

Dr. Nalini Natarajan

Professor

Department of English, Faculty of Humanities
University of Puerto Rico, Río Piedras, PR 00931 (USA)

Education

Ph.D. (1984) University of Aberdeen, U.K.
Dissertation Title: "The Witty Woman in Nineteenth Century English
Comic Fiction." Faculty Adviser: Paul Schlicke

1986-87: Post-Doctoral Fellow, English Department, Yale
University, New Haven, CT.

BA (Hons. 1976) and MA (1978). University of Delhi, India. English &
American Literature. MA First Class.

1981-1982: University of Aberdeen Postgraduate Studentship

1981-83: Overseas Research Award from the Committee of Vice-
Chancellors and Principals of the United Kingdom.

1980-81: British Council Scholar (for graduate study in the U.K.)

Recent Plenaries and talks

MARTIN LUTHER KING MEMORIAL LECTURE, HAMLINE UNIVERSITY
MARCH 2009

Georgia Tech INVITED LECTURE, March, 2009

U TORONTO, PLENARY LECTURE, March 2006

Publications [most recent]

Atlantic Gandhi: The Mahatma Overseas (Sage: Delhi, London, NY, 2012).

The Resonating Island: The Caribbean in intercultural dialogue (San Juan: Terranova,
2013)

'Two Women's texts and the Critique of Imperialism'. Cuadernos [Colombia] 2013.

"South Asia Studies in Transatlantic Dialogue," *Comparative Studies of South Asia,
Africa and the Middle East*, 27, 2 (Duke University Press, 2007)

"Atlantic Gandhi, Caribbean Gandhian." *Sargasso*, 2006.-7, EPW, May 2009.

"Fanon as metrocolonial Flaneur in the Caribbean postplantation/Algerian postcolonial
city." *The Masters and the Slaves*. Palgrave: St. Martin's Press, 2005:89-102

Woman and Indian Modernity: Readings of colonial and postcolonial novels (New Orleans: University Press of the South; 2002)

Reviewed in Sargasso (2004), Ariel (Vol 36, 3-4, July-Oct '05): 203-205

Description: The book interprets key twentieth-century novels (in English or English translation) for the interaction between modernity and gender; novels read are Swami (Bengali) Samskara (Kannada), Midnight's Children (English), A Fine Balance (English), and The God of Small Things (English).

Handbook of Twentieth-Century Literatures of India, edited, with an Introduction by N. Natarajan. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press. 1996.

Reviewed in Journal of Third World Studies, Fall 2001; Choice, March 1997 and Library Journal, 1996.

Awarded the Choice Outstanding Academic Book Award

"Reluctant Janeites: Jane Austen and Saratchandra Chatterjee's Swami", The Postcolonial Jane Austen, edited by You-me Park and Rajeswari Sunder Rajan (London: Routledge, 2000):141-162

"Dickens and India" Oxford Companion to Dickens, edited by Paul Schlicke (London: Oxford Univ. Press, 1999): Encyclopedia entry

"Gender, Caste and Modernity in U.R. Anantha Murthy's Samskara" Signposts: Gender Issues in Post- Independence India (Delhi: Kali for Women, 1999 ; New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2001): 155-187; Republished in U.R. Anantha Murthy's Samskara: A Critical Reader. Edited by Kailash Baral, D. Venkat Rao and Sura Rath: 151-179.

"Woman, Nation and Narration in Midnight's Children," Scattered Hegemonies: Postmodernity and Transnational Feminist Practices, edited by Inderpal Grewal and Caren Kaplan. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1994
Reprinted in Midnight's Children: A Book of Readings edited by Meenakshi Mukherjee (Delhi: Pencraft, 1999); Reprinted in Feminist Theory and the Body (Routledge, 1999).

