

Sonora Jha, Ph.D.
CURRICULUM VITAE

Work: College of Arts and Sciences
and Department of Communication
Seattle University
901 12th Ave., Seattle, WA 98102
Tel: (206) 296-5347
Website: www.sonorajha.com
E-mail: sonora@seattleu.edu

SUMMARY

- Professor, Dept. of Communication and Media, Seattle University (full professor since 2016; tenured since 2009).
- Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, Seattle University (2017-current)
- Author, *The Laughter* (Harper Via, Feb. 2023); *How to Raise a Feminist Son: Motherhood, Masculinity, and the Making of My Family* (Sasquatch Books, USA/Penguin India, 2021); *Foreign,* novel (literary fiction) published by Random House India, 2013.
- Co-Editor, *New South Asian Feminisms: Disrupting the Discourse Through Social Media, Film, and Literature*. (Routledge, 2017). Co-edited with Dr. Alka Kurian
- Agented by Soumeya Bendimerad Roberts, HG Literary, New York.
- Teaching at Seattle University – Persuasive Journalism; Media Systems; Entrepreneurial Journalism; International Journalism; Public Affairs Journalism; International Cinema
- Research interests – Social protests and social media; South Asian feminism; Transnational intersectional feminism; race and gender in media coverage
- Op-Ed Contributor to *The New York Times*, *Seattle Times*, *Seattle Weekly*, *The Establishment*, *Dame Magazine*.
- Writer in Residence, Hugo House, 2016-18.
- Creative Writing workshop instructor for Creative NonFiction, Hugo House, Hedgebrook, Seattle Public Libraries and more
- Ph.D. in “Mass Media and Politics” from The Manship School of Mass Communication, LSU, 2004; Ken Uffman Fellow. (2000-2003)
- Over 10 years of experience as a newspaper and magazine journalist covering a wide range of international and local issues in India and Singapore. Chief of Metropolitan Bureau/Special Correspondent, *The Times of India*; Contributing Editor, *East Magazine*. (1989-2000)
- Youngest journalist to head a bureau for India’s largest-circulated national English daily, *The Times of India*.
- Faculty Adviser to Seattle University’s campus newspaper, *The Spectator*.

- Alumna and member of Board of Directors, Hedgebrook, a global literary non-profit and writing retreat.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Professor , Department of Communication Seattle University	Sept. 2016-Present
Associate Dean for Academic Community , College of Arts & Sciences, Seattle University	Sept 2017-Present
Chair , Department of Communication, Seattle University	June 2011 – June 2013
Associate Professor , Department of Communication Seattle University	Sept. 2009-June 2016
Assistant Professor , Department of Communication Seattle University	Sept 2003- June 2009
Ph.D. in Mass Media and Politics (Ken Uffman Fellow) Manship School of Mass Communication, Louisiana State University	May 2004

Teaching at Seattle University

Persuasive Journalism
 Entrepreneurial Journalism
 Reporting for Journalism
 International Cinema & Culture
 International Affairs Writing
 Media Foundations of Communication/Media Systems
 Mass Media in Modern India (Study Abroad)
 Global Media's Untold Stories
 Blogging Your Discipline

Creative Writing Workshops at Hugo House, Seattle Public Library, and Hedgebrook

What I Am Here to Say: Finding Voice and Purpose in Personal/Political Essay – Seattle Public Libraries Webinar, September 2020
 Beauty and Rage in the Personal Essay – Hedgebrook Webinar, Aug. 2020
 Crafting Unforgettable Characters in Fiction and Non-Fiction, Masterclass for Hedgebrook in Karjat, India, January 2019.
 Turning Real People into Characters – Hedgebrook Summer Salon, 2016
 What You Don't Know About Your Character – Write Doe Bay Retreat, Oct 6-8 2017
 The Art of Political Essay – Seattle Public Libraries, July 2017
 Regular workshops for Hugo House –

Yearlong in Narrative Storytelling
Agents and Editors for BIPOC Authors
Writing Fiction That Dares
How Not to Write a Novel
The Political Essay

Research Areas

Social Protest & Social Media
Masculinities and Intersectional Feminism
Race, Gender, Ethnicity on the Internet
Globalization & Journalism in India

Journalism & the Internet
News Reporting on 9/11
Framing Theory and Online Media
Feminism on Social Media in India

