

## VIVEK NARAYANAN

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*Areas of specialization: Creative Writing: Poetry, World Poetry, Translation, Epic, Performance, Indian Poetry in English, Interdisciplinary Theory & Practice*

### 1. ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS / OTHER RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

2020-present. George Mason University. Fairfax, VA. Assistant Professor of English.

2016-2019. George Mason University. Fairfax, VA. Adjunct Professor, Honors College, Department of English and Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

2007-2019. Co-Editor, *Almost Island*. International literary organization and publisher.

2011-2016. Editor, *Almost Island Books*. Books edited include Ranjani Murali's *Blind Screens* (winner of the 2018 Prabha Khaitan Award), Shrikant Verma's *Magadh* (translated by Rahul Soni), and Adil Jussawalla's *Trying to Say Goodbye* (winner of the 2016 Sahitya Akademi Award, given by India's national literary academy).

2004-2012. Sarai-CSDS, Delhi. Coordinator and mentor. Center for interdisciplinary research and practice.

2002-2003. Creative Writing Instructor, Boston University.

1997-1999. Lecturer, University of Natal, Durban, South Africa.

1993-1995. Teaching Assistant, Stanford University.

### 2. EDUCATION

M.A. (Terminal Degree)\*, Creative Writing, Boston University, 2003.

M.A., Cultural Anthropology, Stanford University, 1995.

B.A., Summa Cum Laude, majoring in Peace Studies, Colgate University, 1992.

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\* Boston University has since renamed this degree M.F.A. with identical requirements:  
<https://www.bu.edu/creativewriting/about/graduate-program/>

### 3. AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS AND OTHER HONORS

Mason Core Teaching Award: Spring 2019, Fall 2020.

Cullman Center for Writers and Scholars, New York Public Library. 2015-16 Fellow in Poetry.

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies, Harvard University. 2013-14 Fellow in Poetry.

India Foundation for the Arts, Research and Documentation Grant. 2005-2010.

British Council / Charles Wallace Writer in Residence, January – April 2002. University of Kent at Canterbury, United Kingdom.

Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Research Grant, January 1997-July 1998.

Andrew J. Mellon Fellowship, July – August 1994. Awarded for research in Durban.

Thomas J. Watson Fellowship, 1992 – 1993. For independent travel and research in India, South Africa, and Trinidad.

Colgate University Professional Writer's Award, Honorable Mention, Spring 1991. For "Distance, Travel, and Mississippi," travel writing based on travel and interviews in the American South.

### 4. SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY

#### i. Published or Forthcoming

##### **BOOKS\***

*After*. New York: New York Review Books, July 2022. Indian edition: HarperCollins, September 2022. 624 pages.

Included among the books of the year 2022 by: [The Times Literary Supplement](#) (London)<sup>†</sup>; [The Poetry Society](#) (UK)<sup>†</sup>; [Action Books](#)<sup>†</sup>; [Manorama Daily](#) (Trivandrum)<sup>†</sup>; and [David Auerbach](#)<sup>†</sup>.

Reviewed (as of August 2023) in [The Times Literary Supplement](#)<sup>†</sup>, [Brink](#)<sup>†</sup>, [Frontline](#)<sup>†</sup>, [Fence \(Digital\)](#)<sup>†</sup>, [Scroll.in](#), [The Hindu](#),<sup>†</sup> [The Harvard Review](#), [The Poetry Review](#), and [Harriet Books](#) (The Poetry Foundation website).

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\* Also lists reviews, mentions, reprints in prestigious anthologies, and first publications in journals of any poems that were later to be included, below the book in question.

† Indicates new entries not reviewed earlier, at the time of the August 2022 reappointment dossier or prior.

Three poems from *After* reprinted in *Future Library: Contemporary Indian Writing*, edited by Sampurna Chattarji and Anjum Hasan. Red Hen Books, 2022, pp.148-150.

Nine poems from *After* reprinted in *The Penguin Book of Indian Poets*, edited by Jeet Thayil. Penguin Random House India, 2022. pp. 284-293.

“From ‘Poem Without Beginning or End.’” First published in *Poetry*, Volume 220, Number 2, May 2022, pp. 146-7.

“Ayodhya.” *Poetry Daily*. March 1, 2021.

