

**Madhavi Menon**  
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EDUCATION:

Tufts University, Ph.D, May 2000  
Dissertation: *Wanton Words: The Rhetoric of Sexuality in Renaissance Drama*  
Directors: Lee Edelman and Kevin Dunn

St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, MA with Honours, Gold Medallist, 1994

St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, BA with Honours, 1992

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

American University, Department of Literature  
**Professor**, Fall 2012 onwards

American University, Department of Literature  
**Associate Professor**, Fall 2007-Spring 2012

American University, Department of Literature  
**Assistant Professor**, Fall 2004-Spring 2007

George Washington University, Department of English  
**Visiting Assistant Professor**, 2003-04

Ithaca College, Department of English  
**Assistant Professor**, 2000-03

HONOURS, AND AWARDS:

Visiting Fellow, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, March-April 2012

Visiting Fellow, Centre for Advanced Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, March 2012

Visiting Fellow, Department of English, University of Delhi, Sept-Oct 2011

Mellon Research Grant, Spring 2011, for conference travel to Lebanon

Faculty Research Grant, American University, Spring 2010, for indexing *Shakesqueer*

Mellon Summer Research Grant, American University, Summer 2009, for *Shakesqueer*

Faculty Research Grant, American University, Fall 2007, for *Unhistorical Shakespeare*

Mellon Summer Research Grant, American University, Summer 2005, for research travel to India

“*Richard II* and the Taint of Metonymy” cited in *Literature-Compass* as one of the five most influential pieces on Shakespeare in the last two years, June 2004

*Wanton Words* nominated for the Phyllis Goodhart Gordon Book Prize administered by the Renaissance Society of America, 2004

Summer Research Grant, Ithaca College, 2001

Released Time Awards from the Center for Faculty Research and Development, Ithaca College:

**Spring 2002:** Emerging Research, “Anachronistic Will: Shakespeare after History”

**Fall 2001:** Innovative Pedagogy, “Shakespeare’s Drama Queens”

**Spring 2001:** Book Completion, “Wanton Words: Rhetoric and Sexuality in English Renaissance Drama”

Honors Seminar by Distinguished Teachers, “The Shakespeare Effect,” Fall 2002

Summer Research Grant, Ithaca College, 2001

Tufts University English Department Dissertation Fellowship, Spring 2000

“Distinction” in the Oral comprehensive exams, Tufts University, 1997

Gold medal for placing first in the Master’s exam, Delhi University, 1994

Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer Essay Prize for placing first in the Bachelor’s exam, St. Stephen’s College, Delhi University, 1992

## PUBLICATIONS:

### Monographs:

*Unhistorical Shakespeare: Queer Theory in Shakespearean Literature and Film* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008)

Reviewed in *Renaissance Quarterly* and *The Sixteenth Century Journal*

*Wanton Words: Rhetoric and Sexuality in English Renaissance Drama* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004)

Reviewed in *Times Literary Supplement*, *Renaissance Quarterly*, *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1800*, and *Shakespeare Quarterly*, *Renaissance et Réforme*

Edited Collection:

*Shakespeare: A Queer Companion to The Complete Works of Shakespeare* (Duke University Press, 2011; reprint 2012)

Reviewed in *Renaissance Quarterly*, *Lambda Literary Report*, *The Bay Area Reporter*, named a “monumental” book by *Choice* magazine; online at [reviewsbyamoslassen.com](http://reviewsbyamoslassen.com), review essay in *Shakespeare Quarterly*, *Comparative Drama*, *European Journal of English Studies*, *Journal of Dramatic Theory and Criticism*, *GRAAT Anglophone Studies*

Refereed Articles and Book Chapters:

“Too Much,” an essay on Shakespeare and queer theory in *English Studies*, A Special Issue on “Shakespeare and Theory,” Francois-Xavier Gleyzon, ed. (forthcoming 2013)

“Queer Tragedy,” co-authored with Lee Edelman, in Michael Neill and David Schalkwyk, eds. *The Oxford Handbook to Shakespearean Tragedy* (forthcoming from Oxford UP, 2012)

“What Does Desire Look Like: The Case of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*,” in Henry S. Turner, ed., *21<sup>st</sup> Century Approaches to Early Modern Theatricality* (forthcoming from Oxford UP, 2013)

“*Coriolanus* and I,” in *Shakespeare: The Journal of the British Shakespeare Association* 7. 2 (July 2011), 156-169

