

SARAH JILANI

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in English, University of Cambridge — Oct 2017-Jun 2021

Jointly funded by the AHRC and the Isaac Newton Trust

Master of Studies in English (1900-Present), University of Oxford — Oct 2012-Jun 2013

Distinction

Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in English, University of York — Oct 2009-Jun 2012

Starred First

EMPLOYMENT

Lecturer in English, Department of Media, Culture and Creative Industries — City, University of London (Sep 2021– June 2025)

Full-time lecturer teaching Anglophone postcolonial literatures and film at UG & PG level.

BBC Radio 3 / AHRC New Generation Thinker — (March 2021– Present)

One of ten New Generation Thinkers chosen from 60 shortlisted applicants, I contribute to BBC Radio 3 programmes as a guest academic and as a presenter. Podcasts [here](#).

Member, AHRC Peer Review College — (March 2022– Present)

Participating in the evaluation of AHRC research funding applications and the AHRC/BBC New Generation Thinkers internal assessment panel.

Associate Lecturer in English — Anglia Ruskin University (Sep 2019 — Jan 2020)

During my PhD, I taught and examined the second-year undergraduate module “Postcolonial Writing” to large (20+) seminar groups, and designed and marked their final assessments.

Supervisor on Postcolonial and Related Literatures Paper 13 — Faculty of English, University of Cambridge (Jan 2019 — Jun 2021)

Delivering supervisions on the third-year Postcolonial paper centred on Anglophone postcolonial literatures; focusing on close reading skills, essay writing, and exam readiness.

Dissertation Supervisor — King’s, Jesus, Gonville & Caius, Sidney Sussex, Emmanuel Colleges, University of Cambridge (Apr 2018 — Jun 2021)

Supervising UG dissertations on African, South Asian, and African American texts.

Freelance Culture Writer (Jan 2014 — Present)

ArtReview, Times Literary Supplement, The Economist, The Guardian, Frieze, The Independent, 1843 Magazine, Aesthetica Magazine, Little White Lies, New Humanist, BFI, The Conversation, Apollo Magazine, AnOther, and the Royal Literary Fund’s Writers’ Mosaic.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Jilani, Sarah. *Subjectivity and Decolonisation in the Post-Independence Novel and Film*. Edinburgh University Press, June 2024. [\[link\]](#)

Chapters in Edited Volumes

(In press) Jilani, Sarah. "Nation, Gender and Political Consciousness: Souleymane Cissé's 'Baara' and Satyajit Ray's 'Ghare Baire'." *Global Screen Worlds*. Edited by Lindiwe Dovey and Kate Taylor-Jones. Bloomsbury, 2024. [\[link\]](#)

Jilani, Sarah. "Civic Interaction, Urban Memory, and the Istanbul International Film Festival". *Palgrave Handbook for Digital and Public Humanities*. Edited by Anne Schwan and Tara Thomson. Palgrave Macmillan, 2022. [\[link\]](#).

Articles

Jilani, Sarah. "Becoming in a colonial world: approaching subjectivity with Fanon." *Textual Practice* (August 2023). [\[link\]](#)

Jilani, Sarah. "Gender, Subjectivity and Ngũgĩ's Post-Independence Vision", *Review of African Political Economy* (July 2023). [\[link\]](#)

Jilani, Sarah. "The Politics of War Historiography in Buchi Emecheta's Destination Biafra." *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature* (August 2021). [\[link\]](#)

Jilani, Sarah. "'They Drew An Entire People After Them': Subjectivity and Arrested Decolonisation in Ousmane Sembène's Xala." *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies* (June 2021). [\[link\]](#)

Jilani, Sarah. "'The self and the world against which it had to live': Neocolonialism and the resistant subject in Ayi Kwei Armah's The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born", *Journal of Postcolonial Writing* 56:1 (2020). [\[link\]](#)

Jilani, Sarah. "'Black' Spaces: Othello and the Cinematic Language of Othering", *Literature/Film Quarterly* 43:2 (2015). [\[link\]](#)

Jilani, Sarah. "Writing Exile: Displacement and Arrival in Eva Hoffman's Lost in Translation and Edward Said's Out of Place", *Life Writing* 12:1 (2015). [\[link\]](#)

Review Essays

Boehmer, Elleke; Din-Kariuki, Natalya; Forsdick, Charles; Jilani, Sarah; Mukherjee, Ankhi. "Unseen City: Review Forum". *Interventions* (August 2024). [\[link\]](#)

