

# Arnab Banerji

Foley 311, 1 LMU Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90045 | (310) 338-4510 | arnab.banerji@lmu.edu

## Education

Ph.D., University of Georgia, Theatre and Performance Studies, August 2014

Dissertation title: "Setting the Stage: A Materialist Semiotic Analysis of Contemporary Bengali Group Theatre from Kolkata, India"

M.A., Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India, English, 2009

Postcolonial theory and Drama

B.A., Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India, English, 2007 first class with honors

## Academic Employment

Loyola Marymount University – Fall 2015 – Assistant Professor of Theatre history, theory, literature and dramaturgy.

Barnard College, Columbia University – Spring 2015 – Adjunct Professor

Muhlenberg College – 2014-2015 – ASIANetwork Luce Foundation Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow

Vidyasagar College, Calcutta University – 2013-2014 – Adjunct Instructor

University of Georgia – 2009-2012 – Graduate Teaching Assistant

## Current Research Interests

Indian ritual performance; Postcolonial Theory and theatre; performance studies; politics and theatre; youth theatre; theatre by the Indian diaspora; Avant-garde Indian cinema

## Publications

### Articles

"Struggling to Stage: The contentious issue of Theatre Space in Kolkata." *Theatre Symposium* (Summer/Fall 2016)

"Taking the Stage by Storm: Theatre of, by, and for the youth in Kolkata, India." *Cerebration* Summer 2016.

"Farley Richmond: The Pioneer in Indian Theatre Studies." *Asian Theatre Journal* (Fall 2013).

"Dancing Bhagvathi: A study of ritual female performance and the feminine exclusion." *Virginia Review of Asian Studies* (Fall 2013).

"Rehearsals for a Revolution: The Political Theater of Utpal Dutt." *Southeastern Review of Asian Studies* (Fall 2012).

"From The Stage To The Page And Back: Reconstructing A Visual History Of Nineteenth Century Bengali Theatre From Chromolithograph Prints." *Deccan Review* (July-August 2012).

### Reviews

*A Socio-political History of Marathi Theatre: Thirty Nights*, by Makarand Sathe. Book Review. *Studies in Theatre and Performance* (commissioned)

*Guards at the Taj* prod. by Atlantic Theatre, New York City. Performance Review. *Ecumenica* (commissioned)

*Mapping South Asia through Contemporary Theatre: Essays on the Theatres of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka*, edited by Ashis Sengupta. Book Review. *Asian Theatre Journal* (commissioned)

*The Act Of Becoming: Actors Talk*, edited by Amal Allana. Book Review. *TDR* (Fall 2016)  
*Out! Loud!* by Betty Bernhard. Media Review. *Asian Theatre Journal* (Spring 2014)  
*Brown Boys and Rice Queens: Spellbinding Performance in the Asias*, by Eng-Beng Lim. Book Review. *Theatre Journal* (March 2015)  
*Hindi Theatre in Kolkata: The Life and Times of Shyamanand Jalan*, by Samik Bandyopadhyay and Pratibha Agarwal. Book Review. *Asian Theatre Journal* (Spring 2014)  
*A History of the Jana Natya Manch: Plays for the People*, by Arjun Ghosh. Book Review. *Asian Theatre Journal* (Spring 2013)  
*Play-house of Power: Theatre in Colonial India*, by Lata Singh. Book Review. *Asian Theatre Journal* (Fall 2011)

### Conference Presentations

“The categories of theatrical labor and theatrical citizenship in the Bengali group theatre” at ATHE annual conference (Chicago, IL, 2016)

“Being Digitally Hindu: Mediated practice of Hinduism among diaspora communities” at the IFTR annual conference (Stockholm, Sweden, 2016)

“Can you train to be a labor: Theatrical training in Bengali group theatre” at Asian Performance Conference, University of Lincoln (Lincoln, UK, 2016)

Invited Presentation: “When Pottan became Shiva: The celebration of blasphemy in Teyyam and its appropriation by Brahminical Hinduism” as part of the MORGENSTIERNE South Asia section lecture series, University of Oslo (Oslo, Norway, 2016)

“Romancing with Paglu: the Celebrity Cadre of the Trinamool Congress” at American Society for Theatre Research Conference (Portland, OR, 2015)

“Struggling to Stage: The Contentious Issue of Theatre Space in Kolkata” at Theatre Symposium (Decatur, GA, 2015)

“Maked faces, deafening music, giant dolls, and imbibing god: Teaching Asian Performance in a Liberal-Arts College” at the ASIANetwork Annual Conference (St. Louis, MO, 2015)

“Women in Bengali group theatre: 1940 – present” at the Women and Gender Studies Conference (Seton Hall University, NJ, 2015)

“Speaking Politics through Play: A Case Study of Theatre Formation Paribartak” at the Annual Conference on South Asia (Madison, WI, 2014).

