

**Ankhi G. Thakurta**  
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## CURRICULUM VITAE

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### **PhD (2023) University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education**

*(Reading/Writing/Literacy)*

**Dissertation:** “Landscapes of (Im)possibility: A Comparative Case Study of the Civic Identities, Literacies, and Learning of U.S. and Indian Urban Migrant Girls”

Defended with distinction

**Committee:** Dr. Gerald Campano (Chair), Dr. María Paula Ghiso, Dr. Vivian Gadsden, and Dr. Kathleen Hall

### **M.A. (2018) Brooklyn College (City University of New York)**

*Teaching English Grades 7-12*

### **Ed.M. (2015) Harvard Graduate School of Education**

*Language and Literacy Generalist Class of 2015*

### **B.A. (2012) Swarthmore College**

*Study Abroad: Oxford University (2010-2011), Wadham College*

*Majors: English Literature, Sociology & Anthropology*

**Anthropology Thesis:** “‘A Desirable Difference:’ Bengali American Processes of Identity Formation and Assertion”

**Advisor:** Dr. Maya Nadkarni

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**Research Interests:** literacy, critical English education, critical literacy education, critical civics education, practitioner research, community-based research, migration, urban studies, transnational childhood, youth, and girlhood studies

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## Publications

### *Peer-Reviewed Journals*

Ghiso, M.P., Campano, G., **Thakurta, A.**, & Vazquez, O\*. (2022). Community-based research with immigrant families: Sustaining an intellectual commons of care, resistance, and solidarity in an urban intensive context. *Urban Education*. Online First.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00420859221082676>.

- Staufert-Reyes E., Wan, C., **Thakurta, A.**, Winsch, J., Sykes, Z.\*, Luong, Q.\* Ghiso, M.P. (2022). Cultivating virtual communities of care: Reflections on community-based research in times of sociopolitical precarity. *Literacy Research: Theory, Method, and Practice*. 71(1): 437-459. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23813377221114479>.
- Thakurta, A.** (2021). The door was always there: Transnational youth leverage their multiliteracies for civic justice. *Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*. 64(6): 645-656. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jaal.1148>.
- Thakurta, A.**, Kannan, C., Moon, J., & Ghiso, M.P. (2021). A seat at the table: Preparing youth to shape institutional change at an NCTE roundtable presentation. *Voices From the Middle*. 28(4): 69-74. <https://library.ncte.org/journals/VM/issues/v28-4/31281>.
- Thakurta, A.** Kannan, C., \*Setiawan, D., \*Kosasih, M., Ghiso M.P., & Campano, G. (2020). The power of the collective in community-based education research. In *Perspectives on Urban Education*. Winter Issue. <https://urbanedjournal.gse.upenn.edu/volume-17-spring-2020/power-collective-community-based-educational-research>.
- \*Gultom, F...**Thakurta, A.**, Kannan, C., \*Vazquez, O., Narron, L., Campano, H. G. (2019). “What is home?” A collaborative multimodal inquiry project by transnational youth in South Philadelphia. *In:cite journal*, 1(2), 4–24. <https://doi.org/10.33137/incite.2.32826>
- Thakurta, A.** (2014). An inside job? Revisiting disciplinary conceptions of ‘native’ anthropology. *Electra Street: The NYUAD Journal of Arts and Humanities*. 1(1): 55-68. <https://electrastreet.net/periodicals/electra-street/es01/>.

### ***Book Chapters & Bibliographies***

- Thakurta, A.**, Wan, C., & Campano, G. (In press). Towards a border transgressing pedagogy: Disrupting oppressive ecologies of control, surveillance, and displacement in schools and beyond. In Paul Downes, Guofang Li, Lore Van Praag, and Stephen Lamb (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook on Promoting Equity in Education through Inclusive Systems and Societies*. Routledge.
- Campano, G., Ghiso, M.P., & **Thakurta, A.** (2022). Community-based partnerships: Advancing epistemic rights through improvement research. In Don Peurach, Jenn Russell, Lora Cohen-Vogel, Bill Penuel, David Eddy-Spicer, Amanda Datnow, Marisa Cannata, & Alan Daly (Eds.), *The Foundational Handbook on Improvement Research in Education* (pp. 189-210). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

**Thakurta, A.**, Ogburn, L., Rosado-Viurques, A. (2021). Minding the school-community leadership gap: Reframing for critical praxis. In Katherine Pak & Sharon Ravitch (Eds.), *Critical Leadership Praxis: Leading Educational and Social Change*. Teachers College Press.

