

Afroz Taj

Curriculum Vitae

Email: taj@unc.edu

Department of Asian Studies
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

EDUCATION:

- 1996 **Jawaharlal Nehru University**, New Delhi
Ph.D., Indian Languages and Literatures. Dissertation: "A Critical Study of Poetic Drama in Urdu."
- 1981 **Jawaharlal Nehru University**, New Delhi
M.Phil., Indian Languages and Literatures.
- 1977 **Aligarh Muslim University**, Aligarh
M.A., Indian Languages: Urdu.
- 1974 **Aligarh Muslim University**, Aligarh
B.Sc., Geology. Additional courses in Hindi and Urdu.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- 2006-present **University of North Carolina**, Chapel Hill, North Carolina
Associate Professor, Department of Asian Studies.
Direct Hindi-Urdu language and literature program. Teach Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced Hindi-Urdu. Develop pedagogical materials for the Internet. Supervise lecturers and teaching assistants. Direct Study Abroad in India program.
- 2004-2006 **North Carolina State University**, Raleigh, North Carolina
Associate Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.
Directed Hindi-Urdu language and literature program. Taught Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced Hindi-Urdu. Developed pedagogical materials for the Internet. Supervised instructors. Directed Study Abroad in India program.
- 1995-2004 **North Carolina State University**, Raleigh, North Carolina
Assistant Professor / Lecturer, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.
Taught Elementary, Intermediate and Advanced Hindi-Urdu. Developed pedagogical materials for teleconferencing. Supervised teaching assistants.
- 1991-1995 **University of Virginia**, Charlottesville, Virginia
Instructor, Division of Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures
Taught all levels of Hindi and Urdu. Designed and taught Urdu literature course (Ghazal Seminar) and graduate independent study courses. Executive member of Urdu Studies Fund Committee.
- 1983-1991 **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Lecturer, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
Taught all levels of Hindi-Urdu. Designed and taught Hindi-Urdu courses on specialized topics including the Ghazal, the **Ramayana**, Indian Cinema, and Urdu journalism.
- 1981-1983 **Livingston Community College**, Morristown, New Jersey
Instructor, Hindi Language Program
Founded and ran evening community Hindi language instruction program for adults and children.

LANGUAGE SKILLS: Native speaker of Hindi and Urdu, with extensive knowledge of classical and modern literature. Fluent in English. Firm knowledge of Panjabi and Braj Bhasha. Academic training in Sanskrit. Working knowledge of Persian. Some exposure to Gujarati, Marathi and Bengali.

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- 2005 Gertrude M. Cox Special Merit Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching and Learning with Technology
- 2003 Nominated for NC State Libraries Faculty Award
- 2002-2003 Nominated for Outstanding Junior Faculty Award
- 2002 Recognized by Sikh Temple of Durham for Community Service in Education
- 2001-2002 Nominated for Gertrude M. Cox Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching and Learning with Technology
- 2000 Inducted into the Academy of Outstanding Teachers
- 1999-2000 CHASS Outstanding Teacher Award
- 1999-2000 NC State Outstanding Teacher Award
- 1998-present Phi Iota Rho, Honors Fraternity for International Studies
- 1997-1998 CHASS Author Award
- 1994 Recipient of \$1,500 contribution to University of Virginia in recognition of my Urdu teaching.
- 1989 Commended for excellence in teaching in University of Michigan **High Honors Report**.
- 1975 Best Actor Award, Uttar Pradesh State, bestowed by the Government of India.
- 1970 Best Poet Award, bestowed by the President of Aligarh Muslim University.

PUBLICATIONS:

Literary Analysis

The Court of Indra and the Rebirth of North Indian Drama, Delhi: Anjuman-e Taraqqi Urdu, 2006.

“Ruswa ki sirf ‘Ada’ hi nahin, Laila Majnun ne bhi unhen ‘Ruswa’ banaya” in **Naya Safar**, Allahabad: All India Progressive Writers’ Association (U) (forthcoming).

“Amanat’s *Indar Sabha* and Nineteenth century constructions of Indian cultural identity” in **Rethinking Early Modern India**, ed. Richard Barnett, pp. 289-323, New Delhi: Manohar, 2002.

