Passages North*. Vol. 29.1. Winter/Spring, 2008.

“The Orphan of Time.” *Poetry Northwest*. Spring/Summer, 2007.

“Widow Country.” *Salt Hill*. No. 19. Winter, 2007.

“The Abduction of Sita.” *Puerto del Sol*. Vo. 41.1. Fall, 2006.

“Inventing the Past.” *Notre Dame Review*. No. 21. Winter, 2006.

“Lava and Kusa Recite *The Ramayana*.” *Center: A Journal of the Literary Arts*. Vol. 4, 2005.

“To the Body, Repair.” *The Carolina Quarterly*. Vol. 56. Nos. 2 & 3. Spring/Summer, 2004.

“King Dasaratha’s Grief.” *The Marlboro Review*. No. 16. Summer/Fall, 2003.

“Homecoming.” *Southern Indiana Review*. Vol. 9. No. 1. Spring, 2002.

“The Room Above.” *Crab Creek Review*. Summer/Autumn, 1998.

POETRY HONORS

Pushcart Prize Nomination, “Boy on Cycle,” *Beloit Poetry Journal*. Vol. 73. No. 1, Spring/Summer 2023.

Best New Poets 2023 Nomination, “Homo Accidens,” *New Orleans Review*. Issue 48, Spring/Summer 2022.

Pushcart Prize Nomination, “Lie Still and Dream,” *Poetry Northwest*. Vol. 13.2, Winter/Spring 2019.

Best New Poets 2018 Nomination, “Landscape with Figure Turning,” *New England Review*. Vol. 39.3, 2018.

Richard Hugo Prize, *Poetry Northwest*, “The Orphan of Time,” Spring/Summer 2007.

Pushcart Prize Nomination, “Lava and Kusa Recite *The Ramayana*,” *Center: A Journal of the Literary Arts*. Vol. 4, 2005.

INVITED TALKS AND ORGANIZED EVENTS

“On Seeing with Distinction: Observation and Description in Charlotte Brontë and Natural History.” Friday Forum Series. CUNY Graduate Center. November 13, 2020.

“Temperament and the Art of Reading.” Victorian Literature and Culture Seminar. Mahindra Humanities Center. Harvard University. September 20, 2018.

“Make It Visible: The Long Nineteenth Century and New Economic Criticism.” Invited Respondent. Modern Language Association. New York, NY. Jan 4-8, 2018.

“Case, Context, and Description.” Panel Organizer and Chair. Anthropology and Literature Forum. Modern Language Association. New York, NY. Jan. 4-8, 2018.

“Race, Space, and Gaze: Fields of Ethnographic Narration.” Moderator. Anthropology and Literature Forum. Modern Language Association. New York, NY Jan. 4-8, 2018.

“Anthropology and the Forms of Embodiment.” Panel Organizer and Chair. Anthropology and Literature Forum. Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, PA. Jan. 5-8, 2017.

INVITED TALKS AND ORGANIZED EVENTS

“On Seeing with Distinction: Observation and Description in Charlotte Brontë and Natural History.” Friday Forum Series. CUNY Graduate Center. November 13, 2020.

“Temperament and the Art of Reading.” Victorian Literature and Culture Seminar. Mahindra Humanities Center. Harvard University. September 20, 2018.

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“Case, Context, and Description.” Panel Organizer and Chair. Anthropology and Literature Forum. Modern Language Association. New York, NY. Jan. 4-8, 2018.

“Race, Space, and Gaze: Fields of Ethnographic Narration.” Moderator. Anthropology and Literature Forum. Modern Language Association. New York, NY Jan. 4-8, 2018.

“Anthropology and the Forms of Embodiment.” Panel Organizer and Chair. Anthropology and Literature Forum. Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, PA. Jan. 5-8, 2017.

“Victorian Interventions.” Invited Talk. Central New York Humanities Corridor. The Mellon Foundation. Syracuse University. English Department. Syracuse, NY. October 24, 2015.

“Affect’s Ends: a Symposium on Victorian Literature.” Invited Respondent. Cornell University. English Department. Ithaca, NY. November 8-9, 2013.

“Reading in Miniature: Feeling and Genre in George Eliot.” Invited Talk. Faculty Colloquium. University of Rochester. Department of English. Rochester, NY. April 26, 2013.

“The Technical Language of Genre: Lyric and Narrative Modes in George Eliot’s *Middlemarch*.” Invited Talk. Narrative Now Colloquium Series. “Denotation: Understudied Languages of the Novel.” New York University. New York, NY. April 8, 2013.

“Worlds Enough: Ontological Possibility in Nineteenth-Century Fiction.” Organizer. Lecture and Seminar with Elaine Freedgood. Central New York Humanities Corridor. The Mellon Foundation. University of Rochester. Department of English. Rochester, NY. March 1-2, 2013.