“The L Words,” in Madhavi Menon, ed., *Shakespeare: A Queer Companion to the Complete Works of Shakespeare* (Duke UP, 2011)

“Period Cramps,” in Stephen Guy-Bray, Vin Nardizzi, and Will Stockton (eds.), *Backward Gaze: Essays in Queer Renaissance Historiography* (Ashgate Press, 2009)

“Working Notes: An Interview with Farhan Akhtar,” *South Asian Popular Culture* 5.1 (April 2007): 77-85

Response to Carolyn Dinshaw and Karma Lochrie, *PMLA* 121.3 (May 2006): 838-9

“Queering History,” co-authored with Jonathan Goldberg, *PMLA* 120.5 (October 2005): 1608-17

“Spurning Teleology in *Venus and Adonis*,” *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 11.4 (2005): 491-519

“*Richard II* and the Taint of Metonymy,” *ELH* 70.3 (2003): 653-75

Invited Book Reviews and Interviews:

Interview with Lee Edelman, *Shakespeare Quarterly* Online Forum, July 2011, <http://shakespearequarterly.wordpress.com/2011/08/02/queer-theory-and-hamlet/>

Review of Judith Haber, *Desire and Domestic Form in Early Modern England*, in *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England* 24 (2011), pp. 201-203

Review of Poonam Trivedi, ed., *India's Shakespeare*, in *Shakespeare Quarterly* 58.3 (Fall 2007), 418-20

Review of Carla Freccero, *Queer/Early/Modern*, *GLQ* 13.4 (Fall 2007): 577-599

Review of Lloyd Davis, ed. *Shakespeare Matters: History, Teaching, Performance*, in *Shakespeare Quarterly* 56.2 (Summer 2005): 21-3

Review of Harriette Andreadis, *Sappho in Early Modern England: Female Same-Sex Literary Erotics*, in *Seventeenth-Century News* 60:1&2 (2002): 52-4

#### Scholarly Web Publications:

“Sheer Quakes”, in *Berfrois: Intellectual Jousting in the Republic of Letters* (July 2011); <http://www.berfrois.com/2011/07/madhavi-menon-queering-the-bard/>

“Cluster-Fuck,” at the GW Medieval and Early Modern Studies Institute roundtable (October 2009); [www.gwmembers.com/2009/11/claustrophilia-vi-madhavi-menon.html](http://www.gwmembers.com/2009/11/claustrophilia-vi-madhavi-menon.html)

#### Mainstream Publications:

“Mother, Do You Love Me?” Review of Alison Bechdel, *Are You My Mother?*, in *The Asian Age* and *Deccan Chronicle*, July 29, 2012

“The Presumption of the Penis,” in *The Asian Age* and *Deccan Chronicle*, July 15, 2012

“The Literary and the Sentimental.” Review of Musharraf Ali Farooqi, *Between Clay and Dust* (Aleph 2012), in *The Asian Age* and *Deccan Chronicle*, June 17, 2012

“Me and the Small Mooh.” Review of Jerry Pinto, *Em and the Big Hoom* (Aleph, 2012), in *The Asian Age* and *Deccan Chronicle*, June 10, 2012

“Right and Righter,” in *The Asian Age* and *Deccan Chronicle*, May 18, 2012

The Best LGBT Books of 2011:

<http://bandofthebes.typepad.com/bandofthebes/2011/11/the-best-lgbt-books-of-2011-1.html>

Review of Bulbul Sharma, *The Tailor of Giripul*, in *The Asian Age* and *Deccan Chronicle*, September 11, 2011

Review of A. Revathi, *The Truth About Me: A Hijra Life Story*, in *The Asian Age* and *Deccan Chronicle*, October 5, 2010

Review of Tabish Khair, *Man of Glass*, in *The Asian Age*, July 26, 2010

“As You Like It” in *The Shakespeare Theatre Guide to the Season's Plays* (2009-10)

“Opama-Obama,” in *The Deccan Chronicle*, November 9, 2008

“*Hamlet*: Questions. And Answers?” in *The Shakespeare Theatre Guide to the Season's Plays* (2006-07): 55-60

#### CURRENT RESEARCH:

**Book:** *Indifference: Towards a Queer Universalism*

This monograph organises itself around Alain Badiou’s suggestion in *Saint Paul: The Foundation of Universalism* that, in the face of increasing claims of identitarian specificity, one might consider the politics and ethics of being “indifferent to difference.” Following up on the ideas of sameness and difference that animated my last book, I think about what it might mean, methodologically, to be indifferent to differences of chronology, culture, and sexuality. Rather than giving us an identifiable “queerness,” or queerness as an identity, a universalism premised on indifference would be queer in its resistance to ontology. This queer universalism would be neither additive nor predicative; instead, it would resist the regime of difference in which embodiment is considered the basis of authentic identity.

#### PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:

##### Invited Lectures, Presentations, and Interviews:

“Indifference,” at the Faculty of English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, October 13, 2011

“Queer Universalism,” at the Arts Faculty, University of Delhi, October 14, 2011

“Desire the Changeling Boy in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*,” at the Centre for Performing Arts, Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi, September 7, 2011

“Queer Identity,” at the Young India Fellows Centre, New Delhi, August 22, 2011

Interview about *Shakesqueer* on WAMU 88.5’s arts and culture program, “Metro Connection,” May 23, 2011: <http://wamu.org/programs/mc/11/06/03.php#43431>

“*Measure for Measure* Q&A,” at the Greenburg Theatre, American University, March 2011

“Shakesqueer,” at the Medieval and Early Modern Studies Institute, George Washington University, February 2011

“Queer Universalism”; Keynote address at Emory University Graduate Student Conference on “Queer Worlds and Global Positions,” January 2011

“Indifference and Desire”; Keynote address to the European Science

Foundation (ESF) workshop on “Multiple Modernities of Same-Sex Sexuality in Nigeria,” at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, in August 2010

“Un-Visible Bodies: Desire in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*,” at Loyola University, New Orleans, March 2010

“Indifference: Identity Politics and Queer Universalism,” to the Philosophy Honours Society, January 2010

“‘If’: The Impossibility of Finality in *As You Like It*,” at The Shakespeare Theatre, Washington, DC, November 2009

“Claustrophilia,” at the George Washington Medieval and Early Modern Studies Institute, November 2009

“Queer Shakes,” at the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, UCLA, December 2008

“Shakespeare’s Love Triangles,” at the University of Alabama, October 2008

“Shakesqueer,” Keynote address at Cornell University, September 2008

“Unhistoricism, or Homo-History,” at the University of California, Irvine, May 2008

“*Homo*-history,” at Rutgers University, October 2007

“The Title of Desire,” at The Cosmos Club, Washington, DC, April 2007

“Queer Time,” at Royal Holloway College, London, March 2007

“Coriolanus and I,” at King’s College, University of London, March 2007

“Shakespeare and Comedy,” at Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi, July 2006

“Misery Loves Comedy: Identity and Duality in *The Comedy of Errors*,” at The Shakespeare Theatre, Washington, DC, December 2005

“Unhistoricism, or Homo-History”: Address to a combined seminar of the Institute for Humanities Research, Pre and Early Modern Studies Group, and the Center for Cultural Studies Research Cluster in Queer Theory, University of California at Santa Cruz, October 2005

“What Would Shakespeare Say in Bollywood?” Keynote address at the Symposium on Indian Research, Utah State University, November 2004

Refereed Conference Presentations:

“Transsexuality,” at the annual meeting of the Modern Languages Association, Los Angeles, 2011; presenter

- “Shakespeare and Literary Theory,” at the annual meeting of the Modern Languages Association, Philadelphia, 2009; presenter
- “Indifference,” at the annual meeting of the Modern Languages Association, Philadelphia, December 2009
- “Period Cramps,” at the DC Queer Studies Conference, University of Maryland, April 2009
- “Hitchcock’s *Vertigo* at 50,” at the annual meeting of the Modern Languages Association, San Francisco, 2008; session chair
- “Hetero and Homo,” at the Group for Early Modern Studies, Philadelphia, November 2008
- “The L Words,” at the Modern Languages Association, Chicago, December 2007
- “Coriolanus and I,” at the Shakespeare Association of America, San Diego, April 2007
- “Identity Politics,” at the annual meeting of the Modern Languages Association, Philadelphia, December 2006
- “The Principle of Pleasure,” at the Shakespeare Association of America, Bermuda, March 2005: seminar organiser and co-leader
- “Queering Time,” at the MLA, Philadelphia, December 2004: session organiser and speaker
- “Titus Andronicus and the Case for Pleasure,” at the Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Orlando, November 2004
- “Come, Again?: *Titus Andronicus* and the Pleasures of Repetition, Shakespeare Association of America, New Orleans, April 2004
- “Bollywood in Shakespeare,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Newport Beach, October 2003
- “Nothing Comes from Nothing: Citation in *Dil Chahta Hai*,” Shakespeare Association of America, Victoria, April 2003
- “Picking up on *Venus and Adonis*,” MLA, New York, December 2002
- “Spurning Teleology in *Venus and Adonis*,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Florida, November 2002
- “After the Fact: *Cymbeline* and History,” Shakespeare Association of America, Minneapolis, March 2002
- “*Cymbeline*’s Historicism,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Philadelphia, October 2001