“Shiva,” “Ahalya,” and “Ahalya.” First published on *Granta.com*. July 2020.

“Rama,” Tataka,” “Rama’s Servants,” “What the People Said,” “Chitrakuta,” and “The Jeweled Deer.” First published in *The Oxford Poets Anthology 2013*. Carcanet, 2013, Manchester, pp. 131-141.

*Life and Times of Mr. S.* HarperCollins, 2012, New Delhi. Reissued January 2020. 112 pages.

Reviewed in *Chimurenga*, *The Quarterly Conversation*, *Biblio*, *Eyewear*, *TimeOut Mumbai* and *Ainanagar*.

Partial subject of the essay, “‘A Form of Howling. A Form of Chanting. A Form of Looking Out for Each Other’: Poetics and Politics of the Contemporary Indian-English Prose Poem,” by Divya Nadkarni, in *Prose Poetry in Theory and Practice*, edited by Anne Caldwell and Oz Hardick. Routledge, 2022, pp. 124-139.

“Short Prayer to Sound,” reprinted in *The Penguin Book of the Prose Poem: From Baudelaire to Anne Carson*. Penguin Books, 2018, pp. 57-58.

“Short Prayer to the Economy,” “Three-Part Navigation of Simultaneous Presents.” First published in *The Manchester Review* No. 3, October 2009.

“Notes on this Thing We Call Nature, As Manifested in the Higher Altitudes of the Indian Subcontinent.” First published in *Blackbox Manifold 2*, Sheffield, 2009.

*Universal Beach* (second edition). Los Angeles / New York: Ingrim Imus Nocte et Consumimur Igni, 2011. 77 pages.

*Universal Beach* (first edition). Harbour Line Books, Mumbai, 2006. 76 pages.

Reviewed in *Publisher’s Weekly*, *Harriet* (the blog of the Poetry Foundation), *Harvard Review*, *TimeOut Mumbai* and *The Hindu*.

Discussed (pg. 253) in “The Contemporary Sonnet,” by Stephanie Burt, in *The Cambridge Companion to the Sonnet*, edited by A.D. Cousins and Peter Howarth. Cambridge University Press, 2011.

(Forthcoming reprint) “Translation,” in *Count Every Breath: A Climate Anthology*, edited by Vinita Aggarwal. Hawakal Publishers, 2023, Kolkata<sup>‡</sup>.

“The Government of the Dead.” Reprinted in *iGlobal News*. June 2021

“Deathwish,” “Fernando Pessoa in Durban,” “My Father’s Wound,” “The Sadness of a Dog.” Reprinted in the online archive of the Poetry Foundation, 2017, [poetryfoundation.com](http://poetryfoundation.com).

“Ode to Prose.” Reprinted in *&Words: Poems Singapore and Beyond*. Ethos Books, 2010, Singapore.

“Learning to Drown,” “Three Elegies for Silk Smith,” and “Ode to Prose” reprinted in *The Bloodaxe Book of Contemporary Indian Poets*, edited by Jeet Thayil. Bloodaxe Books, 2009, Hexham, Northumberland, United Kingdom.

“The Dump” reprinted in *Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from Asia, the Middle East, and Beyond*, edited by Nathalie Handal, Ravi Shankar and Tina Chang. W.W. Norton, 2008.

“Pandit the Pundit.” Reprinted in *Both Sides of the Sky: Post-independence Indian Poetry in English*. National Book Trust, 2008, New Delhi.

“Primitive Lament (Money),” “Scenes from a Space Odyssey.” First published in *Harvard Review* 26, 2004.

“Learning to Drown,” “Odessa, Texas,” “Film Shooting,” and “In Church.” First published in *Reasons for Belonging: Fourteen Contemporary Indian Poets*, Viking Penguin, 2002, New Delhi.

### **POETRY – Other Published Poetry<sup>‡</sup>**

“Selections from the Kuruntokai, with a Translator’s Note.” *Poetry at Sangam* ([poetry.sangamhouse.org](http://poetry.sangamhouse.org)), May 2023<sup>‡</sup>.

“Waystations of the Actual.” A twelve-poem sequence, in *Firmament*, Vol. 3, No. 2. Sublunary Editions, April 2023, Seattle, WA, pp. 104-110<sup>‡</sup>.

