

# AMITA Y. SWADHIN

**Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service  
Master of Public Administration, May 2011  
Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy  
Specialization: Policy**



Amita Swadhin is dedicated to creating learning opportunities that empower people to challenge internalized, interpersonal and institutional oppression. Since 1999, she has worked as a program manager, educator, youth organizer and consultant at nonprofits, public schools, and universities in New York City. She believes policymakers and social entrepreneurs have a responsibility to involve directly affected constituents in crafting solutions to social problems. A survivor of child abuse and domestic violence, Amita resolved to amplify youth voices in public policy while still in high school.

Amita began working against violence against women and children in Washington, DC, as an intern at the Department of Justice's Violence Against Women Office and an organizer of Take Back the Night. She earned a B.S. in Foreign Service from Georgetown, and continued her work at NOW Legal Defense Fund in New York City.

After 9/11, wanting to prevent bias and hate crimes against Arab and South Asian people, Amita became a Senior Trainer at Global Kids, a nonprofit empowering urban youth to take action on local and global human rights issues. There, she created and led school-based programs for more than 2,000 public high school students over four years.

From 2005-2007, Amita served as the Youth Power Project Coordinator at Make the Road by Walking, coordinating a department of seven staff members, fundraising, and supervising after-school programs. Under her leadership, the program doubled to 50 core youth and over 500 participants.

Before matriculating at New York University, Amita served as the College Liaison to the Kingsborough Early College Secondary School, designing college readiness initiatives for a new school offering free college courses to students historically underrepresented in higher education. She is also a Planning Team member of the Sunset Park Education in Action Community (SPEAC) School in Brooklyn, mobilizing support and designing a model to establish a public school focused on community wellness, social justice and academic rigor.

At NYU, Amita has led dialogues within the Reynolds and Wagner School communities exploring connections between social entrepreneurship and social justice, and between power, privilege and policymaking. As a Reynolds Fellow, she is exploring best practices in urban education reform. To this end, she is a summer 2009 Education Pioneers Fellow, working with the Broad Foundation in Los Angeles to create toolkits for participants in their Residency. After graduation, Amita hopes to create and support public schools that prepare students to become both successful college students and advocates for social justice.

# AMITA YALGI SWADHIN

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

**Broad Foundation, Los Angeles, CA**

**Education Pioneers Fellow, June – Aug. 2009**

- Researched best practices in education policy and administration to create toolkits for participants in the Broad Residency in Urban Education

**National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF), New York, NY**

**Consultant, Jan. – Feb. 2009**

- Created curriculum to train Asian American organizations nationwide on best practices in gender equity work

**Kingsborough Community College (CUNY), Brooklyn, NY**

**Adjunct Faculty Member, Accelerated Study in Associate Programs, Sept. 2008 – May 2009**

- Designed curriculum and led seminars on academic and social support for a cohort of 250 need-based scholarship recipients

**Kingsborough Community College (CUNY), Brooklyn, NY**

**Early College Liaison, Apr. 2007 – Aug. 2008**

- Convened faculty committee to design curriculum of new 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade public school offering college courses in high school years
- Managed \$230,000 budget; wrote narratives, monitored programming expenditures
- Set performance benchmarks for college readiness; designed programs and events to help students achieve these

**Make the Road by Walking, Brooklyn, NY**

**Youth Power Project Coordinator, Sept. 2005 – Mar. 2007**

- Fundraised to support \$350,000 program budget; supervised academic, community organizing, and arts programs
- Coordinated department of seven staff members; led staff retreats, professional development trainings, and annual program evaluations
- Served as partnership liaison to the Bushwick School for Social Justice, a public high school of 450 students
- Helped youth implement campaigns on domestic violence, gentrification and youth voice in education policy

**Sadie Nash Leadership Project, New York, NY**

**Faculty Member, June – Aug. 2005**

- Taught course on globalization and human rights for twelve high school-age girls as part of a summer school program

**Global Kids, Inc., New York, NY**

**Senior Trainer, Oct. 2001 – June 2005**

- Created and led school-based workshops to increase civic and international human rights knowledge of high school students
- Recruited and trained 50 youth to lead social action campaigns on national and local policy issues of their choice
- Managed \$125,000 budget; supervised and trained two staff members for dropout prevention programs serving 400 students

**NOW Legal Defense & Education Fund, New York, NY**  
**Program Assistant, Sept. 1999 – Dec. 2000**

- Assisted program educating judges and prosecutors about gender bias in the legal system