“*Shakespeare in Love*, Sameness, and Difference,” *Narrative* conference, Houston, March 2001

“*Henry VIII* and the Ends of History,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, New Orleans, October 2000

“Punning *Twelfth Night*,” Shakespeare Association of America, April 2000

“Sameness and Difference in the English Renaissance,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, October 1998

“Elizabeth I and the Hymen at Tilbury,” Medieval to Early Modern Students of the Pacific, Vancouver, November 1997

General Presentations:

“Book Review: *Shakespeareer*,” at the Medieval and Early Modern Studies Institute, George Washington, University, February 2011

“The Making of *Shakespeareer*,” at Outwrite, Atlanta’s Independent Gay Bookstore, January 2011

“How to Apply to Graduate School,” Panel on Graduate School Applications, American University, October 2010

“Unhistorical Shakespeare”; Panel on Recent Scholarship by Faculty in the Department of Literature, American University, April 2010

“How to write an abstract,” Panel for Graduate Students on how to apply to and perform at conferences, Literature Department, American University, February 2010

Response to “Parlez Vous *Queer*: Language and Sexual Citizenship in Contemporary France,” at the Lavender Languages Conference. American University, February 2005

“How Not to Be Gay: Problems in the Politics of Representation,” Gaypril Faculty Speaker Series, Ithaca College, April 2003

“Same old, Same old: *Shakespeare in Love* and the Ideology of Difference,” Sigma Tau Delta Annual Keynote Address, Ithaca College, February 2002

EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES:

Reader for The Routledge Anthology of Global Literary Theory, 2011-12  
Member, Editorial Advisory Board for “Shakespeare Manifestos,” a Shakespeare series at Edinburgh University Press, 2011 onwards

Manuscript Reader for the *Journal of Homosexuality*, 2011

Manuscript Reader for the *Journal of Early Modern Cultural Studies*, 2011

Manuscript Reader for *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, 2011

Manuscript Reader for *Renaissance Drama*, 2010-11



Manuscript Reader for *Criticism*, 2010  
 Manuscript Reader for Literature-Compass, 2009  
 Manuscript Reader for *Contemporary Literature*, 2009  
 Manuscript Reader for University of Toronto Press, 2008  
 Manuscript Reader for Ashgate Press, 2004

TEACHING RESPONSIBILITIES:

Adviser, MA Thesis, Margaret Twigg, Fall 2010-Spring 2011, "Naming Names: Queer Theory and Lesbian Communities"

Independent Study, Kimberly Dawson, "Poststructural Theory," Spring 2010

Adviser, Senior Thesis, Rachel Webb, Spring 2010, "Blake and Rushdie"

Adviser, Senior Thesis, Jamie Mulder, Spring 2009, "Course Indirect: Reading Gender and Desire in *The Roaring Girl* and *The Duchess of Malfi*"

Adviser, Senior Thesis, Becky Cook, Spring 2009

Adviser, Senior Thesis, Justin Wajkowski, Spring 2009

Adviser, Senior Thesis, Lindsey Zoladz, Spring 2009

Adviser, Mentored Scholarly Essay, Melissa Yinger, Spring 2009

Reader, MA Thesis, Adair Collins, Spring 2009

Adviser, Senior Thesis, "The Unbearable Lightness of Being," Spring 2008

Adviser, Independent Study, "Drama," American University, Spring 2007

Outside Reader, Honors Thesis, George Washington University, May 2006

Adviser, Independent Study, "Shakesqueer," American University, Spring 2006

Adviser, Undergraduate Senior Thesis, "Beckett and Godot," American University, Spring 2006

Adviser, Undergraduate Senior Thesis, American University, "AIDS Fiction," Spring 2006

Adviser, Independent Study, "Epic Literature," American University, Spring 2005

Reader, Thesis Honors Committee, George Washington University, 2003-4

Outside Reader, Honors Thesis, George Washington University, May 2006

Member, Curriculum Committee of the School of Humanities and Sciences, Ithaca College, 2002-03; member of the subcommittee on general education