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<sup>‡</sup> This section lists published poems that *have not* been collected in my three books of poetry.

“Dante Through the *Mahabharata’s* Last Journey.” In *Divining Dante*, edited by Paul Munden and Nessa O’Mahony. Recent Work Press, 2021, Woden, Australia. Reprinted online with slight revisions in *Poetry at Sangam*, January 2023.

from *The Rig Veda*. June 2021. Specially commissioned translation for the front page of the journal *Agni*, Boston. In *Agni* 93 and subsequent issues thereafter.

“Elements of the Mask.” Collaborative poem written with Anthony Vahni Capildeo. In *Poetry and Covid-19*, edited by Anthony Caleshu and Rory Waterman. Shearsman, 2021, pp. 56-65.

“Mother’s House.” By Salma, translated from the Tamil by Vivek Narayanan, *Marg*, December 2020, pp. 28-29.

“Bosch's Garden 3.” *The MUD Proposal / Kaurab*, December 2019.

from “Freestyles.” *Counter Poetry* 2, October 2019.

“The Three Birds.” By Jean-Joseph Rabearivelo. Translated from the French by Vivek Narayanan. *Poetry Daily*, June 3, 2019.

“Ayodhya,” “Dhvanyaloka 1.14.” *Wretched Strangers: Borders, Movement, Homes*. United Kingdom: Boiler House Press, 2018.

“The Future,” “Phone,” “Montana de Oro—Dune Trail.” *Muse India* 71, 2017.

“Nakedness,” “She, a Lotus Pond,” “Explosives,” “Chimera.” Translation of four poems by the Tamil poet Kutti Revathi, in collaboration with Padma Narayanan, with a translator’s introduction to Revathi by Vivek Narayanan. *Modern Poetry in Translation*, Issue 1, 2017, pp.57-62.

“A Spectral Horse,” “Fish Tank,” “The Fiends That Fetter Us,” “Tigers.” Translation of four poems by the Tamil poet Kutti Revathi, in collaboration with Padma Narayanan and the author. *Asymptote*, January 2017.

“In the Early Days of the Delhi Metro,” “The Final Asana,” “Day,” “Three Stereograms,” “A Horse Stumbled in the Waves.” *The HarperCollins Book of English Poetry*. Harper Collins, 2012, Delhi. “The Final Asana” later included in *After*.

“Lunatics of the Border Areas.” *Pratilipi*, 2011.

“A Meeting with the Senior Poet Who Hated Me.” *Caravan*, May 2011.

“Far from the Eicher.” *Muse India* 35, Jan-Feb 2011.

“Sickness Brings Not Understanding.” *Town*, Port of Spain, Trinidad, January 2010.

"A House from the 1930s." *Mint Lounge*, September 21, 2009.

"Moving into 1949." *Chimurenga 13: Everyone Has Their Indian*, Cape Town, 2009.

"For Now," "My Eyes Hurt," "Looking for Love," "Art in India." *Pratilipi*, 2008.

### **POETRY – Translations into Other Languages**

Interview and featured world poet in [Al-Araby Al-Jadeed](#), a wide-circulation print and web newspaper of the Arab world. January 11, 2022. Translated into Arabic.

*Låt varje språk vara främmande* —"Let Every Language Be Foreign". Translated by Erik Bergqvist. Wahlström & Widstrand, 2015, Stockholm. 208 pages. New and selected poems in Swedish translation.

Reviewed in: *Dagens Nyheter*, *Sveriges Radio*, *SVT* (Swedish television).

*Short Prayer*. Chinese University Press, 2011, Hong Kong. Bilingual Chinese-English chapbook. 34 pages.

Interview and poem in Portuguese translation in *Sibila*, a Brazilian poetry portal. August 23, 2015.

*Com espigues de blat amb vents de l'est: Cinc poetes indis actuals*. Catalan anthology of five Indian poets. El taller de poesia, 2011, Barcelona.

*The Poet's World* (Korea.) No. 33, 2010, pp. 239-254. Essay and poems by Vivek Narayanan translated into Korean for a special folio of this Seoul-based literary journal.

### **SCHOLARSHIP – Invited Forewords, Introductions and Essays in Edited Volumes**

Foreword. *Lighthouse for Drowning Memories: New and Selected Poems*, by Sujatha Mathai. Poetrywallah, 2022, Mumbai<sup>†</sup>.

