

Mou Banerjee

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Education:

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

PhD, History, March 2018.

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

Committee: Sugata Bose (chair), Emma Rothschild, David Armitage, Sunil Amrith and Ayesha Jalal.

Jadavpur University, Kolkata, India

A.M., English Literature, Department of English, 2006 (Gold medal, ranked 1st in class)

A.B. (Honors), English Literature, Department of English, 2004 (Gold medal, ranked 1st in class)

Research and Teaching Interests

Modern South Asian history

Intellectual History in the South Asian context

Politics of religion in the British Empire

Christianity and conversion in colonial India

British imperial history

Empire and economic lives in modern India

Postcolonial literatures in modern India

Queerness and Gender in India, 1800-to the present.

Publications

“The Tale of the Tailor: Munshi Mohammad Meherullah and Muslim–Christian Apologetics in Bengal, 1885–1907”, in BASAS Conference Special Issue of *South Asian Studies*, Volume 33, Number 2, August 2017.

“They all belong to the school of Adam Smith: The dissemination of Adam Smith’s ideas in Calcutta in the nineteenth century,” web-published by the Center for History and Economics at Harvard’s History Project. Stable URL: <http://www.histproj.org/completed/BANERJEE.pdf>

“Christ in the Paintings of Jamini Ray.” *Literature and Criticism*. 2008; 6(1).

“Milton: Parrhesiastes/Prophet.” *The Atlantic Critical Review*. 2008; 7(3).

In Preparation

“The Life of the Law in Colonial India: New Legal Histories of South Asia”. Review essay on Indian legal historiography.

“The Disinherited: Conversion to Christianity and the Economies of Loss in Colonial Calcutta”. Accepted, revision and resubmission at *Past and Present*.

“Go-Raksha, the “Cow-Life Controversy” and the Bengali Muslim Public Sphere, 1889-1890”. Accepted, in process of revision and resubmission at *The Economic and Political Weekly* (EPW).

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

Selected Awards and Honors

Faculty Research Development Program (FRDP Grant), Clemson	2019
Humanities Hub Research Travel Grant, Clemson	2019
Harold. K. Gross Dissertation Prize	2018
Harvard GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship	2016-17
Graduate Research Associate, Asia Center, Harvard	2016-17
Graduate Research Associate, Center for History and Economics, Harvard	2014-17
Graduate Student Associate, Harvard South Asia Initiative	2013, 2015-16
Graduate Affiliate, Center for European Studies, Harvard University	2013-16
Visiting Scholar, Centre for History and Economics, University of Cambridge	2014-15
Mellon Foundation SSRC-IDRF Fellowship	2013-14
Graduate Affiliate, Weatherhead Center, Harvard University	2015-16
John Clive Fellowship, Dept. of History, Harvard University	2012-15
Clive Fellowship Summer Research Grant	2012-15
Harvard South Asia Initiative Research Grant	2011-15
Harvard Asia Center Research Grant	2012-13
Center for History and Economics, Harvard - Research Project Grant	2012

Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of English, K.K. Das College, University of Calcutta	2008-11
College Fellow, South Asia Studies (SAS) Department, Harvard University	2018 (Spring)
Assistant Professor, Dept. of History and Geography, Clemson University	2018
Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, UW-Madison	2019

Service and Memberships

Non-Resident Advisor, Leverett House, for the History concentrators	2015 to 2018
Coordinator, South Asia across Disciplines Workshop, Harvard University	2013, 2015-17

Organizer, Cambridge History of the Indian Ocean Conference, Harvard University	2016
Member, British Association of South Asian Studies	2016-2017
Member, Association for Asian Studies	2015-present
Coordinator, "The Archives of Economic Life in South Asia Project," Center for History and Economics, Harvard University	2014-present
Member, American Historical Association	2013-present
Member, Netaji Research Bureau	2017-present

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

"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.

"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.

Book Review Panel: "New Directions in the Study of Political Violence and Revolutionary Terrorism: "Gentlemanly Terrorists" (2017) and "A Revolutionary History of Interwar India" (2016). UW-Madison Annual Conference on South Asia, October 11-14, 2018.

"Politics of love and grief in the kitchens of colonial Bengali women" presented at the panel on *Sexy Samosas and Queer Cucumbers: Food, Gender, and Sex in the Literatures of Early Modern and Colonial South Asia*, UW-Madison Annual Conference on South Asia, October 11-14, 2018.

"'Gau' Raksha: The "Cow-Life Controversy" & The Bengali Muslim Public Sphere (1889-90)", presented at Centre for Policy Research (CPR), New Delhi, 11th July 2018.

"Asian Travels: Asian Connections." Panel Discussant, Association for Asian Studies (AAS-in-Asia) Conference, New Delhi, July 5-8, 2018.

"Encountering the Exotic: Responses to the New and the Foreign in Early-Modern and Colonial South Asia." Panel Chair and Discussant, Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference at Washington D.C., March 22-25, 2018.

