

Sunil M. Agnani

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Employment

University of Illinois, Chicago, Department of English / Department of History, joint appointment.
Assistant Professor, tenure track. (August 2008 onward)

University of Michigan, English Language & Literature. Assistant Professor, tenure track. (Fall 2005-
Summer 2008)

Princeton Society of Fellows, Council for the Humanities, Princeton University. Cotsen Fellow and
Department of English. (2003-2005)

Education

Columbia University, New York
Ph.D., *awarded with Distinction*, in English & Comparative Literature, 2004
M.Phil. in English & Comparative Literature, 1998
M.A. in English & Comparative Literature, 1995

Cambridge University, Magdalene College
B.A./M.A. English Literature, 1994

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
B.A., *with Highest Honors*, in Comparative Literature (Classical Greek, Sanskrit), 1991

Selected Awards and Fellowships

Ahmanson-Getty Fellowship, Clark Memorial Library, UCLA	January-June, 2007
Faculty Fellowship Enhancement Award, University of Michigan	2006-2007
NEH Summer Seminar/Newberry Library: The Haitian & French Revolutions	June-July 2006
Princeton Society of Fellows	2003-2005
Princeton University, Tuck Fund Grant, for research in Paris	Summer 2004
Princeton University, UCRHSS Grant, for research in Bombay	Dec 2003
John Carter Brown Library, William Reese Company Fellow	Feb-Apr, 2003
Preceptor's Fellowship, Columbia College	2000-2003
Fulbright Fellowship to Germany for study at Humboldt University, Berlin	1998-1999
President's Fellowship, Columbia University	1995-1998
Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, for study at Columbia University	1994-1995
Power Foundation Scholarship, for study at Cambridge University	1992-1994
Phi Beta Kappa, University of Michigan	1991
Phillips Classical Prize, Best Translation of Classical Greek, University of Michigan	1991

Publications

"Enlightenment Universalism and Colonial Knowledge: Denis Diderot and Edmund Burke, 1770-1800."
Book manuscript in preparation.

"Entre la France et l'Inde en 1790 : réflexions d'Edmund Burke sur les révolutions en Europe et en Asie"
(Translation by Ann Sommereux). Contribution to *Rêver d'Orient, connaître l'Orient*, ed. by Isabelle Gadoin and Marie-Élise Palmier-Chatelain. Published by ENS EDITIONS / École normale supérieure, Forthcoming 2009.

“Jacobinism in India, Indianism in English Parliament: Fearing the Enlightenment with Edmund Burke.” *Cultural Critique* (Issue 68), Winter 2008.

“*Doux Commerce, Douce Colonisation*: Diderot and the two Indies of the French Enlightenment.” Contribution to *The Anthropology of the Enlightenment*, ed. by Larry Wolff & Marco Cipoloni. Stanford University Press, September 2007.

"Editor's Column: The End of Postcolonial Theory? A Roundtable with Sunil Agnani, Fernando Coronil, Gaurav Desai, Mamadou Diouf, Simon Gikandi, Susie Tharu, and Jennifer Wenzel." Ed. by Patricia Yaeger, *Publications of the Modern Language Association / PMLA* 122 (2007): 633-51.

“On the Purported Death of Paris: Pascale Casanova's *The World Republic of Letters*.” *Postcolonial Studies*, Vol. 9, Issue 3, September 2006.

“William Kentridge: Memories of Europe in the Colony.” *ArtIndia*, Vol. X, issue iii, July/August 2005.

“Teaching in Dark Times: A Review of *After the World Trade Center: Rethinking New York City*.” *Postcolonial Studies*, Vol. 6, Issue 1, Winter 2003.