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

**NYU Reynolds Consulting Corps, New York, NY**  
**Co-Coordinator, Nov. 2008 - Present**

- Meet with clients to design scope of and evaluate feasibility of consulting projects; match Graduate Fellows with clients

**Sunset Park Education in Action Community School, Brooklyn, NY**  
**Planning Team Member, May 2007 – Present**

- Working with collective of community residents to found a 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade public school focused on wellness and social justice
- Design curriculum features, research best practices, prepare professional development trainings for future school staff

**Youth Solidarity Summer (YSS), New York, NY**  
**Organizing Collective Member, Jan. 2000 – Apr. 2007**

- Co-led training institute on community and campus-based organizing serving 300 South Asian youth throughout North America

**Sakhi for South Asian Women, New York, NY**  
**Volunteer, Nov. 1999 – Jan. 2002**

- Led workshops and represented organization at Asian American and anti-violence conferences nationwide

**Violence Against Women Office, U.S. Dept. of Justice, Washington, D.C.**  
**Intern, June – Aug. 1997**

- Compiled Director's speeches
- Composed publications on teen dating violence and child witnesses of domestic violence

**EDUCATION**

**New York University, Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service, New York, NY**  
Candidate for Master of Public Administration, May 2011  
Specialization: Public and Nonprofit Management and Policy

**Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service, Washington, D.C.**  
Bachelor of Science, December 2000  
Foreign Service  
Major: International Politics

**DISTINCTIONS AND AFFILIATIONS**

- Teaching Colleague for Assistant Dean Rogan Kersh, Fall 2009
- NYU Reynolds Graduate Fellowship in Social Entrepreneurship, 2008
- NYU Wagner School Dean's Scholarship, 2008-2009
- Activate! Community Organizing Fellowship, Fall 2006
- Phi Alpha Theta, Inducted 1997
- Dean's List, Georgetown University, Fall 1996 – 1997
- Girl Scout Gold Award, Troop 49, June 1995

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- *Carving Out Spaces: Gender, Race and Sexuality* (Panelist), South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) 2009 Summit, Washington, DC, April 24-26, 2009
- *Navigating Complex Conversations in the Era of Obama* (Student Facilitator), UCLA School of Public Affairs/NYU Wagner School Exchange, Los Angeles, CA & New York, NY, March 19-24, 2009
- *SPEAC Up: Building Community-Based Schools in New York City* (Workshop Facilitator), Organizing at the Intersections: The New School 3rd Annual Social Justice Conference, New York, NY, April 19-20, 2008
- *Racism and Sexism: Learning From History* (Panelist), The National Conference for Women and Girls: Freedom on Our Terms, New York, NY, November 10-11, 2007
- *Looking Back, Looking Forward* (Opening Panel Moderator), Organizing Youth: 10 Years of Youth Organizing in the South Asian American Community, New York, NY, April 13-15, 2007
- *The Fight for Equity in New York City Public Schools* (Guest Lecturer), Politics of Urban School Reform Course, New School University, New York, NY, March 26, 2007
- *Youth Organizing in New York City* (Panel Moderator), Urban Education Speaker Series, New School University, New York, NY, October 2005
- *Integrating Arts and Activism into Youth Training* (Workshop Facilitator), Arts of Resistance Festival, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, April 17, 2004
- *Military Recruitment and Its Impact on Marginalized Communities* (Panelist), 5th Annual Forum on Social Justice and Activism, New York University, New York, NY, March 27, 2004
- *Youth Organizing in the Asian/Pacific American Community* (Panelist), 13th Biennial Asian Pacific American Conference, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH, February 20-22, 2004
- *Tourism & Globalization; International Politics and Foreign Relations; International Youth Activism* (Workshop Facilitator), Peace Boat's 41st Voyage for Peace, Sailed from New York, NY to San Jose, Costa Rica, August 2003
- *Educators as Allies Against Homophobia* (Training Facilitator), Training for Field-Based Students, Institute for Urban Education, New School University, New York, NY, November 2002
- *Youth Policy* (Panelist), 8th Annual National Asian Pacific American Conference on Law and Public Policy, Harvard Law School & J.F.K. School of Government, Cambridge, MA, March 1-2, 2002
- *Combating Domestic Violence in Same-Sex South Asian Relationships* (Training Facilitator), Volunteer Training, Sakhi for South Asian Women, New York, NY, January 2002
- *Domestic Violence Among Asian Americans: What Communities Can Do* (Workshop Facilitator), Midwest Asian American Student Union Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, March 22-25, 2001
- *Exposing Domestic Violence in Asian American Communities* (Workshop Facilitator), East Coast Asian Student Union Conference, Brown University, Providence, RI, February 19-20, 1999