“Constructing Hybrid Identities on the nineteenth century Hindi-Urdu Stage,” **Journal of Contemporary Thought**, Winter 1999, pp. 89-105, Shreveport, LA: Forum on Contemporary Theory, 1999.

Pedagogy

“A Door Into Hindi: Teaching Language and Culture in Cyberspace” in **Home and the World: South Asia in Transition**, Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2006.

A Door Into Hindi: Web-Mounted Elementary Hindi Language Course, 2003.
<http://www.ncsu.edu/project/hindi_lessons/>

Rosetta Stone Hindi I CD-ROM. Harrisonburg, Virginia: Fairfield Language Technologies, 2000. Consulting editor, voicer, consultant on language, pronunciation, usage and grammar.

“Innovative Methods in Foreign Language Pedagogy: Urdu through Interactive Televideo (a case study)” in the **Annual of Urdu Studies**, no.13 (1998), pp. 169-179, Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin, 1998.

Urdu Through Hindi: Nastaliq with the Help of Devanagari, New Delhi: Rangmahal Press, 1997.

Tanhaiyan, Ankahi and Ahsas Companion, New Delhi: Monumental Publishers: Anjuman Taraqqi Urdu (Hind), 1996.

Creative Writing

Selected Ghazals in **Aiwan-e Urdu**, New Delhi: Urdu Academy, 2004.

Selected Ghazals in **Kitab Numa**, New Delhi: Maktaba-yi Jamia, 2003.

“Naghma-e Aligarh” in the **Aligarh Alumni Association Magazine**, Austin, Texas: Aligarh Alumni Association, 2003.

Hujoom (The Mob): a collection of original Urdu ghazals (under publishing contract with Academic Excellence Publishers, New Delhi).

Ghazal “Ghamon ki aag mein” in **Seedhi Baat**, Bombay: 2003, a literary newspaper.

Selected poems in **Mera Dawa Hai**, ed. Sudha Dhingra, pp. 49-51, Bombay: Rachnakar, 2002.

Selected ghazals, accepted into the performance repertory of leading South Asian performers Munni Begum, Shafqat Ali Khan, and Sudhir Narain.

Chiraghan, a collection of early original poetry, Aligarh : Kitabghar, 1974.

“Naghma-e-Aligarh,” an original ode in praise of Aligarh University, adopted as a school anthem, 1973.

Encyclopedia Entries, Reviews, Forewords, and Interviews

“Hindi Language” encyclopedia article, World Book Encyclopedia 2005, World Book, Inc.

“Urdu Language” encyclopedia article, World Book Encyclopedia 2005, World Book, Inc.

Preface, **Talash Pehchan Ki**, by Sudha Dhingra and Dinesh Sharma, pp. 6-8, Bombay: Rachnakar, 2003.

“The Doorless Doorway: Ahsan Sharaar Bilrami,” in **Mehrab**, October, 2001, Durham: 2001.

Foreword to **Udan**, by Purnima Gupta, Delhi: Sahitya Vithi, 1998.

Book Review: **Over My Shoulder**, by Alys Faiz, **Annual of Urdu Studies**, no.9 (1994), Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin, 1994.

Translations

“Beauties of Lucknow,” translation of introduction to a collection of photographs from c. 1874 Lucknow, in the Alkazi Photographic Collection, London: 2002.

“Accountability, Parliament, and *Ijtihad*,” translation of an Urdu article by S.M. Zafar, in **Liberal Islam: a sourcebook**, ed. Charles Kurzman, London: Oxford University Press, 1998.

“M.I.N.I. International Neuropsychiatric Interview” translation into Urdu as part of the “First Conference on the International Standardization of A Psychiatric Diagnostic Interview,” Prague, January, 1998.

“Saransh,” abstract of Uttar Pradesh women’s reproductive health survey, translated into Hindi, published as USAID contract report no. DPE-3060-00-C-1054-00, Chapel Hill, NC: Carolina Population Center, 1997.

Journalism

“An Overview of Indian Cinema,” **UVA Center for South Asian Studies Newsletter**, Fall 1994.

