# Debarati Sanyal

Professor of French

Director, Center for Interdisciplinary Critical Inquiry

Affiliated with the Program in Critical Theory, the Center for Race and Gender

the Institute for European Studies and the Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA 94720-2580

sanyal@ berkeley.edu

Education

Ph.D. (1997), Romance Languages and Literatures, Princeton University

B.A. (1991), English and Modern Languages, Oxford University–St. Hilda's College

Employment History

1999-present University of California-Berkeley

1996-1999 Yale University, Assistant Professor of French

1991-1996 Princeton University, Instructor and Lecturer

Honors and Fellowships

Guggenheim Fellowship (2021-2022)

Townsend Humanities Research Fellow (2013)

UC Berkeley Distinguished Teaching Award (2012)

Humanities Research Fellowship (2001-2002, 2006-2007, 2015-2016)

Publications

Books and Journal Issues:

*Memory and Complicity: Migrations of Holocaust Remembrance*

 (Fordham University Press, 2015), 352 pages.

*Mémoire et Complicité: Au prisme de la Shoah*, translated by Camille Perton, with a preface by Éric Fassin (Paris: Presses universitaires de Vincennes, 2019), 430 pages.

*The Violence of Modernity*: *Baudelaire, Irony and the Politics of Form*

(Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006), 288 pages.

Co-editor with Damon Young and Mario Telò, *Proximities: Reading with Judith Butler*. Representations (vol. 158:1, 2022).

Special Editor: *Time and Politics in Contemporary Critique: Entanglements and Aftermaths.* Critical Times: Interventions in Global Critical Theory (vol. 2 no.3, 2019).

Co-editor with Michael Rothberg and Max Silverman, *Noeuds de mémoire*: *Multidirectional Memory in Postwar French and Francophone Culture*, Yale French Studies 118/119 (2010).

*Arts of the Border: Fugitive Bodies at the Edges of Europe* (drafted)

Articles and Book Chapters:

“Wayward Voices, Beautiful Experiments: Improvisation and Upheaval in …(Iphigenia),” Wayne Shorter and esperanza spalding’s *…(Iphigenia)*: interdisciplinary perspectives

Ed. Helen Morales and Mario Telò, *Ramus*, 52.1 (in press).

“Memory, Allegory and the Plague: Albert Camus on COVID 19,” *Critical Memory Studies: New Approaches* (Bloomsbury, 2023).

“Documenting the Undocumented: Testimony, Attention, and Cinematic Asylum in *La Blessure*”. French Screen Studies: Special Issue on the Ethics of Care (vol. 22:1, 2022):

“Race, Security and Migration at the Euro-African Border”. Theory and Event: Matterphorical (vol. 24:1, 2021): 324-355.

"The Gender of Testimony," in *The Construction of Testimony: Claude Lanzmann’s Shoah and its Outtakes* ed. Erin McGothlin, Brad Prager, and Markus Zisselsberger (Wayne State University Press, 2020).

Introduction to *Time and Politics in Contemporary Critique: Entanglements and Aftermaths.* Critical Times: Interventions in Global Critical Theory (vol. 2 no.3, 2019).

“Humanitarian Detention and Figures of Persistence at the Border,” in *Time and Politics in Contemporary Critique: Entanglements and Aftermaths.* Critical Times: Interventions in Global Critical Theory (vol. 2 no.3, 2019):

“*Quelque chose de blanc*: Flaubert and the Matter of History,” in ‘Incipit: The Twentieth and Twenty first Century (Mis) Reading the Nineteenth,’ *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* (vol. 46: 3-4, 2018), 199-224.

"Calais's 'Jungle': Refugees, Biopolitics, and the Arts of Resistance," in *Representations* (no. 139: Summer 2017): 1-33.

Reprinted in *Refugee Routes*, eds. Kader Konuk, Vanessa Agnew, and Jane O. Newman (Bielefeld: Transcript Verlag, 2019).

