

The Kenyon and IITM Writing Workshop **Collaborative Project between Kenyon College and IIT Madras**

A Five Day Writing Workshop offered by scholars who teach writing at the **Kenyon Review Writers Workshop** at Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, USA and faculty from IIT Madras, Chennai, India who are creative writers but specializing in variegated fields such as engineering, biotechnology, humanities and social sciences

Date: December 10 – 14, 2018

Venue: HSB 333, HSB 356, HSB 357, Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, Chennai 600036

Genres: Fiction, Non-fiction and Science Writing

Maximum Number of students: 25 in each genre (young faculty, aspiring writers, college students, other interested individuals)

Application process: 1. a brief bio with three references
2. 600 words original writing sample

Deadlines: 1. **Submission of application - November 20, 2018**
2. **Intimation of acceptance - November 30, 2018**

Instructors: **Nancy Zafris, Geeta Kothari, and Chris Gillen** (Please see below for more information.)

Coordinators: Prof. Wendy Singer, Roy T Wortman Professor of History and South Asian Studies, Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, USA – singerw@kenyon.edu

Dr. Sudarsan Padmanabhan, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras, Chennai, India – sudarsanp@iitm.ac.in

Dr. Sriramkumar L, Professor, Department of Physics, IIT Madras, Chennai, India
sriram@physics.iitm.ac.in

Course Fee:

- ₹ 500/- for B.Tech., M.A., M.S., & M.Tech. (Only IIT Madras Students)
 ₹ 1000/- for Ph.D., (Only IIT Madras Students)
 ₹ 1500/- for Students from other IITs
 ₹ 3000/- faculty, professionals and other interested people.

(Covers Registration, Tea & Snacks, Lunch, and Study Materials for all five days)

Workshop Schedule (December 10 - 14, 2018)

Group I- Fiction (Venue: HSB 333)	Group II - Non-fiction (Venue: HSB 356)	Group III-Science Writing (Venue: HSB 357)
Session-I		
Nancy Zafris	Geeta Kothari	Chris Gillen
9.00 - 10.30 am	9.00 - 10.30 am	9.00 - 10.30 am
Tea break (10.30 am - 10.45 am)		
Session-II		
10.45 am - 12.15 pm	10.45 am - 12.15 pm	10.45 am - 12.15 pm
Lunch break (12.15 pm - 1.30 pm)		
Writing time (1.30 - 3.00 pm)	Writing time (1.30 - 3.00 pm)	Writing time (1.30 - 3.00 pm)
Tea break (3.00 pm - 3.15 pm)		
Common Lectures (3.15 pm - 4.45 pm)	Dec 10, 2018	Prof. Arvind Sivaramakrishnan (Dept. of HSS, IIT Madras)
	Dec 11, 2018	Prof. R. Nagarajan (Dept. of Chemical Engg. IIT Madras)
	Dec 12, 2018	Prof. R. Swarnalatha (Dept. of HSS, IIT Madras)
	Dec 13, 2018	Prof. K. Srilata; Dr. Avishek Parui (Dept. of HSS, IIT Madras)
	Dec 14, 2018	Prof. Arunn Narasimhan (Dept. of Mechanical Engg.)
Refreshments (4.45 pm - 5.00 pm)		
Individual Presentations (5.00 - 6.00 pm)		

Supported by: Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, USA
Kenyon Review
Dean Students, IIT Madras
Dean International and Alumni Relations, IIT Madras
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras

About the Faculty conducting the Writing Workshop:



Nancy Zafris's first collection of short stories, *The People I Know*, won the Flannery O'Connor award as well as the Ohioiana Library Association award. Her two novels are the ***The Metal Shredders***, a *New York Times* notable book, and ***Lucky Strike***, a BookSense notable. She is the recipient of two National Endowment for the Arts grants and has taught at many universities, including Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic as a Fulbright Fellow. Each June she teaches at the *Kenyon Review* summer writer's workshop, where she is also associate director. Her recent collection of short stories, ***The Home Jar***, was published in April 2013.



