

Sunil M. Agnani

2027 University Hall
+1 312.413.2234

601 S. Morgan St, MC 162, Chicago, Illinois
sagnani1@uic.edu

60607 USA
sunilagnani.wordpress.com

Employment

University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of English / Department of History, 50/50 joint appointment. Associate Professor with tenure (August 2013-present). Assistant Professor (2008-2013)

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 (Greek, Sanskrit) / Residential College, 1991

Awards and Fellowships

[Harry Levin Prize, Best First Book, American Comparative Literature Association](#) (ACLA) March 2014
Rice University, [Humanities Research Center](#) (year-long) Sept 2014-June 2015
Trinity College, Dublin, Long Room Visiting Research Fellow (declined) Summer 2012
Faculty Foreign Travel Grant, University of Illinois at Chicago, for travel to Jaipur, India Dec 2011
Junior Faculty Grant, LAS, University of Illinois at Chicago, for travel to Jaipur, India Dec 2011
Newberry Library, Chicago, Scholar in Residence 2008-2009; 2009-2011
Faculty Foreign Travel Grant, University of Illinois at Chicago, for travel to Verona, Italy May 2009
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-Jan 2004
John Carter Brown Library, Brown University, William Reese Company Fellow Feb-Apr, 2003
Preceptor's Fellowship, Columbia College, New York 2000-2003
Core Curriculum Summer Fellowship, Columbia University 2001; 2002
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
Eugene Power Foundation Scholarship, for study at Cambridge University 1992-1994
Phi Beta Kappa, University of Michigan 1991
Phillips Classical Prize, For Translation of Classical Greek, University of Michigan 1991
James B. Angell Scholar, Class Honors, University of Michigan 1989-1991

Publications

In Print

Book

[*Hating Empire Properly: The Two Indies and the Limits of Enlightenment Anticolonialism*](#). New York: [Fordham University Press](#), 2013; [Kindle version](#). Winner of 2014 [Harry Levin Prize](#) for Best First Book from the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), March 2014.

Articles & Publications

"At the Gates of Realism. Srinivas Aravamudan's *Enlightenment Orientalism: Resisting the Rise of the Novel*." *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*, Vol. 1, Issue 3 (Fall 2014): 1-5.

"India and Haiti as Colonial Spaces of the Enlightenment." *L'Inde des Lumières; Discours, histoire, savoirs (XVIIe-XIXe siècle) / India and Enlightenment: Discourse, History, Knowledge (17th-19th century)*. Marie Fourcade & Ines G. Zupanov (Editors), Collection Purushartha (31), Paris: [École des Hautes Études \(EHESS\) Press](#), Apr 2013.

["Entre la France et l'Inde en 1790 : Edmund Burke et les révolutions en Europe et en Asie"](#) (Translation by Ann Sommereux). Contribution to *Rêver d'Orient, connaître l'Orient : Visions de l'Orient dans l'art et la littérature britanniques*, ed. by Isabelle Gadoin and Marie-Élise Palmier-Chatelain. Lyons: ENS ÉDITIONS / École normale supérieure, 2008: 285-304.

"Jacobinism in India, Indianism in English Parliament: Fearing the Enlightenment with Edmund Burke." *Cultural Critique* (Issue 68), Winter 2008: 131-162.

"*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. Other contributors include: JGA Pocock, Anthony Pagden, Jonathan Lamb. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007: 65-84.

"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: 329-335.

"William Kentrige: Memories of Europe in the Colony." *ArtIndia*, Vol. X, issue iii, July/August 2005: 22-25.

"Teaching in Dark Times: A Review of *After the World Trade Center: Rethinking New York City*." *Postcolonial Studies*, Vol. 6, Issue 1, Winter 2003: 123-129.

Forthcoming

"How not to read the Enlightenment: Denis Diderot, John Morley, and a Victorian mis-reception of the *Histoire des deux Indes*." Article of 11K words. Submitted August 2014 to Ann Thomson (European University Institute, Florence) and Marie Leca-Tsiomi (University of Paris X/Nanterre). For publication by [Éditions Garnier press](#) in Paris.

