

Education

2015-2024

Doctor of Philosophy: Theatre and Performance Studies (2024-)

Stanford University, USA

Master of Arts (Thesis): English (2021-23)

McGill University, Canada

Thesis: "Queering' Indian Theatre: A Study of Queer Representation in Post-Independence, English Language Theatre."

Supervisor: Dr Erin Hurley (Professor and Department Chair)

Master of Arts (Non-thesis): English (2018-2020)

University of Delhi, India

Bachelor of Arts (Honors): English with minor in History (2015-2018)

Miranda House, University of Delhi, India

Work Experience

2016-2024

Professional Employment

- **Archivist (September, 2023- July, 2024)**
Teesri Duniya Theatre, Montreal, Canada
Duties include: Archival research, digitization of historical documents, cataloguing 4 decades of digital history, curation of physical library with 3000+ books, creation of online archive, research on *alt.theatre* literary magazine.
- **Program and Scouting Coordinator (May, 2023- August, 2023)**
Kabir Center for Arts and Culture, Montreal, Canada
Duties include: Assistance in scouting of 50+ South Asian movies, curation and organization of the 2023 and 2024 editions of the South Asian Film Festival of Montreal (SAFFM).
- **Assistant Editor (October, 2017- November, 2017)**
OM Books International, New Delhi, India
Duties Include: Content generation, evaluation, and proofreading for 10+ YA and children's books created in-house, under OM Books International publication.
- **Content Creator (May, 2016- July, 2016)**
Deepkala Silk Heritage, Ahmedabad, India
Duties include: Content writing and management of the brand's catalogues and websites, implementation of marketing strategies, advertising, idea generation for engaging consumer attention.

Research Experience

- **Research Intern (May, 2022-August, 2022)**
Teesri Duniya Theatre, Montreal, Canada

Duties include: Production of research and published material on the history and politics of the theatre company, and its role in representing marginalized voices in Canada, on its 40th anniversary.

- **Research Assistant (September, 2021- April, 2022)**

SSHRC Project headed by Dr. Erin Hurley, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

Duties include: Assistance with the creation of an online archive on anglophone theatre in Quebec produced during 20th and 21st century. Read, summarized, and analyzed 40+ plays for Staged Reading Festival in April, 2022.

- **Research Assistant (September, 2020- December, 2020)**

Miranda House Archiving Project headed by Dr Shweta Sachdeva Jha, Miranda House, New Delhi, India

Duties include: Assistance with the creation of digital archive on gendered history in educational institutes of India. Conducted 10+ online interviews with Miranda alumni, generated content and managed social media profile of project.

Teaching Experience

- **Teaching Assistant (September, 2022 - April, 2023)**

Dept. of Philosophy and Dept. of Anthropology, McGill University, Montreal, Canada

T.A. for *ANTH 332: Mesoamerican Archaeology* by Prof. Katrina Kosyk in Winter 2023 and *PHIL 230: Introduction to Moral Philosophy* by Prof. Christopher Howard in Fall 2022.

Duties include: Led conferences for 80+ students, conducted weekly tutorials and activity days, discussed study material, graded mid-terms and final exams, managed email communication, assisted with other teaching and administrative tasks.

Theatre Experience

- **Newcomer Theatre Artist/Playwright (September, 2023 – April, 2024)**

Imago Theatre, Montreal, Canada

Writing and developing play script, tentatively titled *Dancing Along the Rainbow*, as part of Nested Circles, a season long residency that exposes theatre artists to contemporary, values-based practices that are anti-colonial, inclusive, and community-oriented.

- **Playwright (September, 2022 – May, 2023)**

Teesri Duniya Theatre, Montreal, Canada

Wrote and developed play script, *From Troy to Lanka*, as part of Fireworks Playwrights Program—a guided, 6-month long theatre development program—under the mentorship of dramaturg, Vishesh Abeyratne. Play was presented to the public during a Staged Reading in May, 2023.

Publications

2020-2023

Books

- *My Story, My Voice: Sita and Helen*. Illustrated by Priyadarshini Banerjee, Tulika Books, May 2023. Link: <https://www.tulikabooks.com/home/my-story-my-voice-sita-and-helen.html>
Canadian Launch: 'Read Quebec Book Fair' by Association of English-language Publishers of Quebec (AELAQ), Montreal, November 3-4, 2023.

Papers in Refereed Journals

- “Teesri Duniya’s ‘Counter’ Offence: Diasporic Theatre and Minority Representation in the Bill 96 Era.” *Critical Stages/ Scènes critiques*, Issue 27, June 2023.
Link: <https://www.critical-stages.org/27/teesri-duniyas-counter-offence-diasporic-theatre-and-minority-representation-in-the-bill-96-era/>

Performance Reviews

- “Can the Gazelle ever win against the Lion? A Review of Koomsatira’s ‘Psycho 6’”, *Montreal Serai*, September 2022, Accessed on 20 Feb. 2023. Link: https://montrealserai.com/news/#.Y_PqruzML9E

Non-Refereed Publications and Public-Facing Scholarship

- “Remembering Bhopal.” *Community*, Teersi Duniya Theatre, December 2023, Accessed on 25 Jul, 2024. Link: <https://www.teesriduniyatheatre.com/announcements/taking-a-moment-to-remember-the-bhopal-disaster>
- “Unveiling the Unsung Heroines.” *Blogs*, Tulika Publishers, September 2023, Accessed on 24 Oct. 2023. Link: <https://tulikapublishers.wixsite.com/blog/post/guest-post-by-shailee-unveiling-the-unsung-heroines>
- “Is RS & GIS World Gender Neutral?” Co-authored with Dr Rashmi Sharma, *Signatures: An ISRS Ahmedabad Chapter Newsletter*, Issue 2, Vol. 28, August 2021.

