

MRIDU RAI
Department of History
Presidency University
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EMPLOYMENT

Professor, History, Presidency University, Kolkata, 2 May 2014 – to the present

Lecturer, Indian Studies, Trinity College, Dublin, January 2011 – to 31 March 2014

Visiting Research Scholar, the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University, 1 September 2010 to 1 February 2011.

Associate Professor of History, Yale University, July 2007 – June 2010

Associate Professor of International and Area Studies, Yale University, July 2007 – June 2010

Assistant Professor of International and Area Studies, Yale University, July 2004 – June 2007

Assistant Professor of History, Department of History, Yale University, July 2001 – June 2004

Assistant Professor of History, Department of History, Bowdoin College, July 1999 – June 2001

Adjunct Instructor, Department of History, Columbia University, History of Modern South Asia, Spring 1999

Visiting Lecturer, Department of History, Tufts University, Spring 1997 and Spring 1998

HIGHER EDUCATION

Ph.D., Columbia University, New York, Modern South Asian History, February 2000.
Dissertation: “The Question of Religion in Kashmir: Sovereignty, Legitimacy and Rights, 1846-1947”

M.Phil., Columbia University, New York, Modern South Asian History, February 9, 1994.

M.Phil., Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Centre for Historical Studies, Medieval Indian History, January 1991

M.A., Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Centre for Historical Studies, Medieval Indian History, July 1988

B.A. (Honours), Miranda House, Delhi University, History, May 1986

CURRENT RESEARCH WORK

Book Manuscript, *Geographies of Justice: Caste and Violence in Colonial North India*. (Ongoing).

A History of Kashmir: the Eighth Century to the Present. (Under Contract)

PUBLICATIONS

- Book** *Hindu Rulers, Muslim Subjects: Islam, Rights, and the History of Kashmir*
Princeton University Press, Princeton; Permanent Black, New Delhi; and C. Hurst, London, 2004
- Journal articles** “Languages of Violence: The Indian State and Insurgent Kashmir”. *Purba Darshan: A Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 2, 2014, 55-87
- “‘To Tear the Mask Off the Face of the Past’: Archaeology and Political Protest in Jammu and Kashmir”. *Indian Economic and Social History Review*. Vol. 46, No. 3, 2009
- “Jinnah and the Demise of a Hindu Politician?” *History Workshop Journal*, Vol. 62, No. 1, Autumn 2006, 232-240
- Review Essays** “The Black Hole That (N)Ever Was”, *History Workshop Journal*, Vol. 79, Spring 2015, 266-274
- Book chapters** “‘To Tear the Mask Off the Face of the Past’: Archaeology and Politics in Jammu and Kashmir” in Chitrlekha Zutshi (ed) *New Perspectives on Kashmir: History, Representation, Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Forthcoming.
- “Is There a Classical Colonialism?” in *The Shadow of Colonialism in Europe’s Modern Past*, Roisin Healy and Enrico Del Gado (eds.) Palgrave Macmillan, 2014
- “Memorializing 13 July 1931 in Kashmir” in *Of Occupation and Resistance: Writings from Kashmir*, Fahad Shad (ed), Westland Ltd., 15 July 2013
- “Making a Part Inalienable: Folding Kashmir Into India’s Imagination”, chapter in *Until My Freedom Has Come: The New Intifada in Kashmir*, Sanjay Kak (ed) Penguin, 2011; Co-published by Haymarket Books, March 2013
- “A Hindu Kingdom on the Colonial Periphery: Forging State Legitimacy in Late-Nineteenth Century Kashmir”, chapter in *The Fringes of Empire*, Sameeta Agha and Elizabeth Kolsky (eds), Oxford University Press, 2009, 115-36
- Short general articles** Articles on “India”, “Pakistan” and “Gandhi”, *Encyclopaedia of Europe, 1914-2004*, Editors in Chief, John Merriman and Jay Winter. New York, Charles Scribner’s Sons, September 2006

Article on “Nehru”, *International Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences*, Editor in Chief, William A. Darity. Macmillan Reference, Thomson/Gale, November 2007.

