

Alumni Profile

Nasser Mufti – Comparative Literature PhD Program

Career

Please provide a brief overview of your career path since graduating from UCI.

I joined the department of English at the University of Illinois at Chicago in August 2012 after graduating from UCI's Comparative Literature Ph.D program in June 2012

What made you get into the career that you are in?

I like academia.

What do you see yourself doing in five or ten years?

The same thing: academia

How do you hope to make a difference?

Through teaching and research.

Your Time at UCI

When did you attend UCI?

2005-2012

What program were you in?

Comparative Literature

Why did you choose to come to UCI?

The strength of the department of Comparative Literature, particularly critical theory.

Reflections

What made you decide to pursue a graduate degree?

I wanted to go into academia. Or put differently, I was scared about the precarity of non-academic jobs.

What is your most memorable moment/experience at UCI?

The critical theory emphasis and critical theory institute at UCI.

Did you do any research while at UCI and what was it?

My dissertation was my research (as well as some small side projects). My dissertation was on Victorian and postcolonial literature.

- How would you explain your research to your grandparent? How would you help someone understand the importance/significance of this research?

Good question. I explain the political aspect of the project, and discuss its resonance in today's political/cultural discourse.

- What has impressed you most about the subject matter that you chose for your research/degree while at UCI?

That it relates directly to what is considered "politics" today.

Alumni Life

What are you currently up to?

I work in the department of English at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

How did your education at UCI benefit you in your current life?

Being a public institution, UCI prepared me well for my current job, which is also a public institution serving a predominantly working class and immigrant student body.

What advice do you have for a new graduate student?

Don't feel pressure to know everything.

What advice would you give to a current graduate student as they look towards their future careers?

Don't feel pressure to know everything. Ambitious projects (as opposed to disciplinarily conservative ones) are worth it if the job market is as bleak as it is (both for one's own scholarly interests and also to get the attention of hiring committees).

What person inspires you?

V.S. Naipaul.

Is there a typical 'down' weekend for you—how do you relax?

I play with my cats.