

CURRICULUM VITAE (ABRIDGED)

Soumen Mukherjee, Dr.phil., FRAS

(Last updated: June 2021)

CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor in History, Presidency University, Kolkata (October 2013-).

QUALIFICATIONS/ UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

2010: Dr. phil. History of South Asia (*Geschichte Südasien*), University of Heidelberg (Ruprecht Karls Universität, Heidelberg). Grade: *Magna cum Laude*.

2004: M.A. (History), University of Calcutta (Ranked Third in the First Class).

2002: B.A. (History Honours) from Presidency College, University of Calcutta (Jointly ranked Third in the First Class). Elective General Subjects: Economics and Political Science.

RESEARCH INTERESTS/ EXPERTISE

Intellectual history; History of religions; Modern South Asia; Global religious, spiritual and intellectual networks; Indian Ocean worlds

PUBLICATIONS

A) Book/ Monograph:

Ismailism and Islam in Modern South Asia: Community and Identity in the Age of Religious Internationalism (Cambridge/ New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2017). ISBN: 9781107154087; <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316650479>.

B) Edited Book/ Special Issue of Peer-Reviewed Journal:

Guest edited (with Christopher Harding & with a Foreword by J.N. Mohanty), Special Issue: 'Mind, Soul and Consciousness: Religion, Science and Psy-Disciplines in Modern South Asia', *South Asian History and Culture*, 9, 3 (2018). ISSN: 1947-2498.

[Reprinted as: Soumen Mukherjee and Christopher Harding (eds), *Mind, Soul and Consciousness: Religion, Science and Psy-Disciplines in Modern South Asia (with a Foreword by J.N. Mohanty)* (London & New York: Routledge, 2019); ISBN 9780367218485].

C) Articles in Refereed/ Peer-Reviewed Journals:

1. 'Sufis, Yogīs, and genealogies of "Islamic yoga": Broaching religio-cultural encounters in premodern eastern India', *Religion Compass* 14, 8 (2020); <https://doi.org/10.1111/rec3.12368>. Online ISSN: 1749-8171.
2. 'Recovering wisdom of the "ancient rishis": Girindrasekhar Bose, Indra Sen, and the psy-disciplines in modern India', *South Asian History and Culture*, 9, 3 (2018), pp. 296-322; <https://doi.org/10.1080/19472498.2018.1488369>. ISSN: 1947-2498.
3. 'Epilogue', *South Asian History and Culture*, 9, 3 (2018), pp. 364-371; <https://doi.org/10.1080/19472498.2018.1488367>. ISSN: 1947-2498.
4. 'Universalising Aspirations: Community and Social Service in the Isma'ili Imagination in Twentieth-Century South Asia and East Africa', *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, Series 3, 24, 3 (2014), pp. 435-453; [doi:10.1017/S1356186314000315](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1356186314000315). ISSN: 1356-1863. [Reprinted in Justin Jones & Ali Usman Qasmi (eds), *The Shi'a in Modern South Asia: Religion, History and Politics* (New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2015), pp. 105-130].
5. 'Being "Ismaili" and "Muslim": Some Observations on the Politico-Religious Career of Aga Khan III', *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 34, 2 (2011), pp. 188-207; [doi: 10.1080/00856401.2011.587507](https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2011.587507). ISSN: 0085-6401 print; 1479-0270 online.
6. 'Two Accounts of the Colonised "Other" in South Asia: Re-exploring Alterity', *South Asia Research*, 30, 2 (2010), pp. 165-184; [doi: 10.1177/026272801003000204](https://doi.org/10.1177/026272801003000204). ISSN: 0262-7280.

D) Book Chapters/ Papers in Conference Proceedings:

1. "'Renaissance Man"-er sandhānē: Īśvarcandra Vidyāsāgar-Rāmjay Tarkabhaṣaṇ Samvād' in Krishna Ray & Sumanta Mukhopadhyay (eds), *Īśvar Pārābārē* (Kolkata: Bethune College/ Sopān, 2020), pp. 28-32 [in Bengali]; ISBN: 978-81-948279-1-7.
2. 'Mirza Ghulam Ahmad's Jesus and the Rediscovery of "Lost Tribes": Towards a Manifesto for Connected and Fantastic Histories' in Kingshuk Chatterjee (ed.), *Contours of Relationship: India and the Middle East* (New Delhi, KW Publishers Pvt. Ltd./ University of Calcutta CPWAS/ IFPS, 2017), pp. 13-44. ISBN-13: 978-9386288615. [Reprint edition: London & New York: Routledge, 2019; ISBN 9780367344078].
3. 'Die internationalen Netzwerke des Aga Khan Development Network: Möglichkeiten und Grenzen eines muslimischen Kosmopolitismus' in Bernhard Gißibl & Isabella Löhr (Hg./ eds), *Bessere Welten: Kosmopolitismus in den Geschichtswissenschaften* (Frankfurt/ M & New York: Campus Verlag, 2017). [Trans. into German by Felix Kurz & Bernhard Gißibl], pp. 343-372. ISBN 9783593506135.
4. 'Modular Projects: Socio-Religious Sensibilities and Political Imagination among the Daudi Bohras in Modern South Asia' in Radu Carciumaru (ed.), *Negotiating Conflict and Accommodating Identity in South Asia (in Heidelberg Papers in Comparative &*