Articles on various themes in South Asian history, *Cambridge Dictionary of Modern World History*, Articles submitted.

Articles on Kashmiri history, *Oxford Companion to Pakistani History*, Ayesha Jalal (ed), 2012.

Book Reviews

Review of Aman Sethi, *A Free Man: A True Story of Life and Death in Delhi* (W.W. Norton, October 2012), *San Francisco Chronicle*, 7 December 2012.

Review of Amitabh Mattoo and Souresh Roy, ‘Summer of Discontent: Considering Conditions in Kashmir’, *Harvard International Review*, 2011.

Review of Joseph Lelyveld, *Great Soul: Mahatma Gandhi and His Struggle with India*, (Alfred A. Knopf, 2011). *San Francisco Chronicle*, 10 April 2011.

Review of Nicholas B. Dirks, *The Scandal of Empire: India and the Creation of Imperial Britain* (Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of the Harvard University Press, 2006). *Victorian Studies*, Volume 50, Number 1, Autumn 2007, pp. 164-166

Review of Susanne Hoeber Rudolph and Lloyd I. Rudolph, *Reversing the Gaze: Amar Singh's Diary: A Colonial Subject's Narrative of Imperial India* (Westview Press, 2002). *Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 78, No. 4, December 2006, 949-951

Review of Burkhard Schnepel, *The Jungle Kings: Ethnohistorical Apects of Politics and Ritual in Orissa* (New Delhi: Manohar, 2002). In *The Indian Economic and Social History Review*, Vol. 42, No.3, 2005, 409-412

Newspapers & News magazines

Occasional contributor to *Al Jazeera*, *Greater Kashmir*, *Kashmir Dispatch*, *The Kashmir Wallah*, *DNA*, *The Indian Express*.

Work in Progress

Article, “When God Chastises: The Great Bihar Earthquake of 1934, Indian Nationalism and Caste Reshaped.”

Article, “Communities of Belonging: *Patrias*, Caste and Religion.”

Article, “‘We are *Shudras* first, Muslims Later’: Caste and Islam in Colonial North India.”

AWARDS AND PRIZES

Arts and Social Sciences Benefactions Fund, Trinity College, Dublin, 2012-2014

Visiting Research Scholar at the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University, 1 September 2010 to 1 February 2011.

Senior Short-term Research Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies, 2007-2008

Senior Research Fellowship, Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center, Yale University, 2007 - 2010

Whitney Griswold Fellowship, Yale University, 2007-2008

Prize for the best first book on an international subject, Yale Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University. February 2005. For *Hindu Rulers, Muslim Subjects: Islam, Rights and the History of Kashmir*.

Morse Fellowship, Yale University, 2004-05

Freeman Foundation Fellowship for Faculty Research, Bowdoin College, 2000

University Traveling Fellowship, Columbia University, 1994-1995

University Grants Commission of India, Junior Research Fellowship, held 1988-1991

LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

“We are Shudras; we are the indigenous peoples of India. We are Muslims After” Paper presented at the British Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge. Panel titled: ‘Complicating Islam Across South Asia’, 6-8 April 2016

“Defending Nationalism: The Ideas of Rabindranath Tagore and Kashmiri Resistance.” Paper to be presented at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla. International Conference on “Tagore and Nationalism”, 5-7 November 2015.

“Can the Kashmiri Be Possessed Through Maps?” Paper presented at Leiden University, Panel Discussion on Kashmir, 23 September 2013

“Mapping Practices and Kashmir, 1947- to the Present”, Lecture presented at Ramjas College, Delhi University, 10 September 2013.

