



Jisha Menon

Robert G. Freeman Professor of International Studies, Director of Stanford Global Studies and Professor, by courtesy, of Comparative Literature

Theater and Performance Studies

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Jisha Menon is the Robert G. Freeman Professor of International Studies. She serves as the Sakurako and William Fisher Family Director of the Stanford Global Studies Division. She is Professor of Theater and Performance Studies, and (by courtesy) of Comparative Literature. Her research interests lie at the intersection of critical theory and performance studies; law and humanities; affect theory, cities, and capitalism; cosmopolitanism and nationalism. Her current research project, *Law, Affect, and the Performance of Personhood* (under contract, Cambridge UP) explores how legal practices entrench a particular liberal topology of personhood, and how this conception departs from other societies where persons are conceived in more plural and discontinuous ways. The book argues that attending to the fictive constitution of the person within the law allows us to highlight the artifice, indeed, the aesthetics that are central to jurisprudence. Her four books explore arts and aesthetics in relation to neoliberal capitalism, postcolonial nationalism, secularism, and geopolitical conflict. Her latest book, *Brutal Beauty: Aesthetics and Aspiration in Urban India* (Northwestern UP, 2021) considers the city and the self as aesthetic projects that are renovated in the wake of neoliberal economic reforms in India. The study explores how discourses of beauty are mobilized toward anti-democratic ends. Sketching out scenes of urban aspiration and its dark underbelly, the book delineates the creative and destructive potential of India's lurch into contemporary capitalism. Her first book, *The Performance of Nationalism: India, Pakistan and the Memory of Partition* (Cambridge UP, 2013), examines the affective and performative dimensions of nation-making. The book recuperates the idea of "mimesis" to think about political history and the crisis of its aesthetic representation, while examining the mimetic relationality that undergirds the encounter between India and Pakistan. She is also co-editor of two volumes: *Violence Performed: Local Roots and Global Routes of Conflict* (with Patrick Anderson) (Palgrave-Macmillan Press, 2009) and *Performing the Secular: Religion, Representation, and Politics* (with Milija Gluhovic) (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.) Previously, she served as Assistant Professor of English at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Theater and Performance Studies
- Professor (By courtesy), Comparative Literature

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Sakurako and William Fisher Family Director of the Stanford Global Studies Division, Stanford Global Studies, (2021- present)
- Vice-Chair, Breadth Governance Board, VPUE, (2025-2026)
- Steering Committee, Faculty Senate, (2025-2026)
- Steering Committee, Faculty Senate, (2024-2025)
- Senator, Faculty Senate, (2024-2026)
- Steering Committee, Faculty Women's Committee, (2024-2025)

- Steering Committee, Faculty Women's Forum, (2020-2022)
- Senator, Faculty Senate, (2020-2022)
- Denning Faculty Director, Stanford Arts Institute, (2019-2021)
- Faculty Director, Centre for South Asia, Stanford Global Studies, (2017-2021)
- Core Committee, Feminist, Gender, Sexuality Studies, (2015-2018)
- Advisory Board, Introductory Seminars, (2016-2019)
- Academic Council Committee Member, Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid, (2015-2018)
- Advisory Committee, Centre for South Asia, (2015-2017)
- Member, Breadth Governance Board, (2015-2017)
- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Theatre and Performance Studies, (2014-2016)
- Visiting Faculty, MAIPR Program, University of Warwick, (2013-2013)
- Committee in Charge, member, Modern Thought and Literature, (2011-2015)
- Assistant Professor, Department of Theatre and Performance Studies Stanford University, (2009-2015)
- Assistant Professor, Department of English University of British Columbia, (2004-2008)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Violet Andrews Whittier Faculty Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center (2023-24)
- CCSRE Faculty Research Fellow, Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity (2023-24)
- Principal Investigator (with Professor Grant Parker and Dr. Katherine Kuhns) Oceanic Imaginaries, Changing Human Experience, Humanities and Sciences, Stanford (2023-25)
- Project Director, Stanford Global Studies, Title VI International and Foreign Language Education, U.S. Department of Education (2022-2026)
- Marta Sutton Weeks Faculty Scholar in the School of Humanities and Sciences, Stanford University (2022-2025)
- Principal Investigator (with Professor David Sklansky) Mellon Grant for Imagining Justice, CCSRE, Stanford (2020-)
- Inaugural Award for Outstanding Leader, Faculty Women's Forum (2020)
- Fellow, Stanford Fellows Program (2018-2020)
- Faculty Fellow, Feminist, Gender, Sexuality Studies (2017)
- Stanford Initiative for Religious and Ethnic Understanding and Coexistence, Stanford (2015)
- artsCatalyst Grant, Stanford University (2015)
- Urban Beyond Measure, Stanford Global Studies (2013)
- Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University (2011)
- Annenberg Faculty Fellow, Stanford University (2010)
- Standard Research Grant, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2007 - 2010)
- Whiting Fellowship, Stanford University (2003-2004)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, International Federation for Theatre Research
- Member, Performance Studies International
- Member, Association for Theatre in Higher Education
- Member, Women and Theater Program
- Member, Modern Language Association
- Member, American Society for Theatre Research

