

ALKA ARORA
Curriculum Vitae [March 2022]

1453 Mission St
San Francisco, CA 94103
aarora@ciis.edu

- Home Location:
Chicago, IL

EDUCATION

2008 Ph.D. Women Studies
University of Washington, Seattle, WA

1996 B.A. Mathematics
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2018- Associate Professor, Women's Spirituality Program
California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA

2011-2018 Assistant Professor, Women's Spirituality Program
California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Interim Department Chair, Women's Spirituality **1/21-7/21**
California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA

- Expanded and diversified adjunct faculty hires
- Enriched online community building activities

Department Chair, Women's Spirituality **2012-2016**
California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA

- Oversaw assessment, faculty hiring, budgets, student issues, & outreach
- Updated and diversified curriculum
- Managed departmental self-study and assessment maps
- Designed the MA in Women, Gender, Spirituality and Social Justice

Director, Women's Center, Student Affairs Division **2008-2010**
UC Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA

- Developed administrative reports, grants, and outreach materials
- Oversaw all hiring, budget, and other administrative issues
- Developed events to support women and non-gender-binary faculty, students, and staff
- Collaborated with Multicultural Center and LGBTQ+ Center on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programming

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE (CONT.)

Director, Education and Research Programs **2007-2008**

Office of Faculty Advancement and Diversity Research Institute
University of Washington, Seattle, WA

- Developed faculty recruitment toolkit for hiring diverse faculty
- Facilitated programs for faculty affinity groups (POC, LGBTQ, etc.)
- Coordinated research colloquia to highlight diversity and social justice research

Assistant Director, Center for Curriculum Transformation **2006-2007**

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

- Co-facilitated workshops on diversifying curriculum
- Wrote administrative reports and marketing materials

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Core Faculty, Women's Spirituality **2011-Present**

California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA

MA and PhD courses taught include:

- Womanist, Feminist, and Decolonial Worldviews
- Teaching to Transform: Liberatory Feminist Education
- Spiritual Activism and Transformative Social Change
- Cultivating Conscious Leadership among Women
- Animal Ethics: Spiritual, Ecological, and Philosophical Perspectives
- Sacred Lineages: Goddesses, Foremothers, and Activists
- Women's Spirituality Research Methodologies
- Women and World Religions (co-taught)
- Building Conscious Allyship
- MA Integrative Seminar
- Foundational Elements of Academic Research and Writing

Graduate Student Instructor, Women Studies **2001-2006**

University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Instructional Consultant **2001-2005**

Center for Instructional Development and Research, UW, Seattle, WA

Provided individualized consultations to graduate student instructors and led campus-wide presentations on effective pedagogy.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Women Studies **1999-2006**

Univ. of Washington, Seattle, WA

PUBLICATIONS

- Arora, Alka. "Pedagogy of the Consumed: An Integral Feminist Lens on Veganism in Higher Education." In *Feminist Animal and Multispecies Studies: Critical Perspectives on Food and Eating*, edited by Kadri Aavik, Kuura Irni and Milla-Maria Joki. Brill Publishers. [in press]
- Arora, Alka. "Feminism and Spiritual Citizenship." *Tarka: Journal of Embodied Philosophy*, Issue #6.
- Arora, Alka, Sherri Taylor, Sara Salazar, May Elawar, and Joanne Gozawa. 2021. "Pandemic Pedagogy: Narratives of Vulnerability, Grace, and Rebellion." In *Lessons from the Pandemic: Trauma-Informed Approaches to College, Crisis, Change*, edited by Janice Carello and Phyllis Thompson. New York, NY: Palgrave.
- Arora, Alka, May Elawar, and Serena Cheng. 2019. "Socially Conscious Leadership: An Integrated Model." *Journal of Leadership Studies*, 13: 38-43.
doi:[10.1002/jls.21662](https://doi.org/10.1002/jls.21662).
- Arora, Alka. 2018. "Re-Enchanting Feminism: Challenging Religious and Secular Patriarchies." In *Postsecular Feminisms: Religion and Gender in Transnational Context*, edited by Nandini Deo, 32-51. Oxford: Bloomsbury Press.
- Arora, Alka. 2017. "Women's Spirituality at CIIS: Uniting Integral and Feminist Pedagogies." *Integral Review*, Vol. 13. No. 1 July.
- Arora, Alka. 2016. "Justice for Just Us?" *Tikkun* 31, no. 1: 30-35.
- Arora, Alka, and May Elawar. 2015. "Questioning God: A Spiritual Feminist Dialogue." *CrossCurrents* 65, no. 4: 457-68.
- Arora, Alka. "Aligning in Socially Transformative Courses." 2005. In *Aligning for Learning: Strategies for Teaching Effectiveness*, edited by Donald Wulff, 147-161. Bolton, MA: Anker Books.