Presentations and Conferences (selected)

- "Genealogies of Anticolonialism." Paper on "Victorian Science and Enlightenment Curiosity: John Morley and the Anticolonialism of Diderot/Raynal." Co-arranger of panel with Daniel Elam (Northwestern). Modern Language Association, Chicago (Jan 2014)
- "Diderot et le politique aujourd'hui." Invited presenter at conference marking 300th anniversary of Diderot's birth, held at Université de Paris X, Nanterre. Organized by Ann Thomson (European University Institute, Florence) and Marie Leca-Tsiomis (Univ. of Paris-Nanterre) (November 2013)
- "Colonial Genealogies of the Human Sciences." Seminar forming part of the triennial congress of the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA), University Paris-Sorbonne (July 18-24, 2013)
- "Race and Empire: The State of the Field." Presenter on roundtable organized by Suvir Kaul (Penn) and Ashley Cohen (Penn). Cleveland, American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (March 2013)
- "Authorizing Antiquity: India, Haiti, and 18th-Century Orientalism." Organized by Aamir Mufti (UCLA). Panel on "The Many 18th Centuries of Orientalism." Boston, Modern Language Association (Jan 2013)
- "Enthusiasm, Enlightenment and Revolution: Edmund Burke's misrecognition of Jean-Jacques Rousseau?" Conference organized by Jean-Francois Rochard, French Consulate of Chicago, and Ellen McClure, University of Illinois at Chicago, to mark Rousseau's 300th birthday. Other speakers included: Susan Maslan (UC-Berkeley), and Elizabeth Wingrove (Univ of Michigan) (October 2012)
- "Hating Empire Properly: Adorno, CLR James, and the legacy of the Enlightenment." English Department, Friday Colloquium, University of Illinois at Chicago (20 April 2012)
- "Words and Power: Roland Barthes and Raymond Williams." Newberry Teachers' Consortium Seminar. Attended by 24 high school teachers in the Chicago area. Newberry Library, Chicago (March 2012)
- "Hating Empire Properly: Impasses of the Enlightenment in CLR James and Adorno." Fourteenth International Conference of the Forum on Contemporary Theory, "Transcending Disciplinary Decadence," held in Jaipur, India. Organized by Lewis Gordon, Temple University, and Prafulla Kar, Institute for Contemporary Theory, Vadodara (Dec 2011)
- "l'Inde des Lumières" / "The India of the Enlightenment." Invited speaker to two-day conference at L'École des Hautes Etudes en Science Sociale (EHESS), Paris. Organized by Ines Zupanov and Marie Fourcade. Title of Paper: "Hating Empire Properly: India & Haiti as Two Spaces of Colonial Enlightenment" (May 2011)
- "The Enlightenment in a Global Frame." Organizer and convener of panel at the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA). Vancouver (March-April 2011)
- "Reflections on the Revolution in St Domingue/Haiti: The Treatise that Edmund Burke almost Wrote." Panelist on 18th- and 19th-century Haiti at the 29th Annual West Indian Literature Conference, entitled "Caribbeascapes: The Vistas of Caribbean Literature." University of the West Indies-Mona, Kingston, Jamaica (April-May 2010)
- "Reflections on the Revolution in St. Domingue/Haiti: The Treatise that Edmund Burke *almost* Wrote." History Department, University of Illinois at Chicago, Brownbag series (March 2010)
- "Atlantic Enlightenments." Invited participant to conference on the larger topic of "Atlantic Narratives" held at University of Miami's Center for the Humanities (Feb 2010). [Conference video archive](#).

- "Neoliberalism & its Discontents." Organized by Walter Benn Michaels & the Institute for the Humanities at University of Illinois at Chicago. Other panel participants included Adolph Reed, Madhu Dubey. Commentator/Respondent on panel (Feb 2010)
- "From Colony to Postcolony: The Literature of Empire and its Aftermath." Newberry Teachers' Consortium Seminar, Newberry Library, Chicago (October 2009)
- "Rousseau and his Interlocutors." International Society for Intellectual History (ISIH) annual meeting. Theme of conference: "Translatio Studiorum: Ancient, Medieval, and Modern Bearers of Intellectual History." Organized by Marco Sgarbi, University of Verona, Italy (May 2009)
- "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)
- "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)
- "Jacobinism in India: on the Political thought of Edmund Burke." Presentation at the Center for South Asian Studies, University of Michigan (January 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 (UC-Berkeley). Madison South Asia Conference (October 2005)
- "The Idea of Europe in the Eighteenth Century." 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." Seminar presentation to the Irish Studies Seminar, University Seminars at Columbia University (September 2005)
- "Classical Reception and the Political." Organized by "Contexts for Classics" and James Porter (Classics Dept.) at the University of Michigan. Commentator to paper by Pantelis Michelakis, "Theatre Festivals, Nationalism and the Revival of Greek Drama" (September 2005)
- "Empire and Modern Political Thought." Commentator at conference organized by Sankar Muthu, Princeton University. Held at the Rockefeller Foundation Conference Center, in Bellagio, Italy (June 2005)

