

Laetitia ZECCHINI

CNRS Research Fellow (laetitia.zecchini@cnrs.fr)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019-21 *Visiting Scholar*, World Languages and Literatures, Boston University
- 2008 - *Chargée de recherche* (Tenured research fellow), THALIM (CNRS – Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3 – École normale supérieure)
- 2014 - Associate Researcher CEIAS (Centre for South Asian Studies, CNRS-EHESS)
- 2004-07 Lecturer in English, Université Paris VI, Jussieu
- 2002-04 Teacher at the Secondary level, Paris
Consultant for the think tank of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CAPS, Paris
- 2001-02 Volunteer with a Franco-Indian NGO, New Delhi

EDUCATION

- 2020 Habilitation à diriger des recherches (HDR), Comparative Literature, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3. Dissertation : *'Je suis le multiple' : Poétiques de l'Inde, politique de la littérature, mondialité des marges*
- 2003-07 Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and English Studies, Paris-Sorbonne University and INALCO. Dissertation: *Poetics of Relation and Dissidence in Contemporary Indian Poetry in English and Hindi*
- 2001-02 MPhil, English, Paris-Sorbonne
- 2001 *Agrégation*, English Literature
- 2000 M.A., French Literature, Paris-Sorbonne
- 1998-99 B.A. English Studies and French Literature, Paris-Sorbonne
- 1996-98 Undergraduate literary studies (*classes préparatoires*), Lycée Henri IV, Paris

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2017-21 Research Grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC, 950 000 £) for a project co-investigated with Peter D. McDonald (Oxford) and Rachel Potter (UEA) on ['Writers' Organizations and Free Expression'](#)
- 2019 CNRS award grant for research excellence (PEDR)
- 2015 CNRS Bronze Medal, Institute for Humanities and Social Sciences
- 2012-16 Program 'Emergences' (City of Paris): Grants as member of the research project [EMOPOLIS](#): 'Emotions and Political Mobilizations in the Indian Subcontinent'
- 2011-18 Annual mobility, publication and research grants from the [Labex Transfers](#) (CNRS – École normale supérieure – Collège de France)
- 2013 Publishing Grant, CNL (National Book Center) for *Kala Ghoda, Poèmes de Bombay* (Gallimard)
- 2007 Publishing Grant, CNL for *Dans un pays tout plein d'histoires* (Caractères)
- 2004-07 Doctoral Fellowship, University of Jussieu

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

I. BOOKS

1. [*Arun Kolatkar and Literary Modernism in India, Moving Lines*](#), New Delhi, New York: Bloomsbury, 2014 (paperback 2016)
Based on archival and unpublished material, this was the first monograph published on Arun Kolatkar. Reviewed in the *Times Literary Supplement*, *Sunday Guardian*, *Biblio: A Review of Books*, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, *Modernism/Modernity*, *Postcolonial Text*, *Sanglap: Journal of Literary and Critical Inquiry*, *Commonwealth Essays & Studies*, *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Enquiry*, *Internationales Asianforum*
2. *Décentrer le cosmopolitisme: Enjeux politiques et sociaux dans la littérature*, co-edited with Guillaume Bridet, Xavier Garnier, Sarga Moussa, Dijon: Editions Universitaires de Dijon, 2019. Includes a co-authored introduction.
3. [*Kala Ghoda, Poèmes de Bombay*](#), Translation from English (with Pascal Aquien), introduction and critical edition of Kolatkar's *Kala Ghoda Poems*, Paris: Gallimard, 2013.
4. *La modernité littéraire indienne: Perspectives postcoloniales*, co-edited with Anne Castaing and Lise Guilhamon, Rennes: PUR, 2009. Includes a co-authored introduction.
5. *Dans un pays tout plein d'histoires*, Translation from Hindi (with Annie Montaut) and introduction of a selection of poems by Kedarnath Singh, Paris: Ed. Caractères, 2007.

Forthcoming: The Form of Ideology and the Ideology of Form: Cold War, Decolonization and Third World Print Culture, co-edited with Francesca Orsini and Neelam Srivastava, Open Book Publishers, 2021.