"Teoria Literaria Feminista: una Lectura," Mas Allá de la Bella (in) Diferencia, edited by Heidi Figueroa, Maria Milagros López and Madeline Román (Río Piedras, PR: Publicaciones Puertorriqueñas, 1994)

"Reading Diaspora," Introduction to Writers of the Indian Diaspora: A Bio-bibliographical Critical Sourcebook, edited by Emmanuel Nelson (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1993).

"Betsy Trotwood: Woman in Motley?" Woman/Image/Text, edited by Lola Chatterjee, New Delhi: Trianka, 1986

Articles in Refereed Journals:

“Post-Industrial Calibans?” *Economic and Political Weekly*, June 1997

“Woman and Brahman Modernity”, *Thamyris*, 4, 1 (1997): 168-193
 Edited by Rajeswari Sunderrajan

“Modes of Discourse and the National Imaginary in Two Caribbean Texts”,
Caribbean Studies, 27 (1-2) January-June 1994: 128-138

“Man Into Beast: Representations of Metamorphoses,” *Bestia* 5 (May 1993): 117-122.

“Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* as a Counter-Enlightenment Text,” *Revista La Torre*
 (1991)

“Women Teachers and the Delhi University Teachers Strike,” (with R. Sunderrajan,
 R. Bhatnagar, N. Gupta). *Manushi*, June 1986: 27-30

Introductions/Contributions in Conference Proceedings:

“Introduction: Extended Boundaries” (and edited with Lowell Fiet), Special issue of
Caribbean Studies, 27 (3-4) December 1994: 177-180

“Dossier Puerto Rico” (with Juan Flores and Maria Milagros Lopez), *Social Text*, 39 see
 Errata (Inside Cover) and 38 (Spring 1994): introductory essay to a collection.

“Theory and Practice in Women’s Studies,” *Hacia Una Curricula No Sexista* (San Juan,
 1992), Proceedings of the Ford Foundation/ CUNY Symposium: 7 (1-17) Book Reviews

Reviews

Book Review of Salman Rushdie, *Enchantress of Florence*, forthcoming, Sargasso and
 Claridad (trans. Ruben Rios)

Book Review of *The First Crossing being the Diary of Theophilus Richmond, ship’s
 surgeon aboard the Hesperus, 1837-8*, forthcoming in Sargasso

Book Review of Rosario Ferre’s *Eccentric Neighborhoods*, Sargasso, 2003

Book Review of Celia Britton, Edouard Glissant and *Post-colonial Theory*, and Sargasso,
 forthcoming.

Book Review of Meena Alexander’s *Fault Lines*, *MELUS*, Spring, 1995

Book review of Paule Marshall's *Daughters*, San Juan Star Feb 1992

Book Review of Jamaica Kincaid's *Lucy; Sargasso*, 7 (1990): 5

Book Review of Stuart Brown ed. *Caribbean New Wave*, Sargasso 7 (1990): 65-66.

Past Lectures/ Talks:

"South Asia Studies, South Asia Diaspora studies", Richardson Seminar, May 2008

Invited Plenary Address, "South Asia Studies in a Transatlantic Frame," Center for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, University of Toronto, March 2006

"Atlantic Gandhi" West Indies Conference, Rio Piedras, 2005

"Earth", Ciclo Tricontinental Film Festival, San Juan PR, October 2004.

Book Presentation, "Woman and Indian Modernity", Ollson's Bookstore, Washington, DC, Jan 2004

"Homage to Edward Said", Mesa Redonda at UPR, Humanidades, Sep 2003

"Woman and Indian Modernity" Richardson Seminar, 2003

Invited talk, American Association of University Women, San Juan Chapter, Sep 2003

Library of Congress, Asia Reading Room, Washington, DC, July 2003

"Woman and Modernity in Five Twentieth-Century Indian novels"

World Bank, Values and Development Forum, World Bank, October 2002

"Modernity and Gender issues in India"

"A Fine Balance", Richardson Seminar, January 2002

"Woman and the City in Mistry's *A Fine Balance*", George Washington University, Marvin Center, October 2001