Foreword. *Random Harvest: Selected Poems and Prose*, by Srinivas Rayaprol, edited by Graziano Krätli, Copper Coin, 2022, New Delhi, pp. vi - xiv<sup>†</sup>.

"In Search of 1949," in *Nights of the Dispossessed: Riots Unbound*, edited by Natasha Ginwalla, Gal Kim and Niloufar Tajeri. Columbia University Press, 2021, pp. 307- 329. In the series, Columbia Books on Architecture and the City.

"From the Language Question to the Question of Language: Three Recent Books of Indian English poetry." Book chapter in *A History of Indian Poetry in English*, edited by Rosinka Chaudhuri. Cambridge University Press, 2015, pp. 407-422.

Introduction. *I Dreamt a Horse Fell from the Sky: An Adil Jussawalla Reader*. Hachette, New Delhi, 2015, pp. xiii - xxvi.

*The Oxford Companion to Modern Poets* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013).

Contributed entries on six Indian English poets: Gopal Honnalgere, Ranjit Hoskote, Shiv K. Kumar, Mani Rao, Srinivas Rayaprol, and Jeet Thayil.

"Dismantling the City". In *Cybermohalla Hub*, edited by Shveta Sarda and Nikolaus Hirsch, Sternberg Press, 2012, London).

### **SCHOLARSHIP / NON-FICTION – *Book Reviews and Public Journalism***

"Top Ten Reads / Me and My Shelf." *Reader's Digest*, Indian edition, December 2022<sup>†</sup>.

"What Sparks Translation: Provisional Sentences Towards a New Manifesto of Translation Practice." *Poetry Daily*, March 1, 2021.

"What Sparks Poetry: On 'Ode to Cement.'" *Poetry Daily*, August 31, 2020.

"What Sparks Poetry: On a Poem's Re-entering History." *Poetry Daily*, September 23, 2019.

"What Sparks Poetry: On Discovering Jean-Joseph Rabearivelo." *Poetry Daily*, June 3, 2019.

"Reading Vijay Nambisan." *The Wire*, August 17, 2017.

"Turtles All the Way Down: Vahni Capildeo's *Utter*." *Caribbean Review of Books*, November 2015.

"Ken Saro-Wiwa Wrote More Than One Book." In *Chronic Books, Chimurenga Chronic*. August 2013, Cape Town, pp. 12-15.

"The New Reading." *Open*, February 17, 2012.

Review of Arvind Krishna Mehrotra's *Songs of Kabir*. *Open*, September 10, 2011.

"Poetry and Audiences." *Open*, July 11, 2009.

"Four Ground-breaking Things in Five Issues of *Civil Lines* or, Ways to Get Your Head Out of the Postcolonial Sand". *Chimurenga Library*, Feb 2009.

### **NON-FICTION –*Selected Interviews of Vivek Narayanan***

"In Conversation with the World: Three Poems and an Interview with Vivek Narayanan." By Leeya Mehta. *Plume* 135, November 2022

August 15, 2018: Yale University Radio. Podcast. Listen:

<https://museumofnonvisibleart.com/interviews/vivek-narayanan/>

“The Translator Relay.” An interview with Jessie Chaffee. *Words Without Borders*, December 2016.

Interview about *Life and Times of Mr S*. *The Hindu*, January 27, 2013.

“An Interview with Vivek Narayanan,” by Alan Gilbert. Two-part interview for the website of the Poetry Foundation, Chicago, 2008.

## **ii. Manuscripts in Progress**

*The Underwire*. Book of poems. For excerpt, see “Waystations of the Actual” under the section “Other Published Poetry.”

*The Kuruntokai*. A new translation of an ancient Tamil anthology of 401 poems. For excerpt and translator’s note, see “Selections from the Kuruntokai” under the section “Other Published Poetry.”

