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Ainee Basir

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## RESEARCHER INTERESTS

Digital labor, labor ethics, postmodernism, technicity, somaticity, the 21st century novel and its overlap with haptics, dopamine, desire, attention, consumption and the notion of the "algorithm".

## EDUCATION

**MPhil, Department of English, University of Delhi** — *Research Fellow*

April 2021 - PRESENT

- Ranked 4 - Interview + Exam
- Awarded the Non-NET Scholarship (03-Feb-2021 to 02-Aug-2022)
- Thesis Supervisor - Dr. Prasanta Chakravarty, SUNY

**MA in English Literature, University of Delhi, Lady Shri Ram College**

July 2017 - June 2019

- 2018 - Qualified UGC-NET (National level testing for Assistant Professorship)

**BA Honours English Literature, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi**

July 2014 - June 2017

- Ranked 3 in Semesters I-VI
- Central Government JMI Scholarship for outstanding performance

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**MPhil Dissertation (Department of English, University of Delhi)**

July 2022 - Ongoing

Supervisor: Dr. Prasanta Chakravarty

Title: Technologies of Anti-Automatism: Ergodic Form and Evolving Interfaces of Reading

Nexus of work-labor-leisure-agency in world reduced to attention economy and data capitalism

In the later half of the 20th Century, the physical, somatic, mental concept of the “text” morphs to embrace its haptic potential. By focusing on texts like Mark Z. Danielewski’s *House of Leaves*, I hope to explore the novel as an interface: the book tool, the reader, the act of readership, online community, social media afterlife, and technical know-how co-constitute each other. The thesis explores the temporal investment and labor intensive attention requirement of the novel in the context of algorithmically driven digital media consumption patterns.

#### **Academic Research and Writing (MPhil coursework)- 28 hours, 2 credits**

April 2021 – August 2021

Comprised of modules on plagiarism, citation systems, ethics of academic publishing, conduct within academia and evaluation based on a short paper + abstract.

Paper Title: Supplementing Desire: Individualism as *supplement* in Stiegler (published)

#### **Representing Vietnam in America (MPhil coursework)- 56 hours, 2 credits**

April 2021 – July 2021

The course aimed to map out continuities and interruptions in representations of Vietnam over five decades of responses to a war that still haunts the American imagination, through various textualizations and their resonance within certain mythic frames. Evaluation- presentation + long paper submission.

Paper Title- Lettering the Persian Gulf War: Epistolary Form in Gabe Hudson’s *Dear Mr. President* (accepted and under peer review at the Journal of War and Culture Studies)

Submitted to Dr. Suabarno Chatterji (Professor, DU). Marked 68/100.

#### **Writing Revolution: The Public and Private Sphere in Late Eighteenth Century Britain (MPhil coursework)- 42 hours**

November 2021 – February 2022

Comprised of a selection of texts, leading up to the decade of 1790s as notions of subjectivity and an individuated self emerged in the context of a shifting balance of power between the State and the individual. The course contends with post revolutionary aesthetics and intellectual currents in Europe that led to multiple revolutions that cut across ideological fault lines and shaped the British idea-scape. Evaluation- Short paper + Long paper + 13 response sheets

Paper Title-

1. Paradoxical Preparations: The Futility of Rousseau’s Efforts
2. Charlotte Lennox and the Scope of Female Financial Independence

Submitted to Dr. Anjana Sharma (Professor, DU). Marks awaited.

#### **Literature and the Political Imagination (MPhil coursework)- 42 hours**

November 2021 – February 2022

The course maps ideas of the political (contra politics) in the Western imagination and the two variant approaches to contemporary Indian political thought: that of governmentality and of resistance. It dealt with four foundational cornerstones of political philosophy: the ideas of authority, liberty, equality and spontaneity.

Discussions were placed within contexts of aesthetics, inaesthetics, language, rhetoric, the contested ethical ideas of giving offence, the right/wrong uses of literature, notions of ethical selfhood and the problems of ecological ethics. Evaluation: Presentation + Long Paper

Paper Title- No Laughing Matter: Laughter as Enquiry

Submitted to Dr. Prasanta Chakravarty (Professor, DU). Marks awaited.

**MHRD SPARC- Ministry of Human Resource Development Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration, Government of India**

**Oceans as Method (Selected for Government MHRD SPARC course, Research Collaboration between Jamia Millia Islamia and University of Witwatersrand, South Africa)- 24 hours**

November 2019 - December 2019

This course raises questions of methodology through a thematic exploration of some of the central concerns of social sciences and history, it explores the possibility of an alternative to a historiography centered on land, states and empires. What does it mean to think with fluvial geographies and the idea of space as determined by the movement of people rather than thinking about space as territories within which people move i.e. nations, regions etc. The oceans press on our consciousness particularly given the alarming prospects of global warming and rising waters. Evaluation - presentation + long paper.

