

Manisha Sharma

Creative writer & founder, Gendered Arrangements

www.genderedarrangements.com manisha.ju@gmail.com

540.739.0023

I am a published and awarded writer, interested in social issues. I am passionate about collaborating across disciplines.

EDUCATION

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University - M.F.A. in Creative Writing (fiction), fully funded as an Alfred Knobler Scholar. May 2009.

Jai Narain Vyas University, India - Ph. D. English Literature, fully funded by a research scholarship. May 2005.

Jai Narain Vyas University - M.A. English Literature, Graduated with distinction. August 1999.

Jai Narain Vyas University - B.A. in English Literature, History, and Philosophy. May 1997.

PROFESSIONAL

Lecturer, Department of English, **New River Community College** (2017-

Writing Coach, **NuVu Innovation Studio**, Cambridge, MA (2016 -) **volunteer position**

Faculty Fellow, **Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology**, Virginia Tech (2011-2016)

Visiting Assistant Professor, **Women's and Gender Studies**, Department of Sociology, Virginia Tech

Graduate Teaching Assistant, **Creative Writing, Writing & Rhetoric, Writing Center**, Department of English, Virginia Tech (2006-2009)

Managing Co-Editor, **The New River Journal of Digital Writing and New Media** (2008)

Instructor, English as a Second Language, **Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute** (2009-2010)

Lecturer, Freshman English, Jai Narain Vyas University—Jodhpur, India (2000-2002)

Teacher, English Language, Literature, Delhi Public School (Middle-High) —Jodhpur, India (1999-2002)

Adjunct faculty, Queensland Conservatorium and Research Center, Griffith University, Brisbane, AU (2015)

Affiliate Faculty, Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention, Department of Sociology, Virginia Tech (2013-2014)

COURSES TAUGHT

WGS 2224: Women and Creativity, Department of Sociology, Virginia Tech (2011-16),

WGS 1824: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, Department of Sociology, Virginia Tech (2011-16)

ESL Instructor, Virginia Tech Language and Culture Institute, Virginia Tech (2010)

English 1105, 1106, (First Year Writing, Writing from Research), Department of English Virginia Tech (2006-09)

Tutor, Writing Center, Department of English, Virginia Tech (Fall 2006)

AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

Writer's Residency, Vermont Studio Center (Nov. 2017)

Merit Award, Work-Study scholarship recipient

2016 Poetry mentee, AWP Mentorship Program

Participant, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference (2010)

The Greenbelt Review Prize for Fiction "Aunty Lakshmi" Greenbelt Review (2009)

Best New American Voices Nomination for "Godhara" (2008)

(First Runner-up) Virginia Tech Fiction Prize, "Godhara" (2008)

TedX, Virginia Tech, Shortlisted (2014, 15)

"Gendered Arrangements: Vanishing," **Autodesk, \$ 10,000** (2015)

"Gendered Arrangements," Institute for Creativity, Arts, and Technology, Virginia Tech, **\$3,000.00** (2013)

Creative consultation, social issues in humanities courses. Griffith University, **\$550** (2015)

PROJECTS

Vanishing, book manuscript (poetry) & an art installation, *in preparation*

The

Issue of female feticide: In India, while boys continue to be born, 5 girls are killed every minute before they are born. That is 7000 girls a day, & 2,600,000 a year. I spent a year in India, conversing with people across sections of society. Based on my observations and collected data was born the concept of *The Vanishing*, poems that imagine Indian girls that were never born. One thing led to another, and music composition, design became a part of the project. The raw writings are composed into sounds of India and narrated by women and girls in India. Accompanied by the figure of an abstract Indian woman, the issue of female feticide is represented in the form of poetry, sound and art installation.

Installation: Imagine stepping into a dark space and a spotlight reveals a larger-than-life female figure dressed in a sari. As you get closer, the figure tells stories of vanished Indian girls and women, narrated by women. These poems are composed into music.

At present I am revisiting and revising these poems for a collection.

PUBLICATIONS

Poetry

"Notes from the Field" *Puerto Del Sol*, (2017)
"A Mother's Confession to Her Daughter", "Bhaiya, Bhaiya", "Names" *The Aerogram* (2017)
"When God is the Groom" *TAB: The journal of poetics & poetry*, January 2017, print issue
"Would You Still Blame Me?" "Dear Daughter" in *The Saturday Poetry Series*, in *As it Ought to Be* (2016)
"Indian Girl Crumbling" *New Asian Writing* (2016)
"Five Poems" *The Bombay Review* (2016)
"Yoga", "Handle with Care", *Silhouette* 31.1. Pages 6, 43 (2007)

Creative Nonfiction

"Maneka Gandhi's Baseless Marital Rape Theory...", *The Huffington Post* (2011)
"Dickens in Paris", *The Common* (2007)
"Heavenly Beauty Reborn", *Pinnacle Living Mountain Homes Southern Style* (2007)
[Editorial](#). *The New River Journal of Digital Writing and New Media* (2008)

Fiction

"[Aunt Laxshmi](#)", short story *The Greenbelt Review* (2009)
"Godhara", *Superficial Flesh* 3.2 (2008)

Reviews

"An Epic in Prose: [Cutting for Stone](#) by Abraham Verghese", *The Common* (2015)

Academic Writing

"[Understanding perspectives on sex-selection in India: an intersectional study](#)" *The Lancet*. (2014)
What's Next: "Blurred Images, Better Futures" By Suzie Boss *Stanford Social Innovation Review*. Featured research
"[Gendered Arrangements: India](#)" Change Observer: *Design Observer*. Featured article 2013

Book Chapters

"...[The Lingering Problem of Female Infanticide](#)" At Issues: Gender Politics, Greenhaven Publishing, Cengage 2017 (*forthcoming*)
"Children's Literature in India: Genres, Reading, Education and the Demands of the Digital Age." In *The Anthology on Literature for Children: A Reader*. Eds. Sharad Rajimwale and Kalpana Purohit, New Delhi, India: Sarup Books & Publishers. (2011)

INSTALLATIONS, SPEAKER, DISCUSSIONS

The Vanishing, Art Installation, (*Brisbane, Sydney, Australia; Jaipur, India*) (2015)
Art Week, Queensland Conservatorium Research Center, Griffith University, in Australia (2015)
Attended by approx. 500 people

The Vanishing - A Social Issue, [Community](#) event, A discussion on Social Issues, City-Fringe Art Gallery, Sydney, Australia (2015)
Attended by 100 people

Meet the Makers, The Vanishing: Tech talk and immersive listen of the project followed by a Q & A , Queensland Conservatorium Research Center, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia, (2015)

Women's Forum, Queensland Conservatorium Research Center, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia,

Speaker, "Law Mantra' on 'Female Foeticide: A Challenge to Indian Society' Law College, Rajasthan University, Jaipur, India.
Message NGO, International Women's Day, Jaipur. "Perspectives on female foeticide"
Speaker, Through Feminist Eyes Speaker Series, Women's Center, WGS, Virginia Tech, Robeson Hall. Guest Scholar 2012

Manuscripts under preparation

The Vanishing, a poetry manuscript, under revision

SERVICE

Reader, Los Angeles Review (2008)
Manuscript Reviewer, *Sociological Compass* (2013)
Scholarship Reviewer, College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Virginia Tech (2013)
Presider and Moderator, Human Rights Forum, Virginia Tech (2014) 21 July 2017