Conference Presentations

"Frantz Fanon and the City" ACLA conference, San Juan, April 11-14, 2002

"Gender, Property and Post-Colonial Modernity," Caribbean Summit, San Juan, PR. October, 1998

- “Gender, Caste and Modernity in U.R. Ananta Murthy’s Samskara, South Asia Conference, Madison, Wisconsin, October 1998. Organized and chaired the panel on Kannada Literature and Modernity
- “Gandhi and Diaspora”, South Asia Conference, Madison, Wisconsin, October 1997
- “Woman and Kannada Modernity”, UCLA South Asian Women’s Conference, Los Angeles, CA, September, 1997
- “Post-Industrial Calibans” paper presented for Caribbean 2000, Rockefeller Foundation, Rio Piedras, PR, March- April 1997
- “The Female Diaspora and Small Nations,” African Literature Association, State University of New York, Stony Brook, March 1996
- “Caribbean Psychoanalysis and Race,” Psychoanalysis and Social Change, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., November, 1996
- “Psychosexuality in Samskara,” Psychoanalysis and Postcolonialism, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. November, 1995
- “Meena Alexander’s Fault Lines and the Sign of Gandhi,” Modern Language Association, San Diego, CA, December 1994
- “The National Imaginary and Post-Colonial Cultural Forms,” EACLALS Conference, (European Commonwealth Literatures Conference) Graz, Austria, May 1993
- “Man into Beast- Metamorphoses and the Beast Fable,” Beast Fable International Society, Glasgow, Scotland, July 9-16, 1992
- “Diasporic Anxiety,” Cultural Studies Conference, Cayey, PR, January 1992
- “Unmasking Authority”, Conference on Masking and Unmasking in West Indian Literature, Annual West Indies Conference, Trinidad, June 1991
- “Carnival in Caribbean Literature, Conference on Cultural Conflict in Contemporary Literature,” Mayaguez, PR, February, 1991
- “The Caribbean Imaginary,” Conference organized jointly by CUNY and UPR, Psychology Department, Cayey, PR, February 1991.
- “Woman, Nation and Narration in Midnight’s Children,” International Narrative Conference, New Orleans, LA, April, 1990

“Nostalgic Recovery in *Midnight’s Children*, College English Association, San Juan, PR
October 1989

Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* as a Counter-Enlightenment Text,” Conference on the
Enlightenment, Rio Piedras, PR, October 1989

“The Idea of the Nation in Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*,” Silver Jubilee,
ACLALS, Association of Commonwealth Language and Literature
Studies, Canterbury, Kent, U.K. August 1989

“Female Bildungsroman in Paule Marshall’s *Brown Girl, Brownstones*,” Mayaguez, PR
1989

Fellowships/Institutes/ Titles

2001-2003: Visiting Scholar, Women’s Studies, George
Washington University, Washington, DC.

1995-96: Visiting Scholar, Women’s Studies, George Washington
University, Washington, DC.

1997-Session leader, NEH Summer Institute on Caribbean
Performance held at UPR, Rio Piedras. Conducted session on one-
woman plays in PR and India.

1989- Participant Fellow, NEH Summer Seminar, Yale University

Teaching Experience1987 to present: Department of English, Faculty of Humanities,
University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, PR 00931

Assistant Professor (1987-1992)

Tenured Associate Professor (1992-1998)

Full Professor (since 1998)

Graduate Courses taught: (*first proposed and taught by N.
Natarajan)

*Indo-Caribbean Literature

*The City and Narrative in Nineteenth-Century British Fiction

*Caribbean Theory and Literature

Feminism and Literature

*Post-Colonial Cultural Representations (doctoral level)

Nineteenth Century American Fiction

Undergraduate courses taught:

Victorian Literature Caribbean Literature
 The Immigrant Experience Literature of Growing Up
 Women in Literature *Fantasy in Literature
 Fiction, Expository Writing English as a Second Language
 (Levels 3, 4)
 Introduction to Literature: Novel, Poetry and Drama
 Invited to teach for the Honors Program and Comparative
 Literature Dept.

