

# Nisha Shanmugaraj

Carnegie Mellon University, English Department  
Baker Hall 259, 5000 Forbes Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
nls@andrew.cmu.edu –978.808.0192 (mobile) – 412.268.2850 (department)

## EDUCATION

### Carnegie Mellon University

Ph.D. in English, Rhetoric

August 2018-present

Dissertation Title: “Negotiating the Model Minority: How Indian American Women Rearticulate Dominant Racial Discourse”

Committee: Stephanie Larson (chair), Sharon Yam, John Oddo, Marian Aguiar

M.A. in English, Literary and Cultural Studies

August 2012-May 2013

### University of Vermont

B.A. in English, magna cum laude

August 2008-May 2012

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Journal Articles

**Shanmugaraj, Nisha.** “Disidentifying from the model minority: How Indian American women rearticulate dominant racial constructions.” Accepted for publication at *Quarterly Journal of Speech*.

**Shanmugaraj, Nisha,** Joanna Wolfe, and Sophie Wodzak. “Rhetorically-grounded paraphrasing instruction: Knowledge telling versus transforming.” *Composition Forum*, vol. 43, 2020, n.p.

Wolfe, Joanna, **Nisha Shanmugaraj,** and Jaclyn Sipe. “Grammatical versus pragmatic error: Employer perceptions of nonnative and native English speakers.” *Business and Professional Communication Quarterly*, vol. 79, no. 4, 2016, pp. 397-415.

### Under Review

**Shanmugaraj, Nisha.** “Enacting defiance to the model minority: Snarkiness as a rhetorical strategy.” Chapter in proposed edited collection, *Interventions: Asian American Rhetorical Activity Across Space and Time*. (Proposal: accepted; essay: revised and resubmitted.)

Joanna Wolfe, **Nisha Shanmugaraj,** Laura Caton, and Craig Moreau. “Advancing the knowledge base on effective presentation slide design: Three pilot studies.” *Journal of Technical Writing and Communication*. (In process of revising and resubmitting.)

**Shanmugaraj, Nisha.** “Raising consciousness of self and field: Reflections on creating a graduate student committee on antiracism.” *Rhetoric, Politics, & Culture Forum*. (Under review.)

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

### Research

Shirley Wilson Logan Diversity [Scholarship Award](#), \$500, Coalition for Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition, Spring 2021

Nan Johnson Outstanding Graduate Student [Travel Award](#), \$200, Coalition for Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition, Spring 2021

Conference Funds, \$420, Carnegie Mellon University Graduate Student Assembly and Provost Office, Spring 2021

Graduate Student Small Project Help Grant, \$750, Carnegie Mellon University Graduate Student Assembly and Provost Office, Spring 2021

## Teaching

Chairs' Memorial Scholarship, \$750, Conference on College Composition and Communication, Spring 2022

Dietrich College Graduate [Teaching Award](#), \$750, Carnegie Mellon University, Fall 2021

English Department Graduate Student [Teaching Award](#), \$250, Carnegie Mellon University, Spring 2021

## COURSES TAUGHT

### Instructor of Record, Carnegie Mellon University

“Where are you really from?”: Asian American Racism, Activism, and Identity (upper-level)	Spring 2023
Asian American Experiences and Identities (1 semester)	Fall 2022
Writing about Public Problems (11 minis)	Fall 2019-Spring 2022
Writing for the Professions (upper-level, 1 semester)	Spring 2018
Technical Writing for Engineers: Linguistic Foundations (graduate level, 1 mini)	Spring 2017
Technical Writing for Engineers: Genre Foundations (graduate level, 1 mini)	Spring 2017
Writing about Data (2 minis)	Fall 2017
By the People, For the People? News, New Voices, and New Media (3 semesters)	Fall 2014, 2015, 2016

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

### Carnegie Mellon University

Graduate Student Representative, English Department DEI Task Force	Fall 2021-Spring 2022
Graduate Student Instructor, First Year Writing	Fall 2019-present
Graduate Student Course Leader, First Year Writing	Fall 2020-Spring 2022
Graduate Teaching Fellow, Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence	Spring 2019-Spring 2021
Curricular Developer and Lecturer, Undergraduate Research Office	Summer 2019
Research Assistant, First Year Writing Longitudinal Study	Fall 2018-Summer 2019
Associate Director, Global Communication Center (*full time)	Fall 2013-Spring 2018
Graduate Communication Consultant, Global Communication Center	Fall 2012-Spring 2013
Adjunct Faculty, Department of English	Fall semesters 2014-2017
K-12 Teacher, Institute of Reading Development	Summer 2013
Writing Tutor and ELL Tutor, Writing Center, University of Vermont	Fall 2009-Spring 2012

## INVITED TALKS

“Rhetorical methods and dissertation research.” Guest panelist for English 76-896/296 Research Methods in Rhetoric and Writing Studies	Fall 2022
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“Asian women and the model minority myth in North America.” Panelist on webinar by the Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition	Spring 2022
“How Indian American women clap back against microaggressions.” Guest speaker for English 76-327 Equity & Communication	Spring 2022
“How do we study the body rhetorically?: Dissertation research perspectives.” Guest panelist for English 76-818/418 Rhetoric and the Body	Spring 2022
“Rhetorical methods and dissertation research.” Guest panelist for English 76-896/296 Research Methods in Rhetoric and Writing Studies	Spring 2021