Refereed Scholarly Articles and Book Chapters

- *Gathering Online, Loitering Offline: Hashtag Activism and the Claim for Public Space by Women in India through the #WhyLoiter Campaign*, chapter in *New Feminisms in South Asian Social Media, Film, and Literature*, Routledge, 2017.
- *Why They Wouldn't Cite from Sites: A Study of Journalists' Perceptions of Social Movement Web Sites and the Impact on their Coverage of Social Protest*, *Journalism: Theory, Practice & Criticism*, (Winter 2009).
- "How News is Covered: 9/11 and News Sourcing." Chapter in "Lessons Learned: From 9/11 to Katrina," Louisiana State University Press, (Winter 2009, with Ralph Izard).
- "Framed By Blogs: Toward a Theory of Frame Sponsorship and Reinforcement in the Blogosphere," *Electronic Journal of Communication* (Summer 2008).
- "Exploring Internet Influence on the Coverage of Social Protest: A Content Analysis Comparing Protest Coverage in 1967 and 1999." *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly* (Spring 2007).
- "Who Got to Talk About it: Sourcing and Attribution in Broadcast News Coverage of the First 24 Hours of the 9/11 Tragedy." Fall 2005. *Seattle Journal of Social Justice*, Volume 4: 101-118. (With Ralph Izard).
- "Getting Organized: Exploring Early Use of The Internet as a Tool for Empowerment and Mobilization of U.S. Nonprofits," *The Journal of Networks and Civil Society* (Winter 2007).

Journalistic Op-Eds and Essays in the U.S.

- We Need Boys to Take Down the Patriarchy, *Dame Magazine*, October 2018
- Serena Williams, Naomi Osaka, and the Right Kind of Women of Color, *The Establishment*, August 2018
- To Raise a Feminist Son, Talk to Him About Aziz Ansari, *The Establishment*, Feb 2018
- Dear America, Our Boys Are Hurting, *The Establishment*, June 2016.

- Charleston Shooting Horrifying Backlash to #BlackLivesMatter, *The Globalist*, June 19, 2015.
- Ten Things I Will Have to Do Before I Watch the BBC Film on the Indian Rapist, Guest Column, *The Globalist*, March 5, 2015.
- Race Coverage by Media Should be More Nuanced, Guest Column, *Seattle Times*, Dec. 6, 2014
- How Suicide and Politics Mix in India, Op-Ed, *New York Times*, April 2014
- How Satya Nadella Sounds A Lot Like My Brother: And Why That Is Not A Good Thing, Guest Column, *Seattle Weekly*, Oct. 14, 2014.
- What India's Elections Mean to Indians Around the Globe, Guest Column, *Seattle Times*, May 8, 2014
- India's Horror is Magnified Post 9/11, Guest Column, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, July 16, 2006.
- Focus on Protesters' Message, Guest Column, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, Aug. 24, 2004.

Book Chapters, Essays, and Reviews

- *Alone and Awash in Desire*, essay in *Alone Together: Love, Grief, and Comfort in the Times of Covid-19*, Central Avenue Publishing, 2020.
- *The Weight of Silence*, essay in *Indian Quarterly*, August, 2014.
- *On the Spine & Crown*, in *Seattle: City of Literature*, forthcoming, Sasquatch Books, Ed. Ryan Boudinot, March 2015.
- Review of *Bollywood Cinema: Temples of Desire* by Vijay Mishra (Routledge), *Communication Research Trends*. Sept. 2004.
- *Role Play, Or Tap Dancing Through Partisanship in the Classroom*, Political Communication Report, published by the Political Communication Sections of the International Communication Association and the American Political Science Association. January 2007

Invited Book Readings, Lectures and Presentations

- Short Story Commissioned by Humanities Washington/ Public Reading at Humanities Washington Annual Fundraiser, Oct. 2019.
- Keynote Speaker, Annual Chuckanut Writers' Conference, Bellingham, WA June 2019 (Keynote title - *The Writer in Uncertain Times*)
- Commissioned Essay/Reading at Hugo Literary Series, with Megham Daum, Solmaz Sharif, and Joy Mills, Sept. 15, 2017.
- Panel on Publishing Fiction, The Study of the U.S. Institute for Scholars on Contemporary American Literature, Seattle University, Aug. 1, 2017
- Featured Writer and Book Award Finalist, The Hindu Lit for Life Festival, January 2014, Chennai, India.
- Featured Writer, Search for Meaning Book Festival, Seattle University, February 2014.

