

CURRICULUM VITAE

**Soumen Mukherjee, Dr. phil., FRAS**

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**PRESENT EMPLOYMENT**

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

**POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH/ ACADEMIC POSITION**

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

**QUALIFICATIONS/ UNIVERSITY EDUCATION**

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

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

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

**RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS/ EXPERTISE**

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

**PUBLICATIONS**

***Books/ Monographs:***

Forthcoming, 2024. *Religion, Mysticism, and Transcultural Entanglements in Modern South Asia: Towards a Global Religious History*. Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 978-3-031-49636-3 (Hardcover); 978-3-031-49637-0 (E-Book).

2017. *Ismailism and Islam in Modern South Asia: Community and Identity in the Age of Religious Internationals*. Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9781107154087; <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316650479>.\*

\* Winner of the 2021 Karim and Rosemin Karim Prize.

**Edited Books/ Special Issue of Peer-Reviewed Journal:**

2024. *Empire, Religion, and Identity: Modern South Asia and the Global Circulation of Ideas*. Brill. ISBN: 978-90-04-68515-4 (Hardback); 978-90-04-69433-0 (E-Book).
2018. Guest edited (with Christopher Harding and 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 edited collection: 2019. London & New York: Routledge; ISBN 9780367218485].

**Articles in Peer-Reviewed/ Refereed Journals:**

2021. 'The idea of Viśva Bhāratī: cosmopolitanism, transculturality and education in early twentieth century South Asia', *South Asian History and Culture*, 12, 4: 436-444; <https://doi.org/10.1080/19472498.2021.1981673>. ISSN: 1947-2498 [Special Article].
2020. 'Sufis, Yogīs, and genealogies of "Islamic yoga": Broaching religio-cultural encounters in premodern eastern India', *Religion Compass* 14, 8; <https://doi.org/10.1111/rec3.12368>. Online ISSN: 1749-8171.
2018. 'Recovering wisdom of the "ancient rishis": Girindrasekhar Bose, Indra Sen, and the psy-disciplines in modern India', *South Asian History and Culture*, 9, 3: 296-322; <https://doi.org/10.1080/19472498.2018.1488369>. ISSN: 1947-2498.
2018. 'Epilogue', *South Asian History and Culture*, 9, 3: 364-371; <https://doi.org/10.1080/19472498.2018.1488367>. ISSN: 1947-2498.
2014. '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: 435-453; [doi:10.1017/S1356186314000315](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1356186314000315). ISSN: 1356-1863.
- [Reprinted in: 2015. Justin Jones and Ali Usman Qasmi (eds), *The Shi'a in Modern South Asia: Religion, History and Politics*. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, pp. 105-130].
2011. 'Being "Ismaili" and "Muslim": Some Observations on the Politico-Religious Career of Aga Khan III', *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 34, 2: 188-207; [doi:10.1080/00856401.2011.587507](https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2011.587507). ISSN: 0085-6401 print; 1479-0270 online.
2010. 'Two Accounts of the Colonised "Other" in South Asia: Re-exploring Alterity', *South Asia Research*, 30, 2: 165-184; [doi: 10.1177/026272801003000204](https://doi.org/10.1177/026272801003000204). ISSN: 0262-7280.

**Book Chapters/ Papers in Conference Proceedings:**

2024. 'Religion, identity, and South Asia's global entanglements since the *fin de siècle*: An introduction' in Soumen Mukherjee (ed.), *Empire, Religion, and Identity: Modern South Asia and the Global Circulation of Ideas* (Leiden & Boston: Brill), pp. 1-38. ISBN: 978-90-04-68515-4 (Hardback); 978-90-04-69433-0 (E-Book).

2023. 'Towards the Genealogy of an Indic *Sittlichkeit*: Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on Dharma and the Idea of Civil Religion' in Kingshuk Chatterjee (ed.), *Eurasia, India and the Spaces in Between: Essays in Memory of Hari Shankar Vasudevan* (Delhi: Primus Books), pp. 243-281; ISBN 978-93-5687-868-6 (Hardback).
2020. "'Renaissance Man"-er sandhāne: Īśvarcandra Vidyāsāgar-Rāmjay Tarkabhuṣaṇ Samvād' in Krishna Ray and Sumanta Mukhopadhyay (eds), *Īśvar Pārābāre*. Kolkata: Bethune College/ Sopān, pp. 28-32 [in Bengali]; ISBN: 978-81-948279-1-7.
2017. '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, pp. 13-44. ISBN-13: 978-9386288615. [Reprint edition: 2019. London & New York: Routledge; ISBN 9780367344078].
2017. '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, pp. 343-372. [Trans. into German by Felix Kurz & Bernhard Gißibl]. ISBN 9783593506135.
2015. '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, pp. 167-201. ISBN: 978-81-87374-83-1. [Originally published as HPSACP Working Paper No. 45, 2009 (see below).]
2008. 'Ismaili Samaj ebong dharmiyo netritto: kichu prasanga' in Aniruddha Ray (ed.), *Itihas Anusandhan 22*, Kolkata: Paschimbanga Itihas Samsad, pp. 402-405. [In Bengali].

