

Kay Sohini Kumar

PHD CANDIDATE, COMIC ARTIST

sohini.kumar@stonybrook.edu | www.kaysohini.com

EDUCATION SUMMARY

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

PhD in English, August 2017-present
Dissertation: Drawing UnBelonging: Comics as Thinking, as Method, as Resistance.

Committee: Jeffrey Santa Ana, Lisa Diedrich,
Nick Sousonis, Peter Khost

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
BA and MA (2011-2016)
Graduated with First Class and Honors

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Comics Studies
- Graphic Medicine
- Diaspora Studies
- Gender and Sexuality
- 20th Century American Literature
- Ethnography
- Environmental Humanities
- Public Humanities

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS IN EDITED COLLECTIONS:

- "Pandemic Precarities"; COVID-19 Anthology, Graphic Mundi Imprint/Penn State University Press. Expected early 2021.
- "Drawing Intersectionality: Comics, Neurodiversity and New Subjectivities"; in MLA (Modern Language Association) Volume Neurofutures. Forthcoming, 2021.
- "The Queerness of Being"; Chapter in Handbook of Comics and Graphic Narratives, De Gruyter. Forthcoming, 2021.
- "Comics in the Age of Digitization"; Sequentials, vol. 1, no. 4, 2020.
- "The Graphic Memoir as a Transitional Object"; Essay: A Journal of Non-fiction Studies, March 2019.
- "On the Threshold of Being and Belonging"; Chapter in an Edited Collection Comics and Catharsis: Exploring Narratives of Trauma and Memory in the Graphic Novel. Forthcoming.

OTHER RECENT PUBLICATIONS:

- "I draw (A Graphic Dissertation), therefore I am", Women Write About Comics, September 2020.
- "Comics as Method and as Holding Environments", Women Write About Comics, October 2020.
- Review of Erin William's Commute, Extra Inks. June 2020.
- "Mental Health, Comics, the Grad Student" in Gradhacker, Inside Higher Ed, March 2020.
- "International Student Precarity in the Humanities Academy" in Gradhacker, Inside Higher Ed, April 2020.
- Section on "Graduate Studies in the Time of Coronavirus", MLA Grads. April 2020.
- "A Medley of Multi-modal Projects", Insider Higher Ed, June 2020.

RECENT SCHOLARLY EMPLOYMENT AND SERVICE ROLES

- Teaching Experience:
 1. As GTA Instructor of Record at Stony Brook University. (Fall 2019—present)
Courses taught: World Literature: Modern and Contemporary (Fall 2019)
Global Film Traditions (Spring 2020)
Comics, Culture and Identity (Summer 2020)
Global Film Traditions: Animated films and Literary Adaptations (Fall 2020)
 2. Graduate Teaching Assistant at Department of English, Stony Brook University (Fall 2017 to Spring 2019)
- Secretary on the Executive Committee, The International Comics Arts Forum (ICAF); June 2019—present.
- Graduate Assistant, Drawing | Teaching | Healing Project; June 2020-present.
- Writer, Gradhacker, Inside Higher Ed, March to June 2020.

AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS:

- Edward Guiliano Global Fellowship for project titled “Resistance During the Fall of the World’s Largest Democracy”.
- SBGSO Distinguished Travel Award for presenting on international student precarity in the US academe and for organizing a roundtable on graphic narratives and multiple marginalities Modern Language Association; January 2020, Seattle.
- MLA Travel Grant for Graduate Students, January 2019; for MLA 2019, Chicago.
- SBU English Dept Graduate Student Travel Award, January, 2019; for MLA 2019.
- GSEU Professional Development Award, 2019; for NeMLA 2019, Washington DC.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION:

- Co-organizer and Panelist of "How Drawings Resonate: Empathy and Identity in Graphic Memoir". at Small Press Expo Panel with ICAF. September, 2020.
- Organizer, Roundtable Session “Graphic Narratives and Multiple Marginalities” at Modern Language Association (MLA) 2020, Seattle.
- Organizer, Creative Panel “Who Belongs, Who Does Not: The Use of Comics as Literatures of Resistance”, at Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) 2020, Boston.

