

MOU BANERJEE

University of Wisconsin-Madison,

Department of History

EDUCATION

2018 Ph.D. History-South Asia, Harvard University.

2013 A.M. History-South Asia, Harvard University.

2006 M.A. English Literature, Jadavpur University, India (First class first, Gold medallist)

2004 B.A. English Literature, Jadavpur University, India (First class first, Gold medallist)

TITLE OF DISSERTATION AND NAMES OF SUPERVISORS

Dissertation: Questions of Faith: Christianity, Conversion and the Ideological Origins of Political Theology in Colonial India, 1813-1907”

Names of Supervisors: Sugata Bose (Chair), David Armitage, Emma Rothschild, Sunil Amrith (Dissertation Committee Members), Ayesha Jalal (External Examiner)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2019-present Assistant Professor of History, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

2018-19 Assistant Professor of History, Clemson University.

2018 College Fellow, Department of South Asian Studies, Harvard.

2008-2011	Assistant Professor, K.K. Das College, Calcutta University, India.
2015-2018	Graduate Fellow. Asia Center, Harvard University
2015-2016	Visiting Fellow, Center for History and Economics, Cambridge
2011-2016	Graduate Fellow, South Asia Institute, Harvard University

HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

2023	Vilas Life Cycle Professorship award, 2023-24.
2022	<i>The Making of Minorities in South Asia: Future Directions for History and Pedagogy</i> , American Society of Legal History (ASLH) Library Collections Initiative Grant (LCEI), UW-Madison APIDA Center Outstanding Faculty Award Dorothy and Hsin-Nung Yao Award for Excellence in Teaching, History Dept., UW-Madison
2021-22	NEH Summer Stipend Grants Nominee chosen by the OVCRGE, UW-Madison. IRH Residential Fellowship, UW-Madison, for the Spring Semester of 2022-23. Fall Research Competition, Office of the Vice Chancellor of Graduate Research and Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison. UW-Madison Center for the Humanities First Book Seminar, March 5 th , 2021.
2020	Participant, AHS Dissertation-to-Book Workshop, 2020
2019	First Book Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison Center for the Humanities Fall Research Competition, Office of the Vice Chancellor of Graduate Research and Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison Faculty Research Development Program (FRDP Grant), Clemson University Humanities Hub Research Travel Grant, Clemson
2018	Harold. K. Gross Dissertation Prize, Department of History, Harvard University
2013-2014	SSRC-IDRF Dissertation Research Fellow.

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022** “Between Swadesh (a land of one’s own) and Swajan (one’s own people): Political Theology and Being Muslim in Bengal in the late 19th century”. Roundtable: A Political Theology Turn in Asian Studies? An Agenda for History and Anthropology. *Political Theology*, 12 July, 2022. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1080/1462317X.2022.2095853>
- 2020** “Decolonizing Pedagogy: History as a Reckoning with the Past.” Introduction to The Teaching Roundtable, H-Diplo Roundtable XXII-8, October 2020. doi: <https://issforum.org/roundtables/PDF/Roundtable-XXII-8.pdf>
- 2019** “New histories of political violence and revolutionary terrorism in modern South Asia - Specters of saintly rebels: religion as the absent presence in discourses of political violence and revolutionary terrorism.” *South Asian History and Culture*, 15 August, 2019. DOI: 10.1080/19472498.2019.1649942
- 2017** “The Tale of the Tailor: Munshi Mohammad Meherullah and Muslim-Christian Apologetics in Bengal, 1885–1907”. *South Asian Studies*, Volume 33, Number 2, 2017. DOI: 10.1080/02666030.2017.1354483
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PAPERS PRESENTED & INVITED LECTURES

“The Tale of the Tailor: Munshi Mohammad Meherullah and Muslim-Christian Apologetics in Bengal,” at the Anthropology Forum Brown Bag Discussion, BRAC University, Bangladesh, 12th October, 2023.

“The Love Tub of Duff: Young Bengal, Missionaries and The Pedagogy and Legality of Saving Souls,” at the University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley, 10th October, 2023.

“Homelands and Foreign Lands: Afghanistan in the Indian Imagination,” at the Institute for Research in the Humanities (IRH), 27th February, 2023.

“Doing Nonviolence: An Experiment in Student-led Learning and Research Initiatives,” UW-Madison Center for South Asia, Fall Lecture Series 2022, 1st December 2022. YouTube Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjMMfF_Mq-4

“Frontier Dreams: Syed Mujtaba Ali and Afghanistan in the Indian Imagination”, at the Center for the Humanities, UW Madison, 4th March, 2022.

“The Disinherited: Christianity and Conversion in Calcutta in the 19th Century”, invited by Dr. David Warren, at the Center for Jewish, Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies, Washington University in St. Louis, 9th March, 2022.

“‘This Field of Human Souls Turns into a Wasteland’: Ecology, Agriculture and Disaster in 18th Century Bengal” in the panel *Ecology, Agriculture, and the Politics of Representation in India, 1500-1947*, on March 25, 2022, AAS Hawaii. Chaired the session.

“Murderers, criminals, spies and informers: Transgressive self-fashioning, professional women and the question of caste in Bengal, 1870-1910.”, in the panel *The “Other” Woman in the City: Mobility, Caste and Labour in Late Colonial India*, March 30, 2022, BASAS.

“Criminals, Spies, Domestic Workers and Street Vendors: Hidden Cartographers of Female Mobility and the Question of Caste in Colonial Calcutta,” in the panel *The O-bhodromohila in Calcutta: Gendered Mobility, Labor and Caste in the Colonial City*, October 20th, 2022, ACSA, Madison. Chaired the session.

