

TARA MARIA FERNANDES

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EDUCATION

2022-26	Teachers College, Columbia University, PhD in English Education
2019-21	Bangalore City University: S.B. College, B.Ed.
2013-14	University of Cambridge: Newnham College. MPhil in American Literature
2011-13	University of Delhi: St. Stephen's College. M.A. First Class Honors English
2008-11	University of Delhi: St. Stephen's College. B.A. First Class Honors English
2004-07	Mallya Aditi International School, Bangalore, IGCSE and AICE Diploma

WORK EXPERIENCE

2025	Adjunct Associate at Barnard College, Columbia University for "Foundations of Education": an undergraduate-level course (Fall '25)
2024-25	Instructor at Teachers College, Columbia University for "Teaching of Shakespeare": graduate-level course (Fall '24; Fall '25)
2025	Part-Time Instructor with Dr. Ruth Vinz for INSTEP's Literature & Teaching (Summer program, Teachers College), with a focus on Book Clubs
2024-25	Teaching Assistant at Barnard College, Columbia University for "Educational Foundations": an undergraduate-level course (Fall '24 and Spring '25)
2024	Part-Time Instructor at Teachers College, Columbia University for English Education Fieldwork Workshops (Spring '24)
2023-24	Morse Fellow at Center for Professional Education of Teachers (CPET), Teachers College, Columbia University: coaching and mentoring TC's newly graduated teachers
2023-25	Awarded the PEO International Peace Scholarship for 2023-4 and 2024-25.
2023-25	International House, NYC Program Fellow & Founder of "The I-House Book Club"
2022-23	Success Coordinator K-5 (CS-154 Harriet Tubman Elementary School): Using Book Clubs and Success Mentoring techniques to engage students and improve attendance
2022-23	Zankel Urban Fellow: Awarded the Arthur Zankel Urban Fellowship, I worked as a Literacy Interventionist and Success Mentor for Raising Educational Achievement Coalition of Harlem (REACH) in NYC public schools.
2015-22	High School English Teacher at Mallya Aditi International School (Bangalore, India). I taught English Language and Literature to Grades 9-12.
2017	Invited to the Brearley School Travel/Study Program at Brearley School, New York
2014	Content and Translation Coordinator (Human Rights Education) for Amnesty International India; Founder of the AI India Book Club

PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS & AWARDS

2025	Paper presentation (panel) on "Rituals that Render: Toward the Beloved Community in and beyond the Classroom" at North Eastern Philosophy of Education Society (NEPES) Annual Conference, Haverford College, Pennsylvania.
2025	Presentation & Teaching Demo on "Book Clubs as Sites of Conversation and Community" at Celebration of Teaching 2025 conference at Teachers College, Columbia University
2025	Awarded the Gail and Garland Keithly Educational Scholarship Award (2025-26)
2024	Paper Presentation (panel): "Developing a Love for Reading in the Book Club Subject" at the AERA Conference, Philadelphia
2024	Awarded "Best Educational Enterprise" by International House NYC for the I-House Book Club: Founded in October 2023, I facilitate monthly sessions of the Book Club
2022	Publication: "Only Connecting!: Transaction and Engagement in my Literature Classroom" The English Record Vol 72 #1 Spring 2023
2020	Paper presentation: Of Book Clubs and Reading Projects, secondhand bookstores and coffee-house conversation. Of refusing to believe that "Kids These Days Don't Want to Read" at the Aditi Professional Development Centre (PDC).
2012	Awarded <i>The Muriel Wasi Prize</i> for the highest marks in English (Hons.) 2011-2012, St. Stephen's College, Delhi University and The Sumitomo – St. Stephen's Scholarship for Academic Excellence for three years consecutively (2008-11)
2012	Qualified for Lectureship at Indian Universities, UGC National Eligibility Test (NET)