

SOUMIA DHAR

August 2009

EDUCATION

August 2005-present

PhD Communication

Doctoral Candidate, University of New Mexico (UNM), Albuquerque, USA
Emphasis: Intercultural/International Communication

Title: The Rhetoric of Counterpublics: An Ideological Analysis of *Ikhwanweb*

Completion: Expected December 2009

Everett Rogers Doctoral Research Scholar, 2008

April 2003

MA Communication

University of Madras, Chennai, India

Emphasis: Mass Communication

Title: A Descriptive Study of Comedy in Satyajit Ray's Films

Parash Pathar and Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne

University First Rank, Top Honors & Gold Medal Awardee

May 2001

BA (Honors) English

University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India

Major: English Literature

Minor: History, Political Science

College Second Rank Holder

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research

Research Associate, Web Access for Civil Society Initiatives (WACSI), October 2006-May 2009

A federally-funded project undertaken by University of New Mexico in collaboration with the Cooperative Monitoring Center (CMC) Amman (part of the Royal Scientific Society of Jordan), seeking to increase networking among non-governmental organizations in the Middle East (Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia)

- Desk research on civil society in the Middle East- analyze and discuss ways to strengthen the cultural and institutional foundations of civil society
- Design questionnaires and conduct surveys
- Write analytical quarterly reports, general reports, grant proposals, and scholarly articles
- Liaise with collaborators and partners in the US and the Middle East
- Build and maintain the WACSI database, and the WACSI website

Co-investigator, Minor Research Project, 2003-2005

Globalization and its Influence on the Traditional Hindu Caste System: An Ethnographic Study in Chennai

Funded by the Department of Communication, University of Madras, this project aimed at generating community specific knowledge about the effects of globalization on the Hindu caste system

- Project design, planning and implementation with co-investigator
- Conduct interviews and on-site observations within a community of Tamil Brahmins

Masters Thesis, *A Descriptive Study of Comedy in Satyajit Ray's Films 'Parash Pathar' and 'Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne,'* April 2003

A qualitative project to study a world-renowned neo-realist filmmaker's treatment of comedy, specifically, through semiotic analysis

Awarded Best Thesis of 2003 by MOP Vaishnav College for Women

Teaching

University of New Mexico, USA

Instructor, Department of Communication and Journalism (C&J), Fall 2005-present

- **Mediation**, Fall 2008
- **Public Speaking**, Spring 2009, Fall 2008, Summer 2008, Fall 2007 (Freshman Learning Community), Spring 2007, Spring 2006, Fall 2005
- **Media Theory and Influence**, Fall 2009, Spring 2008, Fall 2006
- **Intercultural Communication**, Fall 2007

Guest Lecturer, Department of Sociology and Religious Studies, Spring 2009

- **Hindu Fundamentalism**, Spring 2009
- **Hinduism and Vedanta**, Spring 2009
- **The Basics of Hindu Religious Philosophy**, Spring 2009

MOP Vaishnav College for Women (Autonomous), accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, India

Lecturer, School of Media, June 2003-June 2005

- Lectured both Undergraduate and Graduate levels in **Communication Theories, Information and Communication Technologies, Writing for Electronic Media**
- Advised MA Graduate students for Journal Publication Project

Internship

ITC Limited, Kolkata, India

Apprentice, Corporate Communications, December 2002-January 2003

Executed a communications project for one of the largest private sector companies in India, and through interviews and textual analysis of newspaper articles, single-handedly evaluated the effectiveness of news media coverage of ITC's luxury hotel inauguration. Analysis and recommendations were incorporated in the company's annual newsletter

Zee News Network, Kolkata, India

Trainee Journalist, April-June 2002

Assigned to independently cover breaking news events for India's largest private producer of 24/7 news and current affairs television. Produced news features with 'Piece to Camera,' aired on national network

The New Indian Express, Chennai, India

Trainee Journalist, November 2000-January 2001

Reported on arts, culture, and entertainment. Published more than 20 exclusive news articles, features, and interviews in one of India's most important mainline dailies.

PUBLICATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Publications

Oetzel, J. G., Dhar, S., & Kirschbaum, K. (2007). Intercultural conflict from a multilevel perspective: Trends, possibilities, and future directions. *Journal of Intercultural Communication Research*, 36, 183-204.

Dhar, S. (work in progress). Challenges to the Use of Internet to Promote Civil Society in the Middle East: The Case of WACSI. *Journal of Civil Society*.