“When God Chastises: The Bihar Earthquake, Nationalism and Caste”, Lecture presented at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies Colloquium, Georg-August-Universität, Goettingen, 6 February 2013; Presidency University, Kolkata, 30 July 2013; St. Xavier’s College, Kolkata, 30 July 2013 and Hindu College, Delhi University, 10 September 2013

“ ‘Azadi’ for a ‘Nizam-e-Mustapha’? Religious Idioms in the Political Struggle in Kashmir”, Paper presented at the Research Seminar of the School of Religions, Theology and Ecumenics, Trinity College, Dublin, 24 March 2011

“Making a Part Inalienable: Folding Kashmir Into India’s Imagination”, Paper presented at the symposium on “Grounding Kashmir: Experience and Everyday Life on Both Sides of the Line of Control”, The Center for South Asia and The Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies, Stanford University, 5 – 6 March, 2011

Panelist, “Tunisia, Egypt, Next Stop: Kashmir?”, University of California, Berkeley, 5 March 2011

“When God Chastises: The Bihar Earthquake of 1934, Nationalism, and the Remaking of a Social Order”, Paper presented at the Shelby Cullom Davis Center’s Seminar on “Authority and Legitimation”, Princeton University, 17 December 2010

“When God Chastises: The Bihar Earthquake of 1934 and the Remaking of a Social Order”, Paper presented at the conference on “Re-Mapping South Asia: Space, Time, Method,” Tufts University, 3 – 4 December 2010

“From Community to Nation: The Reshaping of Caste in Twentieth Century North India”, Paper presented at the Centre des Sciences Humaines, New Delhi, 13 August 2010.

Panelist, Panel Discussion titled “Solve Kashmir First: New Thinking on South Asia’s Longest Conflict”, Open Society Institute, New York, NY, 30 June 2010

“Caste in India: Why an “Ancient” Tradition is Modern”. Keynote address. The second *Why Teach India?* Conference, “Caste and Its Controversies”, Organized by Educators for Teaching India and by the South Asia Initiative, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 30 April 2010.

“Building Nations, Breaking Communities: Caste and Violence in Colonial North India”, Paper presented at the “South Asia Without Borders” Colloquium, The South Asia Initiative, Harvard University, 29 April 2010.

“‘We Are Shudras first, Muslims Later’: Caste and the Pasmanda Movement in Modern Bihar”. Paper presented at the Department of South Asian Studies, Colloquium on “Religion and the Concept of the People”, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 16 April 2010.

“A Borderland in the Heartland: Bihar in the Late Mughal Period”. Paper presented on the panel “On the Frontiers and Borderlands of Islamic Empires” at the annual meeting of the Middle Eastern Studies Association, Boston, 24 November 2009.

“‘To Tear the Mask Off the Face of the Past’: Archaeology in the Making of Kashmiri Muslim Protest, c. 1904-1947’. Paper presented at “The Critical perspectives on South Asia Lecture Series”, New York University, 9 February 2007.

“Kashmir: Historical Perspectives on the Current Conflict”. Keynote lecture at “The Kashmir Forum: Evolution of a Conflict”, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 12 January 2007.

“The Collective Memory of the Indian Partition”, paper presented at “The Paths of the Past: A Symposium on Collective Memory”, organized by The Hellenic Studies Program, Yale University, and The Program on Order, Conflict and Violence, Yale University, 16 October 2006.

“Geographies of Justice: Caste and Violence in Bihar”. Paper presented at Tufts University, sponsored by the Tufts University History Department and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford MA, 16 November 2006

“Islam and Nationalist Narratives in Journalistic and Historical Writing On Kashmir.” Paper presented to the Department of Journalism, Kamala Nehru College, Delhi University, 26 July 2006

“The King’s Old Clothes: Fashioning a Traditional Ruler for Kashmir in British India”, paper presented at the conference on “New Elites, Old Regimes: Trajectories of Imperial Changes, 1700-1850”, Yale University, 28 April 2006.

