

NEETI NAIR
Corcoran Department of History
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, VA 22904
nn2v@virginia.edu

Employment

University of Virginia, Corcoran Department of History
Professor, fall 2023 to present
Associate Professor, fall 2012 to summer 2023
Assistant Professor, fall 2006 to summer 2012
University of Virginia, Department of Women, Gender & Sexuality
Affiliate Faculty, fall 2023 to present
Tulane University, Department of History, Assistant Professor, spring 2006
Brown University, Department of History, Visiting Instructor, spring 2004 and spring 2005
Harvard University, Department of History, Head Teaching Fellow, fall 2001
Tufts University, Department of History, Teaching Assistant, 1999 - 2004

Education

Ph.D. in History, Tufts University, November 2005
Thesis: Between Homeland and Nation: The Politics of Punjabi Hindus, 1907 – 1947
B.A. in History (Honours). St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi. 1998. First Class

Select Awards and Honors

Global Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, D.C. 2018 - 2020;
2023 - present
University of Virginia Sesquicentennial Fellowship, 2009 - 2010, spring 2016, 2024
Global Center Grant, Center for Global Inquiry + Innovation, UVA, 2023
UVA Faculty Summer Stipend for Research, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2020
UVA Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences, 2008, 2010, 2015, 2021
Mellon Humanities Fellow, Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures, UVA, 2020 - 2021
Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Research Grant, fall 2020
Public Voices Fellowship, The Op-Ed Project, fall 2019
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington D.C., 2017 - 2018
American Council of Learned Societies, Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship, John W. Kluge
Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 2016 - 2017
National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, 2016
American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Short-term Research Fellowship, 2014 - 2015
Mellon-MIT Inter-University Program on International Migrations, 2002 - 2003
Columbia University, Taraknath Das Foundation, Southern Asian Institute, 2002
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching, 2002
Tufts University Graduate School Student Award for Outstanding Academic Performance, 2001

Research Interests

History and politics of modern South Asia, especially colonialisms, nationalisms, the history of Hindu-Muslim relations, the Partition of India, postcolonial developments including foreign policy, India-Pakistan relations, legal history, Indian Ocean history, the history of education, oral history, memory studies, historical methodology

Publications and Current Research

Monographs

[*Hurt Sentiments: Secularism and Belonging in South Asia*](#), Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2023

- Interviewed in [Open Magazine](#), [Public Anthropologist](#)
- Featured in [Hindustan Times](#), [The Wire](#), [The Print](#), [Financial Express](#), [Frontline](#)
- Essays on related themes: *The Hindu*, *Newslandry*, *Aeon* (under contract)
- **Reviews** in *Asian Affairs*, *Biblio: A Review of Books* (in a review essay), *Business Standard*, *Doing Sociology*, *Frontline*, *South Asian Review*, *The Book Review*, *The Friday Times*, *The Indian Economic and Social History Review*, *The Indian Express*, *The News*, *The Telegraph*, *The Tribune*. Extracts of reviews are available [here](#)

[*Changing Homelands: Hindu Politics and the Partition of India*](#), Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press and Ranikhet: Permanent Black, 2011, Paperback 2016

- [A Washington Post WorldViews Recommended Book](#), 2013
- Invited essays on related themes: *India Today*, *Seminar*, *Page 99 Test*
- Media Mention: [Indian Express](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [Dhaka Tribune](#)
- **Reviews** in *American Historical Review*, *Contemporary South Asia*, *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, *Social History*, *Asian Affairs*, *Journal of Genocide Research*, *India International Centre Quarterly*, *The Book Review*, *The Hindu*, *South Asian Review*, *Oral History Review*, *Indian Historical Review*, *H-Net Reviews*, *Journal of World History*, *Canadian Journal of History*, *Asian Journal of Social Science*. Extracts of reviews are available [here](#)

Edited Special Issues

[‘Citizenship, Belonging, and the Partition of India,’](#) *Asian Affairs*, 53:2, 2022

- Reviewed in [The News](#) (Pakistan)

[‘Ghosts from the Past? Assessing Recent Developments in Religious Freedom in South Asia,’](#) co-edited with Michael Kugelman, *Asian Affairs*, 49:2, 2018

- Republished as a book by [Routledge](#) 2022, [Paperback](#) 2023

Works in Progress

Capitals in the Margins: South Asia since Partition, book in research and planning stages

