

NINA SHARMA
www.nina-sharma.com
sharma.nina@gmail.com, 732-742-7596

EDUCATION

- Columbia University, School of the Arts Graduate Program, Writing Division, New York, NY, Master of Fine Arts, May 2016
- Columbia University, Liberal Studies, American Studies Graduate Program, New York, NY, Master of Arts, May 2010
- Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, NY, Bachelor of Arts, May 2005

- Magnet Improvisation Theater, New York, NY, 2017 Diversity Scholar
 - Improv Levels 1-4 and Sketch Levels 1 and 2

- Institute for Writing & Thinking, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
 - July 9-14 2017: “Revolutionary Grammar” week-long pedagogical intensive with Emily Abendroth
 - July 7-12 2014: “Writing to Learn” week-long pedagogical intensive with Carley Moore)
 - July 7-12 2013: “Teaching the Academic Paper” week-long pedagogical intensive with Curt Bliss

- New York State Summer Writers Institute, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, July 2006, June 2005-July 2005

PUBLICATIONS

Interviews:

[Getting In Touch with the Absurdity of Our Lives](#) – Kenyon Review, March 2020
[Interview with Nina Sharma](#) – Kundiman, September 2013

Column:

[Blackshop](#) – Anomaly Journal

Humor Writing:

[How to Avoid Ivanka](#) – The New Yorker, Shouts and Murmurs, 2020
[Op-Ed: My Friends Are On Season 1 of Racism, Can't Wait For Them To Catch Up To Us On Season 446](#) – Flexx Mag
[Adorkable! My Husband's Learning Hindi and I'm Picking Up His Blaccent](#) – Flexx Mag
[Peep](#) - Banango Street, 2016
[When Mom and Kanye West Go Jewelry Shopping](#) - Drunken Boat, 2014

Personal Essays:

[Shithole Country Clubs on AAWW Radio](#) – The Margins, 2020
[Shithole Country Clubs](#) – The Margins, 2019
[Going Indian All The Way](#) - Electric Literature, 2017
[Not Dead](#) – The Margins, 2017

[A Brief History of Beauty](#) - Women's Studies Quarterly at The Feminist Press 2018
[Birthmark](#) - Hematopoiesis 2018
[The Bride's Goodbye](#) - Anomaly, 2017
[Pee and Fury: Testing the Limits of Bladder Control](#) - Longreads, 2017
[Looking Out the Window Like Malcolm](#) - The Asian American Writers' Workshop's The Margins, 2017
[Livin, for Amelia](#) - The Grief Diaries, 2017
[The Way You Make Me Feel](#) - The Blueshift Journal, 2016
[What I Saw: Notes of a First Year Teacher](#) - Teachers & Writers Magazine, 2015
[Year One](#) - Asian American Literary Review, 2015

Collaborations:

[If the Revolution has Come](#) – The Margins, 2020

HONORS

- Longreads Editors' Pick, September 2019 ("Shithole Country Clubs")
- Writing selected to be featured in "Just Imagine: Imagining Justice" installation at the 2018 National Women's Studies Association Conference
- 2017 and 2018 Asian Women Giving Circle Grantee, awarded funding for her writing workshop for young Asian American women, "No Name Mind: Stories of Mental Health from Asian America"
- Nominated for 2018 Pushcart Prize ("Not Dead")
- Nominated for Best of the Net 2017 anthology ("The Bride's Goodbye")
- Awarded first-prize in Brutal Nation, The Blueshift Journal's prizes for writers of color, judged by Jeffrey Renard Allen, June 2016
- Presented on B. Girl Movement's pre-college panel, June 2015
- Appointed as Instructor in the University Writing Program at Columbia University, 2014
- Selected to present paper at The Institute for Writing and Thinking at Bard College (closing reading), 2014
- Judge for Richard Stockton University's annual undergraduate creative writing contest, 2014
- Nominated for a Pushcart Prize, 2012
- Awarded a Fellowship from Vermont Studio Center, April 2012
- Selected to participate in Cave Canem's 2012 Writing Across Cultures workshop, taught by John Murillo
- Presented on "Youth in Action: Foundations for Mobilization" panel at The 4th Annual New York City Asian American Student Conference, April 2010