“Alys Faiz on Faiz Ahmed Faiz,” **Eastern Times**, Washington , D.C., November/December 1993.

“Reminiscences of the Late Faiz Ahmed Faiz,” **UVA Center for South Asian Studies Newsletter**, Fall 1993.

Documentaries

“Urdustan,” Digital Video, Urdu with English subtitles, 21 min., August 2003.

“The Doorless Doorway: an Interview with Ahsan Sharaar Bilrami,” Digital Video, Urdu with English subtitles, 16 min., October 2002.

Audio Recordings

Ramazan ki Barkat: record album of original qawwalis (lyrics, music and vocals), Calcutta : Indian Recording Company, 1975.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND INVITED LECTURES:

Conferences – Literature, Language and Culture

- “Hindu-Muslim Synthesis in the Bilingual Sufi Kalaam of Amir Khusrau,” Panel 35: Crossing Boundaries, Second International Conference on Religions and Cultures in Indic Civilizations, December 17-20, 2005.
- “Romance and Devotion: Hindi-Urdu Literature,” and chaired panel “Rewriting Master Narratives,” North Carolina Social Studies Conference, Greensboro, February 22, 2001.
- “Courting Hybridity: text as a metaphor for society in **Indar Sabha**” 29th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, October 12-14, 2000.
- “Constructing Hybrid Identities on the Nineteenth Century Hindi-Urdu Stage” Triangle South Asia Consortium Colloquium, Chapel Hill, NC, April 6, 2000.
- Chaired panel, “Constructions of Femininity in Indian Literature/Theater,” Conference on Theory at the End of the Millennium, Udaipur, India, December 16-18, 1999.
- “Constructing Hybrid Identities on the 19th Century Hindi-Urdu Stage,” Conference on Theory at the End of the Millennium, Udaipur, India, December, 1999.
- “Transition or Travesty: Recent Changes in the Language of Cinematic Hindustani,” XVIIIth South Asian Language Analysis Roundtable, York University, York, England, July, 1998.
- “Symbolism of the Body: Revolutionary Imagery in the Nineteenth Century Urdu Ghazal,” Mantra, Music, Medicine Conference, Society for Indian Philosophy and Religion, Elon College, March 1998.
- Respondent at Conference: “The Uses of Visual Evidence in the Study of South Asia,” organized by the Independent Scholars of South Asia and the Triangle South Asia Consortium, January 1996.

Conferences – Pedagogy

- “A Door into Hindi: a Web-based Comprehensive Elementary Language Course” in Home and the World: South Asia in Transition, Panel III: Diaspora and Translation - Issues of Access, Authenticity, and Audience, Rutgers University, March 25-26, 2005.
- “A Door Into Hindi: Language Learning on the Internet,” South Asian Language Analysis Conference, University of Texas at Austin, October 10-12, 2003.
- “Internet Language Learning: A Door into Hindi-Urdu,” South Asian Language Resource Center Materials Development Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Jan 24-25, 2003.
- “New technologies for language teaching: Teleconferencing and the Internet,” NC Central Technology Showcase, November 9, 2001.
- “Technology and the teaching of Urdu language,” All-India Conference of Urdu Teachers, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, July 29, 2001.
- “Designing a Study Abroad Program to Maximize Environmental Immersion,” 27th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, October, 1998.
- “Creating Demand: Teaching Less Commonly Taught Languages through Interactive Televideo,” Plenary Address, National Council of Organizations of Less Commonly Taught Languages, Madison, Wisconsin, October, 1997.
- “New Developments in Foreign Language Pedagogy: Hindi-Urdu through Interactive Teleconferencing in North Carolina” at the Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, Toronto, Ontario, March, 1997.

Creative Artistry

- Guest of Honor at Invited Poetry Recital: Mushaira, Awan-e-Urdu, Orlando Florida, April 22, 2005.
- Original poetry at Mushaira (poets’ conference) in celebration of declaration of Urdu as second language of Delhi, July 2003.
- Original poetry regularly recited in Urdu Majlis (Triangle Urdu Literary Society), Raleigh, 1996-present.