India’s Partition: Politics, Culture, Memory, under contract with Cambridge University Press

Select Articles

'Introduction' to 'Citizenship, Belonging, and the Partition of India,' *Asian Affairs*, 53:3, 2022, 293-297

'Introduction' to 'Ghosts from the Past? Assessing Recent Developments in Religious Freedom in South Asia,' *Asian Affairs*, 49:2, 2018, 199-204

'Toward mass education or an "aristocracy of talent": non-alignment and the making of a strong India' in Gyan Prakash et al ed., *The Postcolonial Moment in South and Southeast Asia*, Bloomsbury, 2018

'Indo-Pak Relations: a Window of Opportunity that has Almost Closed', *Economic and Political Weekly*, December 20, 2014, Vol. 49, No. 51

'Beyond the "communal" 1920s: the problem of intention, legislative pragmatism, and the making of Section 295A of the Indian Penal Code', *IESHR*, July 2013, Vol. 50, No. 3, 317-340

- Republished in *The Law Weekly* 2016-3-LW, Vol. 199, 1 JS - 20 JS and *The Law Weekly (Criminal)* 2016-1-LW (CrI) 48 JS - 68 JS
- Cited in the Law Commission of India Report on Hate Speech, March 2017
- Cited in the International Commission of Jurists Report On Trial: The Implementation of Pakistan's Blasphemy Laws, November 2015
- Media mention: *The Diplomat*, *Mint*, *The Print*, *The Telegraph*, *Open Magazine*

Articles on 'Hindu Mahasabha', 'Pt Madan Mohan Malaviya', 'Rangila Rasul', 'Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh', 'Sanatan Dharm', 'Shuddhi', 'Swami Shraddhanand', in *The Oxford Companion to Pakistani History* ed. Ayesha Jalal, Karachi: Oxford University Press, 2012

'Partition and Minority Rights in Punjabi Hindu Debates, 1920-1947', Special Articles, *Economic and Political Weekly*, December 24, 2011, Vol. 46, No. 52, 61-69

'Bhagat Singh as "satyagrahi": The Limits to Non-violence in Late Colonial India', *Modern Asian Studies*, May 2009, Vol. 43, No. 3, 649-681

- Translated into Hindi by Krishna Chaitanya for *Filhaal*, September - October 2021, 25-39

Select Opinion Pieces

['A death on the altar of inclusive India: Remembering Gandhi in 2024'](#), *Newslandry*, January 30, 2024

['A brief history of India's present'](#), *The Hindu*, August 15, 2023 [[pdf](#)]

['1976 and 1993 – the two moments in Indian history that show secularism's fall from grace'](#), *The Print*, April 5, 2023 [book excerpt]

['A Discussion from the Indian Parliament in 1970: Who Begins A Riot?'](#) *The Wire*, March 18, 2023 [book excerpt]

['1971 and the case for secularism in Bangladesh and India'](#), *The Daily Star*, September 12, 2022

- Republished in [The Print](#), September 13, 2022

[‘What might Gandhi have done today?’](#) *The Hindu*, May 2, 2022

[‘The will to secular practice’](#) *The Indian Express*, December 30, 2021

[‘A Historian’s Fears’](#) *The Indian Express*, June 12, 2021

[‘For Congress, A History Lesson’](#) *The Indian Express*, August 29, 2020

[‘Haksar’s advice to Indira Gandhi can help Sonia steer Congress in the right direction’](#) *The Print*, March 13, 2020

[‘Missing Rahul in Delhi’](#) *The Indian Express*, March 3, 2020

[‘For the first time, India is seeing secularism go from a top-down decree to a street slogan’](#) *The Print*, January 3, 2020

[‘Modi’s Kashmir move is biggest test for Indian democracy’](#) *The Print*, August 5, 2019

[‘In 1964, calling Godse patriot led to uproar in Parliament. Now Pragya Thakur gets approval’](#) *The Print*, May 19, 2019

[‘Rising Religious Intolerance in South Asia’](#) *Current History*, April 2018

[‘In many significant ways, Nehru’s vision for India seems passé’](#) *The Print*, November 14, 2017

[‘What does Nawaz Sharif’s disqualification mean for democracy in Pakistan and its politics’](#) *The Print*, July 28, 2017

[‘Heroes of Hindu Nationalism’](#) Up Front, *India Today*, January 12, 2015 [pdf]

