

# Faculty Curriculum Vitae

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**NAME:** Kavita Singh

**POSITION/TITLE:** Assistant Professor of English

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## **EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND/TRAINING**

### **Cornell University**

Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, 2014

Dissertation: *Translative Carnivalism: Performance and Language in the Caribbean Text*

Special Committee: Natalie Melas (chair), Gerard Aching, Carole Boyce Davies,

Viranjini Munasinghe, Tiphaine Samoyault (Université de Paris III)

### **University of Paris VIII, Vincennes-St. Denis**

Maîtrise in Comparative Literature, mention très bien (high honors), 2006

Thesis directed by Tiphaine Samoyault

### **Princeton University**

BA in Comparative Literature, June 2004

Certificate in African-American Studies

Studied abroad at Univ. of Paris III and Univ. of Paris VIII.

## **RELEVANT TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Lecturer, French Studies, University of Toronto**

*Spring 2014* FSL 121: French Language I

*Fall 2013* FCS 290: "How to be Black and French: On Empire, Enslavement, and Exoticism in France"

### **Teaching Assistantship, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY**

*Spring 2013* COMP LIT 1109: "Speaking in Tongues: Language and (Post) Coloniality"

*2010-2011* COMP LIT 1109: "Bacchanal and Bush-tea: The Culture of Caribbean Literature"

*2009-2010* FRENCH 1210, 1220: Elementary French.

*2008-2009* COMP LIT 1109: "Jungle Fever: The Dynamics of Race and Desire."

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**Grader, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY**  
2009-2010 CLASS 604: "Greek Mythology."

**Language Teaching Assistant (Assistante d'anglais), Lycée Jules Siegfried, Paris, France**  
2004-2005

## ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP/RESEARCH/CREATIVE ENDEAVORS

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Francophone and Anglophone Caribbean literature and culture; Translation theory, Philosophy of language; Race, Nation and Diaspora; Woman writers; Postcolonial theory; Literary ethnography; Modernism and alternative modernities.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

"A Schizophrenic Metaphor? Disciplining Creoleness." *Transforming Anthropology*, Vol 20, No. 2, October 2012

"Translative and Opaque: Multilingual Caribbean Literature in Monchoachi and Derek Walcott," forthcoming in *Small Axe*, November 2014

Introduction to "Let oneself be told," translation of Monchoachi, forthcoming in *Small Axe*, November 2014

### **Translations**

-Monchoachi "Let oneself be told" forthcoming in *Small Axe*, special issue on Translation and the Caribbean, November 2014

-Achille Mbembe "A Metamorphic Thought: Franz Fanon's Oeuvres" forthcoming in *NKA*.

-Hassan Musa "Eye for an Eye, Image for an Image." Interview with Jean Hubert Martin, forthcoming in *NKA*

### **INVITED TALKS**

"Caribbean Multilingualism: Shimmering Language with Monchoachi"  
University of Miami, February 7, 2014

"Keywords: Language, Creole, Carnival, Performance, Caribbean"  
University of Virginia, February 13, 2014

"Carnival Translatio: Performance, Language, and the Caribbean Imaginary"  
Kenyon College, February 21, 2013

"Le Carnaval, le créole, et le postcolonial aux Caraïbes et ses diasporas"  
Université Laval, February 28, 2013

"Linguistic Carnivalism"  
University of Toronto, March 6, 2013

### **ROUND TABLES AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS**

"Le silence dans la littérature antillaise," Presentation in round table with Antoine Volodine, Francis Langevin, and Joëlle Papineau on "Literature and Silence."  
*Department of French*, University of Toronto, May 7, 2014

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“Maryse Condé and Autobiography,” Round table presentation with Francoise Vergès, Carole Boyce Davies, Naminata Diabate, and Marie-Claire Vallois, on film “Maryse Conde, A Voice of Her Own.”

*Institute for Comparative Modernities*, Cornell University, October 31, 2013

“The Comparative Literature Ph.D.” Invited speaker at the English Careers Series.

*Departments of English and Black Studies*, Amherst College, September 1, 2013

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“A Community of Intention: Land and Language in Monchoachi”

Presented at the *West Indian Literature Conference*, College of the Bahamas, October 2013

“Rewriting the Carnival Story”

Panel Co-organizer, Writing out of the Ruins: Ethnography and the Politics of Storytelling across Disciplines, at the *Caribbean Studies Association*, Le Gosier, Guadeloupe. May 2012.

“From Trickster to Exhibitionist: Derek Walcott and the Double Life of Creoles”

Panel Coorganizer, Performing Crises of Existence in the Caribbean and Latin America, at the *American Comparative Literature Association*, Brown University, March 2012.

“The Sound and Shape of the ‘New’: Derek Walcott’s Creole Carnival Aesthetic”

Presented at the *Caribbean Philosophical Association*, Rutgers University, September 2011.

“Women Making Bacchanal: Trinidad’s Carnival (Inter) Nationalism.”

Presented at “Music, Gender, Globalization,” Department of Music Graduate Student Conference, Cornell University, April 2011

“ ‘What is a Trini?’ The Gendering of Mas’ in Contemporary Carnival”

Presented at “New Geographies: Studies in Postcoloniality and Globalization,” Department of Liberal Arts Conference, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad, March 2011

“*A Small Place*: The Limits of Creole and the Carnival Post-modern”

Presented on the panel, Theories of Caribbean Comparatism, at the *American Comparative Literature Association*, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 2010

“Translation as Meaning: the Discursive Collective of Six Acres and a Third”

Presented on the panel, After Everything is Said: Representations of Place, Site, Community, at the *American Comparative Literature Association*, Harvard University, 2009

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## **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2013 Marilyn Yarbrough Dissertation Fellow, Kenyon College (declined)  
2013 *Emerging Diversity Scholar Citation*, University of Michigan  
2013 Ford Dissertation Fellowship Competition, Honorable Mention  
2012-2013 Mellon Diversity Fellowship, Arts and Sciences, Cornell University  
2012-2013 Provost's Diversity Fellowship, Cornell University  
2012-2013 Graduate Student Reading Group Grant, Institute for Comparative Modernities, *Project: "Caribbean Theory"*  
2012 Society for the Humanities Graduate Travel Grant (France, Antilles)  
2012 Michele Sicca Graduate Research Travel Grant (France, Antilles)  
2011-2012 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University  
2011 Graduate Student Essay Contest Winner, Caribbean Studies Association  
2009 Grad Student Reading Group Grant, Inst. for Comparative Modernities  
*Project: "Embodied Modernities"*  
2008 Graduate Research Travel Grant, Cornell University (research in Trinidad)  
2007-2008 Sage Fellowship, Cornell University

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

### *Organizer*

Graduate Student Speaker Series, Department of Comparative Literature, 2010, 2012

### *Newsletter contributor*

Institute for Comparative Modernities, Spring 2010.

### *Co-organizer*

"Comparatively Speaking." Comparative Literature Graduate Student Conference, 2010.

### *Co-editor*

*Sans Papier*, French Studies Program, 2008-2010.

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

*Graduate Resident Fellow*, Carl Becker House (West Campus Housing System), 2012-2013

Organize programming weekly with undergraduates and faculty, serve as resident mentor and role model to undergraduate students. Programs I have organized include a weekly Francophone table, and a viewing of the film *The Battle of Algiers*.