

## MARY ANNE MOHANRAJ

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| <b>EDUCATION</b> | Ph.D.  | University of Utah, English and Creative Writing, 2005 |
|                  | M.F.A. | Mills College, Fiction and Poetry, 1998                |
|                  | B.A.   | University of Chicago, English Literature, 1993        |

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2014 *The Stars Change* named finalist for a Lambda Award, a Best Bisexual Book Award, and a Rainbow Award  
Guest of Honor, BECAUSE conference (Minneapolis, MN)  
Guest of Honor, Maneki Neko Con (Matheson, IL)  
*Strange Horizons* and *Queer Dig Time Lords* (containing an essay of mine) nominated for Hugo Awards
- 2013 Named a Wednesday Geek Woman by GeekFeminism.org, for contributions in the overlapping areas of online writing, speculative fiction, and feminism
- 2013 *Strange Horizons* nominated for a Hugo Award
- 2012 Received Illinois Arts Council professional development grant
- 2012 Ragdale Residency
- 2010 *Bodies in Motion* selected for One Book, One Truman program
- 2010 Guest of Honor, WisCon (feminist speculative literature convention)
- 2009 Received Breaking Barriers Award from the Chicago Foundation for Women for Asian American arts organizing
- 2007 Finalist, Prose/Poetry: Asian American Book Awards
- 2006 Illinois Arts Council Fellowship in Prose
- 2005 *Bodies in Motion* named a USA Today Notable Book
- 2002 Steffenson-Canon Fellowship in the Humanities
- 2001 Scowcroft Prize for Fiction
- 2001 Neff Fellowship in English

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books:

- The Stars Change*, 2013, Circllet Press
- Without a Map* (co-authored with Nnedi Okorafor), June 2010, Aqueduct Press
- Bodies in Motion*, July 2005 hardcover, HarperCollins (also translated editions in France, Spain, Italy, Brazil, Germany, and Serbia), July 2006 paperback
- Silence and the Word*, fiction and poetry, January 2004, Lethe Press
- Kathryn in the City*, 2003, Penguin
- The Classics Professor*, 2003, Penguin
- A Taste of Serendib: A Sri Lankan Cookbook*, 2003, Lethe Press
- The Best of Strange Horizons: Year One*, ed., 2003, Lethe Press
- Wet*, ed., 2002, Three Rivers Press (Random House)
- Aqua Erotica*, ed., 2000, Three Rivers Press (Random House)
- Torn Shapes of Desire*, 1997 (IAM: Intangible Assets Manufacturing)

## **PUBLICATIONS (continued)**

### **Journal:**

*Jaggery: a DesiLit arts and literature journal*, a transnational literary publication linking diasporic and homeland writers and audiences; editor-in-chief and publisher, publishing three times a year, founded 2013

### **Plays**

"Silence and the Word," performed as part of *Yoni ki Baat's* "Best Of" 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary performance (San Francisco), March 22-23 2014

"The Yellow Dress" (staged reading), Rasaka Theatre, 2009

"Silence and the Word," "White Sheets," and "Under the Skin" to *Yoni ki Baat*, collaborative work performed January 2 - February 1 2009 by the Rasaka Theatre Company, Chicago

### **Anthologies and Magazines (selected):**

#### *Fiction:*

"Silence and the Word," *eX Libris*, Circlet Press, forthcoming

"Jump Space," *How to Live on Other Planets*, Upper Rubber Boot Books, forthcoming

"Monsoon Day," *Across the Spectrum*, Book View Café, forthcoming

"At the Gates of the City," *Unconventional Fantasy, A Celebration of Forty Years of the World Fantasy Convention*, November 2014

"Ties That Bind," *Lowball*, November 2014

"untitled," *Short & Sweet*, Perera Hussein Press, Sri Lanka, January 2014

"Hunting for Mangoes," *The Vampire Umpire and Other Stories*, Perera Hussein Press, Sri Lanka, December 2013

"Kali," *Best of Best Women's Erotica*, September 2013 audiobook

"Birthstones," *Out! Stories from the New Queer India*, May 2013

"The Marrying Kind," *Alchemy: the Second Tranquebar Book of Erotic Short Stories*, December 2012

