

Application for MSA Graduate Student Representative

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Academic Affiliation: PhD Student, Fordham University

Statement of qualification:

I am a fifth year international PhD student from India at the Department of English, Fordham University (New York), writing my dissertation on global anglophone modernisms and their negotiation with the concept of the *maternal* as a political and ethical construct. The three literary pairings of my project, viz., Tagore and Forster, H.D. and Loy, and Rhys and Beckett, pose three distinct yet interwoven ways of reading and writing the maternal: political re-imagining, parthenogenetic self-creation, and psychotic remarking respectively. Ultimately, my project deals with two fundamental questions: how the *maternal* is inscribed as an opposition to the paternal injunction and in what manner this *maternal* inscription anticipates today's queer kinship narratives of family re-making. Beyond my scholarly focus on modernist studies, my association with MSA dates back to my tenure as the Reviews Editor of *Modernism/modernity* (2019-20) and as a member of the journal's editorial team for the past two years. As an MSA Grad Rep, I will bring these experiential values in three following realms: administrative (liaison between grad students and the MSA Board), leadership (organizing reading groups, work-in-progress seminars, grad student caucuses and conference panels, preparing future faculty and publication workshops), and outreach and development (increasing MSA's social media and offline presence). In the vein of New Modernist Studies, I especially look forward to nurturing an inclusive, international, and diverse community of grad students. Lastly, being an advanced doctoral candidate who will serve as Fordham's Higher Education Leadership Fellow, I believe that I am uniquely equipped to advocate for our graduate community, to draw attention to the needs of first-generation and BIPOC scholars, and assist in graduate research and professionalization programs.