 “The City as Heterotopia: Sylvain George’s *Paris est une fête*,” *La Furia Umana* (no. 39, 2017).

"Pedagogies of violence: A Tour through Baudelaire’s Fight Clubs" in *Approaches to Teaching Baudelaire's Prose Poems* ed. Cheryl Krueger (*MLA Approaches to Teaching World Literature*, 2017),107-119.

“Modiano’s Memoryscapes” in *Public Books*, Oct. 1 2015 (http://www.publicbooks.org/fiction/modianos-memoryscapes).

"Peindre non la chose, mais l'effet qui l'a produite: Défigurations du féminin dans *La Femme sauvage et la petite-maîtresse*" in *Lectures du Spleen de Paris* dir., Steve Murphy (Presses universitaires de Rennes: 2014): 251-263.

"Reading Baudelaire in the Age of Terror" in *Time for Baudelaire* *(Poetry, Theory, History)* ed. E.S. Burt, Elissa Marder and Kevin Newmark, *Yale French Studies* no. 125-126 (2014):102-118.

"Zones grises: mémoire et complicité dans *Le village de l’Allemand*" in ed. Richard Golsan and Marc Dambre, *Vichy et après: l'écriture occupée* (Presses Sorbonne Nouvelle, 2013). pages

"Ecologies de l'appartenance chez Camus" in *Albert Camus au Quotidien* dir. André Benhaïm, Aymeric Glacet (Les Presses Universitaires du Septentrion, collection "Objet", 2013): 121-140.

“Auschwitz as Allegory in *Night and Fog*, in *Concentrationary Cinema: Aesthetics as Political Resistance in Alain Resnais's 'Night and Fog'* ed. Max Silverman and Griselda Pollock (Berghahn Books, 2011): 152-182.

“Reading Nazi Memory in Jonathan Littell’s *Les Bienveillantes*” in

*Vichy 2010*, *L’Esprit Créateur* (50:4, January 2010): 47-66.

“Crabwalk History: Torture, Allegory and Memory in Sartre” in *Yale French Studies* vol. 118/199 (YUP: New Haven, 2010): 52-74.

 “The French War” in *The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of World War Two* ed. Marina Mackay, (Cambridge University Press, 2009): 83-97.

“Baudelaire and the Trauma of Modernity,” *Bulletin Baudelairien* 39 (2004): 85-97.

“Bodies on Display: Poetry, Violence, and the Feminine in Baudelaire and Mallarmé,” (Berkeley: Doe Library, University of California, 2003).

"A Soccer Match in Auschwitz: Passing Culpability in Holocaust Criticism," *Representations,* volume 79 (summer 2002): 1-27.

"The Tie That Binds: Violent Commerce in Baudelaire's 'La Corde'," *Yale French Studies, Fragments of Revolution,* volume 101(Spring 2002): 132-153. 132-153.

"The Object of Poetry: Commodity and Critique in Baudelaire," *Confrontations: Politics and Aesthetics in Nineteenth-Century France* (Amsterdam and Atlanta: Rodopi, 2001): 158-173. 158-173.

“Broken Engagements: Sartre, Camus and the Question of Commitment,” *Yale French Studies*, *The French Fifties*, volume 98 (Fall 2000): 29-49.29-49.

"Conspiratorial Poetics: Baudelaire's 'Une Mort héroïque,'" *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* volume 27/4(Spring-Summer 1999): 305-322.

Book Reviews:

Sylvie Lindeperg, *“Night and Fog”: A Film in History*. Translated by Tom Mes (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014) in H-France Review Vol. 17, June 2017): 1-4.

Heathcote, Owen, *Balzac and Violence: Representing History, Space, Sexuality, and Death in La Comédie humaine* (Bern: Peter Lang, 2009) in Nineteenth-Century French Studies 42, nos. 3&4 Spring Summer 2014.