## **5. SCHOLARLY OR CREATIVE WORK IN OTHER MEDIA OR MODES**

*Insurrections Ensemble*. India /South Africa<sup>†</sup>. An ongoing series of albums and collaborative performances among Indian and South African musicians and poets, 2013 – Present. Upcoming project: *Must Gandhi Fall?* Watch a video of the ensemble here: [youtube.com/watch?v=JBiAsgYNj6o](https://youtube.com/watch?v=JBiAsgYNj6o)

*Poetry Jukebox* by Quotidian. Performed and recorded a poem as a contribution to a public art project. Italian Institute of Culture, Dublin, Ireland. See: <https://quotidian.ie/divining-dante/>. March-May 2023<sup>†</sup>.

“How Social Annotation Brings Back Close Reading and Transforms Your Class Discussion.” On-demand video publication. *Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference Proceedings*, vol. 13 (2021). Watch video: [youtu.be/o28P4Q7p\\_mA](https://youtu.be/o28P4Q7p_mA). (DOI: doi.org/10.13021/itlcp.2021.3010.)

*Desnos Machine*. Final version and publication on github, 2020. Interactive web-based software, developed in collaboration with coder and poet Michael Scharf, specifically as a pedagogical tool in my poetry classes. Available with documentation at: [github.com/scharfmn/desnos/blob/master/README.md](https://github.com/scharfmn/desnos/blob/master/README.md)

Poetry video: Laura Riding’s “The Map of Places.” 2020. Watch: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhu4V7c\\_AhY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yhu4V7c_AhY)



*Varnam* by Padmini Chettur. Collaboration with a Chennai-based contemporary dancer and choreographer, 2018.

*Videopoem: In the Early Days of the Delhi Metro*. Collaboration with the filmmaker Priya Sen, 2013. Watch: [vimeo.com/63159579](https://vimeo.com/63159579)

*Don't Look Now*. Sarai-CSDS, New Delhi, 2012. A dark room revue incorporating fragments of image, video, sound and live on- and off-site performance (including poetry).

*The Indisciplinary Essay*. Sarai-CSDS, New Delhi, 2011. Taking Adorno's "The Essay as Form" as a central provocation, this curated panel invited four eminent social scientists and historians to reflect on questions of form, style and craft in their writing.

*Surfaces*. Sarai-CSDS, New Delhi, 2010. A project to simultaneously connect young visual arts practitioners (and their publics) with their contemporaries in poetry and link Hindi and English in bilingual praxis.

*If I vanish to Appear in Reykjavik*. Nyhil Literary Festival, Reykjavik, Iceland, 2009. A procedural poem and performance, incorporating sound recording, that attempts to think the distance between Iceland and India.

*Beautiful Thing*, by Padmini Chettur, 2009. Collaborative work with a Chennai-based contemporary dancer and choreographer Padmini Chettur.

*Seven Crowds*. Bronx Museum of Arts, New York, 2008. Collaborative procedural work with New York-based visual artist Laura Napier for *How Soon Is Now*, an event bringing together four poet/visual artist pairs in performance.

*I Heard It Is*. Khoj Studios, Delhi. Collaborative performance with Bangalore-based sound artist Sophea Lerner, 2008. A suite of site-specific, pre-composed and improvised poems, sound objects and audience interactions.

*Universal Beach*. British Council, New Delhi, 2006. Collaborative performance with sound artist Sophea Lerner.

## **6. SELECTED CONFERENCES, PANELS, READINGS, INVITED TALKS AND PERFORMANCES**

June 11, 2023. Keynote speaker, *Beyond Dualism* conference. Ereignis Center for Philosophy and the Arts, Gdynia, Poland. (Online.)<sup>†</sup>

May 5-6, 2023. Featured poet, LaGuagua Poetry Festival, Middlesex Community College, Lowell, MA<sup>†</sup>.

