

PRIYA RAMAN

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Performance , Indian Dance University of Texas, Austin, Performance as Public Practice (PPP) Dissertation: Re-Scripting Indian Dance: Dance Criticism and the Indian Dance Revival, 1930s-50s	August 2022
Masters in Performing Arts , Bharatanatyam S N School of Arts and Communication, Hyderabad, India	May 2013
Bachelor of Commerce , Accounts Bangalore University, Bangalore, India	June 2005
Bharatanatyam Vidwath , Proficiency Karnataka State Secondary Education Board, Bangalore, India	June 2000

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

\$12,500 Graduate School Dissertation Writing Fellowship University of Texas, Austin	2021-2022
\$23,320 College of Fine Arts (COFA) Multiple Fellowships University of Texas, Austin	2021-2022
\$28,666 Graduate School Diversity Continuing Fellowship University of Texas, Austin	2019-2020
\$20,000 COFA / PPP Dissertation Fellowship University of Texas, Austin	2018-2019
\$7,000 Graduate School Summer Continuing Fellowship University of Texas, Austin	2018
\$4000 Lucas Foundation Scholarship University of Texas, Austin	2017-2018
\$6000 COFA Multiple Fellowships University of Texas, Austin	2016-2017
\$400 Student Fellowship and Achievers Award University of Hyderabad, India	2011-2013
\$300 Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) Monthly Student Training Grant (Bharatanatyam) Government of India	1994-2001

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Texas, Austin (UT)

2016-2021

Assistant Instructor

TD 311T/ANS 301M- South Asian Performance.
Designed and taught this new course, offered for the
first time at the University of Texas, Austin
Spring 2021

Teaching Assistant

University Signature Course: Dancing America,
Undergraduate Theatre and Dance courses: Intro to
Theatre, Theatre History, Dance History, PPP
Flagship course
Fall 2016-Fall 2020

Guest Instructor

Handled guest lectures on Indian dance - both theory
and movement sessions for all undergraduate courses
in the Department of Theatre and Dance during Ph.D.
term
Fall 2016-Fall 2020

Accomplishments

Program Coordinator, PPP

Assisted faculty and department administration in the
conduct of PPP program. Headed the Fridays@2
student committee to coordinate guest lectures for the
PPP community
Fall 2017-Spring 2018

Guest Artist

*Blanton Museum Exhibit: Epic Tales From
Ancient India*

Illustrated lecture on Indian dance relating to the
raagmala paintings, and ancient sculpture on display
at the exhibit at the Blanton Museum, UT
July 2017

Ears, Eyes, and Feet (EEF)- Collaboration of composers, choreographers, and media artists of UT

Collaborated with musician and Odissi dancer
Akshaya Tucker and media artist Alex Hanna.
Choreographed *Nayika*, an innovative exploration of
Indian dance and poetry
May 2017

Movement Workshop University Scholastic League

Handled workshop for school students on Indian
dance as part of the Department's outreach initiative
Oct 2016

BOOK REVIEW

Raman, Priya Venkat. Review of *Celluloid Classicism: Early Tamil Cinema and The Making of Modern Bharatanatyam* by Hari Krishnan. *Dance Research Journal*, vol. 52, no. 3, Dec 2020, pp.119-121. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0149767720000388>

PUBLICATIONS: WORK IN PROGRESS

Raman, Priya Venkat. "Indian Dance Criticism and Colonial Pasts: Decolonizing Spectatorship" (target: *Dance Chronicle*- Special Issue on Interrogating Histories and Historicizing Dance Studies, April 2023)

Raman, Priya Venkat. "Dance Critics and Gender Dialogues: Signifying New Masculinities through Indian Dance" (target: *South Asian Review*)

Raman, Priya, and Divya Ravi. "Analyzing Performative Migrations" —Practice-based Research project on the transnational works of Bharatanatyam dancer Divya Ravi