South Asian Politics Series), New Delhi, Samskriti: 2015, pp. 167-201. ISBN: 978-81-87374-83-1.

5. 'Ismaili Samaj ebong dharmiyo netritto: kichu prasanga' in Aniruddha Ray (ed.), *Itihas Anusandhan* 22, Kolkata: Paschimbanga Itihas Samsad: 2008, pp. 402-405. [In Bengali].

E) Occasional Paper/ Working Paper:

'Conceptualizing Reform and Building Consensus: Islam in South Asia, and some Aspects of Leadership Patterns and Political Consciousness', *Heidelberg Papers in South Asian and Comparative Politics*, ISSN: 1617-5069, Working Paper No. 45, March 2009; see < <http://hpsacp.uni-hd.de/> >.

F) Encyclopaedia/ Lexicon articles:

1. Essay: 'Hindu sacred sites and pilgrimage in the Himalayas' in Andrew Hund and James A. Wren, (eds), *The Himalayas: An Encyclopedia of Geography, History, and Culture* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2018), pp. 15-19. ISBN hardcover: 978-1-4408-3938-2; ISBN e-book: 978-1-4408-3939-9.
2. Entry on 'Diwali' in Andrew Hund and James A. Wren, (eds), *The Himalayas: An Encyclopedia of Geography, History, and Culture* (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2018), pp. 108-110. ISBN hardcover: 978-1-4408-3938-2; ISBN e-book: 978-1-4408-3939-9.
3. Articles on: i) 'Bahmani Sultanate' (Bahmani Sultanat); ii) 'Bihar & Orissa'; iii) 'Bijapur Sultanate' (Bijapur Sultanat); iv) 'Bombay'; v) 'Gujarat'; vi) 'Ismaili'; vii) 'Kashmir' (Kaschmir); viii) 'Parsi' (Parsen) in Hermann Hiery (Hg./ ed.), *Lexikon zur Überseegeschichte*, Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag: 2015. ISBN 978-3-515-10000-7 (Print) & ISBN 978-3-515-10875-1 (eBook) [Translated into German].

G) Book Reviews (in peer-reviewed journals):

1. Review of John A. Stevens, *Keshab: Bengal's Forgotten Prophet* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018) in *The American Historical Review*, 125, 5 (2020) pp. 1853-1854; <https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhaa432>.
2. Review of Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty and Shyam Sundar Bhattacharya (eds), *An encounter between two Asian civilisations: Rabindranath Tagore and the early twentieth century Indo-Japanese cultural confluence* (Kolkata: Asiatic Society, 2018) in *South Asian History and Culture* (2020), pp. 338-340; doi: [10.1080/19472498.2020.1797360](https://doi.org/10.1080/19472498.2020.1797360) (in press).
3. Review of Patrick Olivelle (trans.), *King, Governance, and Law in Ancient India: Kautilya's Arthashastra—A New Annotated Translation* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2014) in *Indian Historical Review*, 44, 1 (2017), doi: [10.1177/0376983617694671](https://doi.org/10.1177/0376983617694671).

4. Review of M. Raisur Rahman, *Locale, Everyday Islam, and Modernity: Qasbah Town and Muslim Life in Colonial India* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2015) in *South Asian History and Culture*, 7, 4 (2016), pp. 418-20; doi: [10.1080/19472498.2016.1223725](https://doi.org/10.1080/19472498.2016.1223725).
5. Review of Teena Purohit, *The Aga Khan Case: Religion and Identity in Colonial India* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012) in *Contemporary South Asia*, 23, 1 (2015), pp. 104-105; doi: [10.1080/09584935.2014.1001125](https://doi.org/10.1080/09584935.2014.1001125).
6. Review of Nile Green, *Bombay Islam: The Religious Economy of the West Indian Ocean, 1840-1915* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011) in *Contemporary South Asia* 20, 3 (2012), pp. 416-417.
7. Review of Bidyut Chakrabarty, *Indian politics and society since Independence: events, processes and ideology* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2008) in *Contemporary South Asia*, 18, 4 (2010), pp. 456-457.
8. Review of John R. Hinnells and Richard King (eds), *Religion and Violence in South Asia: Theory and Practice* (London and New York: Routledge, 2007) in *Contemporary South Asia*, 18, 2 (2010), pp. 231-232.
9. Review of Crispin Bates, *Subalterns and the Raj: South Asia Since 1600* (London and New York: Routledge, 2007) in *Contemporary South Asia*, 18, 1 (2010), pp. 106-107.