"The Princess in the Forest," *Breaking the Bow: Speculative fiction inspired by The Ramayana*, October 2012

"Jump Space" and "Morningsong", *Nobilis Erotica* podcast, episode #239

"Hunting for Mangoes," *Keystrokes vol. 2*, 2011

"Hunting for Mangoes," *World Folktales Series*, A Hundred Ravens press, 2011

"Sanctuary," *Fort Freak*, 2011

"Talking to Elephants," *Abyss & Apex*, 2010

"Jump Space," *Thoughtcrime Experiments*, 2009

"Sequins," *Tumbarumba*, 2008

"Counting to Ten," *Catamaran*, 2006

"Pieces of the Heart," *Fishnet* (audio), 2006

"The Marrying Kind," *AE2*, 2005

"Lakshmi's Diary," *Oasis*, 2004

"A Gentle Man," *Harpur Palate*, 2003

## **PUBLICATIONS (continued)**

### *Nonfiction:*

"Refuge," *Chicks Dig Gaming*, Mad Norwegian Press, November 2014

"Why I Stopped Hiding My Grey," *Salon*, May 2014

"Seven Ways of Looking at Captain Jack," with Jed Hartman, *Queers Dig Time Lords*, Mad Norwegian Press, June 2013

"Trouble Coming," *Keystrokes vol. 1*, 2010

"RaceFail Parts 1 & 2," *Whatever*, 2009

"The Arrival," *Catamaran*, vol. 9, 2008

"Lotta and Bindi: Dolls for a Biracial Child," *Wondertime*

A variety of short pieces, *Chicago Moms' Blog*, 2007-2010

"Revised Itineraries," *South Asian Review*, volume 27, #3, December 2006

"Silence and the Word," *Sex and Single Girls*, 2000

### *Poetry:*

"Learning the Hour," United Nations SRC Society of Writers anthology in honour of the International Day of Happiness 2015, forthcoming

"As We Wait to Learn Their Names," "The Monday After," Four Days After the Shooting," *Northeast Review*, India, 2012

"catch me if you can" (poem) to *Exquisite Corpuscle*, 2008

## **TEACHING (selected):**

- University of Illinois (Fall 08 - ongoing). Clinical Assistant Professor; teaching fiction, Asian-American literature, colonial and postcolonial literature, popular culture (minority authors in speculative literature; online creative nonfiction), women and literature, early American literature.
- Northwestern University (Winter / Spring '08). Visiting professor in the Center for the Writing Arts; teaching fiction, Asian-American literature. Instructor in the School of Continuing Studies; teaching graduate fiction.
- Kearny Street Workshop (May '06). Intergenerational Writers Lab, four-week Asian-American workshop co-taught with Philip Kan Gotanda, Nguyen Qui Duc, Janice Mirikitani, Robert Karimi, and Tserine Wangmo Dhomba.
- Roosevelt University (Fall '05 - Spring '07). Visiting professor. Teaching undergrad and graduate fiction writing, S. Asian and diaspora literature, speculative fiction writing, advanced composition, online magazine publishing.
- Vermont College (Spring '05, Fall '05). Visiting faculty in low-residency fiction writing program. Taught intensive ten-day in-person workshops, followed by teaching and critique by correspondence.

## ADMINISTRATIVE, SERVICE, and GRANTS

- Assoc. Coordinator, Asian and Asian American Studies; programming and website management. Assisted in applying for federal AANAPISI grant; we received a two million dollar award to support Asian American, Native American, & Pacific Islander student retention and graduation at UIC.
- Executive Director, *DesiLit*, 2004 - ongoing. Founded and administer an international organization supporting South Asian and South Asian diaspora writers and their work. Currently with chapters in Chicago, London, Toronto, the Bay Area, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Madison, and NY/NJ.