“Youth Theatre in Kolkata, India” at Theatre Symposium 2014 (Decatur, GA, 2014).

“The Extra Ordinary: The Story of Bengali Theatre, as told by the people who ‘build’ it” as part of the “Everyday Life: Histories of the Ordinary, Persistent, and Repeated” working group convened by Robin Bernstein and Kyla Wazana at the annual conference of the American Society for Theatre Research (Dallas, TX, 2013).

“Finding Comfort in Silence? The Absence of Partition Narratives from the Contemporary Group Theatre in Kolkata” at the Partition Narratives and South Asian Diaspora pre-conference (Madison, WI, 2013).

“Vasantasena and Aparna in New Brunswick: Towards a Global Performance” at the annual conference of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (Orlando, FL, 2013).

“Munni Badnam Hui: The Consumable Female Body in Bollywood Item Numbers” at the International Federation of Theatre Research (IFTR) annual conference (Barcelona, Spain, 2013).

“Kolkata’s Street Corners as Public Sphere” at the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society (IACS) annual conference (Singapore, 2013).

Invited presentation, “General Tso Meets Colonel Sanders: The Story of Asian-American Theatre” at the seminar on “Performance as Interpretation in Reading American Drama Texts” organized by The Jadavpur University Society for American Studies (Kolkata, 2012).

Panel Chair, “Cholche, cholbe: A study of the interaction between politics and performance in Asia” at the annual conference of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (Washington DC, 2012).

“Hum Aapke Sath Hain – Anna Hazare, India Against Corruption and Bollywood” at the annual conference of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (Washington DC, 2012).

“Performing culture: An enquiry into the next generation participation in diasporic cultural events” at the annual conference of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (Washington DC, 2012).

“Farley Richmond – The pioneer in Indian theatre scholarship in the United States” at the Annual conference of the Association for Asian Performance (Washington DC, 2012).

“Making Theatre: The Work of the Designer in Post-Independence Bengali theatre” at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Mid America Theatre Conference (Chicago, IL, 2012).

“Dancing Bhagvathi: A study of Ritual Female Performance and the Feminine Exclusion” at the University of Georgia Institute of Women’s Studies Student Research Symposium (University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 2012).

“Rehearsing for a Revolution: The Political Theatre of Utpal Dutt” at the 51<sup>st</sup> Southeast Conference – Association for Asian Studies meeting (Greenville, SC, 2012).

“Occupying the Public Sphere: The Case of Stephen Colbert, Jon Stewart and Anna Hazare” at the University of Georgia Department of Philosophy Interdisciplinary Conference on Pop Culture (University of Georgia, Department of Philosophy, Athens, GA, 2011).

“The Kutiyattam Project: A Presentation on the Virtual Koothambalam” at the annual conference of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (Chicago, IL, 2011).

“Material Analysis of Teyyam and the Brahminical Imposition” at the Annual conference of the Association for Asian Performance Emerging Scholars’ Panel (Chicago, IL, 2011).

“Dancing Down the Memory Lane: Teyyam as a Memory Machine” at PSi# 17 (Utrecht, Netherlands, 2011).

“*Je Jan Ache Majkhane* (One Who Lies at the Centre): Women Performers and Contemporary Bengali Group Theatre” at the annual Conference of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education (Los Angeles, CA, 2010).

**Theatrical Production Design, Research, and Dramaturgy**2014

<i>Bray's Plays</i>	Lighting Design	UGA University Theatre
<i>Equivocation</i>	Lighting Design	UGA Independent Student Project

2012-2013

<i>Man of the Heart</i>	Digital Operations	Tritiyo Sutra, Kolkata
<i>Lakshman-er Shaktishel</i> ( <i>Laxman Shellshocked</i> )	Production Controller	Theatre Formation Paribartak, Kolkata
<i>Himmatwala</i>	Research, Writer	Theatre Formation Paribartak, Kolkata

2011

<i>The Last Days of Judas Iscariot</i>	Lighting Design	UGA Thalian Blackfriars
<i>Endgame and Act Without Words II</i>	Lighting Design	UGA Graduate Acting Ensemble
<i>Life is a Dream</i>	Lighting Design	UGA University Theatre
<i>Bisarjan (The Sacrifice)</i>	Research Assistant	Epic Actors' Workshop, New Jersey

2010

<i>The Little Clay Cart</i>	Research Assistant	Epic Actors' Workshop, New Jersey
<i>Arabian Nights</i>	Lighting Design	UGA University Theatre
<i>Dance of Hands</i>	Lighting Design	UGA Graduate Acting Ensemble
<i>Blackbird</i>	Lighting Design	UGA Graduate Acting Ensemble