H) Other publications (publications in quasi-academic and/ or popular media):

1. 'The Story of Politics and Islam in India', Review of Hilal Ahmed, *Siyasi Muslims: A Story Of Political Islams in India* (New Delhi: Penguin, 2019), in *The Telegraph*, 20 December 2019 available at: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/culture/books/the-story-of-politics-and-islam-in-india/cid/1728631>
2. 'Commemorating historian Romila Thapar', Review of Kumkum Roy and Naina Dayal (eds), *Questioning Paradigms, Constructing Histories: A Festschrift for Romila Thapar* (New Delhi: Aleph, 2019), in *The Telegraph*, 7 June 2019 available at: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/culture/books/commemorating-historian-romila-thapar/cid/1691910>
3. 'Modern Hinduism: Searching for the self', Review of J. Barton Scott, *Modern Hinduism and the Genealogies of Self-Rule* (Delhi: Primus, 2018) in *The Telegraph*, 30 November 2018, available at: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/culture/books/modern-hinduism-searching-for-the-self/cid/1676993>
4. 'Beyond Binaries and Boundaries', Review of Romila Thapar, *Indian Cultures as Heritage: Contemporary Pasts is a timely comment on plurality* (New Delhi: Aleph, 2018) in *The Telegraph*, 17 August 2018, available at: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/culture/books/beyond-binaries-and-boundaries/cid/1310520>
5. 'More Shades than One', Review of Christophe Jaffrelot and Laurence Louër (eds), *The Islamic Connection: South Asia and the Gulf* (New Delhi: Viking, 2017) in *The*

Telegraph, 20 April 2018, available at: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/opinion/more-shades-than-one-224536>

6. 'A Big Canvas', Review of Cemil Aydin, *The Idea of the Muslim World: A Global Intellectual History* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2017) in *The Telegraph*, 29 September 2017, available online at: https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170929/jsp/opinion/story_175380.jsp
7. 'Bound Together by Love', Review of Sheela Reddy, *Mr. and Mrs. Jinnah: The Marriage that Shook India* (New Delhi: Viking, 2017) in *The Telegraph*, 16 June 2017, available online at: https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170616/jsp/opinion/story_156967.jsp
8. 'The Salvific Worlds of Kailas', Review of Alex McKay, *Kailas Histories: Renunciate Traditions and the Construction of Himalayan Sacred Geography* (Leiden & Boston: Brill, 2015) in newbooks.asia available at: <http://newbooks.asia/review/worlds-kailas>

SELECT FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS (POST-DOCTORAL ONWARDS/ 2011-)

2017: Academic visitor within the rubric of short-term scholar exchange programme on the Study of the U.S. Institute for Scholars on Religious Pluralism, funded by the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs, United States Department of State (Host Institution: Dialogue Institute, Temple University, Philadelphia).

2011-: Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain & Ireland (elected in 2011).

March 2011- September 2013: Research Fellow (*wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter*), Centre for Modern Oriental Studies, Berlin (Zentrum Moderner Orient; ZMO). (**October 2012- September 2013:** On teaching secondment at the Freie Universität, Berlin).

January & February 2011: Visiting Research Fellowship, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin.

SELECT PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES/ SERVICE TO THE FIELD (2013-)

Reviewer of articles for refereed journals:

South Asian History and Culture (Publisher: Taylor & Francis/ Routledge journal; 2020)

ARGUMENT: Biannual Philosophical Journal (Publisher: Department of Philosophy and Sociology, Pedagogical University of Cracow, Poland; 2014; 2015)

Reviewer of book proposals and/ or book manuscripts for publishing houses:

Cambridge University Press (2019)

Oxford University Press (2015)

Routledge (2014; 2019; 2020)

Sage (2020)

Departmental and/ or University Service:

Member (incl. ex-officio membership as Head of Department, 22 Dec. 2016- 31 March 2019) of various committees at the Presidency University, Kolkata (2013-)

Other Academic Service:

External examiner (M.Phil.): Jadavpur University, Kolkata (2020; 2018); Centre for Studies in Social Sciences [affiliated with Jadavpur University] (2014; 2017); University of Calcutta (2018)

Invited member, Selection Committee & Advisory Committee for the annual workshop and conference on forced migration, 2018 [Within the rubric of the project on 'International Workshop and Conference on Migration and Forced Migration Studies', Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata- Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung.]