Major event: *Kriti*, a four-day S. Asian and diaspora literature and arts festival in Chicago (the first and only one in the Midwest), held in Spring 2009 (at Roosevelt University), Spring 2007 (at UIC) and Fall 2005 (at Northwestern), initially presented in collaboration with the Chicago Humanities Festival. \$10,000 festival budget raised through a combination of ticket sales, individual donations, and other sources. *DesiLit* in Chicago also hosts a monthly book club (for several years running), organizes a regular reading series in Chicago, hosts ongoing community-oriented writing workshops; biannual publication: *DesiLit Magazine*, publishing fiction, poetry, nonfiction, and art from South Asian and diaspora authors

- Executive Director, *Speculative Literature Foundation*, 2003 - ongoing. Founded and administer a 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization to 'promote literary quality in speculative fiction.' Supervise staff of twenty-plus volunteers. The SLF has annually offered a \$1000 short fiction prize, \$800 travel grant and \$750 older writers' grant; funds raised primarily through community contributions.

The SLF also offers a small press co-operative which organizes shared table space at conventions and offers community advice on a private publisher mailing list; a regular mentorship program, with volunteer experienced writers mentoring beginning writers; a fiscal sponsorship program which in 2008 disbursed several thousand dollars in donations to smaller organizations, a technology exchange program passing laptops, printers and more to young writers, and a comprehensive website offering information on graduate school, grants, publishing and more to writers, editors, publishers, and readers.  
<http://www.speclit.org>

- Board Member, Carl Brandon Society and FogCon
- Interim Co-Director, Rasaka Theatre Company, 2006-2007.
- Juror, Selection Committee for Wisconsin Arts Boards Grants. Fall 2006.
- Juror, Selection Committee for Headlands' 2007 Artist in Residence Program, National/International Applications, Headlands Center for the Arts. Summer 2006.

### ADMINISTRATIVE, SERVICE, and GRANTS (continued)

- Interim MFA Program Administrator, Roosevelt University, Summer 2006. Administered and evaluated applications; responded to program queries and advising issues; drafted and distributed program newsletter (internally and externally); supervised magazine publicity publishing internship.
- Assistant MFA Program Administrator, Roosevelt University, Fall 2005 - Spring 2007. Assisted administrator in advising, drafted newsletter, read applications.
- English Assessment Project Supervisor, Roosevelt University, Summer 2006. Administered assessment project for English department: revised rubric for assessment, prepared evaluation forms and student packets, hired and supervised adjuncts in reading and evaluating packets, drafted preliminary report for the department and college.

### PRESENTATIONS, READINGS, & PANELS (selected)

- November 13, 2014: "Writers Read!" Oak Park Public Library
- October 14, 2014: "Contemporary Trends in Fantasy Literature," Founders Memorial Library, DeKalb
- August 14 – 18, 2014: WorldCon (London) (panels TBD)
- June 6-8, 2014: BECAUSE bisexuality conference (Minneapolis) (keynote speaker)
- May 23 -26, 2014: WisCon conference (Madison): Panels: "Class in the Works of Hiromi Goto," "Damsels of Color," "Cultural Appropriation: Non-Western Viewpoints," "Where Have All the Bisexuals Gone?" & "Maps of Desire" (reading)
- April 25-27, 2014: C2E2 conference, "Opening the Clubhouse Doors: Creating More Inclusive Geek Communities" (Chicago)
- March 19-23, 2014: ICFA conference, reading (Orlando)
- May 14, 2014: Lambda finalist reading, Sulzer library; *In One Ear* featured reader, Heartland Café, Chicago
- March 7-9, 2014: FogCon conference, "Manic Pixie" panel, "Lascivious Feminist Book Club," "Do Pessimists Dream of Dystopian Sheep?," reading (Walnut Creek, CA)
- February 7-9, 2014: CapriCon conference, "Aging Your Characters," "Characters Beyond Recognition," "A Story and a History"
- December 19, 2013: Interviewed in *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* "Vitae" section
- November 8, 2013: On NPR's "The Afternoon Shift" with Niala Boodhoo, talking about *Jaggery*
- November 7, 2013: Writers Read! Local author reading at Oak Park main library
- October 17, 2013: Reading, Subcontinental Drift, *The Joynt*, Chicago
- October 2013: Interview, *Words Apart*
- September 2013: Host Q&A, Chicago South Asian Film Festival, for the Sinhalese Sri Lankan film, *Thanha Rathi Ranga*.
- September 2013: Interview and reading, *Ask the Impossible* book tour, Chicago