Forthcoming (in press): PEN International: An Illustrated History, co-edited with Jennifer Clement, Peter D. McDonald, Rachel Potter and Carles Torner, Motovun Group (forthcoming in several languages in September 2021)

II. SPECIAL ISSUES

1. *The Locations of (World) Literature: Perspectives from Africa and South Asia*, co-edited with Francesca Orsini, *Journal of World Literature*, Vol. 4: 1-2, 2019. Double special issue that includes a co-authored introduction.
2. *The Worlds of Bombay Poetry*, co-edited with Anjali Nerlekar, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, Vol. 53: 1-2, Routledge 2017. Double special issue that includes a co-authored introduction.
3. *Penser à partir de l'Inde*, co-edited with Guillaume Bridet, *Littérature*, 04 (2016). Includes a co-authored introduction.
4. *Problèmes d'histoire littéraire indienne*, co-edited with Claire Joubert, *Revue de Littérature Comparée*, 04 (2015). Includes a co-authored introduction.

III. SELECT PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES (2010-2020)

'[What Filters Through the Curtain](#)': Reconsidering Indian Modernisms, Travelling Literatures and Little Magazines in a Cold War Context, *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, 22: 2 (2020): 172-194.

Une 'République des sentiments blessés' ? : Censure(s), communautés vulnérables et guerres culturelles en Inde, *Communications*, numéro spécial « Post-censure(s) », dir. Catherine Brun et Philippe Roussin,

Numéro 106, sous presse, pp. 99-117, 2020.

Practices, Constructions and Deconstructions of “World Literature” and “Indian Literature” from the PEN All-India Centre to Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, *Journal of World Literature*, 4: 1 (2019): 81-105.

‘More than One World’: An Interview with Gulammohammed Sheikh, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, 53: 1-2 (2017): 69-82.

‘We were like Cartographers, Mapping the City’: An Interview with Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, 53: 1-2 (2017): 190-206.

‘Perhaps I am Happier being on the Sidelines’: An Interview with Adil Jussawalla, (with Anjali Nerlekar), *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, 53: 1-2 (2017): 221-232.

‘I had to Construct Lineages for Myself’: An Interview with Amit Chaudhuri, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, 53: 1-2, pp. 255- 263

Penser le modernisme à partir de l'Inde: Traduction et braconnage, recyclage et renouvellement, *Littérature*, 04 (2016) : 96-111.

‘Crisis in Literary History?’ Du nativisme et du provincialisme, et de quelques autres débats intellectuels en Inde’, *Revue de Littérature Comparée*, 04 (2015) : 391-404.

Contemporary *Bhakti* Recastings: Recovering a Demotic Tradition, Challenging Nativism, Fashioning Modernism in Indian Poetry, *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, 16: 2 (2014): 257 - 276.

Modernism in Indian Poetry: ‘At the Time, we didn't Dissociate between East and West, it was just part of Bombay’, *Commonwealth Essays and Studies*, 34:1 (2011): 33-42.

Le postcolonial dans ses allers-retours transatlantiques : glissements, malentendus, réinventions, *Revue Française d’Etudes Américaines*, ‘American Theory: French Receptions’, 126 (2010) : 66-81.

‘Je suis le multiple’: exil historique et métaphorique dans l’œuvre d’Edward Said, *Tumultes*, 35 (2010) : 49-66.

Forthcoming: ‘Archives of Minority’: Little Publications and the Politics of Friendship in Postcolonial Bombay, special issue on ‘Postcolonial Archives’, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, eds. Anjali Nerlekar & Francesca Orsini & Taylor & Francis, 2022.

IV. SELECT BOOK CHAPTERS (2010-2020)

Hurt and Censorship in India Today: On Communities of Sentiments, Competing Vulnerabilities and Cultural Wars, in *Emotions, Mobilisations and South Asian Politics*, eds. Amélie Blom and Stéphanie Tawa Lama-Rewal, New Delhi: Routledge India, 2019, pp. 243-263.

