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Education

PhD, Centre For Historical Studies, JNU, 2004.

Research and Teaching Interests:

Religion and Society in Medieval and Early Modern South India; Regions, Space and Historical Geography; Political Formations, Issues of Legitimation and Political Culture in Medieval and Early Modern South India; Public History and Notions of Heritage.

Profile

Employment

Associate Professor, JNU, 2016-
Associate Professor, Jamia Millia Islamia, 2014-16
Assistant Professor, Jamia Millia Islamia, 2002-14
Lecturer, Lady Shri Ram College, DU (ad-hoc, 1995-2001, consolidate 2.6 months)

Fellowships, Grants and Honours

- 2009-2011. *Fellow*. Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla
- 1994-1997. *Senior Research Fellowship in History*, University Grants Commission, India
- 1992-1994. *Junior Research Fellow*, University Grants Commission, India

Publications

Books, Edited Volumes and Monographs:

- 1) *From Hagiographies to Biographies: Ramanuja in Tradition and History* (New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 2014) ISBN-13: 978-0-19-809229-2/ISBN-10:0-19-809229-6
- 2) *Negotiating Religion: Perspectives from Indian History* (New Delhi, Manohar, 2012). Co-edited with R.P.Bahuguna and Farhat Nasreen, ISBN 978-81-7304-924-8
- 3) *Changing Social Base and the Institutional Identities of the Śrīvaiṣṇava Community SAP-History Monograph-2. SAP (UGC) Programme, Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia* (New Delhi, 2004).

Research Papers in Journals and Online Publications:

- 1) Hagiographies, Tradition and Memory: Texts and Contexts in the Śrīvaiṣṇava Community of South India, *Indraprastha- An International Journal of Culture and Communication Studies*, (GGS, Indraprastha University, New Delhi, 2015) ISSN 2394-7829
- 2) Reading Community Identities and Traditions: The History and Representation of the Shri vaishnavas of South India, *Humanities and Social Sciences Journal of the Inter-University Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol. XVIII, Nos. 1& 2, (Sage, New Delhi, 2011), pp.141-68. ISSN 00972-1401
- 3) Pilgrimage as a Religious Process: Some Reflections on the Identities of the Śrīvaiṣṇavas of South India, in *Indian Historical Review*, Vol.37, No.1, June. (New Delhi, Sage, 2010), pp.17-38. ISSN: 0376-9836, Online ISSN: 0975-5977
- 4) Śrīvaiṣṇava Community in History and Historiography, *Occasional Papers, Department Research Support-Special Assistance Programme of the Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia*. New Delhi, 2008. JMI/http://jmi.ac.in/FHum/drs/drs_archives.htm
- 5) Texts, Tradition and Community Identity: The Śrīvaiṣṇavas of South India, *Social Scientist*, Vol.35, Nos 9-10, September-October. (New Delhi, Sage, 2007), pp. 22-42. ISSN No: 0970-0293
- 6) Politics of Religious Identity: A Muslim Goddess in Śrīvaiṣṇavaism of South India, *Studies in History*, Volume XIX, Number 2, July-December. (New Delhi. Sage, 2003), Pp.157-84. ISSN-0257-6430; E ISSN-0973-080X.

Chapters in Books:

- 1) Locating the Self, Community and the Nation: Writing the History of the Śrīvaiṣṇavas of South India, in Sekhar Bandyopadhyay and Aloka Parasher Sen, eds. *Religion and Modernity in India*, (New Delhi, Oxford University Press, August 2016), pp.84-106. ISBN 9780199467785
- 2) Consensus and Control: The *Maṭhas*, Household and Religious Devotion, in Medieval South India, in Kumkum Roy, ed., *Looking Within and Looking Without: Exploring Households in the Subcontinent Through Time*. (New Delhi, Primus, 2014), pp. 321-47. ISBN 978-93-84082-33-8.
- 3) Community, Religion and Pilgrimage: The Growth of Śrīrangam in the Tamil Region, in Pius Malaikandathil and Yogesh Sharma, ed., *Cities in Indian History* (New Delhi, Primus, 2014), pp.457-78. ISBN978-93-80607-99-3.
- 4) Devotion and Dissent in the Biographical Process of a Medieval Saint: Ramanuja in Śrīvaiṣṇava Tradition and History, in Vijaya Ramaswamy, ed., *Devotion and Dissent in Indian Religion* (New Delhi, Cambridge University Press, 2014), pp. 74-97. ISBN978-93-82993-19-3.
- 5) Representations of a Past: Life of Ramanuja and the Śrīvaiṣṇava Community, in Ranjeeta Dutta, R.P.Bahuguna and Farhat Nasreen, eds., *Negotiating Religion: Perspectives From Indian History*. (New Delhi, Manohar, 2012), pp.85-118. ISBN 978-81-7304-924-8.