[‘The uniformity project’](#) *The Indian Express*, June 26, 2014

[‘riyaaz, saadhana, taiyyari: life practices’](#), Seminar No. 632, Special Issue ‘A Country of Our Own: A Symposium on re-imagining South Asia’, April 2012, 27-30

‘Restraint vs. Denial: The Struggle between India and Pakistan,’ *Harvard International Review*, Web Perspectives, February 6, 2009

[‘The Truth of Geography’](#) *Outlook India*, December 4, 2008

Translations of Select Opinion Pieces

[1971 ki jang aur kyun Bangladesh aur Bharat ke hit dharmnirapekshata mein nihit hain](#), *The Print Hindi*, September 14, 2022

[Bangladesh celebrated their golden jubilee of their liberation war](#), *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, September 16, 2022

[Haksar ki Indira Gandhi ko di gayi salaah Congress ko patri par lane mein Sonia ki madad kar sakti hai](#), *The Print Hindi*, March 13, 2020

[Dharmnirapekshata ki udghoshana pehli baar bharat ki sadkon par naaron ke roop mein goonj rahi hai](#), *The Print Hindi*, January 3, 2020

[Inquilab zindabad echoing through the streets of different parts of India](#), *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, January 4, 2020

[Kashmir par Modi ki pahal bhartiya loktantra aur maun udaarvaadiyon ke liye sabse badi pareeksha hai](#), *The Print Hindi*, August 6, 2019

[Sadhvi Pragya calling Nathuram Godse a patriot is not surprising at all](#), *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, May 19, 2019

[‘English has now become an Indian language’](#) *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, August 7, 2014

Select Reviews and Commentaries

[‘An Emergency Today’](#), Review of *Emergency Chronicles: Indira Gandhi and Democracy’s Turning Point* by Gyan Prakash, *The New Rambler: An Online Review of Books*, September 2019

[‘Old Laws for New Reasons: The Limits to Free Speech in India’](#), Berkley Forum, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs, Georgetown University, August 23, 2018

- Republished in *The Print*, August 26, 2018

[‘Secularism and India’s Electoral Democracy’](#), *Asia Dispatches*, Wilson Center Blog, June 2018

‘Looking Back: Filling in the gaps of Partition,’ Review of *Looking Back: The 1947 Partition of India 70 Years On* ed., Rakhshanda Jalil, Tarun K. Saint and Debjani Sengupta, *The Print*, October 1, 2017

Review of *Army and Nation: The Military and Indian Democracy since Independence* by Steven I. Wilkinson, *The American Historical Review*, 121, 1, 2016, 218-19

[‘Freedom and Faith in India’](#) Review of *Pluralism and Democracy in India: Debating the Hindu Right* eds. Wendy Doniger and Martha Nussbaum, *Current History*, South Asia, April 2015

Review of *Strictly Personal: Manmohan & Gursharan* by Daman Singh, *The Sunday Tribune - Spectrum*, 21 September 2014

Review of *Women, War, and the Making of Bangladesh: Remembering 1971* by Yasmin Saikia, *The American Historical Review*, 118, 1, 2013, 169-70

[‘Delhi University’s Undergraduate Programme: Notes from the Archives’](#), *Economic and Political Weekly*, Special Series on ‘Debating DU’, May 25, 2013, Vol. 48, No. 21

Review of *Pedagogy for Religion: Missionary Education and the Fashioning of Hindus and Muslims in Bengal* by Parna Sengupta, *Social History*, 37, 3, 2012, 341-43

Review of *The Partition of India* by Ian Talbot and Gurharpal Singh, *Journal of Islamic Studies*, 21, 3, 2010, 464-67

Review of *Witnessing Partition: Memory, History, Fiction* by Tarun K. Saint, *Seminar* 610, June 2010, 57-61

'Restraint vs. Denial: The Struggle between India and Pakistan,' *Harvard International Review*, Web Perspectives, February 6, 2009

Review of *Shameful Flight: the last years of the British Empire in India* by Stanley Wolpert, *Journal of British Studies*, 47, 2, 2008, 475-76

Review of *Precolonial and Colonial Punjab: Society, Economy, Politics and Culture* ed., Reeta Grewal and Sheena Pall, *Journal of Asian Studies*, 66, 2, 2007, 568-71