Postcolonial South Asian Poetry, in *The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Poetry*, ed. Jahan Ramazani, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017, pp. 45-57.

Translation as Literary Activism: On Invisibility and Exposure, Arun Kolatkar and the Little Magazine ‘Conspiracy’, in *Literary Activism: A Symposium*, ed. Amit Chaudhuri, OUP /Boiler House Press, 2017, pp. 25-55. (also available online: <https://www.literaryactivism.com/translation-as-literary-activism/>)

Adil Jussawalla and the Double Edge of Poetry, in *The Cambridge History of Indian Poetry in English*, ed. Rosinka Chaudhuri, Cambridge: CUP, 2016, pp. 251-266.

De-Orientalizing “Indian Literature” and Indian Literary History? On Native / Foreign Dialectics and the Politics of Translation, in *Le Comparatisme comme approche critique*, ed. Anne Tomiche, Paris:

Classiques Garnier, 2016, pp. 327-344.

'A Message in a Bottle': On the Pleasures of Translating Arun Kolatkar into French, in *New Soundings in Postcolonial Writings, Critical and Creative Contours*, eds. Janet Wilson and Chris Ringrose, Brill-Rodopi, 2016, pp. 113-128.

'No Name is Yours until you Speak it': Notes Towards a Contrapuntal Reading of Dalit Literatures and Postcolonial Theory, in *Dalit Literatures in India*, eds. Judith Misrahi-Barak and Joshil K. Abraham, New Delhi: Routledge, 2015, pp. 58-75.

Figures de l'errance et de la dissidence: le dévot (*bhakta*) et le vagabond dans la poésie indienne contemporaine, in *Les Figures du marginal dans la littérature*, eds. Z. Ben Lagha and E. Feuillebois-Pierunek, Paris: Classiques Garnier, 2014, pp. 143-166.

Moving Lines: The Celebration of Impropriety and the Renewal of the World in Arun Kolatkar's Poetry, in *Burning Books: Interaction and Negotiations of Fundamentalism and Literature*, eds. Catherine Miquel and Klaus Stierstorfer, New York: AMS Press, 2012, pp. 163-188.

Breaking from Origins, Hovering over Boundary Lines: Hybridity in Contemporary Indian poetry, *Hybridity, Forms and Figures in Literature and the Visual Arts*, eds. Vanessa Guignery *et al.*, Newcastle: Cambridge & Scholars publishing, 2011, pp. 237-249.

Dharma Reconsidered: The Inappropriate Poetry of Arun Kolatkar in *Sarpa Satra*, in *Religion in Literature and Film in South Asia*, ed. Diana Dimitrova, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010, pp. 131-162.

Forthcoming (in press): 'Before the Battle': Karthika Nair in conversation with Laetitia Zecchini, in *Creative Lives: Interviews with Twelve Contemporary South Asian Diasporic Writers*, eds. Chandani Lokuge and Chris Ringrose, *Ibidem/CUP*, 2021.

Forthcoming: The Meanings, Forms and Exercise of 'Freedom': Illustrations from the Indian PEN and the Indian Committee for Cultural Freedom (1930s-1960s), in *The Form of Ideology and the Ideology of Form: Cold War, Decolonization and Third World Print Cultures*, Open Book Publishers, 2021.

IV. OTHER ARTICLES AND INTERVIEWS (SELECT)

[India's Season of Dissent: an Interview with the Poet Karthika Nair](#), *Samaj, South Asia Multidisciplinary Asian Journal*, 24/25, 2020.

[Dans un océan d'histoires](#) (on Karthika Nair's *Until the Lions*), Magazine de l'Opéra National du Rhin, 2020.

'[We all have a Genuine Fear of Violence Erupting in a Most Savage and Uncontrollable Way](#)': An Interview with Adil Jussawalla, [writersandfreeexpression.com](#), 2018

'[We are Talking of More than Writers' Rights, we are Talking of Letting People Live](#)': An Interview with Githa Hariharan, [writersandfreeexpression.com](#), 2017

'[From a Very Young Age, in fact, I used to Collect Books that Were Banned](#)': An Interview with Salil Tripathi, [writersandfreeexpression.org](#), 2017.