- Keynote Speaker, People for Progress in India, Mercer Island, Washington, April 27, 2014.
- Panelist, From Journalist to Author: SPJ Continuing Education Series 2015, SPJ Western Washington Pro Chapter, Seattle Times, March 24, 2015.
- Featured Writer, Northwest Folk Life Festival, May 24th, 2014
- Panelist, "Advocacy and Action for Suicide Prevention Among Farmers: Lessons from India, Mozambique, and the United States," University of Washington, April 20, 2015. Sponsored by the Global Mental Health Program, South Asia Center and Global Health Resource Center, UW.
- Guest Speaker, University of Washington's Professional & Continuing Education department's Memoir Certificate Program, taught by Prof. Theo Nestor, April 21, 2015, UW.
- Guest Speaker, University of Washington's "Global Violence and Health" class taught by Prof. Deepa Rao, Feb. 5, 2015, UW.
- Guest Speaker, The Northwest School, Comparative Literature class – March 19, 2014
- "On Jesuit Education and the Story of Farmers in India," invited faculty presentation to Board of Trustees, Seattle University, Feb. 26th, 2014
- Featured Writer, Hedgebrook Literary Non-Profit Fundraiser, Seattle, March 16, 2014.
- Keynote Speaker, "Transforming Scholarship: Social Justice, The Story, and the Jesuit Institution," Annual Convention of the National Association of Women in Catholic Higher Education (NAWCHE), June 20th, 2014.
- Featured Writer, Words on Water Literature Festival, Seattle Art Museum, June 2014.
- Book Reading, Eye on India Festival, Seattle University, June 2014.
- Book Reading, Hedgebrook Literary Non-Profit Fall Fete – Address to New York Editors and Publishers and Hedgebrook Fellowship Awardees and Alums , October 29-30
- Book Reading, "Wage Slaves: Tales from the Grind," Seattle, Oct. 2014.
- Book Reading, LitCrawl, Annual Seattle Literature Festival, Seattle, Oct. 2014
- Book Reading, Lit Fix, Seattle, Dec. 2014.
- Speaker and Panelist, The Times of India Literary Carnival, Dec. 6-8, 2013
- Speaker and Award Finalist, Lit for Life Literary Festival, Chennai, Jan. 10-13, 2014
- 'The Silence of the Suicide Fields: Book Reading and Lecture,' Seattle University, Nov. 14, 2013.
- Book reading and launch, Multi-City Book Tour organized for 'Foreign' by Random House India (Mumbai, Bangalore, New Delhi, Amritsar), July 2013.

Academic Conference Presentations

- "Doors to Democracy: Challenges to Global Press Freedom," panel presentation at Fulbright Annual Conventions, Washington D.C., October 2019.

- *Gathering Online, Loitering Offline: Hashtag Activism and the Claim for Public Space by Women in India*, paper presentation at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication annual convention, San Francisco, Aug. 2015.
- “*The Case of ‘Why Loiter’ in Digital South Asia*,” Roundtable at annual convention of the South Asian Literary Association (SALA), Vancouver, B.C., Jan. 5-8, 2015.
- *Writing the Impact of Globalization: Challenges of Journalism and Farmers’ Suicides in India*, Annual Convention of South Asia Program, University of Hawaii, April 2011, Oahu, Hawaii.
- “*Articulating the Global in Education for Civic Engagement*,” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Chicago, Nov. 12-15, 2009.
- “*Looking for Love in All the White Places: A Study of Skin Color Preferences on Indian Matrimonial and Mate-Seeking Web Sites*,” with Mara Adelman, International Communication Association, Montreal, Canada, May 22-26, 2008.
- “*Non-Profits and the Internet: Empowerment and Disuse*,” Bellevue, Washington: Annual Convention of Non-Profit Leadership, April 4-5, 2006
- “*The Media in Full Color: Issues of Diversity and Representation in the Mass Media*. University of Washington, Seattle: Images of Youth 2006; New Directions in Media Literacy and Teen Health, March 20-21, 2006.
- “*Shaping News Coverage*,” Respondent, paper session co-sponsored by Political Communication and journalism Studies divisions, International Communication Association annual convention, Dresden, Germany, May 2006; Responses submitted to session chair.
- “*Social Protest, The Press and the Internet: A Study of Protest Coverage Before and During the Internet Age*.” International Communication Association Annual Convention, New York City, May 2005.
- “*Who Got to Talk About It: Sourcing and Attribution In Broadcast News Coverage of the “9/11 Tragedy*,” with Ralph Izard, International Communication Association Annual Convention, New York City, May 2005. An earlier version of this was presented at the (re) Imagining Race and Gender Conference, Seattle University, March 2005.
- “*Public Intellectualism and Third Spaces*,” with Mara Adelman and Jeff Philpott, Western States Communication Association, San Francisco, Feb. 2005.
- “*Getting Organized: The Internet as a Tool for Empowerment and Mobilization of U.S. Non-Profits*.” Presented to the International Communication Association's annual convention in New Orleans, May, 2004.
- “*Reframing Frame Analysis: Gaps and Opportunities in Framing Research*.” Presented to the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) national convention at Miami Beach, Florida, Aug. 6-10, 2002.
- “*The Site of Coverage: The Impact of Internet-Mounted Social Movement Protests on Journalists' Coverage Decisions*.” Presented to the Cultural and Critical Studies Division at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) national convention at Miami Beach, Florida, Aug. 6-10, 2002.