Review of *India: A National Culture?* ed. Geeti Sen, *Contemporary South Asia*, 14, 1, 2005, 113-15

Review of *The Aftermath of Partition in South Asia* by Tai Yong Tan and Gyanesh Kudaisya, *Seminar* 534, February 2004, 74-76

Select Invited Presentations

'Secularism and Belonging in South Asia', Book Discussion with Sugata Bose, Netaji Research Bureau, Kolkata, 2024

'Hurt Sentiments: Secularism and Belonging in South Asia', Book Talk, *Voyages Into the Past*, Presidency University, Kolkata, 2024

'Hurt Sentiments: Secularism and Belonging in South Asia', Book Discussion, Center for Studies of Plural Societies, New Delhi, 2024

'Hurt Sentiments: Secularism and Belonging in South Asia', Book Conversation with Editorial Board Members, *Socio-Legal Review*, and Karthick Ram Manoharan, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru, 2023

'Secularism, Emotion, and the Law in South Asia', Book Roundtable with J. Barton Scott, Global Religion and Politics Research Group, Northwestern University, 2023

'Hurt Sentiments: Secularism and Belonging in South Asia', Book Talk, Center for South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies, Tufts University, 2023

'Hurt Sentiments: Secularism and Belonging in South Asia' – New Books Panel, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2023

'Dialogue and Silence in Partition's Shadow: the Muslim Question in Asghar Wajahat's Fiction,' Conference on *Empire, Nation, Federation: South Asia's Freedom in Global Perspective*, Harvard-Tufts Conference on the 75th Anniversary of Independence and Partition, 2023

'Hurt Sentiments and the Making and Unmaking of Indian Secularism,' Book Talk, Center for the Advanced Study of India (CASI), University of Pennsylvania, 2023

'Hurt Sentiments: Secularism and Belonging in South Asia', [Book launch](#) with Michael Kugelman and commentators Tarunabh Khaitan, Ali Qasmi, and Ali Riaz, Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, 2023

'Hurt Sentiments: Secularism and Belonging in South Asia' – Book conversation with Gyan Prakash and Harini Kumar, M. S. Chadha Center for Global India, Princeton University, 2023

Discussant, Roundtable on *Hindutva and Violence: V. D. Savarkar and the Politics of History* by Vinayak Chaturvedi at Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2022

Discussant, 'The Failure of Federation: The Cases of Jammu & Kashmir and the Northeast,' Conference on *Empire, Nation, Federation: South Asia's Freedom in Global Perspective*, Harvard-Tufts Conference on the 75th Anniversary of Independence and Partition, October 2022

'The History of Blasphemy Politics in South Asia,' Silk Road Seminar, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, Washington D.C., 2022

'The Problem of Belonging After the Partition of India,' Mellon Fellow Symposium Series, Institute of the Humanities & Global Culture, University of Virginia, 2021

'Three Moments in the History of Indian Secularism,' Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, 2019

'Five Moments in the History of Human Rights in India,' International Human Rights Clinic, University of Virginia School of Law, 2019

'*We are Ayodhya*: The Life and Times of a Festival for Secularism,' Liu Institute for Asian Studies and the South Asia Group, University of Notre Dame, 2019

'Godse's legacy for Gandhian secularism' for a panel titled *Rethinking the Murder of the Mahatma: Political Assassinations and the Burdens of History*, Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2018

'The Objectives Resolution of Pakistan: Islam, Minorities, and the Making of a Democracy,' Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, 2018

'The Challenge and the Promise of the Objectives Resolution of Pakistan,' South Asian University, New Delhi, 2017

'Case laws, testimonies, and the everyday life of blasphemy laws in India and Pakistan,' Annual Conference of the Law and Society Association, Mexico City, 2017

'The Historian as Judge: Free Speech Case Laws in Postcolonial India and Pakistan,' Washington and Lee University, 2016

'Section 295A: The Unexpected Afterlives of a Colonial Piece of Legislation,' for a panel titled *Afterlives: Postcolonial Laws and their Colonial Antecedents in South Asia*, Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Seattle, 2016

'Towards mass education or a "natural aristocracy of talents"?: Manpower needs and the virtues of "non-alignment"' Conference on *The Postcolonial Moment in South and Southeast Asia*, Princeton University, 2015

'Ideas of Justice and Unity in Indian Higher Education,' Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (SEC-AAS), University of Virginia, 2015