- August 2013: WorldCon, San Antonio: “Feminist Rewritings of the Ramayana and the Matter of Britain: Differences in Approach and Execution” (paper presentation)
- July 2013: Speaker, Chicago, Asian American Journalists’ Association

**PRESENTATIONS, READINGS, & PANELS (continued)**

- June 2013: APALA President's Program at American Library Association: "Pushing the Boundaries: LGBTQ Presentation and Representation of/by Asian/Pacific American Writers" (moderator)
- May 2013: 2MTL 309 podcast: "Meet the Editors and Writers of "Queers Dig Time Lords""
- May 2013: WisCon, Madison: Queers Dig Time Lords (panel), Queers Dig Time Lords (reading), Changing Face of Fiction: Diversity and Backlash, Fear and Masculinity in SF/F, A Radical Queer Agenda, Passing: Self-Care and Embracing Who You Are
- March 2013: ICFA, Florida: "Feminist Rewritings of the Ramayana and the Matter of Britain: Differences in Approach and Execution" (paper presentation)
- January 2013: English department colloquium, from *Arbitrary Passions* (memoir-in-progress)
- November 22, 2012: NonfictioNow Conference, "Diaspora: Centering the Margins," Melbourne
- November 11, 2012: "Gender Parity on Panels," WindyCon, Lombard, IL
- October 8, 2012: UIC Brown Bag Lecture Series, Chicago
- September 21, 2012: University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley & INDUS of Fox Valley South Asian literature conference; panelist and reader, Wisconsin
- April 2012: "Geek Girls and the Artist" -- C2E2, Chicago
- April 3, 2012: April Funk, Chicago
- March 22, 2012: Samadhana 2012, Toronto
- March 15, 2012: Gumbo Fiction Salon, Chicago
- March 6, 2012: Homolatte, Chicago
- February 2012: "What's Wrong With Being Popular?," AWP, Chicago
- July 2011: "Writing for Radicals," "When Someone You Love Fails," and a reading, ThinkGalacticon, Chicago
- February 2011: "What Women Don't Write When We Write About Sex," AWP, D.C.
- February 2011: Panelist & Reading, Capricon, Chicago
- January 29, 2011: Panelist, South Asians in the Media, SAJA (South Asian Journalists Association), Chicago
- November 2010: Panelist, WindyCon, Chicago
- September 16, 2010: Reading, Subcontinental Drift, Chicago
- August 14, 2010: Reading, Uncalled-For Readings, Chicago
- June 19, 2010: Reading, SE Wisconsin Festival of Books, Waukesha
- May 27-31, 2010: WisCon Guest of Honor, reading "Monsoon Day", Madison, WI
- April 24, 2010: Keynote speaker, LUCES Women of Color Conference, Loyola University, Chicago
- April 17, 2010: Booksigning, Oak Park Main Library
- April 2010: Chaired panel, "From Bombs to Bindis: Trends and Tensions in South Asian Diaspora Writing," AWP, Denver
- April 9, 2010: Reading, Highlands Ranch Library, near Denver, CO
- April 7, 2010: Northwestern Colloquium on Ethnicity and Diaspora, talk centering on work-in-progress, *Arbitrary Passions*