- Member-at-Large, Executive Committee, Women and Theatre Program, Association for Theatre in Higher Education
- Advisory Board, Centre for South Asia, Stanford (2015 - present)
- Core Committee, Feminist, Gender, Sexuality Studies (2015 - present)
- Member, Board of Directors, Performance Studies International (2011 - 2015)
- Member, Executive Committee, South Asian Literary Association, Modern Languages Association (2004 - 2006)
- Member, Research and Publications Committee, Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE) (2004 - 2005)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- Modern Thought and Literature

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Stanford University , Drama (2004)
- MA., Jawaharlal Nehru University , English (1996)
- B.A., Bangalore University , English (1993)

LINKS

- Brutal Beauty: Aesthetics and Aspiration in Urban India: <https://nupress.northwestern.edu/9780810144064/brutal-beauty/>
- The Performance of Nationalism: <http://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/arts-theatre-culture/british-theatre/performance-nationalism-india-pakistan-and-memory-partition>
- Violence Performed: <http://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9780230537262#aboutBook>
- Performing the Secular: <https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9781137496072>

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Performance and Performativity: ARTHIST 313, ENGLISH 313, FEMGEN 313, TAPS 313 (Win)
- The Subversive Art of Comedy: From Commedia dell'Arte to Stand-up: OSPFLOR 85F (Spr)

2024-25

- Performance and Performativity: ENGLISH 313, FEMGEN 313, TAPS 313 (Win)
- Race, Gender, Justice: COMPLIT 264T, CSRE 264S, FEMGEN 264S, TAPS 264S (Spr)

2022-23

- Performance and Performativity: ENGLISH 313, FEMGEN 313, TAPS 313 (Win)
- Race, Gender, Justice: CSRE 264S, FEMGEN 264S, TAPS 264S (Aut)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Maansi Dommeti

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Ankita Deb, Antonio Lopez

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Karishma Bhagani, Yutsha Dahal, Marina Johnson, Suchismito Khatua

Doctoral (Program)