Notes for Arun Kolatkar's *Collected Poems in English*, ed. Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, Tarsset, Northumberland: Bloodaxe Books, 2010.

Dictionary entries for women of the Theri-gatha, Mirabai, Sarojini Naidu, Kamala Das, Imtiaz Dharker, Sujata Bhatt, Eunice de Souza, Ismat Chughtai, Dalit Women Writing, *Le Dictionnaire Universel des Créatrices*, dir. Béatrice Didier, Antoinette Fouque, Paris: Des Femmes, 2013.

SELECT CONFERENCES AND TALKS

The Cultural Cold War and the Poetics of Postcolonial Modernism in India, [Modernism Seminar: Mahindra Humanities Center](#), Harvard University, 2021.

[The Writers' Activism of PEN](#) (Panel with Jennifer Clement, Carles Torner, Margie Orford, Rachel Potter, Peter McDonald), [Art & Action: Literary Authorship, Politics and Celebrity Culture](#) University of Oxford (webinar series), 2020.

[Eating Away the Corners of \(World\) Literature: The Littleness and Worldliness of Indian magazines of the 50s-70s](#), [The Magazine and World Literature Webinar Series](#) (organized by Francesca Orsini and Patricia Novillo-Corvalan), 2020

The Archive of Minority: 'Little Publications' and the Politics of Friendship in Postcolonial Bombay, Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2019.

Bombay Poets, Indian Modernisms and the Cultural Cold War, World Languages and Literatures Colloquium, Boston University, 2019.

'How do we Stop Being Somebody Else's Image?', [The Forms of Ideology and the Ideology of Form: Local Debates, Internationalisms and Print Cultures between Decolonisation and the Cold War](#), Postcolonial Print Cultures Network, SOAS, University of London, 2019.

'Drop-out' Poets and Dissenting Artists: Clearing Alternative Spaces in the Indian Little Mags, Small Presses and 'Conspiracies' of the 1950s-1970s, [Academies and Counter-Academies in Colonial and Independent Spaces](#), INHA, Paris, 2018.

'What Filters through the Curtain': Reconsidering Indian Modernisms in the Cold War, [Publishing the Postcolonial: Politics and Economics of Postcolonial Print Cultures](#), Newcastle University, 2018.

'Thinking Modernisms from India', [Déplacements et créations sémantiques: Chine-Inde-Japon](#), École normale supérieure, Paris, 2017.

'*Eating the Corners of Literature*': Bombay Archival Research from the PEN All-India Center to Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, [The Bombay Poets' Archive, An Inaugural Symposium](#), Cornell University, 2017.

Defamiliarizing India: Cosmopolitanism as Aesthetic and Political Survival, [Cosmopolis and Beyond: Literary Cosmopolitanism after the Republic of Letters](#), University of Oxford, 2016

Bhakti Beatniks and Drop-out Poets: the Making of a Bombay Counter-culture in the 60s, [Counter-Culture and Indian Arts](#), Musée du Quai Branly, Paris, 2015.

Translation as Literary Activism: on Arun Kolatkar and the Little Magazine Conspiracy, [Literary Activism: an Inaugural Symposium](#), Presidency University, Calcutta, 2014.

'Writing in the Presence of World Literatures': Translation and the Cosmopolitan Local, [European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies](#) (ECSAS), Zurich, 2014.

Hurt and the 'Unsanitizable': Reflections on the Poetry of Kolatkar and a few Dalit writers, [Concepts of Emotions in South Asia 19th-21st centuries](#), Max Planck Institute, Berlin, 2013.

Indian Poetry, Recollection and Defamiliarization: A Politics of the Ordinary, JWTC, [Johannesburg Workshop in Theory and Criticism](#): WISER, Wits University, Johannesburg, 10-20 July 2011.