Campano, G., Ghiso, M.P., & **Thakurta, A.** (2021). Literacy teaching for equity: The epistemic privilege of non-dominant identities and communities of inquiry. In Margaret Vaughn & Seth Parsons (Eds.), *Principles of Effective Literacy Instruction*. Guilford.

Asaah, G., **Thakurta, A.**, Ghiso, M.P., & Campano, G. (2020). Equity and improvement: Engaging students, families, and communities. In *Oxford Bibliographies in Education*. Ed. Anne Hynds. Oxford University Press. [10.1093/OBO/9780199756810-0253](https://doi.org/10.1093/OBO/9780199756810-0253).

### *Editorials*

Smith, A. & **Thakurta, A.** (2022). Feedback redux: Affirming youths' learning lives through a design thinking approach to feedback. *Voices from the Middle*, 29(4), 14-18.  
<https://library.ncte.org/journals/vm/issues/v29-4/31921>.

**Thakurta, A. G.**, & Smith, A. (2022). Flexibility by and for design: Reimagining learning structures in unsettled times. *Voices from the Middle*, 29(3), 14-17.  
<https://www.proquest.com/openview/fb92ab2c36007ab32bf15146f7dab4f2/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=33274>.

**Thakurta, A.**, Rogers, C., Thomas, E.E., Stornaiuolo, A., & Campano, G. (2021). Editors' introduction: childhoods across borders. *Research in the Teaching of English*, 56(1), 5–9.  
<https://doi.org/10.58680/rte202131340>.

Mora, R., Campano, G., Thomas, E.E., Stornaiuolo, A., Monea, B., **Thakurta, A.**, & Coleman, J.J. (2020). Editors' introduction: Decentering and decentralizing literacy studies: An urgent call for the field. *Research in the Teaching of English*, 54(4), 313-317.  
<https://doi.org/10.58680/rte202030735>.

Campano, G., Stornaiuolo, A., Thomas, E. E., & **Thakurta, A.** (2020). Editors' introduction: Migration, literacy, and dislocation. *Research in the Teaching of English*, 54(3), 201-205.  
<https://doi.org/10.58680/rte202030518>.

### *Book Reviews*

**Thakurta, A.** (2022). Review of *Where is the justice? Engaged pedagogies in schools and communities* by Valerie Kinloch, Emily A. Nemeth, Tamara T. Butler, and Grace Player. *Journal of Early*

*Childhood Literacy* (special issue on emancipatory and pro-Black early literacy pedagogy and research). 455-612. <https://doi-org.proxy.library.upenn.edu/10.1177/14687984221135511>.

*\*Denotes community or youth partners*

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### Fellowships & Grants

- 2022-2023:** National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship (\$27,500)  
**2018-2020:** Dean's Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (4 years of funding)  
**2015-2018:** New York City Teaching Fellowship  
**2012-2014:** Global Academic Fellowship, New York University Abu Dhabi (\$25,000 per year)  
**2012:** The Martha E. Tyson Fellowship for graduate study, awarded by Swarthmore College (\$5,000)
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### Honors and Awards

- 2023:** The Ralph C. Preston Award For Scholarship and Teaching Contributing to Social Justice and Educational Equity (University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education)  
**2022:** AERA Writing and Literacies Special Interest Group (SIG) Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorary Mention  
**2022:** Graduate Student Award For Ethical Innovations in Research (\$1,200)  
**2021:** English Language Arts Teacher Educators (ELATE) Graduate Student Research Award (\$2,500)  
**2020:** Literacy Research Association Area 8 Chair Award (*shared with María Paula Ghiso, Ericka Stanfart-Reyes, Claire Wan, and Gerald Campano*)  
**2020:** University of Pennsylvania Office of the Provost Campaign for Community Award, "Exploring Racial Justice Alongside Communities of Color During COVID-19" (*co-authored with Gordon Asaab on behalf of Dr. Campano's Research Partnership; \$1,000 for literacy kits and books on racial justice for community partners*)  
**2012:** Phi Beta Kappa, Swarthmore College  
**2012:** Mark of Excellence Award in Journalism (*in collaboration with Stuart Russell and Elliana Bisgaard-Church for reporting on drone warfare for War News Radio at Swarthmore College*)
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### Conference and Travel Funding