'Debates over intention, the intention behind debates: legislative pragmatism and the making of Section 295-A of the Indian Penal Code', *Conference on Religion, Patronage and Reform in Modern South Asia*, Department of South Asia Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2012

Discussant, 'The Coast of Tantura: 1948 and after' by Alon Confino, paper for *1948 in Palestine: An Interdisciplinary Symposium*, University of Virginia, 2011

'The Problem of Return for Partition's Punjabi Hindu Refugees,' Center for South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2011

'Surprise, Disbelief, and the Telos of Partition,' Indian Council of Historical Research Delhi, 2011

'*Om shantih, ameen*: between communalism and anti-colonial nationalism,' Workshop on *Radical Politics in 20th century Punjab*, European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, University of Bonn, 2010

“*Kehte hain naasur hai*”: memory and the search for meaning in post-Partition Delhi,' Ambedkar University Delhi, 2010

Discussant, Roundtable on *Specters of Mother India: the global restructuring of an Empire* by Mrinalini Sinha at Mid-Atlantic Conference on British Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, 2009

'Gandhian *satyagraha* as terrorism: the limits to non-violence in late colonial India,' Conference on *Terrorism and Modernity: Global Perspectives on Nineteenth Century Political Violence*, German Historical Institutes and the Department of History, Tulane University, 2008

'*Om shantih, ameen*: religiously informed anti-colonial protest,' Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2008

“Unity cannot be purchased at the cost of Hindu rights”: the Nation debated as Hindu,' Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Atlanta, 2008

'Bhagat Singh as *satyagrahi*: a “Clash of Principles” and a “Question of Humanity,”’ Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting San Francisco; Nehru Memorial Museum and Library; University of Delhi; 2006

'Religion, Democracy, and their Discontents,' Summer Program on Understanding Globalization - Focus on South Asia, Programs in International Educational Resources, Yale University, 2005

“Things happen to upset plans”: the problem of responsibility and Partition violence,' Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2004

“We left our keys with our neighbors in 1947”: private memories, public histories and the making of a new India,' Center for International Studies, MIT, 2004

'Crafting a Nation: The Political Identities of Lala Lajpat Rai, 1882 – 1928,' Graduate Students Interdisciplinary Studies Symposium, Tufts University, 2001

Teaching

Undergraduate

History of Modern India

Twentieth-century South Asia

India's Partition: Literature, Culture, Politics

Free Speech and Blasphemy in South Asia

Imperial Encounters: Rules and Lives in Colonized India

The Partition of India: Problems and Perspectives

Histories of Education and Nation-making in India

The Subaltern in Literature and History (with Mrinalini Chakravorty)

Graduate

Contemporary South Asia
Social History of Modern India
Readings in Indian Ocean Studies
Readings on Twentieth-century South Asia
Readings on the Partition of India
Memory and Archive in South Asian History

Dissertation Committees:

Rashmi Banerjee, University of Virginia, PhD student, advisor
Arya Mack-Gilson, University of Virginia, MA student, committee member
T. C. A. Achintya, University of Virginia, PhD student, committee member
Yuchen Zhao, University of Virginia, PhD student, committee member
Rohail Salman, George Washington University, PhD 2022, external committee member
Stanley Blakeley Winslow, University of Virginia, PhD 2010, committee member
Hillary Jean Bracken, University of Virginia, PhD 2007, co-advisor (with Rich Barnett)

Additional Teaching Experience

Tulane University, Department of History, Assistant Professor, spring 2006
History of Modern South Asia to 1947
Imperial Encounters: Rules and Lives in Colonized India
The Partition of India: Problems and Perspectives

Brown University, Department of History, Visiting Instructor, spring 2004; spring 2005
History of Modern India

Service to the Profession

External Reviewer, Royal Society for Asian Affairs Travel Awards, 2024

External Reviewer, American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship Selection Committee, 2023 - 24

Member, Alumni Advisory Board, John W. Kluge Center, Library of Congress, Washington D.C., 2021 - 2023

External Reviewer, Faculty Tenure and Promotion Files: Amherst College; Ashoka University (India); Lahore University of Management Sciences (Pakistan); Princeton University; St. John's University; University of Colorado - Colorado Springs; University of Massachusetts - Amherst

External Reviewer, First Book Manuscript Workshop on Nikhil Menon, *Planning Democracy: Modern India's Quest for Development*, University of Notre Dame, September 2019