Selected Presentations and Conferences

"Imperial Models in the Early Modern World." Presented paper on "Edmund Burke on Revolution and Empire" in series directed by Anthony Pagden & Sanjay Subrahmanyam of the Dept of History. Clark Memorial Library, UCLA (April 2007)

“Religion and the English Enlightenment.” Invited to present paper on "Enthusiasm and Enlightenment: Burke's Reading of Rousseau." Organized by Sophie Gee, Dept of English, and the Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University (April 2007)

"Objects in Motion: Trade, Colonialism, and Global Exchange." MLA panel organized by Lynn Festa. Title of paper: "Commerce, Colonization and the Conceptual Limits of European Anticolonialism." Philadelphia (December 2006)

"Postcolonialism, Globalization, and Resurgent Imperialism: A Roundtable Discussion." Organized by Sidonie Smith and Jennifer Wenzel, Dept of English. Other participants: Mamadou Diouf, Fernando Coronil, Susie Tharu, Gaurav Desai. University of Michigan (November 2006)

"Atlantic Revolutions and their Indian Echoes: Edmund Burke's response to Saint-Domingue." Presentation to NEH Seminar on French and Haitian Revolutions, organized by Jeremy Popkin, Newberry Library, Chicago (July 2006)

“Adventure Fiction and the Novel.” Invited discussant to conference on adventure fiction and the rise of the novel, Center for the Study of the Novel, Stanford University (November 2005)

“Philosophes, Parliamentarians, and Empire: the Breakers of Law in India and the Makers of Law in England.” Presentation on panel convened on the topic: “Towards an Intellectual History of Empire.” Commentator to paper: Thomas Metcalf. Madison South Asia Conference (October 2005)

“The Idea of Europe in the Eighteenth Century.” Accepted as participant in week-long conference held in Genoa, Italy. Organized by the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, ISECS (October 2005)

“Edmund Burke on Ireland and India: ‘The Protestant Ascendancy’ and ‘Indianism’ as Global Phenomena.” Invited seminar presentation to the Irish Studies Seminar, University Seminars at Columbia University (September 2005)

- “Empire and Modern Political Thought.” Commentator at conference organized by Sankar Muthu, Princeton University. The Rockefeller Foundation Conference Center, in Bellagio, Italy (June 2005)
- “Custom, Prejudice and Manners: Edmund Burke between France and India in 1790.” Paper Presented to Bloomington Eighteenth-Century Workshop, organized by Fritz Breithaupt, on “Custom, Ritual, Habit, Fetish: The Idols of the Eighteenth Century.” Indiana University (May 2005)
- “Enlightenment Anthropology Reconsidered.” Invited to speak in seminar series organized by the Department of Anthropology, Princeton University (April 2005)
- “Intercultural Studies on the Enlightenment.” Roundtable organized by the German Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. American Society of Eighteenth Century Studies (March 2005)
- “Barbarous Europeans and Civilized Savages: Diderot and the Limits of Enlightenment Anticolonialism.” Panel organized by Larry Wolff of Boston University. American Society of Eighteenth Century Studies (March 2005)
- “On Liberty and Nonage in John Stuart Mill: Utilitarianism in England and India” Invited speaker. Humanities Course, organized by Anthony Grafton, François Rigolot, Maurizio Viroli. Princeton University (March 2005)
- “*Doux Commerce, Douce Colonisation*: Diderot and the two Indies of the French Enlightenment.” Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, Princeton University (February 2005)
- “Burke, Ireland, India: Revisiting a Political Analogy.” The American Conference for Irish Studies, Princeton University (October 2004)
- “Jeremy Bentham and Edmund Burke.” Invited speaker to Preceptor’s Colloquium, Contemporary Civilization Program, Columbia University (February 2004)
- “Jacobinism in India, Indianism in English Parliament: On the Political Thought of Edmund Burke.” Eighteenth Century and Romantic Studies Colloquium, Princeton University (December 2003)
- “Commerce and Colonization in Diderot’s Writings for the *Histoire des deux Indes* of 1780.” John Carter Brown Library, Brown University (April 2003)
- “Jacobinism in India, Indianism in English Parliament: The Political Thought of Edmund Burke.” *Rêver d’orient/connaître l’orient: rencontres anglo-orientales*. l’Université de Paris III Sorbonne Nouvelle / Université de Marne-la-Vallée, France (March 2003)
- “*Douce Colonisation*: Consensual Colonialism and Breeding in Diderot’s Writings on Empire and Settlement.” The History of Manners in the Eighteenth Century. DeBartolo Conference on Eighteenth-Century Studies, Tampa, Florida (February 2003)
- “On the Use and Abuse of Anger for Life: *Ressentiment* and Revenge in Diderot’s Contributions to the *Histoire des deux Indes*.” Sites of Comparison: Empire and Encounter in Modern Political Thought. Respondents: Professors Pratap Mehta and Jennifer Pitts. American Political Science Association/APSA, Boston (September 2002)