6) Imaging the Goddess: A Process in the Identity Formation of the Śrīvaiṣṇavas of South India in Neelima Chitgopekar Ed. *Indian Goddesses: Gender and Politics in Indian Religion* (New Delhi, Har Anand, 2002), Pp.112-39 ISBN 81-242-51-08.

Academic Course Material

- 1) Southern Dimension: The Glory of Vijayanagara. (Block 4, Unit 20), IGNOU M.A. History. MH titled *Urbanization in India*.
- 2) Rural Society: Peninsular India. (Block 5, Unit 18, Medieval Society-1), IGNOU M.A. History. MHI-06 titled *Evolution of Social Structures in India through the Ages*. ISBN-81-266-2734-4
- 3) Changing Social Structure in Peninsular India. (Block 6, Unit 21, Medieval Society-2) IGNOU M.A. History. MHI-06 titled *Evolution of Social Structures in India through the Ages*. ISBN-81-266-2734-4
- 4) Socio-Religious Movements. (Block 6, Unit 22, Medieval Society-2) IGNOU M.A. History. MHI-06 titled *Evolution of Social Structures in India through the Ages*. ISBN-81-266-2734-4
- 5) Unit 12, Regional Kingdoms in Indian History. From Twelfth to Eighteenth Century. Class XII, (NOIDA, National Open School, 2010)

Book Reviews

- 1) *Approaching the Divine: The Integration of Alvar Bhakti in Srivaisnavism* by Bharati Jagannathan (New Delhi, Primus, 2015) in *The Book Review*, Vol. XL, No.2, February 2016. pp. 12-13.
- 2) *Escaping the World. Women Renouncers Among Jains* by Manisha Sethi (New Delhi, Routledge, 2012) in *The Book Review*, Vol. XXXVII, No. 2-3 February/March 2013, New Delhi, South Asia Special.
- 3) *Nandavan and Other Stories* by Lakshmi Kannan in *Summerhill :IIAS Review* (2013, Shimla, Indian Institute of Advanced Study) ISSN: 0972-1452
- 4) *Other Landscapes. Colonialism and the Predicament of Authority in Nineteenth- Century South India* by Deborah Sutton (New Delhi, Orient Blackswan, 2011) in *The Book Review* pp.9-10.
- 5) *Forging a Region: Sultans, Traders and Pilgrims in Gujarat, 1200-1500* by Sameera Sheikh (New Delhi, OUP, 2010) in *The Book Review*, Vol. XXXIV, No.6, June 2010, pp.8-9.
- 6) Gwilym Beckerlegge, ed., *Colonialism, Modernity, and Religious Identities: Religious Reform Movements in South Asia*, (Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2008), in *Indian Historical Review*, Vol.36, No.2, December 2009 (New Delhi, Sage), pp.320-323. ISSN: 0376-9836, Online ISSN: 0975-5977
- 7) Sunil Kumar, Edited with an Introduction, *Demolishing Myths or Mosques and Temples? Readings on History and Temple Desecration in Medieval India*. (Three Essays Collective. New Delhi. First Edition. April 2008), in *Social Scientist*, 2009 (Sage, New Delhi), pp.89-92. ISSN No: 0970-0293
- 8) *Everyday Lives and Everyday Histories: Beyond Kings and Brahmanas in Ancient India* (New Delhi, Tulika, 2006) in *Contemporary Perspectives. History and Sociology of South Asia*. (2008, July-December 2008, JMI and Foundation Books, New Delhi), pp. 381-385. ISSN 0973-7898
- 9) Jigar Mohammad, 2002. *Revenue Free Land Grants in Mughal India. Awadh Region in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. (1658-1765)* Manohar, New Delhi. In *Book Review*, April, 2004: New Delhi.
- 10) Reviewed and *Produced Advisory titled, Learning History without Burden. A Note to School Teachers*, the NCERT Class VII History Text book, *India and the World* by Sima