Organizing Committee Member and Graphic Designer, "Reimagining Space: English Graduate Conference", SBU.

CONFERENCES PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS:

2021:

- “Reinventing Form: A Recent History of Interactive Comics, Audio Comics and Comics in Augmented Reality” in the Roundtable New Flashpoints in Comics History organized by Forum for Comics and Graphic Narratives, Modern Language Association, January 2021, Toronto. Forthcoming.
- “Twice Othered: Ecological Imperialism & Settler Colonialism in The Rabbits” in the panel The Other in Narratives of Rival Nations organized by the Children’s Literature Association, MLA, January 2021. Forthcoming.

2020:

- “Subverting dominant Discourses through Interactive Graphic Narratives” Modern Language Association (MLA); January 2020, Seattle.
- “Institutional Contexts and the Shaping and Re-Shaping of Power”, Modern Language Association (MLA); January 2020, Seattle.

- "Comics, Multiple Marginalities and the Queerness of Being" in the panel Comics and Shaping of Identities: Queer Spaces and Gendered Places; March 2020, NeMLA Boston.

2019:

- "[Creating an Online Presence via HCommons Blog](#)", A Humanities Commons Twitter Conference, July 2019.
- "You Are Not Your Illness: Narrativizing Identity in Disability and Illness Memoirs", Modern Language Association (MLA); January 2019, Chicago.
- "Across Borders an In-Between Spaces" at the South Asian Literary Association (SALA); January 2019, Chicago, 2019.
- "Kamala Khan as Miss Marvel: On Being a Brown, Muslim, Immigrant Superhero"; Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA); Washington DC 2019.
- "Artistic Resistance and Drawing Girlhood" Creative Panel on Writing Girlhood at NeMLA; March 2019.

2017-18:

- "Objects, Emotions, and Neocolonialism in Graphic Narratives." Literature as Activism, 30th Annual Graduate Conference, Stony Brook University, New York, January 2018.
- "Seeing is Saying: Postcolonial Identity Crisis and Resistance in Malik Sojad's Munnun: A Boy from Kashmir." Doing Graphic Stories National Conference, Jadavpur University, India, January 12-14, 2017.

INVITED TALKS:

- "Conversation in the Arts, Huntington Arts Council, June 2020.
- MLA/AHA Forum at Melville, Stony Brook University; Feb 6, 2019.
- Undergraduate Honors Panel Chair at Gradcon, March 2019.
- English Department Lightning Talks, Poetry Center, SBU, March 27, 2019.

OTHER TRAINING:

- Micro-credential in "Research Based Practices in Online Teaching", May, 2020; Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, Stony Brook University.
- CELT Certificate in "Pedagogy, Instructional Technology and Distance Learning", 2019.
- Advanced Graduate Certificate in Editing and Publishing, School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University, 2015.
- Training in Graphic Storytelling by Appupen, Doing Graphic Stories National Seminar, January 2017.
- Training in the art of the Graphic Novel, JUSAS Society for American Studies, August 2015.

NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE:

- Founder and Web Editor, [Comics from the Margins](#). (2019-present)
- Editorial (fiction) Reader at Brave Voices Magazine (Spring 2019)
- Content Creator, Microsoft, "Create to Inspire" (2013-2015)
- Freelance Graphic Design (2014-present)
- Freelance content writer (2016); sample: "[Social Media and the Collective Conscience](#)" for Kindle Magazine.
- Tutor, k-12 level (2014-2016)
- Social Media Relations Intern, Viber (2014)

SOFTWARE SKILLS:

- Procreate, iOS [expert]
- Adobe Photoshop [expert]
- Adobe Illustrator [intermediate]