“To ‘Tear the Mask Off the Face of the Past’: Archaeology and the Making of Kashmiri Muslim Protest, c. 1904-1947”. Paper presented at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 23 February 2005.

“Hindu Rulers and Muslim Subjects in Late Nineteenth Century Kashmir”. Paper presented at the History Department Seminar, Faculty of Arts, Delhi University, 24 November 2004.

“Hindu Rulers and Muslim Subjects: Forging State Ideology and Political Identity in late 19th century Kashmir”. Paper presented at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti House, New Delhi, 23 November 2004

“Some Thoughts on Researching Kashmir’s History”, paper presented at the Department of Education, Patna University, Bihar (India), 1 September 2004.

“Religion through Western Eyes: Hinduism in the Making of Colonial Kashmir.” Paper presented at the South Asia Conference at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. 25 October 2003.

“Making Hindu Rulers and Muslim Subjects: Religion, Rights and the History of Kashmiri Protest”, paper presented at the workshop on “Lessons of the Conflict in Kashmir” organized by the Project on Global Change, Wesleyan University, 5 April 2003.

“The Forging of State Ideology and Social Identity in Kashmir”, paper presented at the South Asia Seminar, sponsored by the Asia Center and the Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 22 November 2002

“Religious Fundamentalism and the Conflict in Kashmir.” Annual Robert L. Bernstein Symposium organized by the Orville H. Schell Jr. Center of International Human Rights, Yale University Law School, 13 April 2002.

“A Hindu Kingship on the Colonial Periphery: Religion and Political Control in Jammu and Kashmir.” Conference on “Courts Without Kings? The Political Center in Provinces, Colonies and Republics” organized by the North American Society for Court Studies, 21-24 September 2000.

“From Hindu Rulers to a Hindu State: Territorializing Religion in Kashmir, c. 1857-1884.” The annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, South Asia Council Sponsored Panel titled: “New Perspectives on Regional and Religious Identities in Colonial South Asia.” 11 March 2000.

“Contested Sites: Religious Shrines and the Archaeological Mapping of Kashmiri Muslim Protest, 1900-1947.” Fifteenth Annual South Asia Conference, University of California at Berkeley, 19 February 2000.

Organized the Panel of which this paper was a part titled: “Nation and Region in South Asia: Assam, Kashmir and Maharashtra”.

“The Kashmir Dilemma: the Impact on Indian and Pakistani Relations since 1947”. Paper presented to the Mid-Coast Forum on Foreign Affairs, Maine, 13 December 1999

“The Question of Legitimacy in Kashmir: Muslim Subjects and Hindu Sovereignty,” Faculty Seminar Series, Bowdoin College, 27 October 1999

“Landscape as Memory: the Contours of Kashmiri Identity.” Symposium on ‘Rediscovering South Asia’ organised by the Center of South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies, Tufts University, 3 October 1997.

“Using Colonial Archaeology: Making a Protest.” Workshop on ‘Rethinking South Asian History, Revisioning South Asia’s Future’ organised by the Center of South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies, Tufts University, 9 May 1997.

Chair/discussant

Discussant, Panel “Contested Territories in the Interwar Period” at the conference on “Colonialism in Europe: Fact or Fiction?”, organized by the Humboldt-Kolleg and the National University of Ireland, Galway, 22-23 June 2012

Chair, Panel “The End of Empire? The Twentieth Century” at the Empires & Bureaucracy colloquium, Trinity College, Dublin, 16-18 June 2011

Discussant, Panel “Nation as Process: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Formation of National Identities in South Asia”, Annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Philadelphia, 27 March 2010.

Commentator, Workshop on ‘Religion and the Law’, Director: Professor Emma Rothschild, Center for History and Economics, Harvard University, 23 February 2009.