- May 4, 2023. Reading with Melissa Monroe and Wang Yin for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NYRB Poets Series. Poetry Society of America, Brooklyn, NY<sup>†</sup>.
- April 6, 2023. *The Poetics of Coming After*. Performance and translation talk. Department of Comparative Literature, Yale University<sup>†</sup>.
- March 30 – April 2, 2023. *Thinking Its Presence: an Interdisciplinary Conference on Race, Creative Writing, and Artistic and Aesthetic Practices*. Pomona College, Claremont, CA. Invited presenter on three panels: “Poetics and Translation,” “Poets Reading,” and “South Asian Futures.”<sup>†</sup>
- March 18, 2023. *Tradition, Tension and Experimentation*. Poetry performance and interview with Lina Ferreira Cabeza-Vanegas. Canto Poetry Festival<sup>†</sup>. (Online.) Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7mQZ9TZI3A>. Published transcript: <https://scroll.in/article/1047355/a-critical-reading-of-the-ramayana-opened-me-up-to-its-riches-poet-vivek-narayanan>
- November 11, 2022. Poetry reading and talk, English Studies, University of Stirling, United Kingdom<sup>†</sup>.
- November 8, 2022. Poetry reading, School of English, University of Kent at Canterbury, United Kingdom<sup>†</sup>.
- November 7, 2022. Poetry reading, School of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing, University of East Anglia, United Kingdom<sup>†</sup>.
- November 1, 2022. Poetry Reading and talk, Oxford Comparative Criticism and Translation (OCCT), St. Anne’s College, Oxford University<sup>†</sup>.
- October 11, 2022. *Re-imagining the Ramayana: Vivek Narayanan in conversation with Pulitzer-prize winning poet Vijay Seshadri*. Cullman Center for Writers and Scholars, New York Public Library<sup>†</sup>. Event page (with link to video documentation): <https://www.nypl.org/events/programs/2022/10/11/viveknarayanan>
- October 6-7, 2022. Singapore Unbound Festival, New York City. Moderator and respondent for keynote speech by Gina Apostol; panelist and performer for *Re-envisioning the Epic*, with Jay Gao and Hamid Roslan<sup>†</sup>.
- August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Launch of *After*, in the event series of The Community Bookstore, Brooklyn, NY. Vivek Narayanan in conversation with Aditya Bahl<sup>†</sup>. Online event: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w4hxjAPtbAA>
- April 9, 2022. Featured panelist and poet, *Poetry and Violence*. Annapolis Book Festival, Annapolis, Maryland.
- March 12, 2022. Featured poet, *Poetry in the Lockdown Garden*. Stanza Poetry Festival,

St. Andrews, Scotland. (Online.)

May 18, 2021. Featured reader for *The Inner Loop*. (Washington D.C. / online.)

September 1, 2020. Featured panelist, "Untranslating the Classics." Part of the "Translating the Future" series of events organized by PEN America, the Center for the Humanities at CUNY Graduate Center, and the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library. (Online.)

November 2, 2018. Poetry performance and discussion. Johns Hopkins University, Department of English.

April 20, 2018. Poetry reading panelist. *Split This Rock* poetry festival, Washington D.C.

April 18-19, 2018. Two-day event: poetry performance and lecture. Brown University, Department of Literary Arts / Watson Center. With Tishani Doshi.

August 2016. "Vivek Narayanan on the Question of the Political in Poetry," and "Vivek Narayanan on the Subversive Countercurrents in Valmiki's *Ramayana*." Two short video interviews for the Youtube channel of the Indian Cultural Forum:

- 1) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmzhnOFyBXc>
- 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9w6V5854pb4>

August 2016. Poetry Reading, Bengaluru Literary Festival.

Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRpcteCdvr0>

June 2015. Forum for Culture, Stockholm. Official launch of *Låt varje språk vara främmande*, my selected poems in Swedish translation. An evening of performances and music at this legendary venue.

June 2015. Reading and Interview on *Babel*, a popular cultural arts program on Swedish National TV. Invited to Stockholm for the taping of this program.

March 2013. *Almost Island: Indian Writing Now*. Poetry Reading, Literary Arts Program, Brown University. Event recording:  
<https://literaryarts.brown.edu/writers-online/vivek-narayanan>

November 2011. Poetry Reading, Hong Kong Poetry Nights, Hong Kong

May 2011. Poetry Reading and talk. With Vahni Capildeo. The Poetry Project at St. Mark's Church, New York City.

May 2011. Recorded performance for Tehelka TV. See:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ms6pzyIBTI0>

Nov 2010. Poetry Reading, Hay Literary Festival, Trivandrum, Kerala.

May 2010. Seoul International Writer's Festival, Seoul, Korea.

August 2008. Nyhil Poetry Festival, Reykjavik, Iceland.