“The Practice of Literary Studies.” Invited Talk. Undergraduate English Council. University of Rochester. Department of English. Rochester, NY. April 22, 2009.

“The Rites and Relics of Value.” Invited Talk. Graduate Student Colloquium. Department of English. University of Rochester. Rochester, NY. April 26, 2008.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Tempered Knowledge: Disposition, Disciplinarity, and the Aftermath of Victorian Method Wars.” The North American Victorian Studies Association. Georgetown University. Washington DC. Nov. 13-16, 2025.

Not Res but Verba: Keywords, Exemplarity, and Representing the Character of an Age.” Eighteenth-Century Division. Modern Language Association. New Orleans, LA. Jan. 9-12, 2025.

“Unruly States: Literary Studies and the Cures of Poetry in Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s Theory of Education.” The North American Society for Studies in Romanticism. Georgetown University. Washington DC. Aug. 15-18, 2024.

“Method as Cure: Disciplining the Temperaments in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Science.” Victorian Division. Modern Language Association. Chicago, IL. Jan. 3-6, 2019.

“Scales of Inequality: Political Economy and the Victorian Novel from Center to Periphery.” The North American Victorian Studies Association. St. Petersburg, FL. Oct. 11-14, 2018.

“The Social Life of Personae: Sensibility and the Victorian Man of Science and Letters.” The North American Victorian Studies Association. Arizona State University. Phoenix, AZ. Nov. 3-5, 2016.

“Autonomy and its Affects: Regret and Responsibility in Jean-Jacques Rousseau.” The International Adam Smith Society and the Rousseau Society. University of Glasgow. Glasgow, Scotland. July 20-22, 2015.

“Characterizing Knowledge: George Eliot and the Enlightenment Reclassification of Temperament.” The North American Victorian Studies Association. Western University. London, Ontario (CA). Nov. 13-16, 2014.

“The Tempo of Judgment: Sensing the Pause in Walter Pater’s *The Renaissance*.” Victorian Division. Modern Language Association. Chicago, IL. Jan. 9-12, 2014.

“Knowledge By Proxy: the Epistemology of Trust in Dickens’s *Bleak House*.” The North American Victorian Studies Association. University of Southern California. Pasadena, CA. October 23-27, 2013.

“Networked Magic: Lang and the Science of Self-Interest.” The North American Victorian Studies Association. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Madison, WI. September 27-30, 2012.

“Play or Be Played: the Ludic Rituals of Empire in Rudyard Kipling’s *Kim*.” The North American Victorian Studies Association. Vanderbilt University. Nashville, TN. November 3-6, 2011.

“The Loss of Household Gods: Identity and Kinship in George Eliot’s *The Mill on the Floss*.” Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers Association. Ohio State University. Columbus, OH. March 31-April 3, 2011.

“Sacred Economies: Measuring Justice in William Stanley Jevons’s Political Economy.” Victorians Institute Conference. University of Virginia. Charlottesville, VA. October 1-3, 2010.

Moderator, “Death and Mourning in the Nineteenth Century.” Death and Representation Conference. The University of Rochester. Rochester, NY. March 26, 2010.

Moderator, “Maid Marion: Kidnapped or Rescued by Thomas Love Peacock?” The Seventh Biennial Conference of the International Association for Robin Hood Studies. University of Rochester. Rochester, NY. October 22-25, 2009.

“Progress and Return: the Primitive Past and the Capitalist Marketplace in Nineteenth-Century Anthropology and Political Economy.” The North American Victorian Studies Association/British Association for Victorian Studies. Cambridge University. Cambridge, UK. July 13-15, 2009.

“The Ends of Pleasure: Labor’s Sacrifice and Just Distribution in Nineteenth-Century Political Economy.” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference. Bard College and Skidmore College. Saratoga Springs, NY. April 24-26, 2009.

“Magical Forces: Balancing Interests in Kipling, Edgeworth, and Marshall.” The North American Victorian Studies Association. Yale University. New Haven, CT. November 14-16, 2008.

“From Sacred Rights to Sacred Totems: the Laws of Marriage and Property in Victorian Anthropology and Dickens’s *Dombey and Son*.” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference. Marquette University. Milwaukee, WI. April 3-5, 2008.

“Domesticating Value: the Making of Household Gods in Trollope’s *The Way We Live Now*.” The Midwest Conference on British Studies. Indiana University-Purdue University. Indianapolis, IN. October 27-29, 2006.

Moderator, “The Inimitable I.” The North American Victorian Studies Association. Purdue University. West Lafayette, IN. August 31-September 3, 2006.

“Sacred Commerce: Rites of Reciprocity in Nineteenth-Century Political Economy and Anthropology.” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference. Rutgers University-New Brunswick. New Brunswick, NJ. March 31-April 1, 2006.