External Reviewer, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars Fellowship Selection Committee, 2018 - 2019

External Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend Fellowship Selection Committee, 2014 - 2015

Compiled a book of essays by Meeto (Kamaljit Bhasin-Malik), *In the Making: Identity Formation in South Asia*, Delhi: Three Essays Collective, 2007

Editorial Board, *Asian Affairs*, 2017 - present

Conference, Lecture and Symposia Planning

Organizer, Book Talk on *The Migration-Development Regime: How Class Shapes Indian Emigration* by Rina Agarwala, Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University, 2023

Organizer, Symposium on Citizenship, Belonging, and the Partition of India, cosponsored by the Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures, University of Virginia, and the Royal Society for Asian Affairs, 2021

Organizer, Conference on Ghosts from the Past? Assessing Recent Developments in Religious Freedom in South Asia, cosponsored by the Asia Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington D.C., and the Royal Society for Asian Affairs, 2018

Organized session on 'Rethinking the Murder of the Mahatma: Political Assassinations and the Burdens of History,' South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2018

Organized session on 'Constitutions and Minority Rights: Case Studies from South Asia,' American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., 2018

Organized session on 'Religious Boundaries in North India, 1830 - 1930,' Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2008

Organized session on 'Arguing for a Hindu India? c. 1900 - 1930,' Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Atlanta, April 2008 (with Vinayak Chaturvedi)

Organized session 'On violence, migration and the state: new perspectives from Punjab, Bengal and Kashmir,' Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2004

Organized lectures for the South Asia Center, University of Virginia, 2007 - 2016

Organized programming for events hosted by the Center for South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies, Tufts University, 2000 - 2002

Service to the University of Virginia

Member representing College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Teaching Award Committee, 2021 - 2024

Member, Search Committee for a Distinguished Chair in Democracy and the History of South Asia, 2022 - 2023

Member, Committee for Third Year Review, Department of Women, Gender & Sexuality, 2022

Member, Steering Committee, Department of History, 2010 - 2012, 2021 - 2023

Member, Committee for Third Year Review, Department of History, 2020

Representative, History Department, Faculty Senate, 2012 - 2013, 2019 - 2020

Reviewer, UVA-NEH Summer Stipend Program, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022

Reviewer, Harrison Undergraduate Research Awards, 2016, 2022

Member, Search Committee for an Assistant or Associate Professor in the History of the Indian Ocean World, 2015 - 2016

Member, Working Group on Area Studies after Area Studies, spring 2015

Member, Ad-hoc Committee to appoint instructor in South Asian History, 2009, 2013, 2015

Member, Ad-hoc Committee for general faculty review, History, and Women, Gender & Sexuality Program, 2014

Member, Ad-hoc Committee to support a chaired appointment in East Asian Studies, 2013

Member, Search Committee for an Assistant Professor in Modern British History, 2007 - 2008

Faculty Associate, lower-division advising, College of Arts and Sciences, 2010 - 2013, 2019 - 2020

Major Adviser, Department of History, 2007 - 2015, 2018 - present

Select Guest Lectures and Public Outreach

Chair and Moderator, Symposium on [*Citizenship, Belonging, and the Partition of India*](#), Royal Society for Asian Affairs, Taylor & Francis, and Institute of the Humanities & Global Culture, University of Virginia, 2021

Guest Speaker, 1947 Partition and the Making of Modern India, Area Studies Division, Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State, 2020 - 2021

Citizenship Amendment Act - National Register of Citizens: A Teach-In, Charlottesville Alliance for Refugees and Tamil Students Union, University of Virginia, 2020

A Conversation on Human Rights in India, Inaugural Human Rights Week, University of Virginia School of Law, Report in *Virginia Law Weekly*, 2019

Ideas of India: What's at Stake in India's Elections, Washington Literary Society and Debating Union, University of Virginia, 2019

Chair and Moderator, Conference on [*Ghosts from the Past? Assessing Recent Developments in Religious Freedom in South Asia*](#), Royal Society for Asian Affairs, Taylor & Francis, and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington D.C., 2018

Guest lecture, 'Religious Nationalism and Its Legal Dimensions,' Timothy Lubin's *Law & Religion*, Department of Religious Studies, Washington & Lee University, 2016

Free Speech in India, Inaugural session of *Chit Chaat: A Night of Indian Cultural Literacy*, Indian Students Association, University of Virginia, 2015