## **7. OTHER SIGNIFICANT SCHOLARLY, PROFESSIONAL OR RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE**

### **i. International Judging, Examination and Selection Committees**

2023. Selection Committee, Folger Artistic Research Fellowship, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C.<sup>†</sup>

2022. External Examiner, M.A. Creative Writing Thesis. Rhodes University, Grahamstown, Makanda, South Africa.

2019. Final judge (with Chenxin Jiang and Hai-dang Phan). Lucien Stryk Asian Translation Prize. For the American Literary Translators Association (ALTA).

2016. Final Judge (with John Robert Lee and Gemma Robinson), OCM Bocas Literary Prize for Caribbean Poetry. Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

2015. Final Judge, Srinivas Rayaprol Prize for emerging Indian poets.

2012. Final Judge (with Sridala Swami and Anjum Hasan). Toto Funds the Arts Prize for emerging Indian writers.

### **ii. Volunteer Service to Community Organizations Drawing on Professional Expertise**

December 2020 – Present. Founding coordinator, *The Delhi Poetry Reading Collective*. Ongoing monthly online poetry book reading group with participants primarily based in India, which also hosts occasional public events.

January 31, 2023. Panel Discussant for Mani Rao's Saundarya Lahiri. For Samyukta Poetry, Trivandrum, India. (Online.)

August 29, 2021. Panelist and workshop leader, *Abuja Writer's Workshop*. Abuja, Nigeria. (Online.)

February 6, 2021. Moderator, organizer and chief discussant for the launch of *The Collected Poems of Gopal Honnalgere*. (Online.) Watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ftTrozh4YM>

June 2020. *Imaginary Translations*. Two-day free online workshop. For the Quarantine Train Writers' Group, Pune, India.

### **iii. Advocacy / Selected Jacket Endorsements Given**

*Another Room to Live in: 15 Contemporary Arab Poets*, edited by Sarah Riggs and Omar Berrada. Litmus Press, 2023<sup>†</sup>. (Forthcoming.)

*Sita in Exile*, by Rashi Rastogi. Miami University Press, 2023<sup>†</sup>.

*Frimaire*, by Mark Lamoureux. White Stag Press, 2023<sup>†</sup>.

*If Not Theirs*, by Janani Ambikapathy. Chapbook, Veer2, 2023<sup>†</sup>.

*Arise Out of the Lock: 50 Bangladeshi Women Poets in English*, edited by Alam Khorshed and translated by Nabina Das. Balestier Press, 2022<sup>†</sup>.

*Lost, Hurt or In Transit Beautiful*, by Rohan Chhetri. Tupelo Press, 2021

*Mukt*, by Aditya Bahl. Chapbook, Organism for Poetic Research, 2021.

*The Collected Poems of Gopal Honnalgere*, edited with an introduction by K.A. Jayaseelan. Poetrywallah, 2020.

*The August Rain*, by Steve Komarnyckyj. Kalyna Language Press, 2016.

*Homage to the Last Avant Garde*, by Kent Johnson. Shearsman Books, 2008.

## **8. TEACHING AT GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY**

### **i. Courses Taught**

ENGH 685 (Spring 2023): Selected Topics: Translation and Poetry. Graduate level course that looks closely at both traditional and experimental strategies of translating poetry, with readings in the history of translation that typically compare multiple versions of the same text. New course topic, concept and course design<sup>†</sup>.

ENGH 608 (Spring 2022): Craft Seminar: Research-Based Poetries. Graduate/ M.F.A.-level reading and workshop-based course that explores how poets in particular use and have done research. New course topic, concept and course design.

ENGH 391 (Spring 2022): The Forms of Poetry. Undergraduate-level intensive study of and practice in formal elements of poetry.

ENGH 617 (Fall 2021): Poetry Workshop. Graduate / M.F.A. level.

ENGH 494 (Fall 2021): Advanced Poetry Workshop. Undergraduate level.

ENGH 397 (Spring 2021, Spring 2023): Poetry Writing. Undergraduate level.

ENGH 396 (Fall 2020): Introduction to Creative Writing. Undergraduate level.

ENGH 202 / ENGH 316 (Spring 2019, Fall 2016, Fall 2020): The Ramayana: Many Lives of a South Asian Epic. Undergraduate level in-depth reading and study of an influential South Asian epic poem in multiple translations. New course topic, concept and course design.