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Storying selves in interview contexts: Reflection and rhetorical agency.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Chicago, IL, February 2023.
- “Super-session: Tending to Asian and Asian American voices.” Rhetoric Society of America, Baltimore, MD, May 2022.
- “The public education of young activists: How developing feminist and racial justice advocates acquire rhetorical training.” Rhetoric Society of America, Baltimore, MD, May 2022.
- “Accounting for Asian American racial traumas in antiracist pedagogy.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Chicago, IL, March 2022.
- “Closing the gap of scholarly distance: Transformative reflections on researcher positionality when studying women of color rhetors.” National Communication Association, Seattle, WA, Nov. 2021.
- “Fugitive planning and white knowledge disruption” and “Histories of rhetoric elsewhere and otherwise” (participant). Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, virtual, May 2021.
- “Teaching while Asian/American in the age of Trump.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, virtual, April 2021.
- “Indian American women crossing borders of compliance.” CMU English Graduate Student Conference, virtual, April 2021.
- “Unsettling the model minority: Indian American women and the imagined racial self.” Association for Asian American Studies, virtual, April 2021.
- “How second generation Indian-American women construct national belonging.” National Women’s Studies Association, virtual, Oct. 2020. \*Rescheduled from Spring 2020 due to COVID-19.
- “How Indian American women pose national risk: Racist scripts, affective harm, and re-envisioning belonging.” The University of Pittsburgh Cultural Studies and Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Student Symposium, April 2020. \*Cancelled due to COVID-19.
- “The success of Mindy Kaling: Presenting Indian-American difference in an American sitcom.” National Communication Association, Nov. 2020. \*Panel cancelled due to COVID-19.
- “Second generation Indian-Americans and national identity: How racial rhetorical othering and shame contain risky bodies.” Camp Rhetoric, State College, PA, Feb. 2020.
- “Assessing curricular changes that emphasize intensive exposures to authentic genres in the FYW classroom.” Council of Writing Program Administrators, Baltimore, MD, July 2019.
- “Promoting disciplinary and professional accountability in FYW through reader-centered communication” (Chair). Association for Teachers of Technical Writing, Pittsburgh, PA, March 2019.
- “Double agency: A director’s roundtable on supporting engineers in the contemporary writing center.” International Writing Centers Association, Chicago, IL, November 2017.

“Extending the writing center: Using interactive videos to deconstruct fundamental writing skills.” International Writing Centers Association Collaborative, Portland, OR, April 2017.

“Teaching through strategic troubling: Fostering flexible learning across writing curriculum contexts.” Conference on College Composition and Communication, Houston, TX, April 2016.

“Working with STEM genres in the writing center.” International Writing Centers Association, Pittsburgh, PA, October 2015.

“Visual communication in the writing center: research and application.” International Writing Centers Association, Pittsburgh, PA, October 2015.

“Using screen capture digital videos in writing centers.” International Writing Centers Association and National Council on Teachers of English, Orlando, FL, October 2014.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

“The assertion evidence model of slide design in a graduate engineering context.” Eberly Center Teaching and Learning Summit, CMU, 2018.

“*Speak Up!* A program for teaching communication skills to summer undergraduate researchers.” Eberly Center Teaching and Learning Summit, CMU, 2017.

“Cross-disciplinary communication skills seminar for summer undergraduate researchers.” Eberly Center Teaching and Learning Summit, CMU, 2016.

“The paraphrasing spectrum: Using interactive videos to teach rhetorically-based source use.” Eberly Center Teaching and Learning Summit, CMU, 2016.

## SERVICE POSITIONS

Graduate Mentor to incoming MA/PhD Students Fall 2020-Spring 2023

Graduate Representative to the Rhetoric Faculty Fall 2022-Spring 2023

Rhetoric Society of America Student Chapter President Fall 2021-Spring 2022

\*Organized events included [panel on antiracist pedagogy](#)

Reviewer for Rhetoric Society of America conference Fall 2021

Discussion leader for Center for Student Diversity and Inclusion Reading Group Spring 2021

Rhetoric Graduate Colloquium Coordinator Fall 2020-Spring 2021

\*Co-chair of [international graduate student conference](#) planning committee

Co-leader/Co-founder of English Graduate Student Committee on Antiracism Fall 2020

Rhetoric Graduate Representative for Summer Teaching Fall 2019-Summer 2020

Reviewer for *Business and Professional Communication Quarterly* Fall 2017-Fall 2019

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Asian American Studies

Coalition of Feminist Scholars in the History of Rhetoric and Composition

College Composition and Communication

Eberly Center Future Faculty Program

National Communication Association  
National Council of Teachers of English  
National Women's Studies Association  
Rhetoric Society of America

## References

**Dr. Stephanie Larson (chair)**

Assistant Professor of Rhetoric  
Carnegie Mellon University  
(847) 754-0109  
srlarson@andrew.cmu.edu

**Dr. Joanna Wolfe**

Teaching Professor of English  
Carnegie Mellon University  
(412) 268-2850  
jowolfe@andrew.cmu.edu

**Dr. Sharon Yam**

Associate Professor of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies  
University of Kentucky  
(859) 323-3922  
s.yam@uky.edu

**Dr. John Oddo**

Associate Professor of English  
Carnegie Mellon University  
(215) 982-0732  
joddo@andrew.cmu.edu

**Dr. Marian Aguiar**

Associate Professor of English  
Carnegie Mellon University  
(412) 268-3714  
aguiar@andrew.cmu.edu