Guest lecture, Oral History for Mark Thomas' *Approaches to Historical Study*, Department of History, University of Virginia, 2014

Partition and its Implications, Indian Student Association and Pakistan Student League Conference, University of Virginia, 2011

Guest speaker, Partition of India for Alon Confino's *Forced Migration in the Modern World*, University of Virginia, 2008

Collective Memories and Political Identities, Conversazione Series Dinner, International Residence College, University of Virginia, 2008

Thinking through Mumbai: A Panel Discussion and Teach-In, University of Virginia, 2008

Guest lecture, 'Jinnah, the Red Shirts, and the Partition of India' for Mehr Farooqi's *Remembering India's Partition*, University of Virginia, 2007

Service in the name of Gandhi, Gandhi Day, Indian Students Association, University of Virginia, 2010, 2006

Professional Memberships

Member of the American Historical Association, Association for Asian Studies, Society for Advancing the History of South Asia, Law and Society Association

Journal Referee

Agricultural History, Asian Affairs, Asian Politics and Policies, Asian Studies Review, Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, Contemporary South Asia, Economic and Political Weekly, History of the Present, Indian Economic and Social History Review, IZSAF: Interdisciplinary Journal for South Asia Research, Journal of Asian Studies, Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History, Journal of the Pakistan Historical Society, Journal for the Study of Radicalism, Modern Asian Studies, Modern Intellectual History, New Literary History, Oxford Bibliographies, Radical History Review, South Asian History and Culture, South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies, Studies in History

Book Referee

Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge, Stanford University Press, Yale University Press

Select Interviews

Interview with Saumya Pandey, ['Feelings of hurt and hate in post-partition South Asia,'](#) *Public Anthropologist*, May 4, 2023

Interview with Ullekh NP, ['It is a historian's task to explain how things fall apart or come together,'](#) *Open Magazine*, April 14, 2023

Interview with Steve Paikin, ['Is India's Democracy in Crisis?,'](#) *The Agenda*, TVO Today, March 6, 2023

Interview with Lauren Frayer, ['India's Supreme Court Steps in after Hindu leaders call for violence against Muslims,'](#) *NPR*, January 21, 2022

Interview with Matthew Berkman, ["'Hurt Sentiments" and Forbidden Speech in India,'](#) The Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy, University of Pennsylvania, January 21, 2021

Starr Forum, '[Democracies on the Rocks?](#)' MIT Center for International Studies, October 24, 2020

Interview with G. S. Mudur, '[CAA-NRC a road to Hindu Rashtra](#)' *The Telegraph*, December 17, 2019

Interview with G. S. Mudur, '[Ayodhya case verdict: Secularism not easy to crush](#)' *The Telegraph*, November 9, 2019

Interview with Rukun Advani, '[Event, Metamorphosis, Memory](#): Opening the Curtain on a Minority View of Partition,' *Permanent Black Blog* January 5, 2011

In the Media

Vandana Menon, '[The self-pitying Hindu has a litany of woes – evolution to Taj Mahal](#).' Yogi's UP is their balm, *The Print*, February 5, 2024

Karthick Ram Manoharan, '[Samadharma: Periyar's Idea for India](#),' *Frontline*, September 21, 2023

Deepansh Duggal, '[Partition and the Inheritance of Loss](#),' *Hindustan Times*, September 15, 2023

Sapan News Network, '[Historian Neeti Nair deconstructs religious identity and secularism](#)' in South Asia, June 10, 2023

Subhash Gatade, '[Aggressors Claim Hurt Sentiments While Victims Face Trial](#),' *Newslick*, May 24, 2023

Rakhi Bose, '[Between Competitive Communalism and Suitable Secularism: Where India Stands Today](#),' *Outlook Magazine*, November 10, 2022

Krishna Kumar, '[The idea of a South Asian solidarity still has the potential to detoxify the legacies of 1947](#),' *The Indian Express*, September 9, 2021 [pdf](#)

Podcast with Matthew Berkman, "[Hurt Sentiments](#)" and [Forbidden Speech in India](#), Andrea Mitchell Center, University of Pennsylvania, January 29, 2021

[Democracy in Distress?](#) Global Trend of Democratic Governments That Collapse from Within, *MIT News*, November 1, 2020

Faizur Rahman, '[Are Indian Muslims victims of their "victim mindset"?](#)' *Daily O*, August 28, 2020