HNRS 122 – Reading The Arts (Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2021): 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Poetry from Around the World. Open to first year Honors College undergraduates only. A study of modernist poetries, with both creative and critical assignments. New course topic, concept and course design.

HNRS 110 (Fall 2017, Fall 2018): Research Methods. Open to first year Honors College undergraduates only.

## **ii. Theses**

### *Thesis supervisor*

Victoria Mendoza (M.F.A. Poetry Candidate '23)

Ling Li (M.F.A. Poetry Candidate '24)<sup>†</sup>

### *Thesis committee member*

Lori Rottenberg (M.F.A. Poetry Candidate '23)

Arpita Roy (M.F.A. Poetry Candidate '24)<sup>†</sup>

Joseph Giglio (M.F.A. Poetry Candidate '24)<sup>†</sup>

Daniel Coates-Finke (M.F.A. Poetry Candidate '24)<sup>†</sup>

Eli Vandegrift (M.F.A. Poetry Candidate '24)<sup>†</sup>

## 9. SERVICE

### i. University, departmental and program administration

- At-large Member, Advisory Committee to the Chair, English Department, 2022 – present<sup>†</sup>.
- Governing Board, Cheuse International Center, 2023 – present<sup>†</sup>.
- Editorial Board, *Poetry Daily*, 2019 – present.
- Creative Writing Program Admissions and Planning Committees, 2020 – present.
- Visiting Writer Committee, 2020 – present.
- Search Committee for Interim Director of the Cheuse Center, 2022.
- Selection Committee, Cheuse Center Travel Grants, 2018.
- Final Judge, Mark Craver Poetry Award, 2018.
- Final Judge, Mary Roberts Rinehart Poetry Award, 2018.

### ii. Mason Event Service

March 21, 2022; March 21 2023. UNESCO World Poetry Day. Conceived and organized students and faculty together in Mason MFA Poetry delegations across two years to a 24 hour worldwide multilingual online reading.<sup>†</sup>

February 16, 2023. Moderator and interviewer for visiting poet Cheswayo Mphanza. (Online.)<sup>†</sup>

February 3, 2022. Moderator and interviewer for visiting poet David Herd. (Online.)

May 2021. Interviewed Kareem Abu-Zeid, translator of the Palestinian Poet Najwan Darwish for *Globally Lit*, the Cheuse Center podcast.

February 19, 2021. Moderator of “What Translation Sparks” panel for *Poetry Daily*, featuring Tracy K. Smith, Jeffrey Angles, Margaret Noodin, Raquel Salas Rivera, and Laura Marris.

September 27, 2018, “Experimental Translation,” *Day of Translation*, Cheuse International Writers Center. Conceived, curated, chaired, introduced a panel featuring poet-translators Sawako Nakayasu, Christian Hawkey and Chris Clarke.

### **iii. Invited Talks, Performances and Collaborations at Mason**

October 15, 2022<sup>†</sup>. *Lyrical Motion: A Poetry and Dance Collaboration*. Fall for the Book Festival.

October 15, 2022<sup>†</sup>. Poetry Reading with Jennifer Atkinson, Fall for the Book Festival.

October 20-December 11, 2021. *Encounters*. Collaboration with Boris Willis, dancer and Associate Professor of Game Design. Part of the exhibition *Conjuring Presence* at the Fenwick Gallery.

December 3, 2021. Featured panelist, *Stretching Disciplinary Boundaries: Discussing Possibilities at the Intersection of the Humanities and Social Sciences*. Sponsored by the Center for Humanities Research (CHR) and the Center for Social Science Research (CSSR), George Mason University. (Online.)

September 20-24, 2021. Selected presenter at the 2021 Stearns Center Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference. Panelist in the session, "Teaching Transformation Talks: How Your Teaching Has Changed." Also participated in a Q&A session for my video, "How Social Annotation Brings Back Close Reading and Transforms Your Class Discussion." (Online.)

October 5, 2020. Featured poetry reader, Poetry Daily *Digital Anthology*, a Fall for the Book event. (Online.)

February 2019. Invited performance and talk, *Worlds In Words Translation Series*.

April 2017. "Translating Tamil poetry." Talk at the inaugural "Day of Translation," Cheuse International Writers Center.

## **10. MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP)
- American Literary Translators' Association (ALTA)