GUEST SPEAKING AND TEACHING

- September 2020 – Kundiman Organization, Manhattan – Hosted Kundiman's 2019 gala, "Night Scene: The Garden," a benefit for this national non-profit arts organization and honorary awards series
- May 2019 – Council of People's Organization, Brooklyn – Lead two 1-day intensives of "No Name Mind: Stories of Mental Health From Asian America" for new mothers and college-aged immigrants

- May 2018 – St. Luke’s School, Manhattan – Spoke as a morning meeting guest lecturer to middle school student body
- March 2018 – Pratt Institute Writing MFA, Women Writers of Color’s Collective – Lead a 1-day intensive of “No Name Mind: Stories of Mental Health From Asian America”
- February 2018 – Hunter High School – Lead a 1-day creative writing workshop in collaboration with Asian American Writers’ Workshop’s “Create Now” Youth Program for Asian American youth

PERFORMANCES

- December 2020 – “True Colors: A Diversity Variety Show” at The Magnet Theater – cast (improv)
- October 2020 – Ringers Sketch Show at Magnet Theater – writer – “Zoom Room Classic”
- May-August 2020 – Magnet Theater Sketch Level 1 and 2 – writer/cast/director – “Black Truman,” “Secret Life of Gym Equipment,” “BIOPIG of BIPOC”
- February 2020 – Newark Improv Festival – cast, Not Your Biwi Improv
- November 2019 – Asian American Arts Alliance Town Hall on Asian American Comedy – cast, Overstep Comedy
- November 2019 – “Relationships Are Hard” at Peoples Improv Theater – cast, Not Your Biwi Improv
- October 2019 – “Mixtape: The Diversity Improv Show” at The Magnet Theater – cast
- October 2019 – Kundiman Organization, Manhattan – hosted Kundiman’s 2019 gala, “Night Scene: The Garden,” a benefit for this national non-profit arts organization and honorary awards series
- September 2019 – “Diversity Jam” at The Magnet Theater – cast/improv jam leader
- August 2019 – “You Are Not Alone: An Uplifting Show About Depression” at The Magnet Theater – cast (improv)
- July 2019 – “Diversity Jam” at The Magnet Theater – cast/improv jam leader
- May 2019 – “Overstep, An Inclusive Sketch Experience” at Peoples Improv Theater – writer and cast
- May 2019 – “Mixtape: The Diversity Improv Show” at The Magnet Theater – cast
- May 2019 – “True Colors: A Diversity Variety Show” at The Magnet Theater – cast (improv)
- April 2019 – “Overstep, An Inclusive Sketch Experience” at Peoples Improv Theater (PIT) – writer and cast
- March 2019 – “Mixtape: The Diversity Improv Show” at The Magnet Theater – cast and storyteller
- January 2019 – “Mixtape: The Diversity Improv Show” at The Magnet Theater – cast
- October 2018 – “Mixtape: The Diversity Improv Show” at The Magnet Theater – cast
- September 2018 – “Mixtape: The Diversity Improv Show” at The Magnet Theater – cast and storyteller
- May 2018 - “You Are Not Alone: An Uplifting Show About Depression” at The Magnet Theater – curated the all-Asian American edition of this improv and

storytelling show for Asian Pacific American Heritage month and also was a storyteller

- May 2018 - "We Just Might Kiss: A Female Improv Event" at The Magnet Theater – cast
- April 2018 - "Spooky Doings Improv Show" at Triple Crown – cast and storyteller
- April 2018 - "Spooky Doings Improv Show" at Triple Crown – storyteller
- March 2018 - Diverse as Fuck Comedy Festival at Caveat – storyteller
- February 2018 - "Spooky Doings Improv Show" at Triple Crown – cast
- February 2018 - "We Just Might Kiss: A Female Improv Event" at The Magnet Theater – cast
- February 2018 - "Spooky Doings Improv Show" at Triple Crown – cast
- December 2017 - "Spooky Doings Improv Show" at Triple Crown – cast and storyteller
- October 2017 - "Mixtape: The Diversity Improv Show" at The Magnet Theater – cast
- September 2017 - "We Just Might Kiss: A Female Improv Event" at The Magnet Theater – cast
- August 2017 - "You Are Not Alone: An Uplifting Show About Depression" at The Magnet Theater – storyteller