Presentations

National Communication Association (NCA) Convention, 2008

Egypt's Changing Civil Society: The Muslim Brotherhood and New Media, Media Ecology Association

Eastern Communication Association (ECA) Convention, 2008

The Rhetorics of Diplomacy: An Ideological Analysis, Rhetoric and Public Address Division

Studying *Disagreement* in a US Graduate Classroom, Instructional Communication Division

Western States Communication Association (WSCA) Convention, 2008

An Ideological Criticism of the US, Indian, and Pakistani Joint Statements during President Bush's March 2006 Visit to South Asia, Rhetoric and Public Address Division

Graduate and Professional Students' Association (GPSA) Symposium, UNM, 2007

A Quantitative Review of President Bush's March 2006 Visit to South Asia

Nominated by the Department of Communication and Journalism

NCA Convention, 2007

Defining Indianness: An exploratory study with Indian students in the US, Symbolic Interaction Division

A Quantitative Review of President Bush's March 2006 Visit to South Asia, International and Intercultural Communication Division

Southern States Communication (SSC) Association Convention, 2007

The Effect of Exposure on Faculty: Does it Make a Difference?

Awarded **Top Paper**, Intercultural Communication Division

International Communication Association (ICA) Convention, 2007

A Feminist Criticism of the Khajuraho Temples

Awarded **Plenary Status**, Feminist Scholarship Division

WSCA Convention, 2007

Perceptions and Attitudes towards International Graduate Students by Faculty with Dissimilar Intercultural Exposure, Intercultural Communication Division

Rocky Mountain Communication Association (RMCA) Convention, 2006

In a Cage of Gold: A Pentadic Criticism of the Oriental Painting *Les Captives*

Sooner Communication Conference, 2005

An Ideological Criticism of Elijah Muhammad's *We Must have Justice*

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE*Reviewing*

- Reader for **UNM Student Research Allocations Committee (SRAC) grants**, Summer 2008, Fall 2007, Fall 2006
- Reader for **UNM Graduate Research and Development (GRD) grants**, Fall 2007-Spring 2008, Fall 2006-Spring 2007
- **NCA. Paper Reviewer**, Mass Communication Division, Peace and Conflict Studies Division, International and Intercultural Division, 2007
- **WSCA. Paper Reviewer**, Intercultural Communication Division, 2007

Community Service

- **Workshop Organizer**, Mediation and Conflict Resolution, for NGOs in Kolkata, India, 2008
- **Grant Writer**, Child in Need Institute, Kolkata, India, 2005
- **Organizer**, Public Relations campaign on The Importance of Eye Donation, in collaboration with Agarwal Eye Institute, leading to 2000 people in Chennai, India to pledge their eyes, 2003

- **Member**, HelpAge India, contributed financially and as a caregiver for senior citizens, 1996-2000
- **Participated** in Each-One-Teach-One Literacy Campaign, India, and taught 3 children, ages 7-13, basic English reading, writing and speech skills, 1997

Disciplinary Service

- **NCA. Volunteer**, NCA Convention, 2007-2008
- **WSCA. Chair**, Session: From Acculturation to Consumerism: Four Studies within Intercultural Communication, WSCA Convention, 2008
- **NCA. Chair**, Session: Asian Media Studies: Pop Music, Internet, and Relations to American Media NCA Convention, 2007

University Service

- **Chair**, C&J Service Committee, Fall 2007-Fall 2008
- **Member**, GPSA Symposium Committee, UNM, Fall 2007
- **Student Representative**, WSCA Brochure Committee, 2007
- **C&J Representative**, UNM GPSA, Fall 2005- 2007

AWARDS AND HONORS

- **Everett Rogers Doctoral Research Scholar Award**, Department of Communication and Journalism, UNM, 2007-2008
- Awarded **\$300 Specialized Travel Grant**, UNM GPSA, Fall 2008
- Plaque and Cash Prize for **Top Paper, Intercultural Communication Division**, SSCA Convention, 2007
- Awarded **\$800 Student Conference Award Program Grant**, UNM Career Services, 2007
- **Nominated** by C&J, UNM for the **Best Teaching Assistant Award**, 2005
- Awarded the **University of Madras Gold Medal in MA Communication**, 2003
- Awarded **Top Honors** and **S Parthasarathy Endowment prize**, for **Proficiency in Communication** at the Masters level, 2002-2003
- **Organizer, winning team**, elected for **Best Public Relations campaign** of 2003, MOP Vaishnav College; Topic: The Importance of Eye Donation
- Awarded **certificate for Proficiency in Editorial Skills**, MOP Vaishnav College, 2003

OTHER SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Language

- Fluent in English, Hindi, Bengali
- Certification: French Language, levels I and II, Alliance Francaise de Madras
- Basic Arabic

Computer

- Proficient with PC, MS Office-Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Proficient with web design tools- CorelDraw, Adobe PhotoShop, PageMaker
- Proficient in SPSS statistical software

Certifications

- Certification: **UNM-GPDRO Certificate for Basic Mediation**, 2008
- Certification: **ITARC Certificate for Teaching Assistants**, UNM, 2005
- Completed **Grade 10 with Distinction in Effective Communication**, Trinity College, London, 1995