Jilani, Sarah. "Aftermaths Without End". *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* 9:3 (2022). [\[link\]](#)

Jilani, Sarah. "Intimate Epics". *Women: A Cultural Review* 29:3 (2018). [\[link\]](#)

Selected Articles (General audience)

“Ahlam Shibli Bears Witness For and With Palestinian Lives”, *ArtReview* (2024). [[link](#)]

“Why We Need to Change the Art-Repatriation Debate”, *ArtReview* (2023). [[link](#)]

“In the far from diverse publishing industry, sensitivity readers are vital”, *The Conversation* (2023). [[link](#)]

“The Woman King may revive the historical action genre”, *The Economist* (2022). [[link](#)]

“Against forgetting: memorialising historic injustices”, *New Humanist* (2020). [[link](#)]

“Underdevelopment by design: Remembering Walter Rodney”, *The Times Literary Supplement* (2020). [[link](#)]

“Do film festivals help or hurt their host cities?”, *The Guardian* (2019). [[link](#)]

FUNDING AWARDS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

ERC supported project ‘African Screen Worlds’ – All costs associated with presenting paper “Gendering Political Consciousness: Souleymane Cissé’s ‘Baara’ and Satyajit Ray’s ‘Ghare Baire’” at *African Studies Association UK* annual conference (Oxford Brookes, 2024)

UKRI Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF) – £350 towards London Borough of Hackney community workshops on narrative and conflict, with co-investigators Dr Joe Thomas and Dr Ed Paleit (Oct 2023)

City, University of London, School of Communication and Creativity Staff Research Fund – £900 for monograph indexer and purchase of film stills (Jun 2023)

City, University of London, School of Arts and Social Sciences Research Development Fund Grant – £500 to present paper “Towards a Turkish Third Cinema: Radical Politics and Film Journals, 1968–1975” at *Revolutionary Papers* (University of the Western Cape, 2022)

AHRC Doctoral Training Programme Colloquia Fund – £2000 for co-organising with Dr Joe Shaughnessy a conference “Radical Internationalisms” (2020) **Covid-19 cancellation**

Cambridge, School of Arts and Humanities Internal Graduate Conference award – £400 towards co-organising the graduate-led conference “New Directions in Postcolonial Studies” (Jun 2019)

AHRC Research Training Support Grant – £1550 towards presenting the paper “Subjectivity, political consciousness and gendered anti-colonial nationalism in Satyajit Ray's *Ghare Baire*” at *ACLA* annual conference (Georgetown, 2019)

AHRC Student Development Fund – £1600 towards completion of African Studies Summer School at SOAS, University of London (Jul 2018)

King's College Cambridge Graduate Research Bursary — £250 towards presenting paper
“Comparative work on post-independence and decolonisation literatures: revisiting
Third World as a category” at *Archives of Resistance: Cosmopolitanism, Memory and World
Literature* (Leeds, Jun 2018)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Invited speaker, *Guerrilla History* podcast (Aug 2024). [[link](#)]

Invited panellist, “Med Hondo’s *West Indies*”. *The Garden Cinema* (Oct 2023) [[link](#)]

Invited panellist, *Postcolonial and World Literatures Seminar* (Oxford, Jun 2023). [[link](#)]

Presenter, “Writing Exile and Statelessness”. *BBC Radio 3 New Thinking* (Nov 2023) [[link](#)]

Presenter, “Oral histories and the NHS”. *BBC Radio 3 New Thinking* (July 2023) [[link](#)]

Introducer, “Abderrahmane Sissako’s *Bamako*”. *The Garden Cinema* (Jun 2023) [[link](#)]

Introducer, “Souleymane Cissé’s *Finye*”. *The Garden Cinema* (Apr 2023) [[link](#)]

Invited speaker, “Bright Nights: Empire”. *Kensington Palace* (Oct 2019) [[link](#)]

ADMINISTRATION

- Department lead for equality, diversity and inclusion – *Department of Media, Culture and Creative Industries, City University of London* (Sept 2023 – June 2024)
- Department lead for undergraduate recruitment and outreach – *Department of Media, Culture and Creative Industries, City University of London* (Dec 2021 – Sept 2022)

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

- [Associate Fellow](#), *UK Higher Education Academy* (Sept 2022)
- [Featured alumna](#), *50 Years of Women at King’s* exhibition (Cambridge, July 2023)
- [2021 AHRC/BBC New Generation Thinker](#) (Apr 2021)

LANGUAGES

English (Native), Turkish (Native), French (C1 Advanced)

RIGHT TO WORK

British citizen (UK passport)