- 2022:** Reading/Writing/Literacy Department Conference Funding (\$800)  
**2021:** University of Pennsylvania GAPSA Research Council Conference Grant (\$565)  
**2020:** CIES Conference Funding, *Unequal Citizens Project* (\$300 offered but unused due to COVID-19 conference cancellation)  
**2020:** CIES Conference Funding, Penn GSE International Education Development Program (\$100 offered but unused due to COVID-19 conference cancellation)
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## Research Experience

**2021-2022: Principal Investigator, *Landscapes of (Im)possibility: A Comparative Case Study of the Civic Identities, Literacies, and Learning of U.S. and Indian Urban Migrant Girls***

Led a practitioner study exploring the civic identities, literacies, and learning of adolescent girls from two U.S. and Indian urban migrant communities. Analyzed how youth took up invitations for critical civic learning in two virtual city-based critical civic education communities featuring discussions of social issues, invitations to analyze diverse literary texts, and opportunities for multimodal meaning-making. Supplemented this with analysis of interviews with youth, community-based educators, and community elders in each city. This research was funded by a 2022 NAEd/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship, a 2021 English Language Arts Teacher Educators (ELATE) Graduate Student Research Award, and a Graduate Student Award for Ethical Innovations in Research (a total of **\$31,200** in funding).

**2020-2022: Project Manager, *Communities Advancing Research in Education (CARE)***

*Full involvement: Fall 2018-Summer 2022*

Managed Dr. Gerald Campano and Dr. María Paula Ghiso's Spencer and AERA-funded multi-year research practice partnership exploring issues of educational equity and access alongside linguistically, racially, and culturally diverse children, youth, and elders in South Philadelphia. Responsibilities include planning and coordinating community meetings, gathering and analyzing data, preparing and delivering publications and presentations, and facilitating research alongside children, youth and families using anti-racist reading/writing pedagogy.

**2019: Research Assistant, *Unequal Citizens***

Supported Dr. Ameena Ghaffar-Kucker on her Spencer-funded investigation with Dr. Thea Abu El-Haj, Dr. Arshad Ali, Dr. Michelle Fine, and Dr. Roozbeh Shirazi on the civic identities and sociopolitical orientations of Muslim American youth. Primary responsibilities included data analysis, such as coding and memo-writing.

**2015: Research Assistant, Dr. Lisa Hsin**

Assisted researcher Dr. Lisa Hsin on her comparative study with Professor Catherine Snow at the Harvard Graduate School of Education about the perspective-taking abilities of urban bilingual and monolingual children. Supported by transcribing and coding student essays.

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## Conference Activity

**Thakurta, A.,** (April 2023). Citizenship from the internal margins: Translocal Indian girls map multiliterate pathways through critical civic education. Paper presentation at the American Educational Research Association Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

**Thakurta, A.** (March 2023). Landscapes of (im)possibility: A comparative case study of the civic identities, literacies, and learning of U.S. and Indian urban migrant girls. Invited paper presentation at the 2022 National Academy of Education/Spencer Spring Fellows Retreat in Washington, D.C.

**Thakurta, A.,** & Vehabovic, N. (December 2022). Imagining a right to place: A cross-case analysis of the transnational identities, experiences, and literacies of migrant youth in two urban afterschool programs. Paper presentation at the Literacy Research Association Conference in Phoenix Arizona.

Wan, C., **Thakurta, A.,** Wunsch, J., Sambolín Morales, A., Staufert, E., Campano, G. (December 2022). Collaborative inscriptions: Charting the process of participatory book-writing in a community-based research practice partnership. Roundtable presentation at the Literacy Research Association Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Thakurta, A.** (April 2022). "I have the advantage": Tracing literate girlhoods in an urban Asian American civic education collective. Paper presentation at the American Educational Research Association Conference in San Diego, California. *\*Paper awarded the Writing and Literacies Special Interest Group (SIG) Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Honorary Mention award\**

Wan, C., **Thakurta, A.,** Staufert, E., & Ghiso, M.P. (December 2021). Cultivating virtual communities of care: reflections on community-based research in times of socio-political precarity. Virtual paper presentation, Area 7, Literacy Research Association.

**Thakurta, A.** (November 2021; declined due to scheduling conflicts). Navigating the civic paradox: Tracing the civic multiliteracies of Asian American girls. Primary Presenter, On-demand Panel Presentation for *Youth Enacting Critical, Digital, and Civic Literacies for Social Change*. Virtual National Council of Teachers of English Conference.