Paper Title- Dissolving the Sea: Fluvial Disappearance in Twenty First Century Reimaginings

Submitted to Dr. Dilip M. Menon (Professor, Mellon Chair in Indian Studies, University of Witwatersrand)

**Language and Ideology in Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia (Selected for Government MHRD SPARC course, Research Collaboration between Jamia Millia Islamia and South Asia Institute, Heidelberg, Germany)- 24 hours**

Multilingualism covers up a host of hierarchical relationships, contact scenarios, historical and ongoing entanglements. The notion of language ideology proceeds from the contention that various perceptions, narratives, stereotypes add up to a thick conundrum of attributes that get attached to a language and its community of speakers: a set of assumptions, definitions, oppositions, trajectories, parentages, myths of origin, sometimes highly elaborate and sophisticated, at other times very trivial and stereotypical patterns of thought. Evaluation - Student led discussions/participation

Led by Dr. Hans Harder (Professor, Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg, Germany), Dr. Jürgen Schaflechner (Professor, Modern South Asian Languages and Literatures, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg, Germany)

**Inhabiting A Globalized World: Concepts, Theories, Critical Perspectives (Selected for Government MHRD SPARC course, Research Collaboration between Jamia Millia Islamia and Department of English and American Studies, University of Würzburg, Germany)- 24 hours**

July 2021

This seminar explored key texts from the fields of phenomenology, ecocriticism, queer studies, design theory and globalization studies to develop new understandings of how we inhabit and experience the world through imaginary as well as material acts of 'worlding'. Such an experiential world is not merely a geographical unit but needs to be recognized as a specific "terrain of consciousness" (Buell 2005), whose reality and meaning are constituted by sensory perception and affective attachment as well as by cognitive processing. But what happens to such situatedness in a globalized world? And how can we include sense perceptions and our entanglements into material ecologies of being to arrive at new, situated ways of knowing, of learning about environments and one's relation to them? Attending to the senses will provide a new angle for addressing globally relevant questions about social agency and responsibility, which we explored through texts engaging with planetary ethics, questions of temporality, asking how globalization relates to modernity and how a global perspective challenges and changes our sense of the planet's history and our place in it.

Instructor: Dr. Isabel Karremann (Professor, English Department, University of Zurich, Switzerland)

## PUBLICATIONS

### "Re-Orienting Reading: Ergodic Form of Mark Z. Danielewski's *Only Revolutions*"

- Book Chapter in forthcoming edited volume *Globalization and Planetary Ethics: New Terrains of Consciousness* (Routledge, 2023)
- <https://www.routledge.com/Globalization-and-Planetary-Ethics-New-Terrains-of-Consciousness/Malhotra-Singh-Rizvi/p/book/9781032222769#https://www.routledge.com/Globalization-and-Planetary-Ethics-New-Terrains-of-Consciousness/Malhotra-Singh-Rizvi/p/book/9781032222769%23>

## CONFERENCES

### "Banning TikTok during the Pandemic: Spatial, Temporal and Imaginative Limits of the Indian Public"

- presented at the Young Researcher's Conference 2022 at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi titled "Panorama of/and the Pandemic: Literary and Cultural Responses" from 17th to 18th of December 2022.
- surveyed over 300 creators using TikTok or other digital platforms as a stream of income
- examined Government and corporation policies on surveillance, data collection
- under peer-review

### "Re-Orienting Reading: Ergodic Form of Mark Z. Danielewski's *Only Revolutions*"

- presented in the international conference on "Globalization and the New Terrains of Consciousness: Phenomenologies of the Global/ Local/ Glocal."

Organized by Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and  
Department of English and American Studies, University of Würzburg, Germany  
on the 8th, 9th and 10th of February 2021.

- Published 2023

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### University of Delhi – Ramanujan College, NCWEB (Guest Lecturer)

October 2019 – July 2021

### University of Delhi – Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce (Guest Lecturer)

August 2021 – December 2021

### University of Delhi – Zakir Hussain Delhi College (Guest Lecturer)

February 2022 – June 2022

## NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

### Internet Freedom Foundation — Policy Analyst

October 2023– Ongoing

Researched the Government of India's digital initiatives and focused on raising concerns about data collection, dark patterns, privacy, AI technologies and surveillance. Following internet shutdowns, maintaining election data, managing airtable on Right to Information filings, assisting policy team and litigation team with research and writing

| HOBBIES/VOLUNTEER WORK   | SKILLS & INTEREST   |
|--|---|
| <p>Designed + Conducted Digital Literacy and Safety class in local NGOs– Prayaas</p> <p>Participated in workshops on theorizing Artificial Intelligence from Digital Automatism to Planetary Autonomy in IIT-Kharagpur and The IIT-B Trust Lab</p> | <p>Academic Research + Writing</p> <p>Survey Design + Data Collection</p> <p>Conducting Workshops, Organizing Lectures</p> <p>Political Thought , Critical Theory</p> <p>MS Excel, Google Sheets, Airtable, SQL</p> |