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

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| Dance Studies Association (DSA)
Panel- <u>Galvanizing Positionality</u>
Paper- "Decolonizing the 'Name-Game': Historical and Contemporary Misnaming of Indian Dance - Perspectives from Research and Teaching" | Oct 2021 |
| Dance Studies Association (DSA)
Panel- <u>In Common/ Out of Common: Identity, Access, and Control in Popular Culture</u>
Paper- "Re-scripting Indian Dance: Dance Criticism as the Common Archive" | Aug 2019 |
| Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)
Panel - <u>Writing a Revolution: Performance Criticism and/as Arts and Culture Policy</u>
Paper - "Print Media Criticism for Indian Dance in Austin: A Case Study" | Aug 2018 |
| American Society for Theatre Research (ASTR)
Working Session - <u>Boring the Body/Boring Bodies: Perforating Hierarchies of Embodied Power in Dance</u>
Paper - "Bharatanatyam's Female Dancing Body in the Liminality of Boring and Extra/Ordinary" | Nov 2017 |
| Dance Studies Association (DSA)
Panel - <u>Revisiting History: The Transmission of Racialized Bodies through Resistance and Mediatization</u>
Paper- "Critiquing the Dancing Body: Transmission of Dance Aesthetics and Ideology" | Oct 2017 |
| South West Conference on Asian Studies
<u>University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, Texas</u>
Paper- "Ashtanayika: Negotiating Feminism in pan-Indian Classical Dance" | Oct 2016 |
| Feminist Geographies
<u>Centre for Women's and Gender Studies, University of Texas, Austin</u>
Paper - "Ashtanayika: Women Psychology in Dance anchored through Role-Play" | Mar 2015 |
| Indian Heritage Seminar: Perspectives and Prospects
<u>University of Baroda, India</u>
"Yakshagana of Karnataka: En route to Classicism: Need for State Endorsement" | Jan 2014 |

Ananya Neerajana
Moderated Session in Bangalore, India
“Gaps in Theoretical and Practical Structure of Performing Arts”

Dec 2012

Ankura Dance Colloquium
Invited Speaker. Adjudged best speaker by the audience, Bangalore, India
“Role of Performing Arts in Education: A Holistic Approach”

May 2010

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Masters in Performing Arts (MPA)

2011-2013

Thesis: V, Priya. (2013). *Yakshagana—In route to Classicism*. Sarojini Naidu School of Arts and Communication, University of Hyderabad.

Accomplishments:

Gold Medalist	Topper of the Master’s Program. Received the gold medal and two-year student fellowship
Paper presentation	Selected by the Department for an illustrated presentation of a course-work paper at National seminar in Hyderabad
Ratnakar Dance-Theatre production	Principle dancer in interdisciplinary project by the Dance and Theatre Department

Research Apprenticeship

Sep 2013-Aug 2014

Dr. Anuradha Jonnalagadda, Head, Department of Dance, University of Hyderabad

Research paper	“Kuchipudi History,” <i>Arts History Journal</i> . Assistance with data collection
Dance Production	<i>Aapas: An Ode to Water</i> Assistance for script writing, music assimilation, costume design, coordination, PR, logistics, and administration
Seminar	<i>Nayika</i> , Bangalore Assistance for data collection, and drafting presentation
Website	Department of Dance Assistance for content development

Certificate for Assistant Professorship (NET)

June 2014

University Grants Commission, Government of India

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Dhi.Ra.Na Academy of Bharatanatyam, India

Nov 2008-Jun 2014

Founder-Director, Teacher, and Choreographer

- The academy was a private training center in Bharatanatyam for young learners. Tutored and mentored students in Bharatanatyam theory and practice.
- Presented students of the academy in performances across cities.
- Presented senior student in a two-hour solo debut performance-*Arangetram* in the presence of Hyderabad Cultural Affairs Minister, renowned artists, and art critics, Hyderabad, 2014

- Students of the academy were selected to perform in television dance series on Hyderabad-based channel, 2014
- Choreographed dance production incorporating Indian fiction narrative - *Panchatantra Tales*. Awarded best choreography in State level dance competition themed on environment protection, Hyderabad, 2012
- As a freelance choreographer choreographed thematic presentations for corporates and educational institutions
- Conducted Bharatanatyam workshop in collaboration with The Times Foundation, Bangalore 2009

The Times of India – Newspaper in Education (NIE), Bangalore, India

Education Consultant, Indian Classical Dance

2004-07, 2009, 2010

- Designed and conducted interactive workshops for students in upper primary and secondary levels in over 150 schools for 6 years
- The master classes acquainted students with the aesthetic and cultural value of classical dance and instigated appreciation of narrative format, structure, and vocabulary of the form
- Influenced and engaged with concerned school authorities to incorporate innovative art learning programs in the regular school curriculum

Executive, Research, and Market Development

2007-08

- Coordinated and conducted orientation programs, trainings, and workshops in schools across the city for active involvement of primary and secondary grade students in performing arts
- Implemented marketing and promotion programs for student and teaching community

Centre for Cultural Resources & Training (CCRT), India

Nov-Dec, 2010

Guest Expert

- Under the Community and Extension Services of the CCRT regional center, was deputed as a guest speaker on classical dance to several Government schools across Hyderabad.
- Conducted orientation sessions in the teacher's training workshops for over 100 teachers from across the country
- Trained, engaged, and motivated teachers to inculcate innovative performing art activities in school curriculum