Caron, David et Sharon Marquart, Eds. *Les Revenantes: Charlotte Delbo, la voix d'une communauté à jamais déportées* (Toulouse: Presses universitaires du Mirail, 2011) in *Contemporary French Civilization* (Liverpool University Press, 38/1, 2013) :111-113.

David Gascoigne, Ed., *Violent Histories: Violence, Culture and Identity in France from Surrealism to the Néo-Polar* (Bern: Peter Lang, 2007) in H-France Review Vol. 8 (January 2008), No. 6.

Virginia Swain: *Grotesque Figures: Baudelaire, Rousseau and the Aesthetics of Modernity* (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004) in *French Forum* 30.3 (2005): 143-145.

Frank Hilton: *Baudelaire in Chains: Portrait of the Artist as a Drug Addict* (New York: Peter Owen Publishers, 2004) in *Nineteenth-Century French Studies* (34, Nos. 1&2 Fall-Winter 2005).

ed. Patricia A. Ward with the assistance of James S. Patty: *Baudelaire and the Poetics of Modernity* (Nashville, Vanderbilt University Press, 2001) in *Sub-Stance: A Review of Theory and Literary Criticism* 32.2 (2003): 138-142.

Dominick La Capra: *Writing History, Writing Trauma* (Baltimore, London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001) *Sub-Stance: A Review of Theory and Literary Criticism*31.2&3 (2002): 301-306.

Blog Posts:

"The Social Contract and the Game of Monopoly: Listening to Kimberly Jones on Black Lives" (6/29/20): <https://ctjournal.org/2020/06/29/the-social-contract-and-the-game-of-monopoly-listening-to-kimberly-jones-on-black-lives/>

"The Virus and the Plague: Albert Camus on COVID-19" (3/27/20): <https://bullybloggers.wordpress.com/2020/03/27/the-virus-and-the-plague-albert-camus-on-covid-19/>

Guest Lectures:

"The dark background of mere givenness': Refugee Kino-aesthetics and Politics," Tulane, French and Italian Department (4/20/2023).

Documenting the Undocumented: Asylum, Care, and Repair in *La Blessure*, University of Louisiana, Lafayette, 3/4/2022

‘Frames of Asylum: Documenting the Undocumented in Cinema (Klotz and Perceval’s La Blessure)’, *Maison française d’Oxford*, Modern French Research Seminar (10/21 2021)

“*Nous sommes les messagers d’une époque*: Documenting Race and Resistance at the Euro-African Border”, Princeton University, Race in France Lecture Series (10/5/2020).

“Arts of the Jungles: Refugees in Calais”, UC Irvine, Lecture Series on Borders and Belonging (11/8/2019).

“Messengers from Melilla’s Borders”, University of Bergen conference on Native/Immigrant/Refugee: Crossings and Divides (8/28/ 2019).

‘Memory in Complicity,’*Memory at the Crossroads of the Political Present: The Question of Justice*, International Consortium of Critical Theory Programs/Centro Cultural de la Memoria Haroldo Conti, Buenos Aires, Argentina (10/4, 2019); also speaker at the concluding roundtable (12 April, 2019).

## ‘Swarm, Storm: Border Technology and Arts of Persistence around Calais and Melilla,’ Princeton University, *Reading Matters, A Conference*. 11/30/2018.

‘Crossing Borders: Refugees, Migrants, Stateless Lives.’ Columbia Center for the Study of Social Difference. 9/28/2018.

‘Poetics of Flight: Framing the Refugee ‘Crisis’,’ Durham University (UK), *Bodies. Texts and Nations Research Group* 5/24/2018. Included a graduate seminar on migration and visual culture.

‘Poetics of Detention: Framing the Refugee ‘Crisis’,’ University of Utrecht, *Forum for Memory Studies*, 5/22/2018.