Marlon Ariyasinghe, Suchismito Khatua, Shailee Rajak

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Desiring Children <i>Vulnerability and the Sex Offender</i>** *PERFORMING LAW*
Menon, J.
edited by Goodrich, P., Kimmel, A. J., Meyler, B.
2026: 165-189
- **Dignity and the Drama of the Death Penalty** *Law, Culture and the Humanities*
Menon, J.
2025
- **Arts, Activism, and Agriculture: The Farmers' Protests and Cosmopolitan Solidarity** *The Oxford Handbook of Cosmopolitanism*
Menon, J.
Oxford University Press.2025
- **Confessional Performance: Remorse and the Affective Economy of Parole** *Theatre Journal*
Menon, J.
2024; 76 (3)
- **"Performance and Precarity in Gauri Gill's Acts of Appearance"** *Gauri Gill: Acts of Resistance and Repair*
Menon, J.
Kehrer Verlag.2023
- **Brutal Beauty: Aesthetics and Aspiration in Urban India** *Performance Works*
Menon, J.
Northwestern University Press.2022
- **Scenes of Objection: Performance and Protest in Manipur** *ASIAN THEATRE JOURNAL*
Menon, J.
2021; 38 (2): 424-440
- **Performance Interventions: Natality and Carceral Feminism in India** *Race and performance after repetition*
Menon, J.
2020
- **Toxic Colonialism and the Gesture of Generosity** *Performance Research*
Menon, J.
2018
- **Introduction: Performing the Secular: Religion, Politics, and the Public Sphere** *PERFORMING THE SECULAR: RELIGION, REPRESENTATION, AND POLITICS*
Gluhovic, M., Menon, J.
edited by Gluhovic, M., Menon, J.
2017: 1-23
- **Valuing Ecologies of Performance: Culture and capital in a neoliberal world** *PERFORMANCE RESEARCH*
Eckersall, P., Gray, D., Menon, J., Van Graan, M.
2013; 18 (2): 31-45
- **Queer Selfhoods in the Shadow of Neoliberal Urbanism** *JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL SOCIOLOGY*
Menon, J.
2013; 26 (1): 100-119
- **The Performance of Nationalism: India, Pakistan, and the Memory of Partition**

- Menon, J.
Cambridge University Press.2013
- **Calling Local, Talking Global: The Cosmo-politics of the Call Center Industry** *Women and Performance*
Menon, J.
2013; 23 (2)
 - **The Performance of Nationalism: India, Pakistan, and the Memory of Partition**
Menon, J.
Cambridge University Press.2013
 - **Palimpsestic City: Nostalgia in Ncoliberal Bangalore** *Neoliberalism in Theatre and Performance*
Menon, J.
edited by Ybarra, P., Nielson, L.
London: Palgrave Macmillan.2012
 - **Review of Erin Mee's Theatre of Roots: Re-directing the Indian Stage** *TDR*
Jisha, M.
2012; 56 (4)
 - **sacredsecular: contemplative cultural critique (Book Review)** *FEMINIST REVIEW*
Book Review Authored by: Menon, J.
2011: E7-E8
 - **Dancing on Glass** *Art Connect*
Menon, J.
2011; 5 (1)
 - **Violence Performed: Local Roots and Global Routes of Conflict**
Menon, J.
edited by Menon, J., Anderson, P.
2010
 - **Review of Helen Gilbert and Jacqueline Lo's Performance and Cosmopolitics: Crosscultural transactions in Australasia** *Alt: Theatre Review*
Menon, J.
2009; 6 (4)
 - **Violence Performed: Local Roots and Global Routes of Conflict**
Menon, J.
edited by Menon, J., Anderson, P.
London: Palgrave-Macmillan Press.2008
 - **Introduction** *Violence Performed: Local Roots and Global Routes of Conflict*
Menon, J.
edited by Menon, J., Anderson, P.
London: Palgrave-Macmillan.2008
 - **Rehearsing the partition: gendered violence in Aur Kitne Tukde** *FEMINIST REVIEW*
Menon, J.
2006: 29-47
 - **Theatres of independence: Drama, theory, and urban performance in India since 1947. (Book Review)** *THEATRE JOURNAL*
Book Review Authored by: Menon, J.
2006; 58 (2): 383-384
 - **Unimaginable fine communities: Identities in traffic in Rukhsana Ahmad's 'Black Shalwar'** *MODERN DRAMA*
Menon, J.
2005; 48 (2): 407-427
 - **Review of Shyam Selvadurai, Story-wallah: South Asian Fiction** *Canadian Literature*

Menon, J.
2005

- **Unhomely nations: Minorities and refugees of the subcontinental partition** *MODERN DRAMA*

Menon, J.
2003; 46 (2): 182-206