OUTREACH AND ROUNDTABLES WITH AUTHORS (SELECT)

2021 [In conversation with Amit Majmudar, Karthika Nair and Arundhati Subramaniam](#), "Translational Literature Series", Brookline Booksmith, MA

- 2020 In conversation with poet Arundhati Subramaniam and Saranya Subramaniam ('Reading Kolatkar under Lockdown' – Zoom webinar)
- 2019 In conversation with poet Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, Transnational Literature Series Brookline Booksmith, MA
- 2018 In conversation with novelist and critic Amit Chaudhuri, Shakespeare & Company, Paris
- 2018 In conversation with poet Karthika Nair, and the visual artists Joëlle Jolivet and Roshni Vyam, Maison de l'Asie, Paris
- 2017 In conversation with poet Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, Centre Pompidou, Paris
- 2017 Roundtable with novelist Anuradha Roy, Book festival "L'Inde des Livres", Paris
- 2016 In conversation with poet Karthika Nair on her collection *Until the Lions: Echoes from the Mahabharata*, Maison de l'Asie, Paris
- 2015 In conversation with poet and curator Ranjit Hoskote for the launch of *Arun Kolatkar and Modernism in India*, Kala Ghoda Festival, Mumbai
- 2014 In conversation with Amit Chaudhuri for the opening of the Festival des Ecrivains du monde (BNF / Columbia University), École normale supérieure, Paris
- 2013 France Culture, Radio Program: <http://www.franceculture.fr/emission-ca-rime-a-quoi-laetitia-zecchini-pascal-aquien-2013-10-20>
- 2013 In conversation with Ranjit Hoskote, Kitab Khana bookshop, Mumbai

MAIN SCIENTIFIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSABILITIES

- 2019 - Co-head of the "Multilingual Course in Literary Translation", École normale supérieure, EUR Translitterae (Université PSL)
- 2016-18 Elected Member, CNRS National Committee of Scientific Research (evaluation of research fellows and research units in the fields of philosophy, philology, literature and the arts; recruitment of CNRS fellows in these disciplines)
- 2014 - Member of the editorial board of [SAMAJ](#), *South Asia Multidisciplinary Asian Journal*
- 2014-18 Member of the scientific committee of the Labex TransferS (research cluster École normale supérieure – Collège de France – CNRS)
- 2014-18 Elected board member of the research unit THALIM

Organization of conferences, workshops and seminars:

- 2017 Co-organization of the conference "[The Locations of \(World\) Literature: Perspectives from Africa and South Asia](#)", with Francesca Orsini (SOAS), École normale supérieure, Paris
- 2016 Co-organization of the conference: "[Littérature et cosmopolitisme: usages politiques et sociaux](#)", with Guillaume Bridet, Xavier Garnier, Sarga Moussa, École normale supérieure.
- 2014 Organization of the workshop "[When Books and Art Hurt: Censorship, Emotions and Cultural Regulation in South Asia](#)", EHESS, Paris
- Co-organization of the workshop "Practices and Poetics of Translation", INHA, Paris, 2015
- Co-organization of the workshop "[Penser à partir de l'Inde](#)", École normale supérieure, Paris
- 2013-14 Co-organization of two workshops on Indian literary history, Paris 8
- 2014-16 Co-organization of the seminar "Littérature et cosmopolitisme: discours, pratiques, poétiques, circulations", École normale supérieure, Paris
- 2010-12 Co-organization of the seminar "Postcolonial literatures and theories", École normale supérieure, Paris

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (SELECT)

Research supervision of several PhDs and postdoctoral fellows (INALCO, École normale supérieure, CNRS); member of several PhD committees

Evaluation of applications for tenure-track academic positions in English and world literature in French universities; of applications for CNRS awards for academic excellence; of CNRS research units for the HCERES (High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education); of PhD fellowships at the École normale supérieure and musée du quai Branly; of mobility grants for CNRS researchers and PhD candidates

Referee for *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*; *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*; *Postcolonial Text*; *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*; *South Asian History and Culture*; *Asian Studies Review*; *Life Writing*; *Emotions: History, Culture, Society*; *Commonwealth Essays & Studies*; *SAMAJ, South Asian Multidisciplinary Asian Journal*; *L'Atelier, Etudes Anglaises*; *DH Lawrence Review*; *Synergie Inde*