Geeta Kothari is the nonfiction editor of *The Kenyon Review*. She is a two-time recipient of the fellowship in literature from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the editor of '*Did My Mama Like to Dance?*' and *Other Stories about Mothers and Daughters*. Her fiction and nonfiction have appeared in various journals and anthologies, including *the Kenyon Review*, *the Massachusetts Review*, *Fourth Genre*, and *Best American Essays*. In 2004, she received the David and Tina Bellet Award for Teaching Excellence. In addition to teaching in the undergraduate curriculum, Geeta Kothari also directs the Writing Center.



Chris Gillen is Professor of Biology at Kenyon College. He studies salt transport in animals using a variety of approaches ranging from whole animal studies through molecular techniques and is well respected in his field publishing in a range of journals and with Harvard University Press. In addition, however, he is the faculty director of the Kenyon Institute in Biomedical and Scientific Writing. He has taught scientific writing and popular science writing in a variety of contexts. This summer for the first time, he directed a high school student workshop in science writing at Kenyon.



Arvind Sivaramakrishnan is an Adjunct Professor and former Visiting Professor in the Department of Humanities at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras. From 2008 to 2014 he was Senior Deputy Editor on the *Hindu*, writing editorials, specialist articles, and book reviews on international politics, public policy, and political theory; he combined his duties with teaching and research at the Asian College of Journalism, Chennai. He took his degree and doctorate in philosophy and sociology and political philosophy respectively, a postgraduate diploma in social administration, and a professional teaching qualification at the University of Southampton, where he also taught politics. Since then he has taught at Suffolk College, Ipswich, the Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad, Southampton Institute of Higher Education (now Southampton Solent University), and Tauntons College, (now Richard Taunton College), Southampton. He has published a range of academic papers in politics, political philosophy, public policy, and related fields, and has conducted research seminars and research training sessions at universities, including writing and study skills, in the European Union and India. He continues to contribute specialist book reviews and occasional analytical articles to publications in the Indian national news media. His books include *Introduction to Political Ideologies* (2017), *Public Interest Journalism* (2014), *Public Policy and Citizenship* (2012), *Short on Democracy* (2007), and *Through a Glass Wall* (2007). He is currently coediting, with Dr Sudarsan Padmanabhan, a collection on elections and electoral processes.



Nagarajan is currently Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at IIT Madras, and recently stepped down after two terms as the Dean of International & Alumni Relations. He obtained his B.Tech. in Chemical Engineering in 1981 from IIT Madras, and a Ph.D. in the same field from Yale University (New Haven, CT, USA) in 1986. From 1986 - 1988, he served as Research Faculty in the Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering at West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV; during this tenure, he served as coordinator for research projects funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Navy. From 1988 - 2003, Dr. Nagarajan was a Senior Technical Staff Member with IBM Storage Systems' Development Laboratory in San Jose, CA, where he oversaw elimination of ozone-depleting chemicals from IBM's manufacturing operations, and directed many ground-breaking efforts in the areas of chemical integration & micro-contamination control for hard disk drives.

Dr. Nagarajan returned to Chennai in 2003, and served as G.S. Laddha Visiting Professor at A.C. College of Technology for one semester, prior to taking up his position as Professor at IIT Madras in February 2004. His teaching and research endeavors are focused on cleanroom processes, nano-technology and ultrasonic process-intensification. From 2009-2012, he served as Advisor, Office of Alumni Affairs at IIT Madras, and from October 2012 -

September 2018, as the Institute's first-ever Dean of International & Alumni Relations. In April 2018, Dr. Nagarajan was named as an "Institute Chair Professor" by IIT Madras.