India Foundation for Arts (IFA), Karnataka, India

Jan 2011

Guest speaker

- Collaborated with *Kali Kalisu*- 'Learn and Teach' project conducted by IFA at several rural state theatre institutions.
- Conducted master class on the importance of dance, especially kinesthetic and expressional aspects for theatrical productions

Treasure House Children's Library, Hyderabad, India

May 2013-Jun 2014

Dance presenter

- Collaborated with a team of musicians and storytellers for a special project – Learning through Fun for schools in Hyderabad
- Designed and presented classical dance narratives for popular children's stories accompanied by music and storytelling

PERFORMING CAREER: AWARDS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Have been an active performer for over two decades presenting solo and group recitals in

- India and across the world
- Debuted in Bangalore as a teenager in 1997 and subsequently selected by the Government of India and private cultural organizations for several performances

National Graded Artist

Doordarshan Kendra, Indian National Television

Feb 2000

National Awardee

National Youth Festival, Government of India

Jan 2000

Solo Production

Dec 2011, Jun 2013, Jul 2016

- Conceptualized and choreographed a solo Bharatanatyam production titled *Kavya Nritya Dhare* featuring selected works of Kannada language poet Pu.Thi. Narasimhachar
- The production explored interpretation of poetry and cultural aesthetic through kinesthetic of performance.
- Premiered production at inauguration of auditorium in the poet's hometown. Subsequent performances sponsored by state government and private organizations

Rotary Foundation's Group Study Exchange Program to USA

Apr - May 2007

- Selected as cultural and goodwill ambassador by Rotary Foundation to present illustrated lectures on Indian classical dance across Illinois.
- Was part of the four-member team that included a Rotary leader and professionals from fields such as media, fashion, and governance
- Apart from performance presentations at Rotary meetings, conducted workshops and guest lectures in ballet schools in Illinois.

Collaborations in Austin

2014- 2016

Agni Dance Company, Austin

Selected for dance-theatre production *Strings of Time*

Stage Sanchaar, Austin

Associate dancer at the organization supporting community building in Austin, Texas

SOCIAL & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

eZine – The Kalaparva (www.kalaparva.com)

2011- 2016

Co-Founder

- Co-founded the eZine to promote Indian arts and artists. Conceptualized and wrote innovative columns that facilitated dialogue among artists, critics, organizers, curators, and collaborators through virtual discussion sessions.
- Developed and managed regular content assisted by volunteer contributions: interviews, performance reviews, feature travelogues, preview of young talents, news feed, audio-visual material, event listings and photo features.
- The Kalaparva was media partner of *Noopuraraavam* a three-day Kuchipudi extravaganza featuring performances, lectures and works of legends, Hyderabad 2013. Reviewed the whole event.
- Review of *Living in the Hyphen*, Austin, April 2016. The interdisciplinary theatre-dance production by Lucky Choas and Austin Dance India explored hyphenated identities of Asian-American artists. Indian dancer Anuradha Naimpally choreographed the dance sections and played the lead role.

Ananya Cultural Academy, Bangalore, India

Jan 2009- Dec 2016

Core Committee Member & Column Writer

- As a core committee member, assisted in organizing bi-monthly music and dance festivals, anchored programs, managed PR and logistics and contributed to research and development of new initiatives
- Chief column writer for 6 years. Contributed monthly articles (thematic columns, features, interviews, and program reports) for bi-lingual magazine *Ananya Kalasinchana*

WRITING EXPERIENCE

Freelance writer

2009-till date

- Contributed articles on dance for online media (Narthaki and Kutcheri Buzz) and print magazine (Nartanam)
- Dance writing was awarded the 'Best Critique' by Noopura Bramhari, Bangalore, 2011
- Interview of dance historian and critic Clare Croft published in the Fusebox 2017 blog post. This was a collaboration between Fusebox and graduate seminar class of PPP at UT to facilitate innovative platforms for academic writing, publishing and archiving.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Sanskriti Foundation, New Delhi, India

Jun – Nov, 2008

Program Coordinator - Arts

- Coordinated grant of scholarships in the fields of music, dance, journalism and architecture, periodic post-award follow-ups, candidate search for Sanskriti Awards and conduct of lecture demonstrations and performances

Jash Engineering Ltd and Unique Minds Infotech, Bangalore, India

2002-07

Part Time Executive Assistant

- Worked closely with senior management to provide managerial and administrative support

REFERENCES**Rebecca Rossen, PhD**

Performance as Public Practice,
Department of Theatre and Dance
University of Texas at Austin
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Austin, TX 78712
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