Sutradhar (narrator) of “Kalyug ki Savitri,” a full-length Hindi play, Cary, September 2002.

“Poem of Condolence,” Interfaith Prayer Service: Sports and Entertainment Arena, Raleigh (cosponsored by News and Observer and WRAL Channel 5), Sept 30, 2001.

Original poetry at the Annual Mushaira of the Washington, D.C. Aligarh Alumni Association (the largest East-Coast Urdu poetry conference), October 21, 2000.

Original poetry at the Washington, D.C. International Hindi Association “Hindi Day” October, 1996.

Original poetry at the Annual Mushaira (Poets’ Conference) of the Washington, D.C. Aligarh Alumni Association, October, 1994.

Invited Lectures – Seminars and Courses

“Technology and Start-Up Programs for Less Commonly Taught Languages,” University of Central Florida, April 21, 2005.

“Web-Based Language Instruction,” Rutgers University, October 15, 2004.

“Sufi Shrine of Ajmer,” Sacred Spaces Seminar, NC State University, Nov 6, 2002.

“Romance and Devotion: South Asian Literature in Performance,” Meredith College, February, 2002.

“Communal Tension in India: from Partition to the Babri Mosque,” for the Great Decisions Program/Encore Series, February 5, 2002.

Panel on September 11, College of Humanities and Social Science, chaired by Dean Brady, Sept 28, 2001.

“Language, Literature and Film” at NC Central South Asian Studies Seminar, April 10, 2001.

“Devotional Music of India (qawwali and baul),” Raleigh Interfaith Alliance, Meredith College, Raleigh, March 25, 2001.

“Classical Theatre of India: **The Little Clay Cart** of Sudraka” in ENG/FL 539: World Drama, Spring 2001.

“Lost in Translation? Indian Film Adaptations of Hindi-Urdu Literature,” Workshop on South Asian Film and Literature (NC Central), November 11, 2000.

“Innovative Methods in Foreign Language Pedagogy: Hindi-Urdu through Interactive Teleconferencing,” Penn Language Center, University of Pennsylvania, April, 1999.

“The Urdu Ghazal: Literature in Performance,” Passages to India Workshop, Humanities Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, March, 1998.

“Separated at Birth? The Emergence and Linguistic Development of Hindi-Urdu,” presented at the annual meeting of the Triangle International Hindi Association, October 1996.

“The Teaching of Indian Languages in the U.S.,” Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India, July 1993.

“Music of the Mughal Period,” in conjunction with the “Romance of the Taj Mahal” Exhibition at the Toledo Museum of Art, Toledo, Ohio, August 1990.

Invited Lectures - Outreach and Extension

“Indian Culture and Communicating with Indian People,” Public School Forum India Orientation, Center for International Understanding, Raleigh, December 1, 2005.

“Religious Conflict in India,” Art, Literature, and Film in the Classroom: An International Perspective, NC Museum of Art, October 2, 2004.

“South Asian Voices in Literature and Film,” World View Seminar, Chapel Hill, NC, March 13, 2003.

“Music and Culture of South Asia,” Spring into World Music Series, 10,000 Villages, Raleigh, Feb 23, 2002.

“Searching for Healing in a Shattered World,” Church of Christ Lenten Lecture Series, March 20, 2002.

“Racial Profiling” Panel at NC American Civil Liberties Union Meeting, March 13, 2002.

“History and Context of Conflict in Afghanistan and the Region” Exploris Community Forum, Nov 28, 2001.

“Islam, Terrorism and South Asia,” Breakfast Club lecture series, Unitarian Church, Cary, NC Oct 13 and

November 17, 2001.

“Islam in North Carolina” NC State Bureau of Investigation, Nov 7, 2001.

“Pilgrimage to Gangotri: the Source of the Ganges” invited talk (power point) at the “Windows on the World Festival”, Exploris Museum, May 2000.

“The Partition of India and Pakistan” Phillips Middle School, Chapel Hill, November 12, 1999.

“Indian Literature and Performing Arts” at Teaching the Teachers Workshop, organized by the South Carolina International Education Consortium, Hickory Knob State Park, South Carolina, March 24-27, 1999.

