

## Alumni Profile

### Maria Bose – English PhD Program



#### Career

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

*I received my PHD in English from UCI in August 2017. That month, I joined Clemson's English department as an Assistant Professor of Media and Cultural Studies. I'm thrilled to be kicking off my second year at Clemson as a Faculty Fellow at the Watt Family Center for Innovation.*

How do you hope to make a difference?

*Most broadly, I hope to continue showing students that it's not only worthwhile but necessary to think critically about the cultural products they consume. Laden with ideology, these products, I'd like them to recognize, diagram our conditions of possibility. Their*

*exfoliation is one way we become aware of who, what, where, why, and how we \*are\* in the world, and how things might be otherwise.*

*More specifically, I hope to impact their thinking and others' about two contemporary topics: race, and the global war on terror. Right now, I'm wrapping up a project on "post racial" formation where I argue that discourses of racial individualism lubricate the security state's ethno-nationalistic yet formally antiracist practices. A second project explores cultural responses to the war on terror and the breakdown of liberal political subjectivity.*

#### Your Time at UCI

When did you attend UCI?

*I attended UCI's English PHD program between 2011-2017.*

What program were you in?

*English, PHD.*

Why did you choose to come to UCI?

*UCI English boasts a veritable army of smart, committed scholars of contemporary literature, media, and politics. Although it took me a little while to settle on a dissertation topic (owing to*

*the department's strengths in other fields), I knew upon completing my undergraduate studies at Stanford, where I'd gotten a taste for critical theory, that UCI's English faculty would model for me the type of cultural criticism I admired and wanted to practice.*

## **Reflections**

What is your most memorable moment/experience at UCI?

Was there one thing or one person at UCI that really helped or made a difference in your graduate/postdoctoral career? If so, tell us about whomever or what it was?

*My dissertation director, Michael Szalay, is an extraordinary scholar and mentor. I was fortunate to meet and work with him as he was wrapping up one major project and starting in on two others. His recent work on television (which is nothing less than field-changing) is exactly the kind of ideology critique I'm always trying to emulate.*

## **Alumni Life**

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

*It goes without saying that the training I received at UCI helped make me a competent professional academic. But more than that, the community of thinkers at UCI encouraged me to engage this work as much more than a profession. Their critical energy made a huge impression on me from the start. I'm delighted to be able to model that for my own students now.*

How do you balance work/life?

*I'm honestly convinced that the best way to balance work and life is to be totally psyched about your work. That's a horrible answer, I know. But it works for me, for now.*