Moderator for panel: “Law and Society” at the North American Victorian Studies Association conference on “The Arts and Culture in Victorian Britain”, Yale University, 16 November 2008

Conference organizer and Introducer of Plenary speaker, Professor Catherine Hall, at the North American Victorian Studies Association conference on “The Arts and Culture in Victorian Britain”, Yale University, 16 November 2008

Discussant, Panel at conference on “The Empire of Political Economy” jointly organized by Yale University and New York University, 15 November 2008

Chair of panel titled “Transformations of Early Modern Public Spheres in the Mughal and the Vijayanagara Empires” at conference on Vernacular Public Spheres, Yale University, 6 April 2007

Discussant and Chair, Panel “Contrasting History, Contesting Nations: Intellectuals and History Writing in Modern South Asia”. 121st Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, Atlanta, 7 January 2007.

Chair, Panel “Making History in British India: Official-Historians and the Raj”. North American Conference on British Studies, Boston, 18 November 2006.

SELECTED LIST OF COURSES TAUGHT

History of Modern South Asia: lecture survey covering the political, social, economic, intellectual and cultural history of the Indian subcontinent from the eighteenth to the mid-twentieth century.

The Culture of Colonialism: undergraduate seminar examining the cultural forms of the colonial encounter in British India.

Islam in the Indian Subcontinent: undergraduate seminar examining the political, social, economic, cultural and intellectual history of Muslim communities in South Asia in interaction with non-Muslim groups over the period c.712 to 1947

Postcolonial South Asia, 1947 to the Present: taught both as undergraduate seminar and a graduate lecture course examining political, economic, social and cultural developments in the newly independent nation-states of the Indian subcontinent in national, regional and international contexts.

Gandhi: undergraduate seminar examining Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's ideas and politics in the broader context of anti-colonial nationalism in India from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century

Religion, Region, Caste and the Indian Nation: graduate seminar examining the place of communities versus individuals in the colonial state's policies, their implications for the forging of Indian nationalism, and for shaping the relations between the individual, the community, the region and the nation in postcolonial India.

Making Colonial Subjects: graduate seminar investigating the legal, cultural, political and social instruments through which colonial rule was established in India and the role of Indians both in the making and the unmaking of the British Raj.

Readings in South Asian history: graduate research seminar on reading, interpreting and using primary sources in South Asian history.

Subaltern Studies: graduate seminar assessing the contributions and critiques of the Subaltern Studies School of historiography.

Art and Politics: The Mughal and the British Empires: a lecture course for graduate students.

India and Ireland; Partners or Adversaries in Empire?: M. Phil. course, Department of History, Trinity College, Dublin.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AT YALE UNIVERSITY (NEW HAVEN) TRINITY COLLEGE (DUBLIN) AND PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY (KOLKATA)

Across the University

Convenor, Presidency University Bicentennial Celebrations Committee, 2014 to Present

Member, Internal Quality Assessment Cell, Presidency University, May 2014 to Present.

Member of Board, The South Asia Initiative, Trinity College, Dublin University, January 2011 to the present.

Member, Committee on the Teaching of Undergraduate Studies, Trinity College, Dublin University, September 2012 to the present.

Director of Undergraduate Studies, South Asian Studies Council, Whitney and Betty MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University, 2008-09

Committee on Teaching in the Residential Colleges, Yale University, 2003-2004, 2005-2006, 2006-2007

Advisory Committee, Ethnicity Race & Migration Program, 2005- 2010

Chair of Committee, Charles P. Howland and Henry Hart Rice Fellowship Committee, 2007, 2009

Committee on Year-long Fellowships, 2006

Charles P. Howland Fellowship Committee, 2003 and 2004

Yale College Dean's Research Fellowship Committee, 2004

Resident Fellow, Morse College, Yale University, 2001- 2007

Yale Women's Center Advisory Board, 2002-2003, 2003-2004

Asian American Cultural Center, Advisory Board, 2002-2003

Faculty Leader, Association of Yale Alumni, "Colorful India Tour", October 31-November 14, 2007

Association of Yale Alumni, speaker in 2003, 2004

History Department

(Presidency University) Head of Department, November 2015 to the Present

Officiating Head of Department, periodically from September 2015 to October 2015

Co-ordinator, Dissertations Committee for M.A. (final year)

(Trinity College,
Dublin)

Sophister Coordinator, Department of History, Trinity College, January 2012 to the present (responsibilities include supervising and guiding third and final year undergraduate students across the department from ensuring their dissertation writing to overseeing their course work, evaluating the recommendations of their tutors for either their dispensation from coursework or extensions for those).