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor, English Department, University of Michigan (2005-2008) – (1) "Emerging Global Visions in the Eighteenth Century," English 239; (2) "Romanticism in an Age of Revolutions," English 319; (3) "The Prose of the World: the Literature of Decolonization," English 407; (4)

"Narratives of Enlightenment," English 371; (5) "English Romantic Literature," English 461; (6) "The Enlightenment & Postcolonial Thought," English 882.

Visiting Lecturer, English Department, Princeton University (2003-2005) – Courses taught on Romanticism, the literature of decolonization and “*Colonial Ressentiment: A Genealogy*” (European Cultural Studies 328).

Preceptor, Contemporary Civilization, Columbia University (2000-2003)

Instructor, Logic & Rhetoric, Columbia University (1997-1998; 1999-2000)

Teaching Assistant, “Derrida,” Professor Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Department of Comparative Literature, Columbia University (Fall 1995)

Teaching Interests

Eighteenth-Century Moral and Political Prose	Literary Theory
The Long Eighteenth Century	Contemporary Postcolonial Literature
European Enlightenment	Critical Theory
Literature of Empire & Decolonization	

Departmental Service

Graduate Admissions, Department of English, University of Michigan (2005-2006)

Graduate Awards Committee, Department of English, University of Michigan (2005-2006; 2007-2008)

Advisor to Graduate Students, Department of English, University of Michigan (2005-2008)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Reader, Dept. of English, Princeton/University of Michigan (2004-2008)

Other Academic Service

Director, Eighteenth-Century Studies Group, University of Michigan (Fall 2006; 2007-2008) – arranged three talks on "Colonialism and the Enlightenment" (2006): Emmanuel Chukwudi Eze (Philosophy, DePaul Univ.); Uday Singh Mehta (Political Science, Amherst College); & Srinivas Aravamudan (English, Duke). Arranged three talks on "New Directions in Eighteenth-Century Studies" (2008): Adam Potkay (William & Mary), Misty Anderson (Univ. of Tennessee), Betty Joseph (Rice Univ). Website: www.umich.edu/~ecsg/

Travel Fellowship Committee, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (2007-2008)

Chairperson, Travel Fellowship Committee, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (2008-2009)

Honors Program, Faculty Fellow, University of Michigan (2007-2008)

Faculty Affiliate, Center for South Asian Studies, University of Michigan (Fall 2005-2008)

Speaker Selection Committee, Center for South Asian Studies, University of Michigan (Fall 2007-Winter 2008)

Organizer, "Legacies of Decolonization" (April 2006) – arranged two talks ("Street Life in Accra," "J.M. Coetzee & Disability Studies") by Ato Quayson from the Center for Diaspora Studies at University of Toronto & fellow, Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Advisor, Undergraduate Research Program (UROP), University of Michigan (Fall 2005-Winter 2006)

Co-Organizer of writer's visit, "Tradition and Modernity in Indian Theater" (November 2005) – assisted with visit to University of Michigan by Mahesh Elkunchwar, Marathi playwright and writer.

Organizer of journalist's visit, "Fanon's Algeria & Algeria Today" (November 2003) – arranged visit to Princeton University by Adam Shatz, literary reviews editor at (*The Nation*, *The London Review of Books*) and author two articles on Algeria for the *New York Review of Books*.

Co-organizer, "After Orientalism: the Work of Edward Said" (October 1996) – Two-day conference at Columbia University.

Professional Affiliations

Modern Language Association (MLA), 1998–present

American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS), 2001–present

American Comparative Literature Society (ACLA), 2006-present