**Ayurdhi Dhar, PhD**

**Curriculum Vitae**

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**Profile Highlights**

Ten years of experience in teaching psychology at undergraduate level in the United States and India. Author of ‘*Madness and Subjectivity: A Cross-Cultural Examination of Psychosis in the West and India’*. Invited faculty at McGill University’s Advanced Study Institute’s 2021 conference and workshop on Culture and Psychosis. Co-wrote recently acquired National Science Federation’s 3-million-dollar grant for inclusion of women of color in STEM.

**Areas of Experience**

* Taught following courses at university level: qualitative research methods, statistics, culture and psychology, psychopathology and culture, social psychology, abnormal psychology, child development, capstone seminar, and introduction to psychology.
* Research experience in the relation between severe psychopathology, trauma, and socio-cultural factors.
* Special interest and training in cultural and community psychology, qualitative research methods, advanced psychopathology, decolonial theory, existential-humanistic traditions, consciousness studies, theories of subjectivity, and Buddhist psychology.
* Work experience in the field of psychotherapy and mental health assessment in India.

**Publications**

* Dhar, A. (2021). A decolonial critique of therapeutic cultures. *Journal of Constructivist Psychology.* (Manuscript accepted)
* Dhar, A. & Dixit, S. (2021). Making of a crisis: The Political and Clinical Implications of Psychology’s Globalization. *Journal for Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology.* https://doi.org/10.1037/teo0000187
* Dhar, A. (2021). Torturing our Flaws: How a Little Masochism Might Save the Discipline. Division 24 APA Newsletter Spring 2021.
* Dhar A. (2020). The slippery and the sane: Decolonizing psychology through a study of the Indian girl-child. *Feminism & Psychology*, *30*(3), 391-413. doi:[10.1177/0959353520922419](https://doi.org/10.1177/0959353520922419)
* Dhar A. (2020). Psychology: A discipline in trouble and trouble in the discipline. *Theory & Psychology*, 31(2):310-312. doi:[10.1177/0959354320945795](https://doi.org/10.1177/0959354320945795)
* Dhar, A. (2020). ‘Madness and Subjectivity: Insanity and the Subject in West and India’. Routledge.

**Conference Experience**

* Invited guest faculty at McGill University’s Advanced Study Institute’s 2021 conference and workshop on Culture and Psychosis: New Insights and Challenges.
* Guest speaker at 2021 International Student Conference at Mount Mary University. Paper: “*People of color don’t seek mental health services” – Why should they?*
* Presented paper at The Psychology of Global Crisis held at The American University in Paris in August 2020; Panel: Globalization, grief, and children.
* Presented paper “Madness and Subjectivity: Insanity and the Subject in Modern West” at APA Division 24 mid-winter meeting in March 2019.
* Served as a panelist onPerspectives on Inter-faith Understanding*,* 2018at University of West Georgia. Spoke about *Deities, Demons, and Meaning-making*.
* Presented paper *Conditions of Emergence of Current Knowledges Surrounding the Trauma Discourse and Psychotic Subjectivity,* at Duquesne/UWG Human Science Symposium, Georgia, 2016.
* Presented poster *Seizure of Bodies in India’s Disciplinary System* at Psychology and the Other Conference, Boston in 2015
* *Schizophrenia and the Creative Experience: A Descriptive Phenomenological Analysis,* at SPARC, Georgia, 2014.
* *Psychological Well Being in the Indian Army and the Lessons of Gita,* at International Conference of Advancement in Military Psychology, Delhi, 2011.

**Education**

**Ph.D. in Consciousness and Society** 12/2017

Department of Psychology, University of West Georgia

Dissertation title: Madness and Subjectivity: A Comparative Study of Insanity and the Subject in Modern West and Post-Colonial India

**M.A. Psychology** 07/2011

Department of Psychology, Arts Faculty, University of Delhi

**B.A. (Psychology Hons.)** 07/2008

Department of Psychology, I.P College, University of Delhi

**Teaching Experience**

**Assistant Professor of Psychology** 08/2020 – now

Mount Mary University

**Instructor, Psychology** 08/2018 – 12/2019

University of West Georgia

Teaching undergraduate courses: qualitative research methods, statistics, culture and psychology, psychopathology and culture, abnormal psychology, child development, social psychology, and introduction to psychology with strong emphasis on theories, systems, and historical foundations.

**Teaching and Research Assistant** 08/2013 – 08/2018

University of West Georgia

Teaching Introduction to Psychology while mentoring and advising undergraduate students.

**Teaching and Research Assistant** 11/2011 – 04/2013

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Instructing engineering students in English & Sociology. Conducting research under Prof. Rukmini Bhaiya Nair for chapter publication in Indian Council of Social Science Research’s 6th Survey of Psychology.

**Clinical Experience**

**Counsellor and Therapist** 03/2012 – 11/2013

Portea Medical, Delhi

Providing psychotherapy to patients with terminal illness to alleviate death anxiety and manage pain and grief. Providing support to families as they prepare for the impending demise of a loved one.