‘Compassion as Repression: Framing the Refugee ‘Crisis’,’ Swarthmore Lecture under the auspices of [*Searching for Sanctuary: Borders, Migration & Human Rights*](https://swarthmoremigrationseries.wordpress.com/) (4/11, 2018)

‘Arts of Memory and Persistence,’ *Entanglements and Aftermaths: Reflections on Memory and Political Time*, International Consortium of Critical Theory Programs/Wits Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa (2/ 23/2019).

Also introduced the conference on Feb. 21.

‘Detention, Compassion, Attention: Framing Refugees in Recent French Film’

Yale University Department of French (9/21/2017)

‘Figuring Protest in Sylvain George’s *Paris est une fête’*

*Institute of Modern and Contemporary Studies*, Penn State University (6/12/2017).

‘Colonial Memory and Trauma,’ *Mellon-Sawyer Seminar in Comparative Global Humanities* at Tufts University (2/ 16/2017).

‘Transnational Concentrationary Aesthetics’

*Transnational French Modernisms*, Durham University, UK (6/ 6, 2016)

‘La Migration des mémoires’ (lecture on *Memory and Complicity*)

Seminar on *L'Écriture de la théorie*, Université de Paris-8 (March 11, 2016)

‘Art in the Jungle: Envisioning Refugees in the Calais Camp’

*Modern French Research Seminar*, Queen's College, Cambridge University (March 7, 2016)

‘Art in the Jungle: Envisioning Refugees in the Calais Camp (lecture); ‘

*Memory and Complicity: Migrations of Holocaust Remembrance* (seminar).

Northwestern University (February 19, 2016).

‘The Gender of Testimony’

*The Invention of Testimony: Claude Lanzmann’s Shoah in the Twenty-First Century* University of Missouri (November 13, 2015).

‘Framing Refugee Testimony: Zones of Exception and Cinematic Asylum’ (plenary)

Department of French and Italian Fiftieth Anniversary

University of Pittsburgh (October 30, 2015).

‘Holocaust Memory in an Age of Terror: *The German Mujahid’* (keynote lecture),

“The Cinematic Legacy of *Night and Fog*” (presentation).

*Symposium on Trauma and Global Literature*, University of Maryland (May 1, 2015).

*Memory and Complicity: Migrations of Holocaust Remembrance*, Berkeley Book Chat

Townsend Center for the Humanities (March 5, 2014).

‘Albert Camus's Afterlives: From the Holocaust to the Age of Terror’

Institute for Humanities Research, University of California-Santa Cruz

(November 4, 2013).

‘Against Identification’

Tulane University, Symposium on Politics, Ethics and Transnational Memory

October 25, 2013.

‘Holocaust Memory and the War on Terror: The Case of Boualem Sansal’

Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M University

(March 21, 2013).

‘Zones grises: mémoire et complicité dans *Le village de l’Allemand’*

 *Vichy et après: l'écriture occupée* at Paris III/Nouvelle Sorbonne (May 31-June 1 2011).

‘Migrations of the Plague: Albert Camus, the Concentrationary, and Terror’

University of California-Irvine (May 6, 2011).

‘The Multiple Histories of Albert Camus’

Department of French, University of Minnesota (February 15, 2011).

‘Auschwitz as Allegory in *Night and Fog’*

University of Leeds, United Kingdom

*Concentrationary Memories and the Politics of Representation* series

 November 26, 2008.

‘The Politics of Memory in *Night and Fog’*

Stanford University

*French Culture Workshop,*  January 16, 2007.

‘Auschwitz and Algeria in Resnais’ *Nuit et brouillard’*

Princeton University, Romance Languages and Literatures (May 20, 2006).

‘Baudelaire’s Women and the Forms of Modernity’

University of Southern California, Department of French (March 30, 2005).

‘The Revenge of Matter on Form: Baudelaire’s Legacy Revisited’

University of Virginia, Department of Comparative Literature (April 6, 2004).

‘Accursed Poets and Bad Girls: Virginie Despentes’ *Baise-moi’*

Georgetown University, Colloquium: *La Littérature et le mal* (April 5, 2004).