Ghiso, M.P., **Thakurta, A.,** Staufert-Reyes, E.G., Wan, C., Campano, G. (December 2020). Collective agency in action: reflections on community-led inquiries into three educational priorities. Virtual Presentation at the Literacy Research Association Conference. *\*Winner of the LRA Area 8 Chair Award\**

**Thakurta, A.** (December 2020). Unbounding the American dream: Tracing transnational Civic literacies in a youth learning collective. Virtual roundtable presentation at the Literacy Research Association Conference.

**Thakurta, A.,** \*Lie, J., \*Setiawan, O., and \*Gultom, F. (February 2020). "In the republic of peace:" Inquiring into culturally responsive civics education with transnational youth. Presentation at

the Ethnography in Education Conference at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Kannan, C., **Thakurta, A.**, & Ghiso, M.P. (December 2019). Negotiating with care: Exploring individual and collective identities in a transnational youth writing collective. Roundtable presentation at the Literacy Research Association (LRA) conference in Tampa, Florida.

Campano, G., **Thakurta, A.**, \*Vazquez, O., Ghiso, M.P., Kannan, C. (November 2019). The power of youth inquiry into educational equity. LLA Open Session at the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) conference in Baltimore, Maryland.

**Thakurta, A.** (October 2019). 'In the Republic of Peace': An inquiry into civics education with transnational youth. Individual Presentation at the Seminario Binacional en Innovación, Educativa, Liderazgo, y Literacidad at the University of Guadalajara in Guadalajara, Mexico.

**Thakurta, A.** (July 2019). Inquiry as stance: An example from the field. Workshop presentation at the Semana Academica at the University of Guadalajara in Guadalajara, Mexico.

**Thakurta, A.** (September 2018). Analyzing perceptions of student literacy proficiency: A case study. Workshop Presentation for Masters in Literacy candidates at the University of Guadalajara in Guadalajara, Mexico.

**Thakurta, A.**, Beverly, A., & Diamond, C. (March 2017). 'A Race to the bottom?' A critical lens on the disparity in literacy education. Presentation at the Harvard Graduate School of Education Alumni of Color Conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Thakurta, A.** & Gulley, E. (March 2015). Engagement, writing quality, and argumentation: A preliminary analysis. Presentation at the Harvard Graduate School of Education Student Research Conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

### **Panels, Sessions, and Symposia**

Jung, J-K. **Thakurta, A.**, Sun, W., Gill, V., & Garg, R. (April 2023). What is the "truth" about Asian Americans? Interrogating representations of Asian Americans in literacies research. Symposia presentation at the American Educational Research Association in Chicago, Illinois.

Lammers, J. Kerkhoff, S. Smith, P., Esperat, T., Deroo, M., Skerrett, A., Stockwell, D., and **Thakurta, A.** (December 2022). Updating the what, why, and how of a Pedagogy of Multiliteracies. Study Group Session at the Literacy Research Association Conference in Phoenix Arizona.

“Not a monolith: Storying Asian American identities in research and teaching” (February 2022).  
Moderator of virtual panel presentation With Victoria Gill, Grace Player, Jennifer Phuong, &  
Risa Garg\*. University of Pennsylvania Hub For Equity, Anti-Oppression, Research and  
Development (HEARD).

Rosado-Viurquez, A., **Thakurta, A.**, Corson, J., Tapia, A. A. (Scheduled for March 2020; Canceled  
due to COVID-19). “Beyond human, beyond domination: Imagining mobilities and  
educational practices in everyday life.” Accepted Panel Presentation at the *Comparative and  
International Education Society* (CIES) Conference in Miami, Florida

Ghiso, M.P., **Thakurta, A.**, & Yee, M. (June 2019). Youth critical literacies. Panel presentation at  
Semana Académica at the University of Guadalajara in Guadalajara, Mexico.

### **On Campus Talks and Workshops**

#### Invited

**Thakurta, A.** (October 2022). Student presenter and facilitator in grant-writing workshop led by Dr.  
Kathleen Hall for the University of Pennsylvania Hub For Equity, Anti-Oppression,  
Research and Development (HEARD).

**Thakurta, A.** Doctoral research trajectory (March 2020). Mid-Career Doctoral Program, University  
of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education.

*\*Denotes community or youth partners*

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### **Teaching Experience**

#### **Higher Education Teaching Experience**

#### **2019-2022: Teaching Assistant, University of Pennsylvania GSE**

Co-designed and taught a range of courses for master’s and doctoral students at Penn GSE  
alongside Dr. Gerald Campano focusing on pedagogy, curriculum design, theories of reading  
and writing, and research methods.