(Yale University)

Member, search committee for historian of modern Japan, 2006-2007

Member, search committee for historian of the Caribbean, 2003-2004

Member, search committee for historian of the modern Middle East, 2002-2003

Member, search committee for historian of Byzantium, 2001-2002

Graduate admissions: member sub-committee for Southeast Asian and South Asian history, 2005-2006, 2007-2008, 2008-2009

Graduate admissions: member sub-committee for Global, Southeast Asian and South Asian history, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004

History Department Prize Committee for Senior Essays in the “Rest of the World Category”, 2003-2004, 2006-2007

**Whitney and Betty
MacMillan Center
For International
and Area Studies,
Yale University**

Director of Undergraduate Studies, South Asian Studies Council, 2008-09

Member, Executive Committee, South Asian Studies Council, 2008- June 2010

Member, South Asian Studies Council, 2001 – June 2010

Member, Search committee for junior position in South Asian Anthropology, 2008-09

Member, Selection Committee for Post-doctoral fellowships, South Asian Studies Council, MacMillan Center, 2008-09

Chair, South Asian Independence Movement Project, MacMillan Center, 2005- 2009

Member, Prize committee for the Gaddis Smith International Book Prize competition, MacMillan Center, 2006-2007

South Asian Studies Council, the MacMillan Center, member of selection committee for the annual Singh Visiting Lecturer, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, 2008-2009

International Studies, Graduate admissions committee, 2003-2004

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
TO THE FIELDS OF HISTORY & SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES**

Member of Board, Trinity College, Dublin, South Asia Studies Initiative, January 2011- to the present.

Elected Member, Executive Committee, American Institute of Indian Studies, term 2009-June 2010

Member, Board of Trustees, American Institute of Indian Studies, 2007- June 2010.

Reviewer, competition for the Dissertation Completion Fellowships of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/ACLS Early Career Fellowship Program, 2008-2009, 2009-10, 2010-11

Reviewer, SSRC-International Dissertation Research Fellowships competition, 2007-08

Referee, Harvard University Press

Referee, Oxford University Press (India)

Referee, Palgrave Macmillan

Referee, Pluto Press

Referee, Routledge Press

Referee, University of California Press

Referee, University of Pennsylvania Press

Peer Reviewer, *Asian Survey*

Peer Reviewer, *Agricultural History*

Peer Reviewer, *Contemporary South Asia*

Peer Reviewer, *Contributions to Indian Sociology*

Peer Reviewer, *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*.

Peer reviewer, *Journal of Asian Studies*

Peer Reviewer, *Modern Asian Studies*

Peer Reviewer, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*

LANGUAGES

Fluent in English, Hindi, Urdu and French

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS HELD

American Historical Association

Association of Asian Studies

Middle East Studies Association

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Research Bureau, Kolkata, India

REFERENCES

Professor Anuradha Lohia, Vice Chancellor, Presidency University, 86/1 College Street, Kolkata 700073, West Bengal, India. Email address: vc@presiuniv.ac.in

Professor Ayesha Jalal, Mary Richardson Professor of History and Director of the Center for South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies. Address: Department of History, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155, USA. Phone No.: 617-627-2133/627-4237. Email address: ayesha.jalal@tufts.edu

Professor Sugata Bose, Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs. Address: Center for Government and International Studies, South Building, Room S436, 1730

Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA. Phone No.: 617-384-4683. Email
address: sbose@fas.harvard.edu