‘From *poètes maudits* to *femmes damnées*: Baudelaire, Rachilde, Despentes’

Rice University, Department of French (March 25, 2004).

‘A Soccer Match in Auschwitz: Levi, Agamben, Felman and Camus’

Stanford University, Department of French and Italian (March 6, 2002).

‘Bodies on Display: Poetry, Violence and the Feminine in Baudelaire and Mallarmé,’

University of California, Berkeley, Morrison Inaugural Lecture (January 29, 2002).

‘Falling into History: Literature and Terror in Camus's *La Chute’*

University of California, Davis, French Colloquium Series, (May 9, 2000).

Conference papers, workshops and seminars:

‘Messengers from Melilla,’ Memory Studies Association, Madrid (6/26/2019)

Respondent to Viet Thanh Nguyen’s keynote at the Memory Studies Association, Madrid (June 27, 2019)

‘Expropriated Bodies and Risky Personhoods,’ UC Berkeley Center for Race and Gender panel on *Border Surveillance and the Black Mediterranean: Alternative Imaginaries of Refugees, Race and Rights* (Feb. 28, 2019).

 ‘Border Technology,’ in *Open Borders? Migration, Literature and Film.*

Modern Languages Association, Chicago (Jan. 6, 2019)

‘Arrested Movement, Moving Arrest: Reading Contemporary Migration with Ross Chambers, ‘in *Room for Maneuver: Reading with Ross Chambers,* Modern Languages Association, Chicago (Jan. 5, 2019).

‘Rethinking the Refugee,’ Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, New Orleans, Oct. 20, 2018.

‘Public Rites of Protest and Minoritarian Resistance: The Cinema of Sylvain George,’ 20th/21st-Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium, Brown University, April 13, 2018.

Also organizer and chair of the panel, Dystopic Utopias: Placing the Act, Acting in Place.

‘Immunitary Borders: Racism and Refugee Detention in Recent Film,’ ACLA at UCLA April 1, 2018. Also co-organizer of the seminar on Racist Memory, Memories of Racism, and the Question of Justice, UCLA March 30-April 1.

‘Envisioning States of Detention: Refugees and Activist Cinema,’ Modern Languages Association Convention, New York, Jan. 2018.

‘Picturing Refugee Detention,’ Assocation for the Study of the Arts of the Present, Oakland, October 26, 2017.

A roundtable on Camus’s State of Siege. Zellerbach Auditorium, Berkeley, Oct. 21, 2017.

‘Art of Memory in Calais’s ‘Jungle’,’ American Comparative Literature Association, Utrecht University, July 9, 2017.

‘The Refugee "Crisis" and Holocaust Memory in Contemporary French Film’

*Other Europes: Migrations, Translations, Transformations*, Modern Language Assocation Symposium, Düsseldorf , June 24, 2016

Chair of opening plenary, Citizens withoutBorders*, Other Europes: Migrations, Translations, Transformations*, Modern Language Assocation Symposium,

Düsseldorf, June 23, 2016

‘Testimony and Forms of Attention: Cinematic Asylum in *La Blessure’*

International Colloquium of 20th and 21st-century French and Francophone Studies

University of Louisiana-Baton Rouge (February 27, 2015), session organizer and chair.

‘Memory in Complicity’

*Transnational Memories: Sites, Knots, Methods* (Roundtable)

Modern Languages Association Conference (January 6, 2015).

‘Trauma and Asylum: Bangladeshi Refugees in France’

Trauma Fictions in Contemporary Culture Workshop

Org. Mark Sandberg, UC Berkeley (May 29, 2014).

‘The Poetics of Political Asylum’

Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association-Capitals

New York University (March 20-23, 2014).

*‘Assommons les pauvres!* Dislocations from Charles Baudelaire to Shumona Sinha’

40th Annual Nineteenth-Century French Studies ColloquiumUniversity of Puerto Rico (October 17, 2014).

*Memory and Complicity; Migrations of Holocaust Remembrance*, Mellon Discovery Seminar, UC Berkeley (October 2013).