#### Graduate Level Courses

*Practitioner Inquiry* with Dr. Gerald Campano (Spring, 2022)

*Research Seminar in Reading/Writing/Literacy* with Dr. Gerald Campano (Spring, 2021)

*Forming and Reforming the Elementary School Curriculum* with Dr. Gerald Campano (Summer  
2020)

*Seminar in Theories of Reading* with Dr. Gerald Campano (Fall 2020)



*Forming and Reforming the Elementary School Curriculum* with Dr. Gerald Campano (Summer 2019)

**2012-2014: Global Academic Fellow, New York University Abu Dhabi**

Helped undergraduates from around the world at NYU's campus in the United Arab Emirates sharpen their academic writing and researching skills in the Writing Center. Additionally supported undergraduate courses in anthropology, visual art, political science, media studies, history, and writing.

Undergraduate Level Courses

*Landscapes of Memory* with Dr. Nadine Roth (History, Spring 2014)

*Senior Media Seminar* with Dr. Radha Hegde (Media Studies, January Term 2014)

*Analysis and Expression* with Jill Magi (Writing, Fall 2013)

*Gift and Exchange* with Dr. Marzia Balzani (Anthropology, Fall 2013)

*Text, Image, and Place* with Tarek Al-Ghoussein (Visual Art, Spring 2013)

*Disease and Society* with Dr. Lauren Minsky (Anthropology, Spring 2013)

*Bridging the Divide Between the Arab World and the West* with Dr. James Zogby (Political Science, January Term 2013)

*Gift and Exchange* with Dr. Marzia Balzani (Anthropology, Fall 2012)

*Analysis and Expression* with Dr. Kevin Riordan (Writing, Fall 2012)

**2009-2012: Swarthmore College Writing Associate**

Edited student work, held revisionary conferences with student writers at the Swarthmore College Writing Center, and collaborated with professors.

**K-12 Classroom Teaching Experience**

**2015-2018: Classroom Teaching Experience**

Taught for three years at PS/MS206, a Title 1 public middle school in East Harlem through the New York City Teaching Fellows Program. Was also trained to support adolescent learners on the spectrum through school participation in the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Nest Program. Received an "Effective" rating for three consecutive years.

**2017-2018: Middle School English Language Arts Teacher Team Facilitator**

Led weekly meetings for the middle school English Language Arts department at PS/MS 206 by planning and facilitating teacher team discussions, analyzing student data, collaboratively determining areas of focus for middle school literacy instruction, and documenting evidence of best practices across the grade levels.

**Community-Based Teaching Experience**

### **2020-Present: Volunteer Educator**

Currently partnering with an NGO based in the Indian city of Kolkata to provide virtual afterschool educational programming to middle, high school, and college-aged girls from multiply marginalized communities. Promoting youths' analysis of the socio-political world through literacy-based learning engagements (e.g., activities foregrounding reading, writing, listening, speaking).

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## **Professional Service**

### **2019-2022: Editorial Assistant, *Research in the Teaching of English***

Provided support to Dr. Gerald Campano, Dr. Amy Stornaiuolo, and Dr. Ebony Elizabeth Thomas, editors of *Research in the Teaching of English*. Responsibilities include managing correspondences with the journal, writing editorial content, and evaluating manuscripts for publication.

### **2018-2019: Graduate Student Coordinator, Ethnography in Education Forum**

Facilitated the planning and execution of the Ethnography in Education Forum, a mid-sized annual educational conference at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education. Responsibilities included assessing proposals, curating the program, liaising with community-based researchers, practitioners, and conference leadership to promote the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion at the event.

### **2014-2015: HGSE Alumni of Color Conference Proposal Committee Member**

Assessed proposals to curate the program of the HGSE Alumni of Color Conference, an annual educational conference centering cutting-edge research and pedagogy pertaining to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the education field.

## **Reviewer**

### Journals

**2019-2022:** *Research in the Teaching of English*

**2019:** *Perspectives on Urban Education*

### Conference Proposals

**2019:** The Ethnography in Education Forum

**2014-2015:** HGSE Alumni of Color Conference

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## **Professional Memberships**

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Literacy Research Association (LRA)  
National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE)

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### **Languages**

Bengali: native speaking proficiency; intermediate reading and writing proficiency