Poetry

- “Summer of ‘09.” *The Bombay Review*, Issue 35 LGBTQ+, Vol. 1, Oct. 2020, Accessed on 20 Feb. 2023. Link: <https://thebombayreview.com/2020/10/17/poetry-summer-of-09-our-forgotten-house-by-shailee-lgbtq-vol-i-issue-35/>
- “Our Forgotten House.” *The Bombay Review*, Issue 35 LGBTQ+, Vol. 1, Oct. 2020, Accessed on 20 Feb. 2023. Link: <https://thebombayreview.com/2020/10/17/poetry-summer-of-09-our-forgotten-house-by-shailee-lgbtq-vol-i-issue-35/>
- “Polaroid.” *Fiction and Verse: LIVEWIRE*, July 2021, Accessed on 20 Feb. 2023. Link: <https://livewire.thewire.in/fiction-and-verse/polaroid/>

Awards and Fellowships

2018-2023

- **Dean of Arts Development Fund Award for Interns, McGill University (2023)**
- **Archie Malloch Fellowships, McGill University (2022)**
- **Hugh MacLennan Fellowship for the Study of English, McGill University (2022)**
- **The Goodman Family Internship Awards, McGill University (2022)**
- **Margaret Gillett Fellowship for Research on Women- English, McGill University (2021 and 2022)**
- **University of Delhi Award: First Division, Class of 2020 (2020)**
- **University of Delhi Award: First Division, Class of 2018 (2018)**

Professional Presentations

2017-2022

Conference Papers and Presentations

- Canadian Society for the Study of Comics (CSSC/SCEBD), Federation for the Humanities and Social Science Conference, Canada, May 19-20, 2022
Paper Presentation: “‘Bhimayana’: Why is it still relevant?”
- Canadian Organization for Gender and Sex Research (COGS) Conference, Canada, May 29-31, 2022
Poster Presentation: “Utopia, Euphoria, and Garba: Performing Dance and Owning Space.”
- ‘Translation: Theory, Context and Praxes,’ National Seminar, Zakir Husain Delhi College, India, March 3, 2020.
Paper Presentation: “Hindi’s Resistance to Translation of Queer”
- ‘Heart of Queerness’, National Seminar, Vivekananda College, India, November 4-5, 2019
Paper Presentation: “Critique of the usage of singular, non-binary 'They' in translation”
- ‘Of Murders, Mysteries, and Sensation: Interpreting Detective Fiction’, National Seminar, Miranda House, India, October 13-14, 2017
Paper Presentation: “Murder, Mystery, and the Macabre”: Locating Castle within the genre of Crime and Detective Fiction

Invited Talks and Panels

- Panelist: ‘[Writers Out Loud: Navigating the Impacts of Bill 96.](#)’ Quebec Writer’s Federation (QWF), Montreal, Canada, October 18, 2023. Link: <https://qwf.org/event/writers-out-loud-navigating-the-impacts-of-bill-96/>
- Panelist: ‘[Garden of Literary Delights.](#)’ NextGen Multiarts Festival, Kabir Cultural Centre, Montreal, Canada, October 1, 2023. Link: <https://www.centrekabir.com/en/events/festival-nexgen-multiarts-soiree-litteraire/var/ri-0.1-L2/>
- Guest Lecturer: ‘Ancient Myths in Contemporary Theatre’ for *ENGL 230: Introduction to Theatre Studies* by Prof. Katherine Zien, Department of English, McGill University, Canada, September 19, 2023.

Interviews

- Print Interview: ‘Interview with Author and Scholar, Shailee Rajak (MA'23),’ in *McGill Arts* newsletter, McGill University, Canada, January 16, 2024. Link: <https://www.mcgill.ca/arts/article/interview-author-and-scholar-shailee-rajak-ma23>
- Radio Interview: ‘Mythological women Sita and Helen get a voice of their own in a new graphic novel,’ on *All In a Weekend with Sonali Karnick*, CBC, Canada, September 24, 2023. Link: <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-78/clip/16011477>
- Online Interview: ‘Book Talk with Shailee,’ Tulika Publishers, YouTube, June 10, 2023. Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txiGq4j_iHc&t=1519s&ab_channel=TulikaPublishers

- **Peer-Reviewer**, *Caret Journal*, Department of English, McGill University, Canada. (2021-22)
- **McGill Representative** for ‘McCall MacBain Scholars’ international outreach efforts. (2021-22)
- **Social Chair**, English Graduate Students Association (EGSA), McGill University (2021-22)

- **Editorial Board Member**, *VAANI* (2018-19)
- **Deputy Secretary-General of Logistics**, Zenith MUN (2017-18)
- **Treasurer**, Debating Society, Miranda House, India. (2016-17)
- **Organizing Committee member**, Manzar: Miranda House International Parliamentary Debating Competition (2016-17)
- **Organizing Team member**, Miranda House Literary Festival (2015-16)