- “Custom, Prejudice and Manners: Edmund Burke between France and India in 1790.” 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.” 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)
- “On the Political Thought of Edmund Burke.” Commentator at conference organized by Akeel Bilgrami of the Dept of Philosophy, Columbia University. Speakers included: Uday Mehta, David Bromwich, Luke Gibbons. Humanities Council, Columbia University (February 2005)
- “Burke, Ireland, India: Revisiting a Political Analogy.” On panel organized by Abbey Bender. 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. Organized by David Armitage and James E.G. Zetzel (February 2004)

Teaching

Assistant Professor & Associate Professor, Dept of English/Dept of History, University of Illinois at Chicago (Aug 2008-present) – (1) "Enlightenment Narratives, Colonial Subjects: Literature and Empire in the Eighteenth Century," English 315. (2) "The European Enlightenment in a Global Frame," History 492. (3) "The Enlightenment & Postcolonial Thought," English 525. (4) "From Colony to Postcolony: The Literature of Decolonization," English 422. (5) "Global Enlightenment: Race, Empire and European Imagination of the World," History 258. (6) "Empire, Encounter & Ethnography from the Renaissance to the Victorian period," History 594. (7) "Words and Power: An Introduction to Literary Theory," English 240. (8) "Enlightenment, Empire, and Conquest: Edward Gibbon, Denis Diderot & Edmund Burke," History 492.

Assistant Professor, English Department, University of Michigan (2005-2008) – (1) "Emerging Global Visions in the Eighteenth Century," English 239. Introductory lecture course for sophomores, required for the English major. (2) "Romanticism in an Age of Revolutions," English 319. Upper-level course on Romanticism as a response to the Enlightenment, and to the American, French and Haitian revolutions. (3) "The Prose of the World: the Literature of Decolonization," English 407. Advanced undergraduate seminar divided in three parts: 20th-century European literature of empire; third-world anticolonial nationalist thinkers; and contemporary postcolonial literature. (4) "Narratives of Enlightenment," English 371. Lecture course covering the period from 1660-1830. (5) "English Romantic Literature," English 461. (6) "The Enlightenment & Postcolonial Thought," English 882. Advanced course on critical theory for graduate students.

Visiting Lecturer, English Department, Princeton University (2003-2005) – (1) “Romanticism in an Age of Revolutions,” English 328. (2) “Literature in the Age of Empire & Decolonization,” Freshmen Seminar 138. (3) “The Prose of the World: the Literature of Decolonization.” English 300. (4) “Colonial *Ressentiment*: A Genealogy,” European Cultural Studies 328.

Preceptor, Contemporary Civilization, Columbia University (2000-2003) – A year-long class forming a part of Columbia’s core curriculum. The first semester begins with Greek philosophy (Plato, Aristotle), moves to texts from Jewish, Christian and Islamic traditions, and ends with Hobbes and Locke. The second semester begins with the Enlightenment and ends with twentieth-century thinkers such as Freud.

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

European Enlightenment
Eighteenth Century Studies
Eighteenth-Century Political Thought
Literature of Empire & Decolonization

Literary Theory
Contemporary Postcolonial Literature
South Asian Literature (Classical and Modern)
Critical Theory

Service to Department of English, University of Illinois at Chicago

Graduate Studies Committee, English Department, University of Illinois (2012-2014)

Steering Committee, English Department, University of Illinois at Chicago (2011-2012)

Graduate School Workshop, English Department, University of Illinois at Chicago (Oct 2011; Oct 2013)

Undergraduate Committee, English Department, University of Illinois at Chicago (2008-2009; 2009-2010)

Service to Department of History, University of Illinois at Chicago

Program Committee, History Department, University of Illinois at Chicago (2010-2011; 2011-2012)

Rousseau Conference, Organizing Committee, Institute for Humanities, UIC & Alliance Française de Chicago (Feb-Oct 2012)

Planning Committee, Symposium on Transatlantic Slave Trade & Sierra Leone, History Department / Institute for the Humanities (2011-2012) – Organized with UIC Library Special Collections.

Service to the University of Illinois, Chicago (selected)

Fulbright Fellowship Review Committee (Fall 2012; Fall 2013)

Interview Committee for Fulbright, Marshall and other scholarship applicants at UIC (Fall 2010)

Service to the Profession/Other Academic Service (selected)

Application Review Committee, SSRC / IDRF (2010-2011; 2011-2012)

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

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

Professional Affiliations

Modern Language Association (MLA), 1998–present

American Comparative Literature Society (ACLA), 2006-present

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

International Society for Intellectual History (ISIH), 2009-2011