Syed Badrul Ahsan, '[The lingering pain of partition, 1947](#)' *Dhaka Tribune*, August 5, 2020

Syed Badrul Ahsan, '[1947: A flute to Pakistan, A drum to India](#)' *Dhaka Tribune*, August 13, 2020

Bharat Dogra, '[India must remember Das' sacrifice](#),' *The Statesman*, September 15, 2019

Madhav Khosla, '[Amarinder Singh's sacrilege bill shows no Indian political party will fight for free speech](#),' *The Print*, August 25, 2018

Michael Caster, '[Myanmar's Religious Hate Speech Law](#)' *The Diplomat*, May 5, 2016

Gautam Bhatia, '[Blasphemy' law and the constitution](#)' *Mint*, March 19, 2016

Pratap Bhanu Mehta, '[The Crooked Lives of Free Speech](#),' *Open Magazine*, January 30, 2015

Sunanda K. Datta-Ray, [Booked, But Not Read – When the law is used for a private agenda](#) *The Telegraph*, February 15, 2014

A. G. Noorani, Gandhi's No to Satyagraha, *Frontline*, August 26, 2011

Reviews of *Changing Homelands: Hindu Politics and the Partition of India*, Harvard University Press and Permanent Black, 2011

Nikhil Govind, *India International Centre Quarterly*, June 2011

Geoffrey Kain, *South Asian Review*, June 2011

J. Sri Raman, [Punjabi Hindus and Partition](#) *The Hindu*, July 19, 2011

Uditi Sen, *Journal of Genocide Research*, December 2011

Roger D. Long, *Choice*, January 2012

Ian Talbot, *The American Historical Review*, February 2012

Hilal Ahmed, *The Book Review*, March 2012

Kavita Daiya, *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, March 2012

Irfan Ahmad, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* [in a review essay], July 2012

Sahana Ghosh, *Contemporary South Asia*, November 2012

Priyanka Singh, *Canadian Journal of History*, Fall 2012

Sohini Majumdar, *Refugee Watch Online*, January 2013

Arnab Roy Chowdhury, *Asian Journal of Social Science*, March 2013

Anshu Malhotra, *Social History*, May 2013

Syed Badrul Ahsan, *Asian Affairs*, June 2013

Rama Lakshmi, *Oral History Review*, July 2013

Rohit Wanchoo, *H-Net Reviews*, November 2013

Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, *Indian Historical Review*, June 2014

Kavita Datla, *Journal of World History*, September 2014

Indivar Kamtekar, *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, September 2014

Nikhil Rao, *Journal of Asian Studies*, May 2015

Taj Hashmi, *Countercurrents.org*, August 2016

Extracts of published reviews are available [here](#)

Reviews of *Hurt Sentiments: Secularism and Belonging in South Asia*, Harvard University Press, 2023

Radhika Ramaseshan, [Contextualization of present in past](#), *The Tribune*, April 2, 2023

Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, [Religious Sense and Sensibilities](#), *Business Standard*, April 17, 2023

Paranjy Guha Thakurta, [Getting to the root of the poison](#), *The Telegraph*, June 2, 2023

Mani Shankar Aiyar, [‘To be secular is to belong fearlessly’](#), *Frontline*, June 19, 2023

Manisha Sethi, ‘We, the perpetually offended’, *Biblio: A Review of Books*, April-June 2023

Paromita Chakrabarti, [How did we get here?](#), *Eye, The Sunday Express Magazine*, July 2, 2023

Iymon Majid, [A Review of Hurt Sentiments](#), *Doing Sociology*, July 7, 2023

Yasser Latif Hamdani, [Hurt Sentiments in the Islamic Republic](#), *The Friday Times*, July 12, 2023
Shreya Das, [Hurt Sentiments](#), *South Asian Review*, August 17, 2023
Ammad Ali, [The minorities question in South Asia](#), *The News*, December 10, 2023
Sunny Kumar, [Hurt Sentiments](#), *The Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 60, (4) 2023, 481-483
Humeira Iqtidar, [Hurt Sentiments](#), *Asian Affairs*, 54, (4) 2023, 801-803
Shefali Jha, '[Secularism in South Asia: A Historical Analysis](#)', *The Book Review*, 47, 12, December 2023

Extracts of published reviews are available [here](#)

Revised February 2024