

# Akshara Dafre

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## Education

### **PhD English**

Texas A&M University, 2022 – *in progress*

### **MA Literature and Culture**

University of Birmingham, 2020

Thesis: *Voices from the Gully: Representations of the Postcolonial City in Mumbai Rap Music*

### **BA Literary and Cultural Studies**

FLAME University, 2019

Thesis: *The Bumbaiyya Project*

## Publications

### **Peer Reviewed**

Cardozo, E., **Dafre, A.**, & Singh, T. (forthcoming). ‘At the table I sit, making it legit’: Legitimate knowledge, and the legitimacy of knowledge in a Hip Hop classroom in India. *Global Hip Hop Studies* (Special Issue: “Knowledge Reigns Supreme”: The Fifth Element in Hip Hop Culture’)

## Selected Presentations

Dafre, A. (2024, May 23-26). “From the ends to the gully: MLE, Bumbaiyya, and Linguistic Relationalities in Hip Hop.” Presenting (in-person) at “Droppin’ Science: Hip Hop Ciphering and Deciphering.” Organized by European Hiphop Studies Network (EHHSN), ERC CIPHER Project, and University College Cork, Ireland.  
Panel: “Hip Hop Languages”

Dafre, A. (2024, January 4-7). “Identity and Politics in North East Indian Hip-Hop.” Presented (in-person) at 2024 MLA Convention, Philadelphia, USA.  
Panel: “Whose South Asia: The Politics of Inclusion”

Dafre, A. (2024, January 4-7). “Rejection and Subversion in Mumbai’s Gully Rap.” Presented (in-person) at 2024 MLA Convention, Philadelphia, USA.  
Panel: “The Joys and Sorrows of Postcolonial Translation”

Cardozo, E., **Dafre, A.**, & Singh, T. (2022, January 26-28). “‘At the table I sit, making it legit’: Legitimate knowledge, and the legitimacy of knowledge in a Hip Hop classroom in India.” Presented (online) at “Hip-Hop’s Global Pathways to Cultural ‘Legitimacy.’” Organized by European Hiphop Studies Network (EHHSN), France.

Dafre, A. (2021, November 3-5). “The Business of the Underground: Commercialization of ‘Underground’ Hip Hop Music in India.” Presented (online) at “Staging Popular Music: Sustainable Music Ecologies for Artists, Industries and Cities.” Organized by International Music Business Research Association, and Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Dafre, A. (2020, June 24). "Voices from the Gully." Presented (online) at "Annual CAL Masters Dissertation Conference." Organized by College of Arts and Law, University of Birmingham, UK

### Academic Employment

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Texas A&M University, 2022 – *present*

ENGL104 – Rhetoric and Composition, Instructor of Record (2 sections)

ENGL210 – Technical and Professional Writing, Instructor of Record (1 section)

ENGL203 – Writing about Literature, Instructor of Record (2 sections)

### Academic Service

**International Student Representative**, English Graduate Student Association, Texas A&M University, 2023 – 2024

**Graduate Mentor**, Texas A&M University, 2023 – 2024

**Student Representative**, University of Birmingham Guild of Students, 2019 – 2020  
for MA Literature and Culture, Batch of 2020

### Non-Academic Employment

**Editorial Assistant**, Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group, April 2021 – June 2022

### Certificates

**Graduate Certificate in Popular Culture** – Texas A&M University

### Awards and Grants

**Research Enhancement Award** – Texas A&M University, Department of English, 2024

**Lechner Graduate Grant** – Texas A&M University, Department of English, 2022

### Foreign Language Proficiencies

Hindi (Native), Marathi (Native)