**Professional Affiliations**

2010-Present	Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)
2010-Present	Association for Asian Performance (AAP)
2010-Present	International Federation for Theatre Research (IFTR)
2011-Present	Performance Studies International (PSi)
2014-Present	Theatre Symposium, South Eastern Theatre Conference (SETC)
2013-Present	American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)
2011-2012	Mid-America Theatre Conference (MATC)

**Courses Taught***Asian Performance and special topics*

FYS: Performance of, by, and for the Indian diaspora (Spring 2017) – LMU  
 Dramaturgy: A Practical Introduction (Fall 2016) – LMU  
 Traditions of Indian performance (Spring 2016 and Spring 2017) – LMU  
 Traditions of Indian Performance (Spring 2015) – Barnard College  
 Queer(ing) Asian Performance (Spring 2015) – Muhlenberg College  
 Politics and Performance in Asia (Spring 2015) – Muhlenberg College

*Introductory survey courses*

Theatre History and Dramatic Literature II: 1700 – present (Spring and Summer 2016) – LMU  
 Theatre History and Dramatic Literature I: Ritual origins to 1700 (Fall 2015 and Fall 2016) – LMU  
 Introduction to Asian Performance (Fall 2014) – Muhlenberg College  
 Appreciation of Theatre for Non-majors (Spring 2010 and Maymester 2010) – UGA

### Teaching Assistant

Appreciation of Theatre for Non-majors (Fall 2011 and Spring 2012) – Dr. John Patrick Bray  
Theatre History II: 1800-present (Spring 2011) – Dr. David Saltz  
Appreciation of Theatre for Non-majors (Fall 2009) – Dr. Cheryldee Huddleston

### Invited Special Topics Lectures

Appreciation of Theatre – Lighting Design, Indian Theatre, and Virtual Performance (Fall 2011 and Spring 2012) – Dr. John Patrick Bray  
Introduction to Theatre – Design for the stage (Fall 2011) – Dr. John Patrick Bray  
Theatre History II: 1800-present – Political Theatre and Postcolonial Theory and performance (Spring 2011) – Dr. David Saltz

### Services/Leadership

2015 Associate Editor, *Indian Theatre Journal* (Intellect)  
2014-2015 Peer Reviewer (South Asia), *Asian Cinema* (Intellect)  
2012-2014 Graduate Representative, Association of Asian Performance, ATHE  
2009 Editorial Assistant to Marla Carlson for her book *Performing Bodies in Pain: Medieval and Post-Modern Martyrs, Mystics, and Artists* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010)

### Awards

Transformation of an Upper Division Course Grant, Office of Faculty Development, LMU, 2016 – \$5000.  
Travel Award, Center for Teaching Excellence, LMU, 2016 – \$1200.  
IFTR Bursary, International Federation for Theatre Research (IFTR), 2016 – \$900.  
Robert C. Anderson Memorial Excellence in Research Award, UGA, 2016 – \$1000.  
David Keller Travel Award, ASTR, 2015 – \$800.  
Core Course Development Grant – Center for Teaching Excellence, LMU, 2015 – \$2000.  
Conference Travel Award, Office of the Provost, Muhlenberg College, 2014 – \$1000.  
Sylvia Pannell Graduate Student Travel award, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, University of Georgia, 2014 – \$300.  
Foreign Travel Assistance Award, University of Georgia, 2014.  
Graduate School Travel Award, University of Georgia, 2013 – \$500.  
Graduate Assistantship from the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, University of Georgia, 2013-2014.  
IFTR Bursary, International Federation for Theatre Research (IFTR), 2013 - €770.  
Foreign Travel Assistance Award, University of Georgia, 2013.  
Graduate Student Travel Award, Southeast Conference – Association for Asian Studies, 2012 - \$200.  
Association for Asian Performance Emerging Scholars Panel, Chicago, IL, 2011 - \$100.  
Graduate School Travel Award, University of Georgia, 2011 - \$2400  
Foreign Travel Assistance Award, University of Georgia, 2011.  
Sylvia Pannell Graduate Student Travel award, Department of Theatre and Film Studies, University of Georgia, 2011 - \$500.  
Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, University of Georgia, 2011.  
Graduate Assistantship from the Department of Theatre and Film Studies, University of Georgia, 2009-2012.  
Charles Wallace India Trust Scholarship to attend the three week 'Text and Context: British and Irish Literature 1900 to Present' course conducted by the Scottish Universities' International Summer School (SUISS) at Edinburgh in July – 2008.