PODCASTS AND RECORDED WORKSHOPS

- Arora, A. (2021). "Sacred Feminism: Healing, Wisdom, and Social Justice." (Online Workshop). Spiritual Citizenship Conference, Hosted by Embodied Philosophy. July 2021. <https://www.embodiedphilosophy.com/author/alka-arora/>
- Arora, A. (2020). "Birthing the New Feminism: Healing, Ecology, and Sacred Activism." (Online workshop) Hosted by Birth Bruja. Recorded June 20, 2020.

- Arora, Alka. (2020) Interviewer. "Larry Ward: Healing America's Racial Karma." CIIS Public Programs Podcast. Recorded Oct 6, 2020. <https://www.ciispod.com/larry-ward>.
- Arora, Alka. (2020). Interviewer. "Missed Translations: An Online Conversation with Sopan Deb and Alka Arora." CIIS Public Programs Podcast. Recorded June 3, 2020. <https://www.ciispod.com/sopandeb/>
- Arora, A. (2019). *On Feminism's Fourth Wave*. CIIS Public Programs Podcast. Recorded August 2019. Recorded August 29, 2019. <https://soundcloud.com/publicprograms/alka-arora-on-feminisms-fourth-wave>

CONFERENCE PAPERS, INVITED TALKS, AND WORKSHOPS

- 2022 **Invited Panelist:** "Awakening to the Divine Feminine." Women's Spiritual Leadership for the 21st Century, Hosted by Dawn of Interspirituality. Online, March.
- 2022 **Workshop Leader:** "Tending the Wounds of Gender: A Deep Listening Workshop." Deep Listening for Social Change Project, Clouds in Water Zen Center. February.
- 2021 **Panelist:** "On Ecospirituality and Environmental Activism." Panel Title: *On Spiritual Citizenship*, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Virtual Portion. November.
- 2021 **Panel Presentation:** "Waking up to an Animate World: Ecology, Animals, and *Ahimsa*, Panel on Eco-Spirituality. Spiritual Citizenship Conference, Hosted by Embodied Philosophy. July.
- 2021 **Paper:** "Shifted Pedagogical Paradigms: Veganism and Social Justice Education." Presented at *Veganism: A Paradigm Shift, International Multidisciplinary Virtual Conference*, June.
- 2020 **Paper:** "Toward an Integrated and Engaged Buddhist Vision of Animal Ethics." Panel on Buddhism and Animal Ethics, Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. Virtualized. November.
- 2020 **Paper:** "Leading in Her Footsteps: The Influence of Spiritual Feminist Worldviews on Women's Leadership." Panel: Pushing the Edges of Spiritual Worldviews to Enhance Women's Leadership Advancement. Annual Meeting of the International Leadership Association (ILA). Virtualized. November.
- 2020 **Workshop:** "Developing Anti-Racist Culture and Commitments at CIIS," Hosted by Office of Diversity and Inclusion. California Institute of Integral Studies. June.
- 2020 **Workshop:** *Global GERI Connect*, Co-facilitator of Gender Equity and Reconciliation International online workshop. May.