Yadav, Basabi Khan Banerjee, Sanjay Dubey and Themmichon Woleng for the *NCERT*. 2004.

11) Maura Corcoran, 1996. *Vrindavan in Vaisnava Literature*. DK Publications: New Delhi. In *Book Review*, November 1996: New Delhi.

Paper Presented in International/National Conferences and Workshops

International Seminars/Conferences/Workshops

1. 2017. 'Changing Settlement Patterns, Religious Developments and Networks of Control: Śrīraṅgam as a Sacred Centre (From the 13th to 16th Century)', *Political Economy of South Asia, An International Conference in Honour of Professor Noboru Karashima (1933-2017)*, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. January 4th- 6th
2. 2016. 'Imagined Landscapes: Political Geography and the Vijayanagar Empire', *Making of Regions in South Asian History*, Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. March 9th-10th.
3. 2015. 'Multiple Geographies, Contested Spaces and the Early Modern in Peninsular India', *Configuring Early Modern South Asia*, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 12th-13th November.
4. 2015. 'Battles and Temples at Crossroads: Narratives of Encounter and Interface in the Vijayanagara Empire', *Cultural Encounters and Interactions: Ottoman, Mughal, Vijaynagar Empires and Beyond*, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 7th-9th November.
5. 2015. 'Community Identity, the Self and Nation: Caste and History Writing of the Śrīvaiṣṇavas of South India', *Identity Assertions and Conflicts in South Asia*, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi, 2nd-3rd November.
6. 2014. 'Negotiating the Sacred: Power and Authority in the Śrīvaiṣṇava Monastic Traditions in Early Modern Tamil Region', First international Medieval History Journal Seminar on, *From Command to Consent: The Structure and Representation of Power in the Late-medieval Eurasian World (13th - 16th Centuries)* Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 5th November.
7. 2014. 'Between Traveller's Accounts and Tourist Literature: Remembering Hampi and the 'Hindu' Kingdom of Vijayanagara', *Asia in Motion: Heritage and Transformation*, AAS-IN-ASIA, Association of Asian Studies, National University, Singapore. 17th -19th July
8. 2013. 'Locating Self, Community and the Nation: Writing the History of the Srivaisnavas of South', *Society, Religion and Modernity in India*, School of Social Sciences, Univ. of Hyderabad and New Zealand India Research Institute. 28th-29th November.
9. 2013. 'Re-visiting Eyewitness Accounts, History and Historiography: Domingo Paes, Fernao Nuniz and History of Vijayanagar', *India, the Portuguese and the Indian Ocean Societies: Exchanges and Engagements*, International Seminar on Indo-Portuguese History- XIV, India International Centre, New Delhi/India. 11th-13th February.
10. 2012. 'Dialectics in the Religious Discourse: Violence and Non-Violence in Representation of Religious Identities', *Religion, Violence and Language*, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, April 9th-11th.
11. 2011. 'Consensus and Control: The Mathas, Household and Religious Devotion in Medieval South India', *Looking Within and Looking Without: Exploring Households in the Subcontinent through Time*, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, February 24th-26th.
12. 2010. 'Devotion and Dissent in the Biographical Process of a Medieval Saint: Ramanuja in Śrīvaiṣṇava Tradition and History', *Devotion and Dissent in Indian History*, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, March 11th-13th.