**Clinical Intern** 04/2010 – 07/2010

VIMHANS, Delhi

Clinical internship with India’s leading psychiatric institute. Included interacting with patients in a therapeutic setting while creating diagnostic profiles and case studies in the In-patient department and Rehabilitation Center. Developing Mental State Examination reports and creating patient history. Learning psychological testing tools like TAT, WAIS IV-R, Rorschach Ink Blot test etc. Weekly clinical supervision under Dr. Pulkit Sharma.

**Professional Experience**

**Newsletter editor of APA Div 24** 01/2021-- now

Deciding theme, curating submissions, editing, and publication.

**Program Co-Chair for APA Div 24** 03/2021--07/021

Organizing Div 24 meeting for annual APA convention 2022

**Review Editor at *Frontiers in Psychology*** 03/2021-- now

Joined editorial board of Cultural Psychology section at Frontiers

**Science News Writer for Research News Team** 06/2019-- now

‘Mad in America’ magazine

Covering cutting edge research in psychology that challenges a simplistic application of the bio-medical model, and encourages investigation into socio-cultural and systemic factors behind psychological conditions. Interviewed some of the most eminent names in the field of psychology (Joseph Gone at Harvard), ethics (Nikolas Rose at Kings’ College London), philosophy (Hanna Pickard at Johns Hopkins), anthropology (Tanya Luhrmann at Stanford), social work (Michael Ungar of Resilience Research Center) and more…

**Ad-hoc Reviewer**

* Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology
* Journal of Social Issues; special issue devoted to "decolonial approaches to the psychological study of social issues"
* Frontiers in Psychiatry, section Aging Psychiatry
* Reviewed book proposal for Palgrave Publications
* Association for Women in Psychology Conference

**University Service**

**Mount Mary University:**

Diversity and Inclusion Committee 08/2020 – now

Helping bring a culturally inclusive and decolonial perspective to the counseling center at the university so it can better serve diverse populations. Includes short workshops for counselors to train them about psychological differences and practices of marginal communities which might not align with their Euro-centric assumptions and education.

Faculty Facilitator for Psi-Chi 02/2021 – now

Facilitating cross-disciplinary student activities and participation with the social-work department. Includes student-run meeting on relevant issues and university-wide charity drives for local women’s shelter, and helping student collaborate with Active Minds, the university mental health anti-stigma society.

Faculty Advisor for International Student Club 08/2020 – now

Includes regularly attending meetings and giving special lectures on relevant topics such as “Why POC do not use mental health services… because they have good reasons”.

Psychology Department Committee 08/2020 – now

Organizing APA’s, I am Psyched! event on campus. Includes organizing the event, inviting speakers who would complement the exhibit using the HHMI grant, and teaching a parallel course on Women in Psychology the same semester.

**University of West Georgia:**

Undergraduate Committee08/2018 – 12/2019

Helped develop teacher-evaluations, high-impact practices for LEAP initiative, program evaluation, and standardized writing assessment rubrics.

Helped facilitate changes in the doctoral program teaching practicum to ensure better teacher training of GTAs.

Committee for Curriculum Diversity 08/2018 – 12/2019

Helping develop curriculum, interpersonal, and practical resources which incorporate and reflect diversity of the population we teach.

Committee for Minor in Asian Studies 08/2018 – 12/2019

Reassessing criteria for minor in Asian Studies.

Jim Klee Forum Committee 08/2018 – 12/2019

Working with colleagues to organize the Jim Klee forum for 2019, including finding speaker and other event management and administrative duties.

**Awards**

Nominee for the [**2018 CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award**](http://cgsnet.org/node/476) for “individuals who, in the opinion of the award committee, have completed dissertations representing original work that makes an unusually significant contribution to the discipline”.

**Memberships**

Member and Newsletter editor of APA Division 24

Member of Taskforce for Indigenous Psychology, Division 32 (Society for Humanistic Psychology)

**Research Experience**

**Perspectival Approach in Introductory Psychology**

Qualitative research with Dr. James Dillon which analyzes student performance and experience of learning Introductory Psychology through multiple perspectives instead of the coverage model.

**Doctoral Research**

Conducted empirico-theoretical research using Foucauldian archaeological analysis and descriptive, constructivist Thematic Analysis to excavate the implicit discourses animating the narrative around psychosis in rural India.

**The Construction of Disruption in Therapeutic Exchange**

Conducted interviews and used Thematic Analysis with Juvenile Justice Court therapists in Carrollton, Georgia to understand how therapists construct and understand the experience of disruptive but deep moments with clients in psychotherapy.

**Creativity and schizophrenia**

Collected data through online forums and used Descriptive Phenomenological Analysis to reveal the unifying structures that link the creative process and schizophrenia.

**Social Deficiency and Play**

Built developmental intervention module using play, especially role play for below-poverty line children who have been diagnosed as socially deficient or incompetent in government schools in Delhi.