“The Ghazal as Literary and Musical Genre,” Asian Literature Workshop, Teach Asia Conference, Chapel Hill North Carolina, November, 1998.

“Introduction to a Classical Musical Form: The Urdu Ghazal” South Asia Workshop, Caldwell Community College, Boone, NC, March, 1998.

“Itihaas: Timeline of India” exhibit with images and texts, displayed at ASHA-RTP Carnival of India, Sept 14, 1997.

“Hindi, Urdu and Hindi-Urdu literature, with an analysis of Ghazal form,” at North Carolina Community Colleges workshop, Sandhills, North Carolina, February 1996.

“Indian Languages, Literature and Culture,” a day-long seminar for teachers in the Richmond Public Schools, sponsored by the Virginia Public Schools Arts and Humanities Resource Center, Richmond, March 1995.

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS:

Principal Investigator, US Dept of Education International Research and Studies Program (CFDA 84.017A), "Darwazah: A Door Into Urdu: Web Mounted Elementary Language Instruction"; total awarded \$367,201 (2005-2008).

Principal Investigator, US DE International Research and Studies Program (CFDA 84.017A), "A Door Into Hindi: Web-Mounted Elementary Language Instruction"; total awarded \$473,547 (1999-2003).

Developed courses and teaching materials for televideo language curriculum established under US Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Program (CFDA 84.016), “Integrating South Asia Studies Curricula through Core Course and Shared Language Instruction in the Research Triangle Universities of North Carolina”; grant amount \$297,000 (1995-1998).

CONSULTING ACTIVITIES:

2001-present **University of New Orleans**, New Orleans, Louisiana. External examiner for Urdu and Hindi Self-Instructional Language Program.

2001-2002 **Meredith College**, History Department. Curriculum development, South Asia civilization course

2002 **Louisiana State University and Southern University**, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chinese language program, teleconferencing evaluator and consultant.

1997-1999 **Fairfield Language Technologies**, Harrisonburg, Virginia. Rosetta Stone Hindi CD Rom: editor, translator, voicer, grammar consultant.

1998-1999 **NEH Grant** “Modernist Islamic Movements of the 19th and Early 20th Centuries.” Urdu Translation Consultant.

1997-1998 **Asia Studies Grant**, Elon College, Elon, North Carolina. South Asian Studies curriculum consultant.

OFFICES AND COMMITTEES

- 2000-present Director of Public Programming, NC Center for South Asia Studies
- 1998-present Director, NC State Study Abroad in India Program
- 2001-present Host of “Geet Bazaar” weekly two-hour South Asian music radio program, WKNC 88.1 FM
- 2002-present Member, Advisory Board, Nuv Yug Indian Cultural Association
- 2001-2004 Chair, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures Course and Curriculum Committee
- 2001-2003 Member, College of Humanities and Social Sciences Course and Curriculum Committee
- 2000-2003 Chair, Visual Media Committee, NC Center for South Asia Studies
- 2000-present Chair, Academic Life Committee, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- 2000-2003 Member, International Studies Committee, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- 1996-present Founding member, trustee, and university liaison for NC Urdu Majlis (Literary Society)
- 2000-2002 Member, University Course and Curriculum Committee, NC State University
- 1997-2000 Executive Director, Triangle South Asia Consortium
- 1996-present Faculty advisor to EKTA, the NC State University South Asian Students Association
- 1997-2001 Faculty advisor to Kinara, UNC’s South Asian student cultural organization, and Bhangra Elite, UNC’s South Asian Student Dance Group.
- 1996-1998 South Asia Specialist, Executive Committee, Triangle Asian American International Film Festival
- 1972-6 Drama Secretary, Aligarh Muslim University.
- 1970-3 Music Secretary, Aligarh Muslim University.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS:

- 1997-present South Asian Language Teachers Association (SALTA)
- 2000-present Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO)
- 1996-present Society for Indian Philosophy and Religion
- 1996-present American Institute of Indian Studies (institutional membership)
- 1996-present American Institute of Pakistan Studies (institutional membership)