

Omar Abdullah Ph.D.

Texas A&M University-Central Texas
1001 Leadership Place, Killeen, TX 76549

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Cultural Studies, University of California, Davis, 2017
Designated Emphases in Studies of Performance and Practice

Dissertation: "The Politics of Punchlines: Comedy as Decoy in a Postracial U.S."
Dissertation Committee: Larry Bogad (Chair), Sunaina Maira, Eric Smoodin

B.A., Communication (Magna Cum Laude), Saint Mary's College of California, 2013

CURRENT POSITION

Community Outreach Manager, Cultivate Behavioral Health & Education, Austin Texas

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comedy studies; Performance studies; Postcolonial theory; Television/Media Studies; Asian American Studies; Popular culture; Racialization; Muslim American studies; American studies; Masculinity; Affect theory.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

HArCS Dean's Summer Fellowship, 2015

Mellon Initiative "Comparative Border Studies" Fellowship 2015-2016

Mellon Initiative "Comparative Border Studies" Summer Research Grant, 2016

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Lecturer, UC Davis

Historical Experience of Asian Americans, Department of Asian American Studies
Fall 2017

Associate Instructor, UC Davis

Asian American Performance, Department of Asian American Studies
Summer 2017

Introduction to Acting, Department of Theatre and Dance (co-taught)
Fall 2014

Teaching Assistant, UC Davis

Images of America & Americans in Popular Culture, Department of American Studies
Fall 2014, Fall 2016, and Winter 2017

Asian American Cultural Studies, Department of Asian American Studies
Winter 2014, Spring 2014, Winter 2015, Spring 2016 & Spring 2017
Guest Lecture "Video Production" Spring 2014 & Winter 2015
Guest Lecture "South Asian Diaspora and Comedy" Winter 2015 & Spring 2016

Historical Experience of Asian Americans, Department of Asian American Studies
Fall 2013

Reader, UC Davis

Modern India, Department of History
Spring 2016

Teaching Assistant, Saint Mary's College of California

Quantitative Methods, Department of Communication
Spring 2013

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

2013- present Member, Militarization Research Cluster, University of California, Davis

2015- present Member, Mellon Initiative "Comparative Border Studies" University of California, Davis

PUBLICATION

"Theater and Drama." Asian American Society: An Encyclopedia. Sage Publications, 2014.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

"Aziz Ansari: Comedy and South Asian American Masculinity." Communication, Postcoloniality, and Social Justice: Decolonizing Imaginations. Villanova, PA. March 2015

"Yes and...: Comedy as Critical Practice." Another University Is Possible: Praxis, Activism, and the Promise of Critical Pedagogy. Cultural Studies Association. Riverside, CA. May 2015

PROFESSIONAL/ACADEMIC SERVICE

2014-2015 Student Elected Co-Representative, Cultural Studies Graduate Group Admissions Committee, University of California, Davis.

2016-2017 Student Elected Representative, Cultural Studies Graduate Group Executive Committee, University of California, Davis.

PERFORMANCE ACTIVITIES

- Main-stage ensemble member at Comedysportz San Jose, since June 2010.
- Performed improvised shows in downtown San Jose for diverse audiences.
 - Led high school, adult, and corporate improvisational workshops.

- Taught the ComedySportz Level 3 “Advanced Improvisational Games” course.
- Actor/Writer for San Francisco sketch comedy group Killing My Lobster in 2017.
- Performed written material within an ensemble at SF Sketchfest 2017.
- Street Performance for the “New Situationists” Exhibit on Pro Arts Gallery 2017
- Portrayed a satirical bureaucrat for the “Department of Hopes, Dreams, and Fear” at the Oakland City Hall.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Co-founded the Asma foundation, a program designed for underprivileged children to play tennis and use state of the art equipment for free in Kolkata, India.

Created a scholarship fund through the Jaidip Mukerjea Tennis Academy in Kolkata, India for tennis scholars.

Facilitated events for the American Muslim Alliance at the Newark, CA location in 2008.

Coordinated the 2016 Mellon Border Studies Student Film Festival.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Cultural Studies Association

American Humor Studies Association

LANGUAGES:

Hindi (read, write and speak) Bengali (speak) Urdu (speak)