- 2019 **Paper:** *Healing the Wounds of Gender: The Power of an Open Heart*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA), San Francisco, CA. November.
- 2019 **Paper:** *Protesting Speciesism: Feminism, Animal Agency, and Natural Justice*. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA), San Francisco, CA. November.
- 2019 **Keynote Speaker:** *Fourth Wave Feminism and the Climate Crisis*. Presentation at the Climate and Sex Symposium in Oakland, CA.
- 2019 **Workshop:** *From #Me Too to #We Too: Healing Between Women and Men in Community*. Co-facilitator for Gender Equity and Reconciliation International Workshop, Santa Fe, NM.
- 2018 **Panel Presentation:** "Justice for Just Us? Extending the Moral Circle to Include Animals," Parliament of World Religions, Toronto, ON, Canada. November.
- 2018 **Invited Presentation:** "Time's Up on Meat Eating: A Vegan Ecofeminist Manifesto," Religion and Ecology Summit, CIIS, San Francisco, CA. March.
- 2018 **Invited Plenary Speaker:** "Telling the Truth and Opening our Hearts: Women and Men Unlearning Patriarchy Together," Women Rising: New Visions for a Post-Patriarchal World, CIIS, San Francisco, CA, October.
- 2018 **Paper:** "My Relatives are Animals: Reclaiming Kinship between Human and Non-Human Creatures," Women Rising: New Visions for a Post-Patriarchal World, CIIS, San Francisco, CA, October.
- 2017 **Workshop:** "Spirituality and Social Justice: An Integral View" (co-facilitator), CIIS Founders' Symposium, CIIS, San Francisco, CA, April.
- 2016 **Invited Campus Presentation:** "Expanding the Frame: Feminist and Liberation Psychology" (Panel), Office of Diversity and Inclusion Lectures, CIIS, San Francisco, CA, November.
- 2016 **Paper:** "Integral Feminist Pedagogy," Part of a panel titled "Pedagogies of the Sacred: Women of Color and Transformative Education," National Conference On Race and Ethnicity in American Higher Education (NCORE), San Francisco, CA, June.
- 2016 **Paper:** "Re-Enchanting Feminism: Challenging Religious and Secular Patriarchies," *Feminisms Beyond the Secular: Emerging Epistemologies and Politics in the 21st Century*, Lehigh University, Bethlehem PA (presented online), March.

- 2015 **Invited Presentation:** “Waking up to Speciesism,” West Coast Ecofeminist Conference, Orange County, CA, July.
- 2015 **Paper:** “From Precarity to Possibility: Restorying the Feminist Classroom,” Part of a panel titled “Pedagogy in Precarious Times: Teaching Resistance, Resilience, and Love,” National Women Studies Association (NWSA) Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI, November.
- 2015 **Roundtable Presentation:** “Marketing our Programs in Precarious Times,” National Women Studies Association Administration and Development pre-conference, Milwaukee, WI, November.
- 2015 **Invited Panelist:** “Religious and Spiritual Inspiration and Empowerment for Women,” Parliament of World Religions, Salt Lake City, UT, October.
- 2015 **Paper (co-presented):** “Reclaiming a Sacred Relationship with All Beings: An Inter-spiritual Dialogue,” Parliament of World Religions, Salt Lake City, UT, October.
- 2015 **Campus Presentation:** “The Divine Feminist: Integrating Spirituality and Social Justice” (Panel), CIIS Founders’ Symposium, April.
- 2014 **Roundtable Presentation:** “Transcending Speciesism: Feminism and Animal Ethics,” National Women Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico. November.
- 2014 **Roundtable Presentation:** “TITLE??”, Research as Ceremony: Decolonizing Ethnic Studies," National Association of Ethnic Studies, Mills College, Oakland, CA, April.
- 2014 **Invited Panelist:** “Wisdom in the field of Women’s Spirituality,” Wisdom 2.0 Conference, CIIS, San Francisco, CA, February.
- 2012 **Paper:** “Trans-rational Feminist Praxis: Integrating the Spiritual, Political, and Personal,” Part of a panel titled "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House: Decolonizing Feminist Epistemologies via Spiritual Frameworks," National Women Studies Association Annual Meeting, Oakland, CA, November.
- 2012 **Paper:** “Envisioning the Fourth Wave: Young Women’s Creative Spiritual Activism,” Part of a panel titled "Transformative Activism: How Young Women’s Creativity and Spirituality is Re-Shaping the World," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November.