“The Quest for Renewal: Mary Shelley’s *Rambles in Germany and Italy*.” The North American Society for Studies in Romanticism. Fordham University. New York, NY. August 1-5, 2003.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Nineteenth-century British literature and intellectual history, literary theory, political and moral philosophy, interdisciplinary studies, and creative writing.

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Rochester

ENG 243: Keats, Hopkins, and Yeats (Spring 2025)

ENG 223: Austen, Eliot, and Woolf (Spring 2020)

ENG 222/221: Nineteenth-Century British Novel (Fall 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2019, 2023, 2025)

ENG 223: Forming Victorians (Fall 2009)

ENG 223: Victorian Literature and Science (Spring 2008)

ENG 114: British Literature II (Spring 2008-2015, Spring 2017-2022, 2024-2025)

ENG 120: Introduction to Creative Writing (Spring 2008, 2010)

ENG 122: Introductory Poetry Workshop (Fall 2011, 2013)

ENG 243: Major Authors: Charles Dickens (Spring 2013, 2017, Fall 2020)

ENG 243: Major Authors: George Eliot (Spring 2014)

ENG 223: Nineteenth-Century British Poetry (Fall 2013, 2016)

ENG 221: Victorian Literature (Spring 2015, Fall 2017, Fall 2021)

ENG 223: Murder, Sex, and Drugs (Fall 2017)

ENGL 249: Victorian Crime and Sexuality (Fall 2020, Fall 2025)

ENG 380: The Real World of Fiction (Fall 2021)

ENG 531: Graduate Seminar: Victorian Literature and the Sciences of Culture (Spring 2009, 2011)
ENG 530: Graduate Seminar: the Victorian Novel (Fall 2012)
ENG 550: Graduate Seminar: Problems in Agency (Fall 2014)
ENG 531: Graduate Seminar: The Realist Novel (Spring 2019)
ENG 531: Graduate Seminar: Nineteenth-Century Literature and Science (Spring 2021, 2024, 2026)

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

College Curriculum Committee, University of Rochester. (Spring 2013; Fall 2019-Spring 2022, Fall 2023-present)

Faculty Review Committee, St. Andrew's Society of New York Scholarship for Graduate Study in Scotland, University of Rochester. (Fall 2024)

Fulbright Campus Review Committee, University of Rochester. (Fall 2020)

Director of Undergraduate Studies, English Department, University of Rochester. (Fall 2018-Spring 2020, Spring and Summer 2026)

College Writing Committee/WSAP, Department Representative, University of Rochester. (Spring 2020)

Director of Graduate Studies (interim), English Department, University of Rochester. (Spring 2018, 2021-2022)

Search Committee, Twentieth-Century Global Anglophone Literature, English Department, University of Rochester. (2017-2018)

Advisor, Undergraduate English Council, English Department, University of Rochester. (Spring 2015)

Job Placement Committee, English Department, University of Rochester. (2014-2015)

Elected member, Faculty Council, University of Rochester. (2009-2010; 2014-2015)

Representative, Administrative Committee, The College of Arts and Sciences, University of Rochester. (2011-2013)

Graduate Studies Committee, English Department, University of Rochester. (2012-2013, Fall 2009, 2014-2015, 2017-2018, 2021-2022, 2024-2026)

Faculty Judge, Humanities Division, Undergraduate Writing Colloquium Contest, College Writing Program, University of Rochester. (2011)

Outside Speakers/Conferences Committee, English Department, University of Rochester. (2010-2011)

Creative Writing and Plutzik Reading Series Committee, English Department, University of Rochester. (2007-2008, Spring 2010, Fall 2011, 2012-2014, 2024-2026)

Undergraduate Essay Prize Committee, English Department, University of Rochester. (2010)

Undergraduate Study Committee, English Department, University of Rochester. (2009-2010)

Graduate Admissions Committee, English Department, University of Rochester. (2009-2011, 2013-2014, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2021-2022)

Undergraduate Studies Committee, English Department, University of Rochester. (2007-2008, Fall 2011, 2023-2024)

Master's Program Advisor (interim), English Department, University of Rochester. (Fall 2009, Spring and Summer 2025)

Search Committee, Creative Writing (Fiction), English Department, University of Rochester. (2007-2008)

Search Committee, Creative Writing (Poetry), English Department, University of Rochester. (2008-2009)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Elected Member, Executive Committee, Anthropology and Literature Division, MLA (2015-2020)

Referee, *Victorian Literature and Culture*; *Victorian Studies*; *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, Oxford University Press, Routledge, Cornell University Press

LANGUAGES

Advanced knowledge of French and German (spoken and reading). Tamil (native speaker).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association.
North American Victorian Studies Association.