University/Professional Administration Experience

- Associate Dean for Academic Community, College of Arts & Sciences, Seattle University.
- Department Chair, Communication Department, 2011-2013. Hired two new full-time faculty members, led the department in developing long-term goals and objectives, planned course schedules, developed budget requests and mentored junior faculty, amongst other responsibilities.
- President of Board of Directors, Hedgebrook Literary Non-Profit, 2016-Present. In charge of supervising the Executive Director, head of executive committee and member of governance, finance, and other committees. Recruited and hired a diverse, national Board with members in Seattle, New York and the Bay Area. Led the organization through a year-long racial diversity and equity initiative and a fundraising and sustainability drive.
- Co-Chair, Strategic Planning Committee, College of Arts & Sciences, Seattle University.
- Member, Academic Assembly, September 2010-June 2013.
- Chief of Metropolitan Bureau, The Times of India, Bangalore. Headed a team of 10 journalists; planned and executed city and national reporting; credited with working with an editorial team to triple the newspaper circulation in a year.

Grants and Awards

- The Barry Lopez Fellowship for Literature, featuring a residency at Playa Summer Lake, July 2018
- Writer in Residence, Richard Hugo House, 2016-2018
- Writer in Residence, 2016, Residency L’Ancienne Auberge, Southwestern France.
- Research Grant, Endowed Mission Fund, Seattle University – 2008 and 2013.
- Writer in Residence, Hedgebrook Writers’ Retreat, October 2009.
- Summer Faculty Research Fellowship, 2008, College of Arts & Sciences, Seattle University (Amount: \$5000; research paper titled “Writing The Impact of Globalization”)
- Faculty Research Grant, Seattle University (Amount: \$ 5000; June 2004; research on protest coverage).
 - Nominated for “Outstanding Teacher of the Year,” Award, 2005, by Student Executive Council, Seattle University
 - Research grant from the Reilly Center for Mass Media and Public Affairs for research project titled: "*Getting Organized: Projecting Activists' Voices on the Internet.*" (Amount: \$3,100; October 2001). Paper presented to ICA, May 2004.
 - Award for “Best Poster Presentation,” awarded by the Cultural and Critical Studies Division at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) national convention in Miami Beach, Florida, Aug. 6-10, 2002.

Professional Experience in Journalism and Public Affairs

Contributing Editor

East Magazine, Singapore/ Freelance Journalist, Singapore

- Based in Singapore, writing for Indian and Singaporean newspapers and magazines.
- Additional assignments in advertising and corporate communications.

Chief of Metropolitan Bureau

The Times of India, Bangalore, India 1997-2000

- Organized beats, shaped the reportage and writing, and generated new ideas for proactive coverage for the Bangalore edition (circulation 150,000) of India's largest English-language national daily.
- Created and headed a team of 10 reporters.
- Headed the bureau, filed news stories and features on government corruption, public policy and social issues for nationwide editions of the paper. Also worked as the paper's foreign film critic and drama critic.
- Wrote a weekly column, "Metro Matters," on the life and times of the metropolis.
- Was credited with helping triple the edition's circulation within a period of one year.
- A personality profile I wrote on the first Indian in outer space was picked up and published in the English Literature text-book prescribed for Class Five (fifth grade) by the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education, run by the national-level general education council in India. The chapter continues to be included.
- Spoke at and presented papers at seminars, workshops and media programs.
- **Communications Manager** 1993 – 1994 ACTIONAID India, Bangalore, India
- Shaped Actionaid's (a global development funding agency) corporate profile with government agencies, the press, non-governmental organizations, corporate sponsors and the public.
- Devised and executed communication packages directed at sponsors and the media worldwide for the development agency and contributed to the packages put together by its headquarters in London.
- Conceived, designed and edited Changes, a development journal targeted at a non-development sector audience, particularly in the corporate sector, the media and government.
- Traveled to rural non-governmental organizations across the country to file stories that appeared in a variety of national dailies like The Times of India and Indian Express. Some of these stories resulted in government policy reconsiderations and redirections.
- Presented papers at seminars on "Communications for Development" and "Development News- reporting"

Reporter

The Times of India, Bangalore, India 1992 -1993 The Afternoon Despatch and Courier, Mumbai, India 1989 -1992

- At both newspapers, filed hard news stories and features on crime, health, education, women's and children's issues, urban infrastructure and civic issues, lifestyle and entertainment.
- Worked as the newspapers' foreign film critic and drama critic.

Memberships

- o Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.
- o International Communication Association.
- o South Asian Literary Association
- o Richard Hugo House
 - o Seattle 7 Writers