

CURRICULUM VITAE (ABRIDGED)

Soumen Mukherjee, Dr. phil., FRAS
Department of History, Presidency University, Kolkata, INDIA
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PRESENT EMPLOYMENT

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

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*), 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 AND TEACHING INTERESTS/ EXPERTISE

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

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph:

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

* Winner of the 2021 Karim and Rosemin Karim Prize.

Edited Book/ Special Issue of Peer-Reviewed Journal:

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. [Special Article] ‘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.

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. 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. 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. ISSN: 0262-7280.

Book Chapters/ Papers in Conference Proceedings:

2020. “‘Renaissance Man’-er sandhānē: Īśvarcandra Vidyāsāgar-Rāmjay Tarkabhuṣaṇ Samvād’ in Krishna Ray and Sumanta Mukhopadhyay (eds), *Īśvar Pārābārē*. 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. 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 Überseegegeschichte*, 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):

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
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
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 available at: <http://newbooks.asia/review/worlds-kailas>

SELECT FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, GRANTS (POST-DOCTORAL ONWARDS/ 2011-)

2021. The 2021 Karim and Rosemin Karim Prize [For contributions made by the monograph, *Ismailism and Islam in Modern South Asia: Community and Identity in the Age of Religious Internationals* (Cambridge/ New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2017), to understudied areas of Ismaili Studies published during the period 2017-20.]
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).

2011: Visiting Research Fellowship, Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin for the months of January and February.

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 publishing houses:

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).

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.]

(Last updated: July 2022)