- 2012 **Invited panelist:** “Diverse Professional Perspectives,” related to the theme “Living Texts: Celebrating Feminist Perspectives on Theo/alogy, Authority, and the Sacred in the Academy.” American Academy of Religion, Western Region Annual Meeting, Santa Clara, CA, March.
- 2012 **Workshop:** “Leading from Spirit: Spiritual Activism and Visionary Leadership” (co-presenter), “Wo/men’s Conference 2012: Wo/men Engaging in Change,” Saint Mary’s College of California, Moraga, CA, March.
- 2012 **Invited paper:** “From Misappropriation to Solidarity: The Sacred Journey toward Political Engagement,” part of a panel titled “Cultural Appropriation: Instigations, Innovations, and Insights within Goddess Studies,” Association for the Study of Women in Mythology Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, May.
- 2010 **Invited Keynote Speaker:** Spoke on conference theme of “Revolutionizing our Identities and Raising Consciousness,” Womyn of Color Conference (student-run), University of California, Santa Barbara, CA. April.
- 2008 **Invited Paper:** “Feminism and Spiritual Activism: Opening a Conversation,” Religions and Feminisms: Countering Mutual Silence, Seattle Pacific University, April.
- 2006 **Invited Panel Presentation:** “Women Studies: The State of the Discipline,” Panel for editorial board meeting of *Affilia: Journal of Women and Social Work*, Seattle, WA, November.
- 2005 **Paper:** “Teaching with Critical and Feminist Pedagogies,” A Gathering by the Waters, 30th Annual Conference of the Professional and Organizational Developers Network, Milwaukee, WI. October.
- 2005 **Paper:** “Does Spirit Matter?: Examining Spirituality in the Lives of Seattle Feminists,” Women and the Environment: Globalizing and Mobilizing, National Women Studies Association, Orlando, FL. June.
- 2004 **Paper:** “Critical Hermeneutics as Feminist Method on Religion and Spirituality,” Feminist Epistemologies, Methods, Metaphysics, and Science Studies, University of Washington, November.
- 2004 **Workshop:** “Teacher as ‘Other’: TA’ing as a Woman of Color,” 2nd Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning, Center for Instructional Development and Research, University of Washington, September.
- 2003 **Paper:** “Teaching Feminist Theory in the New Millenium,” National Women Studies Association, New Orleans, LA. June.

- 2003 **Paper:** “Playing Earth Mother: The Misues of Native American Spirituality by non-Native Feminists,” Women Studies Section, Western Social Science Association, Las Vegas, NV. March.
- 2003 **Presentation (co-presented):** “Globalizing Feminist Theory: A Collaborative Process of Course Design,” One Step at a Time: Small Doable Acts, Worthwhile Results, 16th Annual Conference of the Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education, Seattle, WA. February.
- 2002 **Presentation:** “Designing an Inclusive Teaching Website” (co-presenter), Practicing What We Stand For: Access, Equity and Significant Student Learning, 15th Annual Conference of the Washington Center for Improving the Quality of Undergraduate Education, Tacoma, WA, October.

SERVICE TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

California Institute of Integral Studies

Faculty Representative, Presidential Search Committee	Fall 2020
Chair, Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Committee	2019-2020
Project Co-Leader, Curriculum Excellence Fellowship	2018-2019
Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Committee	2017-2019
Chair, Faculty Affairs Committee	2016-2018
Curriculum and Academic Review Committee	2013-2015
Diversity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Committee	2011-2013
Center for Beloved Community Committee	2012-2013

University of California, Santa Barbara

Co-Vice President, Professional Women’s Association	2009-2010
Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on the Status of Women	2008-2010
Intercollegiate Athletics Diversity Committee	2008-2010
Graduate Student Support Network	2008-2009

University of Washington

Co-Chair, Faculty and Staff Advisory Board,	
Graduate Opportunity and Minority Affairs Program	2007-2008
Teaching and Learning Consortium	2007-2008
Faculty Council on Instructional Quality, ex-officio member	2006-2008
Diversity Training Collective	2005-2006
Graduate Program Committee, Women Studies	2003-2004