“The Great Tagore Will Case: Conversion to Christianity and the Economies of Loss in Colonial Bengal, 1861-1886”, in the panel *Creating (and Knowing) Legal Knowledge in Colonial South Asia*, ASLH, November 11, 2022. Invited to chair and participate by Fahad Bishara and Nandini Chatterjee.

“A Re-evaluation of Ranajit Guha’s reassessment of Rammohan Roy in his centenary year”, organized by Sangbit, the students’ reading circle of Jahangirnagar University, 3 and 4th June, 2022: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJbP2zmwm14>

Discussant for Anustup Basu’s talk titled, “Rammohun Roy and the Question of an Indian Monotheism”, on 27th February 2022, invited by the Brahmo Samaj of Calcutta: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bh5jnFRPps4>

“Borderlines Across “Hindu” and “Non-Hindu” Worlds: Contestations Over the Cow in Nineteenth-Century Bengal”, talk at the Cambridge University’s Divinity Faculty’s “Indian Religions Research Seminar: ‘Borderlines Across “Hindu” and “Non-Hindu” Worlds””, (Lent 2021), on the invitation of Prof. Ankur Barua, on January 25th, 2021.

“Ami Sati Lilabati”: Brata, Female Religiosity and the Wish Fulfillment of Bengali Women in the 19th Century”, in the panel *Festivals, Celebrations, and Their Representation in Early Modern and Colonial South Asia*, at the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Conference, March 25, 2021. I was also the Chair for the panel.

“The Disinherited: Conversion to Christianity and the Economies of Loss in Colonial India”, at the British Library, UK, 1st April, 2021: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUQyZjCYsEI&t=15s>

Speaking to graduate students at the Harvard Divinity School, on the invite of visiting Prof. Chandra Mallampalli in his seminar on “Conversion and Social Liberation in South India”, on October 19th, 2021.

“A Bengali in Afghanistan: Syed Mujtaba Ali and Writing the Self at the Limits of History, 1920-1930”, in the panel *South Asian Visions of Afghanistan*, at the Annual Conference on South Asia (ACSA), UW-Madison, October 23rd, 2021.

Chair. Panel - *The Self in Regard: Autobiography and the Making of Indian History*, UW-Madison Annual Conference on South Asia, October 17-20, 2019.

Chair. Panel - *Spatial Proximities, Cultural Intimacies: Travel as Solidarity, Freedom, and Pleasure within South Asia and the Former Mughal Domains, 1700-1950*, the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference at Denver, March 21-24, 2019.

“Syed Mujtaba Ali in Afghanistan: Autobiography at the limits of History”, presented as a seminar at the *Borders in Modern Asia Seminar Series*; sponsored by the Harvard University Asia Center, May 1, 2019.

“What is my work in this world?": Autobiography, Transgression and the Self-Fashioning of Bengali Women, 1876-1920”, to be presented at the panel *The Self in Regard: Autobiography and the Making of Indian History*, UW-Madison Annual Conference on South Asia, October 17-20, 2019.

“Frontier Dreams: Afghanistan in the Bengali Literary Imagination” in the panel *Spatial Proximities, Cultural Intimacies: Travel as Solidarity, Freedom, and Pleasure within South Asia and the Former Mughal Domains, 1700-1950*, the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference at Denver, March 21-24, 2019.

Guest Lecture, “India: Past and Present”, to MBA students, 10/30/2019, invited by Mike Judge, (Faculty Associate, Center for Brand and Product Management), UW-Madison School of Business.

IN PROGRESS

Monograph

The Disinherited: Colonialism, Christianity and Political Identity in India, 1813-1907, forthcoming from Harvard University Press. Publication January 2025.

Outlining preliminary notes on chapters 1-3 of popular biography *A Compassionate Rationalist: Rammohan Roy and the Founding of Modern India*.

Articles and Essays:

“Strange Intimacies: Indo-Afghan Relations and the end of the War on Terror.” Awaiting publication in the Fletcher Security Review (FSR), Tufts University, Spring 2024.

“Syed Mujtaba Ali in Afghanistan: Autobiography as travelogue at the limits of world history, 1927-1929.” In final stages of preparation – to be sent to *Past&Present* in February 2024.

“*Go-Raksha* - the “Cow-Life Controversy” and the Bengali Muslim Public Sphere, 1889-1890.” Revisions and editing in progress.

“Murderers, criminals, spies, and informers: Transgressive self-fashioning, professional women, and the question of caste in Bengal, 1870-1930.” Writing in progress.

“Sand in the greens, salt in the milk:” Politics of hunger, love and grief in the kitchens of colonial Bengali women. Writing in progress.

TEACHING

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Undergraduate Courses:

History 142 – History of South Asia to the Present (Lecture).

History 200 (009) and (010) – Historical Studies: Gandhi, King, Mandela: Non-Violence in the World (FIG Seminar)/ (Hons. Section for Under-served First-Generation College Goers).

History 450 – The Making of Modern South Asia, 1947-present (Lecture).

History 600 – Advanced Seminar in History: Gandhi, King, Mandela: Non-Violence in the World (Senior Capstone Seminar).

History 680/690 - Thesis and Honor Thesis Colloquium.

History 681 - Independent Study, Senior Honors Thesis advising.

Graduate Courses:

History 790 – Proseminar Empire and Colonialism in South Asia

Hist. 999, Independent Study: Modern South Asia Field for Grad Prelims

Hist. 990, Independent Study: HSMT Modern South Asia Field for MA examinations

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association (AHA), Member of Committee on the John F. Richards Prize in South Asian History, 2024-2026.

Association for Asian Studies (AAS)

British Association for South Asian Studies

(BASAS) Royal Historical Society, UK (RHS)

Center for South Asia, UW-Madison

LANGUAGES

English, Bengali, Hindi, Urdu (Native Proficiency); Sanskrit (Intermediate Proficiency)