#### **Occasional Paper/ Working Paper:**

2009. '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 (HPSACP)*, ISSN: 1617-5069, Working Paper No. 45, March 2009; see < <http://hpsacp.uni-hd.de/> >.

#### **Encyclopaedia/ Lexicon articles:**

2018. Thematic 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, pp. 15-19. ISBN hardcover: 978-1-4408-3938-2; ISBN e-book: 978-1-4408-3939-9.
2018. 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, pp. 108-110. ISBN hardcover: 978-1-4408-3938-2; ISBN e-book: 978-1-4408-3939-9.
2015. 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. ISBN 978-3-515-10000-7 (Print) & ISBN 978-3-515-10875-1 (eBook) [Translated into German].

**Book Reviews (in academic journals):**

2023. Review of Martin Kämpchen, *Indo-German exchanges in education: Rabindranath Tagore meets Paul and Edith Geheeb* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2020) in *South Asian History and Culture*, 14,1 (2023); <https://doi.org/10.1080/19472498.2022.2150748>.
2020. Review of John A. Stevens, *Keshab: Bengal's Forgotten Prophet* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018) in *The American Historical Review*, 125, 5: 1853-1854; <https://doi.org/10.1093/ahr/rhaa432>.
2020. 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*, 11, 3: 338-340; doi: [10.1080/19472498.2020.1797360](https://doi.org/10.1080/19472498.2020.1797360).
2017. 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: 134-136. doi: [10.1177/0376983617694671](https://doi.org/10.1177/0376983617694671).
2016. 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: 418-20; doi: [10.1080/19472498.2016.1223725](https://doi.org/10.1080/19472498.2016.1223725).
2015. 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: 104-105; doi: [10.1080/09584935.2014.1001125](https://doi.org/10.1080/09584935.2014.1001125).
2012. 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: 416-417.
2010. Review of Bidyut Chakrabarty, *Indian politics and society since Independence: events, processes and ideology* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2008) in *Contemporary South Asia*, 18, 4: 456-457.
2010. 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: 231-232.
2010. Review of Crispin Bates, *Subalterns and the Raj: South Asia Since 1600* (London and New York: Routledge, 2007) in *Contemporary South Asia*, 18, 1: 106-107.

**Publications/ book reviews in popular media/ academic outreach:**

2019. '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>

2019. ‘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>
2018. ‘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 online at: <https://www.telegraphindia.com/culture/books/modern-hinduism-searching-for-the-self/cid/1676993>
2018. ‘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>
2018. ‘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>
2017. ‘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](https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170929/jsp/opinion/story_175380.jsp)
2017. ‘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](https://www.telegraphindia.com/1170616/jsp/opinion/story_156967.jsp)
2015. ‘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](http://newbooks.asia) available at: <http://newbooks.asia/review/worlds-kailas>

#### **SELECT AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS**

2024. Charles Wallace India Trust Visiting Fellowship, the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH), University of Cambridge (Michaelmas Term).
2023. Annemarie Schimmel Fellowship, Institute of Ismaili Studies, London.
2021. Karim and Rosemin Karim Prize.
2017. Academic visitor, Dialogue Institute, Temple University, Philadelphia (Exchange programme on the Study of the U.S. Institute for Scholars on Religious Pluralism, under the auspices of the Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs, United States Department of State).
- 2011-. Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain & Ireland (elected in 2011).
2011. Visiting Research Fellowship, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin (January and February).

2007-10. Doctoral scholarship of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

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

***Editorial position:***

2022-. Member, International Editorial Advisory Board, *South Asian History and Culture* (February 2022- Present; Publisher: Taylor & Francis).

***Reviewer of articles for refereed journals:***

*South Asian History and Culture* (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 publishers:***

Cambridge University Press (2019)

Oxford University Press (2015)

Routledge (2014; 2019; 2020)

Sage (2020)

***Departmental and/ or University Service:***

2016- 2019. Head of department, Department of History, Presidency University (22 December 2016- 31 March 2019).

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

***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); Jadavpur University (2023).

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.]

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Dr Soumen Mukherjee, FRAS  
(Last Updated: April 2024)