Fall 1991: Hunter College, City University of New York.
 Visiting Professor, CUNY-UPR Faculty Exchange Program.
Course Taught: Caribbean Women Writers

1984-1986: Lecturer. Tenured faculty position at Miranda House,
 University of Delhi, India.

1978-1980: Assistant Professor. Temporary Teaching Position at
 Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India.

University Activities

Awards

Reconocimiento por Excelencia Academica y Productividad (Recognition for Academic
 Excellence and Productivity) presented by the University of Puerto Rico, 1998

Departmental Committees

Chair, Visiting Professors' Committee, Doctoral Program, 2001 to 2005.
 Personnel Committee: 1992-1994, 1998 to 2006. Participation in Tenure Reviews,
 Evaluations, Job Searches; Chair 2003-6.
 Subcommittee on new Ph.D program in Caribbean Studies (since 1999)
 Graduate Committee since 1987; Graduate Steering committee
 Curriculum Committee 1988-1992
 Cultural and Academic Affairs 1988-1992 (Arranging for Campus Talks)
 Sub-Committee on Advanced Placement
 Editorial Board of Departmental Magazine, Sargasso 1992

Campus activities

Organized week-long workshop for doctoral students on Post-Colonial Theory, March
 2001 at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras.

Organized two day conference (with Maria Soledad Rodriguez) on “Women in the Caribbean- an interdisciplinary symposium” March 1998

Founder Organizer (w/ Judith Plotz, GWU) of Nineteenth-Century Reading Group at George Washington University while on Visiting Appointment there, 1995-1996

Organized the distribution of panels for the conference “West Indian Literature: Extended Boundaries”, Rio Piedras and Cayey campuses, University of Puerto Rico, 5-8 April 1994

Invited to conduct a session in the NEH Summer Institute in the NEH Summer Institute on Performance and Text in Caribbean Literature held at Rio Piedras, June-July 1997 by director Lowell Fiet. Organized a dance/ performance discussion group and conducted a session on Intercultural Performance focusing on modern one-woman performances in Puerto Rico and India.

Invited Delegate at the conference “Re-Envisioning San Juan” run by the Universidad Polytechnica: School of Architecture directed by Arq. Rigau, January 1997

Collaborated with Drama department on adaptation of Badal Sircar’s Procession into Spanish. Involves sets, costumes, intercultural comparisons and other theatrical input (performed at Rio Piedras in spring, 1997)

Thesis Director (on approved theses)

- Ph.D Mae Teitelbaum: “The Complicit Intellectual in the Caribbean: Rosario Ferre, Margaret Cezaire Thomson.” Principal Director, 2007
- MA Susan Meltzer, 2005, Principal Director;
- MA Edna Collazo, 2002, Principal Director
- Juan Carlos Canals, “House for Mr. Biswas as a West Indian Bildungsroman”, 1991 Principal Director
- Carmen Gonzalez, “Surrogate Mothers in Three Novels”, 2000; Principal Director

Member of Thesis Committee:

- Dorsia Smith “VS Naipaul and Africa”
- Joanne Harris, Ph.D thesis. “The White Creole in the Barbados”, 2008, Reader
- Ada Haiman, Ph.D thesis. 2007 Reader.
- Maritza Stanchich, MA Thesis The Caribbean “Other” in Faulkner’s Absalom, Absalom, 1995, Reader
- Maria Escribano MA Thesis (Literatura Comparada: directora Susan Homar), Reader
- Sondra Rodriguez, MA thesis “ Lady Guinevere in Camelot”, 1991, Reader
- Daisy Santiago, MA Thesis “ Reconstruction of the Homeland in Narrative Fiction by Three Spanish- speaking women writing in English” , Reader
- Enrique Fernandez Ruiz, MA thesis “ Genre, Style and Characterization: the Foundation of J.R. Tolkein’s The Lord of the Ring, 1994, Reader