Urban Palimpsests and the Claims of Memory in Assia Djebar’

Workshop on Recollection, Retribution, Reconciliation: Postmemory and Justice in a Transnational Age, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana (Oct. 4-5, 2012).

‘Dangerous Intersections: Memory and Complicity in Boualem Sansal’s *Le Village de l’Allemand’*

International Colloquium on 20th-21st Century French Studies, CalState- Long Beach 4/2012.

‘Plague of Postmemory: Albert Camus’

American Comparative Literature Association (April 1, 2011).

Session: *Postmemory and the Holocaust in Transnational Contexts*.

‘The Poetry of Terror’

Nineteenth-Century French Studies, New Haven (October 16, 2010).

*Reading Baudelaire in the Age of Terror* (Session organizer and chair).

‘Dangerous Intersections: Memory and Complicity in Boualem Sansal’s *Le Village de*

*l’Allemand* ‘

American Comparative Literature Association, New Orleans (4/28/2010).

‘Reflections on the Gray Zone’

*New Voices*: International Symposium on Primo Levi, Primo Levi Center, NY, October 24, 2009

‘Auschwitz as Allegory: From *Night and Fog* to Guantanamo Bay’

American Comparative Literature Association, Harvard (March 27, 2009)

‘Torture and its Occupations in Sartre,’ Session Organizer and Speaker,

 Modern Languages Association, San Francisco, (December 30, 2008)

‘Dangerous Intersections: The Multiple Histories of Albert Camus’

Session Organizer and Speaker

International Colloquium on 20th-21st Century French Studies, Georgetown March 2008

‘Allegory and Inhumanity in Sartre’

Association of Jewish Studies, Toronto. December 2007

‘Converging Histories of Torture in Sartre’s *Les Séquestrés d’Altona’*

20th and 21st Century French and Francophone Studies International Colloquium

Texas A&M University, April 2007.

‘Baudelaire and the Delusions of Empire’

Nineteenth-century French Studies Colloquium, University of Texas, October 28, 2005

‘Violence and Modernity: Poetry, Irony and Critique in Baudelaire,’ Nineteenth-century French Studies Colloquium, University of Arizona, Tucson (October 23, 2003).

‘Bodies on Stage, Poetry on Trial’

Modern Languages Association Annual Convention, Special Session: ‘Baudelaire on Trial: The Politics of Poetry,’ New York, December 2002.

‘Baudelaire's Victims and Executioners’

American Comparative Literature Association Annual Convention

University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, April 2002 (“Translating Ethics” session co-organizer and co-chair).

*Nous…qui n'entendons pas que l'on crie sans fin*: Representation and Complicity in Alain Resnais' *Nuit et Brouillard*

International Colloquium on 20th-21st Century French Studies

University of Hartford, Connecticut, April 2002.

‘Whipped into Shape: Baudelaire's 'La femme sauvage et la petite maîtresse'’

Nineteenth-century French Studies Colloquium

University of Wisconsin, Madison, October 2001.

‘A Soccer Match in Auschwitz: Some Reflections on Recycling the Holocaust’

International Colloquium on 20th-Century French Studies, Re-cycling

University of California, Davis, March 2001.

"To what may I compare thee that I may comfort thee?" Respondent to panel on Narrative Ethics

Narrative: An International Conference

Rice University, Houston, March 2001.

‘Spectacular Bodies in Baudelaire’

North East Modern Languages Association

University of Pittsburgh, April 1999.

‘The Object of Poetry: Commodity and Critique in Baudelaire’

Nineteenth-Century French Studies, State College of Pennsylvania, October 1998.

 ‘Performing Violences: Reading Camus with Baudelaire’

 Conference on Violence and Representation, Emory University, February 1998.

‘Conspiratorial Poetics and the Body Politic in 'Une Mort héroïque'’

 Nineteenth-Century French Studies, University of Georgia October 1997.