**PRESENTATIONS, READINGS, & PANELS (continued)**

- March 3, 2010: Talk at Truman College (part of One Book, One Truman program)
- January 23, 2010: "Remember," Kalakranti performance, Chicago
- June 3 2009: reading from *Arbitrary Passions*, Kriti Festival, Chicago
- March 30, 2009: staged reading of "The Yellow Dress," through the Incubator Workshop: Rasaka Theatre and the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs
- February 27, 2009: Women Out Loud reading, Insight Arts, Chicago
- December 26-27, 2008: Reading ("Under the Skin") and conference presentation ("Cover Art for Desi Writer: Men vs. Women"), SALA Conference, San Francisco
- November 18, 2008: Northwestern SASA Speaker
- September 2008: "The Pledge," SAPAC VOR, Chicago
- July 26, 2008: Masala! Mehndi! Masti festival, Toronto
- July 16, 2008: Mysterious Galaxy, San Diego
- June 25, 2008: Athena's Conference, Rhode Island
- June 14, 2008: Ekya, Chicago
- June 2008: "Getting the Writing Done," "Publishing Your Novel," Mini-Kriti Festival, Chicago
- May 28-31, 2008: WisCon panels and presentations, Madison
- May 2008: "Writing Your Identity," Northwestern Center for the Writing Arts, Evanston, IL
- April 19, 2008: Asian American Studies Conference, Chicago
- April 18, 2008: Book Cellar reading, Chicago
- April 16, 2008: Northwestern Center for the Writing Arts, Chicago
- May 2007: Reading "Minal in Winter," Kriti Festival, Chicago
- December 2006: "Singular Hybridities," SALA (South Asian Language Association), Philadelphia, PA
- July 26, 2006: Book Cellar, Chicago
- July 12, 2006: Homolatte, Chicago
- June 19, 2006: Mayorga's Café, D.C.
- June 2006: "Using Speculative Fiction to Explore Gender (and other Identity-Based) Paradigms," SFRA (Science Fiction Research Association), White Plains, NY
- May 24, 2006: Fishnet Reading Series, San Francisco
- March 2006: "What's Wrong with Asian American Literature?," 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicago Asian American Showcase, DePaul University, Chicago
- March 2006: "SF Criticism Outside the Academy," ICFA, Ft. Lauderdale
- March 2006: "The Changing Worlds of South Asian Literature," AWP, Vancouver
- November 16, 2005: Bookcellar Local Author Night, Chicago
- October 15, 2005: Wisconsin Book Festival, Madison
- September 24, 2005: King's English Bookstore, Salt Lake City
- September 9, 2005: The Listening Room @ Caffè Vivaldi, NY
- August 25, 2005: Prairie Lights Bookstore, Iowa City
- August 17, 2005: KGB Reading Series, NY
- August 16, 2005: Barnes & Noble, NY
- August 11, 2005: A Clean Well-Lighted Place, San Francisco
- August 3, 2005: Harry W. Schwartz Bookshop, Milwaukee



### **PRESENTATIONS, READINGS, & PANELS (continued)**

- July 8-10, 2005: Artwallah, Los Angeles
- March 2005: "Writing Sexuality," SAAN Conference, Ann Arbor
- June 2004: "Interstitial/Slipstream Literature," Science Fiction Research Association, Chicago, IL
- 2004: poetry panelist, Project IMPACT, S. Asian Literary Festival, Philadelphia, PA
- May 2002: "Does Power = Violence? Constructions of (Black) Masculinity in Tananarive Due," WisCon 26, Madison, WI -
- March 2002: "Understanding Genre Conventions," AWP, New Orleans, LA
- 2002: WorldCon, "Ebony Age of Science Fiction?," "Writing Boot Camps," "Online Magazines: The New Short Fiction Format," San Jose, CA
- 2002: ReaderCon, "Electronic Magazines," "Race in F&SF," "The Year in Short Fiction," Burlington, MA
- 2002: WisCon 26, "Post-Colonialism 101," "Literary SF," "Consent Issues in Writing Sexuality," "Feminism, Erotica, Pornography, and Censorship," "Electronic Magazines Q&A," Madison, WI
- May 2001: "The Implications of Electronic Publishing in Speculative Fiction," ICFA, Ft. Lauderdale, FL - March 2001; WisCon 25, Madison, WI
- 2001: Potlatch, "Diversity in Science Fiction," Oakland, CA

### **Interviews (selected)**

Words Apart – 2014: [http://www.wordsapartmag.com/is3\\_mohanraj.html](http://www.wordsapartmag.com/is3_mohanraj.html)

Bookslut Magazine - October 2005

AsianWeek - September 2005

SF Gate - August 2005

NPR, *Writer's Voice Radio* - August 2005

NPR (Chicago), 848 - July 2005

Booksense - 2002

SF Weekly - 1999

Trikone - 1998