PRODUCER

- "Asian Depression Commercial," Overstep Comedy
- "Boba One More Time," Overstep Comedy

TEACHING & RELATED WORK

September 2019-Present, New York City

Barnard College of Columbia University – Instructor

- Lead sections of "First-Year Writing" and "First-Year Seminar," requirements for first-year students, and "Art of the Essay," a course within the Barnard College English Department that is both a requirement for transfer students and open to students across Columbia University colleges and departments
- Develop course curricula: readings and assignments for students to develop their close-reading, research and essay writing skills as well as effective speaking and discussion practices
- Mentor students one-on-one in office hours and through curated events – field trips and guest speakers
- Attend departmental and university-wide events such as readings, panel discussions and cross-departmental collaborations

July 2019, New York City

Barnard Pre-College Programs – Instructor

- Taught in "Summer in the City," a 4-week, 4-day/week intensive summer program for high school-aged women
- Designed and drafted workshop curriculum for 15 sessions of "No Name Mind: Stories of Mental Health from the Margins"

- Organized guest speakers and field trip events and final closing event featuring a student reading and closing circle
- Mentored students one-on-one in required conferences and office hours

August-October 2018, New York City

Magnet Theater Diversity Program: Scholarship Consultant and Selection Committee Member

- As consultant, met with lead coordinators of diversity scholarship program to discuss vision of program
- As interviewer, met with fifteen applicants and reflected on strengths of all through detailed written responses
- As committee member, helped set agenda for selection meeting and design discussion activities to guide selection process

September 2018-May 2019, New York City

Writing Center, Columbia School of Social Work—Consultant

- Work one-on-one and online with diverse, multilingual student writers in 30 and 50-minute sessions as they developed writing projects
- Draft session records which contain a space for public reflection, co-authored with students, on learning attained and also a space for private meta-reflection, for consultant to privately assess their own pedagogy
- Facilitate in-class writing and revision activities when requested by faculty
- Engage in semester-long collaborative critical inquiry research with a cohort of fellow consultants and attend monthly development meetings to build on project

January 2018-Present, New York City

“No Name Mind: Stories of Mental Health From Asian America”

- Creator and leader of this 6-week grant-funded writing workshop for young Asian American women focusing on generating creative writing derived from lived experiences with mental health and trauma, running April and May of 2018
- Designed and drafted workshop curriculum, Asian Women Giving Circle grant proposal, and workshop publicity and outreach materials
- Managing program budget and execution and delegation of administrative tasks
- Lead one-session intensive versions of “No Name Mind” at Writing MFA at Pratt Institute, Hunter College High School and Council of People’s Organization

September 2016-December 2017, New York City

Writing Center, Baruch College—Consultant

- Worked one-on-one and online with diverse, largely multilingual student writers in 50-minute sessions as they developed writing projects
- Co-authored session records with students where we reflected on our work together and what rhetorical and composition strategies they gained through the process

- Taught in-class writing workshops – “Understanding Plagiarism and Citation,” “Focusing Research Topics” and “Brainstorming.”
- Engaged in semester-long collaborative critical inquiry research with a cohort of fellow consultants; present co-authored paper proposal at each semester’s close
- Visited classrooms to welcome and orient students to the writing center
- First writing center consultant at Baruch to be awarded funding from the Adjunct/CET Professional Development Fund of CUNY Professional Staff Congress, used to attend “Revolutionary Grammar,” a week-long pedagogical intensive with Emily Abendroth at Bard College’s Institute for Writing & Thinking.