Swarnalatha Rangarajan is Professor of English at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras and is passionate about environmental humanities. She is the founding editor of the *Indian Journal of Ecocriticism* (IJE) and has served as Guest Editor for two special issues on Indian ecosophy for *The Trumpeter* and is on the editorial board of ISLE (Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment). She has co-edited two books titled *Ecoambiguity, Community, and Development* (2014) and *Ecocriticism of the Global South* (2015) published by Lexington books. Her latest works include *Ecocriticism: Big Ideas and Practical Strategies* (2018), *Mayilamma: The Life of a Tribal Eco-Warrior* (with Sreejith Varma, 2018). She is one of the series editors for the *Routledge Studies in World Literatures and Environment*. She is currently working on a book of interviews with contemporary women writers from Tamil Nadu titled, *Mapping the Ahampuram*, with K.Srilata which is scheduled to be published this year by Women Unlimited. She is also the co-editor of the *Routledge Book of Ecocriticism and Environmental Communication* to be published in 2019.

Swarnalatha Rangarajan also dabbles in creative writing and her short fiction has appeared in anthologies of publishing houses like Penguin, Zubaan, Westland, New Asian Writing, South Asian Review to name a few. Her poetry has appeared in the collection *All the Worlds Between* (Yoda Press, 2017) and in Muse India. An interview regarding her green creative writing has been published by the environmental journal, *The Goose*, *The Goose*, the official publication of [ALECC](#) (Association for Literature, Environment, and Culture in Canada). Her debut novel, *Final Instructions*, which was published by Authorspress in 2015 has a prominent ecosophical theme.



A poet and fiction writer, **K.Srilata** is a Professor of English at IIT Madras. She has been a writer-in-residence at the University of Stirling, at Sangam house and at the Yeonhui Art Space in Seoul. Srilata's books include four poetry collections: *Bookmarking the Oasis*, *Writing Octopus*, *Arriving Shortly* and *Seablue Child*, a novel *Table for Four*, long listed in 2009 for the Man Asian literary prize and published by Penguin, three co-edited anthologies *The Rapids of a Great River: The Penguin Book of Tamil Poetry*, *Short Fiction from South India* (OUP) and *All the Worlds Between: A Collaborative Poetry Project Between India and Ireland* (Yoda). She has also published translation of R.Vatsala's Tamil novel *Once there was a girl of women's writing from the Self-Respect movement* *The Other Half of the Coconut: Women Writing Self-Respect History* (Zubaan).



Avishek Parui is Assistant Professor in English at IIT Madras and Associate Fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy, following his doctoral research and postdoctoral tutoring at Durham University, UK. He is the author of Postmodern Literatures published by Orient Blackswan. He is a published short fiction writer whose work has appeared in Kitaab, The Bombay Review, Madras Mag and Platform Magazine (where he was the winner of the 2009 Short Fiction Award). He is also a creative writing resource person trained and certified by the British Council and has conducted creative writing workshops at the Arts Café, St. Aidan's College, Durham University.



Arunn Narasimhan received his Ph.D. in Heat Transfer with minors in Manufacturing and Biology in 2002 from the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the Southern Methodist University, USA. Before joining IIT Madras, he was a staff engineer in the Micro-lithography division of FSI International, Allen, TX, USA.

Arunn Narasimhan has written and published two social novels in Tamil language. America Desi (2015), his first novel, recounts the coming of age experience for a boy from the deeply conservative South Indian small town travelling to the USA for the first time pursuing higher studies. His second novel Achchuvai Perinum (2016) ruminates on and marshals the theme of past lovers now in separate relationships kindling their old flame. He has also written popular science books in Tamil language. The book Nano introduces Nano-technology in a themed essay collection format while the book Do Aliens Exist expounds the scientific search for extra terrestrial intelligence elaborating on technical themes like Fermi's paradox, Kardashov scale and SETI in simple language. Two other essay collections What is the Shape of the Earth and Why do Toucans have Large Beaks traverse the terrain of science in all its glory and candour.

He has also written elaborate expository essays for online magazine on Carnatic and classical music and has contributed essays to newspapers like The Hindu. He has been a music critic of the December Madras Music Season for newspapers including The Hindu and Dinamalar for the past few years. He was a Carnatic music guitarist of the fusion band Srishti.

He has also given several invited bi-lingual talks popularising science at various universities and schools and has appeared on TV shows. His other hobbies include reading, world movies and western classical music.

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