

# Dr Aparna Ramachandran NAMBIAR

<https://linktr.ee/AparnanNambiar>

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## Education

- Ph.D. (Performance Studies), University of California, Berkeley, 2022
  - M.A. International Performance Research, University of Warwick, 2013
  - M.A. Theatre Studies, University of Amsterdam, 2013
  - BSc. (Hons), Life Sciences, National University of Singapore, 2008
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## Professional Experience

AUG 2022 – PRESENT

### **Postdoctoral Fellow, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore**

AUG 2017 – AUG 2022

### **Graduate Student Instructor, University of California Berkeley**

- Designed syllabi and taught College level reading, writing and research methods for four different courses, targeted at undergraduates across the campus, within the disciplinary paradigms of Performance and Cultural studies.
- Assisted the lead instructor in teaching three different courses within the disciplinary paradigms of Performance and Media studies.

2014 – 2015

### **Manager, Audience Development and Programs. National Museum of Singapore**

- Managed key projects concerning the conceptualisation, programming and execution of the Singapore Night Festival, 2013 and 2014.

2008 – 2011

### **Assistant Manager, Talent Development and Programing, National University of Singapore Centre for the Arts**

- Managed key projects concerning the conceptualisation, programming and execution of the National University of Singapore Arts Festival 2009-2011.
- Managed training, talent development and touring programs of four semi-professional student art groups funded and maintained by NUS CFA.

JANUARY – APRIL 2010

## **Visiting Research Fellow, Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Singapore**

- Conducted research on a project juxtaposing meanings of *mudras* (hand gestures) across tantric Buddhism and the South Indian classical dance form, Bharatanatyam.

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## **Research Area/Topic/Discipline**

- Performance studies
- Dance Studies
- Urban Studies
- Contemporary Anthropology
- Cultural Studies

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## **Short Biography**

Dr. Aparna Nambiar received her doctorate in Performance Studies at the University of California, Berkeley in 2022. Her primary project explores transnational flows of culture and capital that link Singapore's recently minted arts infrastructure with other regional and global sites of cultural production. She studies the "cosmopolitanisation" of community-centric Asian dance practices into "the arts", through funding and residency networks supported by state grants, educational institutions, private arts institutions and foreign diplomatic offices that link Singapore with European, South and Southeast Asian urban centres. Aparna also studies the effects of these transformations on Asian dance forms in individual studios; her second ongoing project critically investigates the transformation of the eastern Indian dance form *Odissi* through practice-based research at the Singapore-based dance company *Chowk Productions*.

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## **Publications**

### **Refereed Articles**

Nambiar, Aparna. "The Aesthetics of Acclimatization: Performing the Slow Death of Traditional Dance in Singapore." *Performance Research*. 26.6 (2021): 45-53

Nambiar, Aparna. "Mutations in Crisis: Generic Engineering in Contemporary Southeast Asian Dance". *Unstable Grounds*, special issue of *Critical Stages: The International Association of Theatre Critics journal*. Issue 23. July 2021. <https://www.critical-stages.org/23/mutations-in-crisis-generic-engineering-in-contemporary-southeast-asian-dance/>

### **Edited Journal Special Issue**

Nambiar, Aparna. "Bharatanatyam and Buddhist Diplomacy: Inter-Asia significations in Santha Bhaskar's 'Anweshana: The Search for Nalanda'". *Inter-Asia Culture Studies Journal*. (Vol.23, No.4, Dec 2022)

## **Book Chapter**

Nambiar, Aparna. "Bharatanatyam and Buddhist Diplomacy: Inter-Asia significations in Santha Bhaskar's 'Anweshana: The Search for Nalanda'" in *Inter-Asia in Motion*. Wilcox, Emily, and Soo Ryon Yoon, eds. Routledge. New York (October 3 2024) pp 559-578.

## **Op-Ed**

Nambiar, Aparna. "Miss British: Embodying the Post-Colonial Complaint." ArtsEquator. <https://artsequator.com/miss-british-studios/>. 18 April 2019.

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## **Awards/Grants and Distinctions**

Graduate Remote Instruction Teaching Fellow, U.C. Berkeley Graduate Division, 2020  
Dissertation Writing Grant, U.C. Berkeley Graduate Division, 2020  
Hickman Award for Conference Travel, University of California Berkeley, 2019  
Hickman Award for Research Travel, University of California Berkeley 2019  
Berkeley Graduate Division Conference Travel Grant University of California Berkeley 2019  
Hickman Award for Research Travel, University of California Berkeley 2018  
Hickman Award for Conference Travel, University of California Berkeley 2016  
Hickman Award for Research Travel, University of California Berkeley 2016  
Regent's Fellowship, University of California Berkeley, 2015-2017  
Singapore National Arts Council Scholarship (Overseas), 2011