September 2016, New York City

Sidney Harmon Writer-in-Residence Program, Baruch College—Harmon Fellow

- Alongside Quincy Scott Jones, co-lead a poetry and creative non-fiction workshop, craft discussion and public reading for 30 students

September 2014-May 2016, New York City

University Writing Program, Columbia University—Instructor

- Lead a themed section of University Writing, Columbia University’s first-year undergraduate writing program
- Developed curriculum for a new theme-based section, University Writing: Human Rights
- Organized guest speakers and large-group events for students in the human rights-themed sections; in 2014 organized a field trip to visual artist Chitra Ganesh’s exhibit “Eyes of Time” at the Brooklyn Museum on the theme of art and global feminisms, in 2016 organized a film viewing and field trip to Columbia’s Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race on the theme of Japanese Internment, intergenerational trauma and artistic production

June 2013-September 2013, New York City

Writopia Lab—Academic Writing Instructor

- Developed curriculum for and lead two week-long summer intensive seminars on the academic paper—
- “Critical Thinking and Critical Writing” and “Writing and Revising the Academic Essay”
- Developed curriculum for and lead one week-long summer intensive seminar on the personal statement for college entrance— “Writing the College Admissions Essay”
- Tutored senior-level students as they worked on their personal statements for college entrance
- Assisted in the development of curriculum for the academic writing program at Writopia Lab

Jan. 2012-December 2012, Philadelphia

Big Blue Marble Bookstore—Event and Publicity Staff

- With Events Coordinator, curated bookstore event series: booked and communicated with artists; wrote and disseminated print and online publicity; hosted and managed events
- Assisted in planning and execution of bookstore's 6th annual Mt. Airy Kids' Literary Festival: wrote and circulated publicity copy, managed all day of event logistics and customer service
- Assisted with day-to-day retail operations: floor sales, financial accounting and display work

January 2011-May 2011, Philadelphia

Philadelphia Futures—Sophomore Writing Teacher

- Developed curriculum for and lead, "Where I'm From," a 16-week writing class for Sophomores in their Sponsor-A-Scholar program
- Taught fundamentals of composition and creative writing to 50 Sophomore-level students
- Designed and formatted class anthology to showcase student work

September 2010-December 2010, New York City

Harlem Educational Activities Fund—College Prep Tutor

- Worked closely with senior-level students on their statements of purpose for college entrance and other written supporting material; troubleshoot essay topics and revised for grammar and content
- Advised students regarding time-management and other issues relevant to the application process

September 2010-December 2010, Remote

Zachary Shuster Harmsworth Literary Agency—Freelance

- Read select manuscripts for possible publication
- Wrote extensive readers reports, containing an editorial evaluation and marketing analysis

May 2007-December 2009, New York City

Asian American Writers' Workshop—Programs Director

- Curated and organized writing workshops, readings, and panel discussions for public programs series; communicated with authors and their publicity/marketing teams via email, telephone and in-person meetings
- Constructed syllabi for and ran grant-funded youth writing workshops: "Drawing In Color: Empowering Girls Through Comics" co-taught with visual artist Chitra Ganesh, "UnFairy Tales: The Myth in Myths" and "Txt Me: A Writing and Multimedia Youth Project"
- Handled publicity and marketing of all The Workshops' programs: wrote and edited copy for events calendars, both print and web versions, wrote and sent out weekly newsletter via Constant Contact, connected with local arts media to circulate publicity
- Managed membership database, organized and executed all mailings to members including mailings of seasonal calendar and annual donation letter
- Assisted in production and execution of grant funded projects: assisted in writing of grant proposals, wrote exit reports, including financial account,

communicated with grant funders throughout process via email, telephone and in-person meetings and events

- Managed selection process for annual Asian American Literary Awards: acquired titles for judging via communication with authors, agents and publicity departments of various publishing houses, processed applications, communicated with authors and their publicity/marketing teams via email, telephone and in-person meetings, and confirmed and assisted judges in their work via email and teleconference
- Planned inaugural Asian American Literary Festival, Page Turner, alongside awards program: booked and communicated with authors via email, telephone and in-person meetings, wrote and circulated publicity copy, managed all day of event logistics including A/V support, author greeting/hospitality and any event assistance, audience greeting/hospitality, crowd management, and all day of financials
- Interviewed, hired, and managed interns to assist in office duties
- Offered any general clerical and administrative help needed