

CURRICULUM VITAE

Christi A Merrill

Professor of South Asian Literature and Postcolonial Theory
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Education

Ph.D. Comparative Literature, University of Iowa. Thesis title: *The Spirits of Translation: Possession, Literary Laughter and Other Travesties*. December 1999.

M.F.A. Nonfiction Writing Program, Department of English, University of Iowa. Thesis title: *Myself in Hindi: Some Exercises in Translating the Untranslatable*. May 1999.

M.F.A. Translation Program, Comparative Literature, University of Iowa. Thesis title: *Rajasthani Tales and Translations: The Stories of Vijai Dan Detha*. May 1993.

Diploma (Hindi). Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. July 1988.

B.A. Residential College, University of Michigan. Concentration: Arts & Ideas. May 1987.

Areas of Research

South Asian literature, postcolonial theory, critical practice and theory of translation, narrative humor, Hindi-Urdu literary history and language politics, oral literature and performance studies, the stories of Rajasthani writer Vijay Dan Detha, authorship and the history of Intellectual Property Rights, translation technologies and digital environments, issues of human rights, genres of literary nonfiction such as the essay, travel writing, ethnography, life story and testimony.

Language Competency

Native fluency reading, speaking and writing English; near-native fluency reading, speaking and writing Hindi; proficiency in French, Rajasthani and Urdu; some reading knowledge of Sanskrit and Latin.

Books

Riddles of Belonging: India in Translation and other Tales of Possession. New York: Fordham University Press, 2009.

Chouboli and Other Stories, in [volume I](#) and [volume II](#), selected and translated stories of Vijay Dan Detha. New Delhi: Katha Press and New York: Fordham University Press, 2010. 2011 winner of an Excellence

Award in the Best Book/Best Writer on a Socio-Economic or Media scene at the 5th annual Asian Publishing Awards and the 2012 AAS (Association of Asian Studies) SAC (South Asia Committee) A.K. Ramanujan Prize for Translation. (Awarded March 16, 2012.)

Books in Progress

Genres of Real Life: Mediating Stories of Injustice across Languages. (A scholarly monograph.)

Doubly Cursed. (A translation from Hindi of Kausalya Baisantry's life story, *Dohara Abhishap.*)

Collaborative Projects (as PI unless otherwise indicated)

[Building Translation Networks in the Midwest with HathiTrust](#), as part of the Mellon Sawyer Seminar [Sites of Translation in the Multilingual Midwest](#), Yopie Prins (PI)

[Translation Networks](#) at Michigan

[Collect/Connect](#): an interactive library game

[Tower of Babel: HathiTrust Edition](#): an interactive game with records from the digital library.

Co-editor with Laura Brueck of Special Issue of [Words Without Borders on Rewriting Caste: Dalit Literature in Hindi](#), October, 2018

Work in Progress

“Collaborations @ University of Michigan Decolonizing Translation Studies,” Special Issue on Translation, *PMLA*, forthcoming: 2023.

“Kunbi,” an excerpt from Kausalya Baisantry's *Dobra Abhishap* translated from Hindi for *Anthology of Caste Concealment*, edited by Joel Lee and K. Satyanarayana, Oxford University Press, forthcoming: 2023.

“The Metaphorics of Ambedkarite Archives: Vexing ‘modes of affiliation’ in digital translation networks,” for *The Bloomsbury Handbook to Postcolonial Print Cultures*, edited by Neelam Srivastava and Jack Webb, forthcoming: 2023.

Recent Essays, Articles, and Book Chapters (in print)

“Authors, Activists, Archivists: a dialogue on Dalit literature across languages, genre, media,” with Francesca Orsini, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 2022, Vol. 45, Issue: 2, 372-389. (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2022.2040220>)

“Translating Chouboli and the Cross-dressed Storyteller from Rajasthani,” *Teaching Literature in Translation: Pedagogical Contexts and Reading Practices*, co-edited by Brian Baer and Michelle Woods. London and New York: Routledge, 2022: 73-82.

‘Justice’ in Translation, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 2020, Vol. 43, No. 5, 970-87. (DOI: 10.1080/00856401.2020.1802901)

Exhibitions

Collect/Connect: an interactive library game, in [Bookmarks: Speculating the Futures of the Book and the Library](#), exhibition curated by Guna Nadarajan, dean of the Penny W. Stamps School of Art & Design at the University of Michigan, in partnership with the University of Michigan Library; in several locations within Shapiro Undergraduate Library, Hatcher Graduate Library, and the Art, Architecture & Engineering Library, March - May 2019. (Opening on March 27, 2019).

MCubed Bicentennial Exposition. Michigan League (October, 2017).

Recent Speaking Engagements (by invitation)

“The Intimacies of Close Listening,” honoring the work of Bella Brodzki, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, New York, June 2022.

“Translation as the Most Intimate form of Listening,” with Bella Brodzki, for the Nida Centre for Advanced Research on Translation Summer School, May 2022.

“The Sound of Translation: Audiobooks and Access,” in dialogue with Bella Brodzki, for the (virtual) [Inaugural Colloquium “Re-envisioning Translation”](#) of the Nida Centre for Advanced Research on Translation, July 2021.

“The Artistry and Afterlives of Anti-caste Activism,” The Translation Zone Workshop, in affiliation with the Humanities Institute. University of New York – Buffalo. (Via Zoom.) December, 2020.

“What ‘a Harijan bai riding... a bicycle!’ has to teach the reader of World Lit,” for the panel and roundtable discussion on “The ‘World’ in World Literature” for the symposium “Public Intellectuals in a Changing World,” Oberlin College, March 2019.

“Disciplining the Provincial: the Swastika in Translation,” opening keynote for the symposium, “Performing Provincialism in a Cosmopolitan World,” Great Lakes College Association, June, 2017.

“*His Master’s Voice* and Other Questions of Fidelity,” South Asian Seminar Series, Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change, University of Minnesota, February 2017.