"The "Cow-Life Controversy" and the Bengali Muslim Public Sphere, 1889-1890". Presented at the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference at Toronto, in the panel *Idioms of identity: Archival Ephemera and Information Exchange in Colonial India*, March 18, 2017.

"A Hindu-Catholic Revolutionary: Religion, Sedition and Patriotism in the works of Brahmabandhab Upadhyay, 1904-1907". Fifth Annual Graduate Conference on Religion at Harvard Divinity School, in the panel *Leadership and Social Movements: Resistance, Transformation, Liberation*, October 2016.

"The Question of the Moral Nature': Rabindranath Tagore on Civilization and Nationalism, at Harvard". "The Making of the Humanities V" Conference, Johns Hopkins University, in the panel *Intellectual Events, or What can Historiography and Philosophy Learn from Each Other?* from October 5-7, 2016.

- “The tale of the tailor: The worlds and words of Munshi Meherullah, 1885-1907”, in the panel Translating Christianity, BASAS Conference, Cambridge, UK, 6-8 April, 2016.
- “Musalmāni Bangla apologetic pamphlets and Muslim peasant identity in colonial Bengal”. Dept. of History, Presidency University, Calcutta, March 11, 2016.
- “The Disinherited: Conversion crisis and the Economies of Loss in Colonial Calcutta.” Presented at the Fourth Annual Graduate Conference on Religion at Harvard Divinity School, in the panel *Religion & Crisis: Crises of Religious Transformation: Conversion, Disenchantment, and Reincarnation*, Saturday, October 24 2015.
- “Conversions to Christianity in Colonial Bengal.” South Asia Initiative Seminar, in conversation with Professor Sugata Bose, Harvard University, September 30, 2015.
- “The Disinherited: Gyanendramohan Tagore’s Conversion to Christianity in 19th c. Colonial Calcutta.” Presented at the Dept. of English and Humanities, BRAC University, Dhaka, June 29, 2015.
- “The economies of loss in colonial India through conversion to Christianity.” Presented at the post-graduate workshop, Center for History and Economics, Cambridge University, May 2015.
- “Swami Vivekananda at Harvard, 1894-1896.” Panel discussion at Sever Hall, Harvard, on the theme “Interfaith: Then and Now,” March 8, 2013.

Teaching experience

- Assistant Professor, Department of History, Clemson University. Seminar course “Hist. 4940: Religion and Politics in India”, Fall 2018 and undergraduate survey course “Hist. 3350: South Asia, 1500-Present.” Spring 2019, “Hist. 3350: A Subcontinent of Nationalities” and seminar “Hist. 4940: Gandhi, Mandela, King – A Global History of Non-Violence.”
- Lecturer, Department of South Asian Studies, Harvard. Seminar course “SAS 182: Religion and Politics, India 1800-2010”, Spring 2018. The stable URL for the course website is: <https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/40947>
- Departmental Teaching Fellow, Department of History, Harvard University, 2017-18.
- Co-Instructor, “Undergraduate Senior Thesis Tutorial”, Department of History, Harvard University, 2017-18.
- Undergraduate thesis supervisor, Fall and Spring 2016-17.
- Teaching Fellow for the course, “South Asia: A Global History,” taught by Professor Sunil S. Amrith, Spring 2016.
- Instructor for the directed study course: “Queerness and Gender in India, 1850-2000”, Spring 2016.
- Course instructor for the undergraduate seminar in Fall 2015 as the History Prize Instructor – “History 60u: Religion and Politics: India, 1800-2015.”
The stable URL for the course website is: <https://canvas.harvard.edu/courses/5689>.
- Teaching Fellow for the General Education course, “Societies of the World 36: Modern India and South Asia,” taught by Professor Sugata Bose, Fall 2013.
- Teaching Fellow for the course “History 1067: An Introduction to the History of Economic Thought,” taught by Professor Emma G. Rothschild, Fall 2013.
- Assistant Professor teaching undergrads postcolonial Indian literatures and literature of the English Renaissance and Civil War, 2008-2011.

Teaching Awards

The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, for the courses, “SAS 182: Religion and Politics: India, 1800-2010”, and “Hist. 97: Senior Thesis Tutorial”, Spring 2018.

The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, for the course, “SAS 131: Global South Asia”, Spring 2016.

History Prize Instructor, Department of History, Harvard University, 2015-2016.

The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, for the General Education course, “Societies of the World 36: Modern India and South Asia,” Fall 2013.

Languages

Bengali, Hindi, and English (Native proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking)

Urdu and Sanskrit (Elementary reading and writing)

Academic References

Professor Sugata Bose

Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs

Department of History, Harvard University

(617) 852-9332

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Professor Ayesha Jalal

Mary Richardson Professor of History and Director of Center for South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies

Department of History, Tufts University

(617) 627-2133

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Professor Sunil Amrith

Mehra Family Professor of South Asian Studies and Professor of History

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Professor Michael Silvestri

Department of History, Clemson University

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