Member, Ad Hoc committee on Policies and Procedures, Department of English, Ithaca College, 2002-03

Member, Curriculum Committee, Department of English, Ithaca College, 2000-2002

Member, Summer Research Grants Committee at Ithaca College, Spring 2002

Thesis Director for Honors Thesis, Ithaca College, 2001-2

New Courses Developed at AU:

**Spring 2011:** Transformations of Shakespeare: Forms of Trans-Formation

**Fall 2010:** Graduate Seminar: Queer and Now  
Survey of Literary Theory

**Spring 2010:** Transformations of Shakespeare: Lies and Lives

**Spring 2009:** Graduate Seminar: Against Reproduction  
Transformations of Shakespeare: Shakespeare and Ovid

**Fall 2007:** Graduate Seminar: It's About Time

**Spring 2006:** Shakespeare Studies: Shakesqueer  
Studies in Genre: Drama and Its Discontents  
Transformations of Shakespeare: World Without End

**Fall 2005:** Shakespeare Studies: Tyrannosaurus Rex

**Summer 2005:** Shakespeare Studies: Shakespeare in the World

**Fall 2004:** Shakespeare Studies: Language Games

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE:

Director of the MA Programme in Literature, 2009-10, 2010-11

Member, Rank and Tenure Committee, 2009-10, 2010-11

Member, Executive Committee, Department of Literature, 2006-07, 2009-10, 2010-11

Department Representative, Freshman Preview Day, Spring 2011

Reader for departmental job searches for two positions in World Literature, Department of Literature, Fall 2010

Department Representative, Freshman Preview Day, Spring 2010

Committee Member, Graduate Adjunct Interviewing Committee, Spring 2010, 2011

Convener, Graduate Speaker Series, Department of Literature, 2006-07, 2007-08, Spring 2009

Member, Graduate Speaker Series, Department of Literature, 2009-10

Reader and interviewer for 18<sup>th</sup> century departmental job search, Department of Literature, Fall 2004

Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Literature, 2007-08

Member, Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Literature, 2006-07

Reader, Undergraduate Essay and Thesis Awards, May 2006

Reader, MA Comprehensive Exams, Spring 2006

Dept. Scholarship Representative, Graduate Student Conversion Day, Spring 2006  
Convener, Graduate Speaker Series, Department of Literature, 2005-06

Member, Executive Committee, Department of Literature, 2005-06

Chair, Ad-hoc committee on the Graduate Speakers Series, 2005-06

Chair, Internal Assessment Committee, Department of Literature, 2005-06

Departmental Representative, Graduate Student Preview Day, Fall 2005

Departmental Representative, Undergraduate Student Preview Day, Fall 2005

Member, Internal Assessment Committee, Department of Literature, Spring 2005

Member, Rank and Tenure Committee, Department of Literature, 2004-5

Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2004-05, 2005-06

Reader and interviewer for departmental job searches for two positions –  
Medieval Literature, and World Poetry – Department of Literature, Fall 2004

#### UNIVERSITY SERVICE:

Member, Joint Committee on Curriculum and Academic Programs, 2010-11

Member, Senate Faculty Development Committee, 2005-11

Member, Department of Performing Arts Search Committee for Ethnomusicology, 2010-11

Member, DPA Search Committee for Arts Management, 2009-10

Panel Chair and Judge, the Robyn Mathias Research Conference, College of Arts and Sciences, Spring 2009

Member, Associate Dean of the Arts Search Committee, Spring 2007

Member, Ad-hoc Committee on Presidential Fellowships, 2005-06

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

Trustee, American Institute of Indian Studies

External Examiner, Melissa Yinger's Comprehensive Exams, UC Santa Cruz, November 2011

External Examiner, Elizabeth Bishop's Dissertation Exam, University of Pittsburgh, April 2011

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

Modern Language Association

Shakespeare Association of America

Renaissance Society of America

Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies

REFERENCES:

Lee Edelman, Professor of English, Tufts University: [lee.edelman@tufts.edu](mailto:lee.edelman@tufts.edu)

Diana Fuss, Professor of English, Princeton University: [dfuss@princeton.edu](mailto:dfuss@princeton.edu)

Kathryn Bond Stockton, Professor of English, University of Utah:

[Kathryn.stockton@english.utah.edu](mailto:Kathryn.stockton@english.utah.edu)