13. 2008. 'Community, Religion and Pilgrimage: The Growth of Srirangam in the Tamil Region', *Cities in Indian History* at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, March 4th -7th.
14. 2007. 'From Uniformity to Multiplicity: Aspects of Hindu Identities with reference to South Asia', *History of Religion to mark the Centenary of Mircea Eliade*, Academic Staff College, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, September
15. 2005. 'Pilgrimage and Religious Identities of the Śrīvaiṣṇavas of South India', *Second International Conference on Religions and Cultures in Indic Civilizations*, organized by the Indic Studies Network, CSDS, Delhi and *Manushi*, a Journal about Women and Society, New Delhi, December 17th-19th.

National Seminars/Conferences/Workshops

1. 2014. 'Regions, Perspectives and the Idea of 'South' in Nehru's *The Discovery of India* and Nationalist Historiography', *Nehru's Idea of Past and History Writing in Independent India*. Motilal Nehru College, Univ. of Delhi. 11th-12th November.
2. 2014. 'Sacred Centre As Urban Space: The Growth of Srirangam in the Tamil Region', *Understanding Urban History*, Department of History, Gauhati University, Gauhati. 5th-6th September.
3. 2011. 'From Hagiographies to Biographies: Ramanuja in Tradition and History', paper presented at *Fellows Weekly Seminar*, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, April 7th.
4. 2010. 'Biography of a Medieval Town: Srirangam and the Networks of Pilgrimage', paper presented at a seminar on *Urban Dialogues in History: Cultural Expressions of City Life*, Department of History, St. Stephens College, University of Delhi, September 23rd.
5. 2010. 'The Making of a Canon: Ramanuja in the Śrīvaiṣṇava Textual Tradition (Eleventh to the Thirteenth Century A.D.)', paper presented at *Fellows Weekly Seminar*, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, July 22nd.
6. 2009. 'The Biographical Process of a Saint: Ramanuja, Hagiographies and the Śrīvaiṣṇava Community', paper presented at *Fellows Weekly Seminar Indian*, Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, September 24th.
7. 2007. 'Studying Economic History of Medieval India: Perspectives and Problems', paper presented at a workshop on *Teaching Economic History*, Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia, March 30th.
8. 2005. 'The Pilgrimage Processes in South India with Special Reference to the Śrīvaiṣṇavas', paper presented at the *Weekly Seminar Presentation*, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, March 23rd.
9. 2003. 'Perceptions of Caste and Community in Śrīvaiṣṇava Hagiography and Praxis', paper presented at a seminar on *Regions, Culture and Sagas*, Department of History, Sri Venkateshwara College, University of Delhi, March 12th-13th.
10. 2002. 'Beyond the Written Word: Manipravalam and the Śrīvaiṣṇava Community', paper presented at a seminar on *Paradigms in South Indian History and Culture*, Department of History, Sri Venkateshwara College, University of Delhi, March 7th -8th.
11. 2001. 'Politics of Religious Identities: A Muslim Goddess in Śrīvaiṣṇava Community of South India', paper presented at a seminar on *Gender and History*, Centre for Historical Studies in collaboration with Women's Study Programme, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Nov. 5th-7th.

Lectures: National/International (Select)

1. 2016. 'Devotion and Dissent in Bhakti Movements' 8th Orientation Programme, UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, JNU. 8 October.
2. 2016. 'Settlement Patterns, Ecology and State control in Medieval Tamil Region', 1st Interdisciplinary Course in Environmental Studies, UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, JNU. 30 August.
3. 2016. 'Water, Sacrality and Control of Water Spaces in Medieval Deccan' 1st Interdisciplinary Course in Environmental Studies, UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, JNU. 30 August.
4. 2015. 'State in South India: A Historiographical Survey', 21st Refresher Course in History, Academic Staff College, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 29th Jan.
5. 2014. 'Monuments, Objects of Art and Contested Histories', *Skype lecture*, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas, Arlington, 2nd October.
6. 2014. Delivered Two Lectures in the *Workshop on Faculty Development Programme on Religion*, at Eklavya Hoshangabad. Organized by Azim Premji Univ., Bengaluru and Hoshangabad Centre of Eklavya, Insitute of Advanced Research and Training in Education. 15th-20th September.
7. 2013. 'Saints and Sinners: The Srivaisnava Community and Networks of Control in the Early Modern Tamil Region', *Nehru Memorial Museum and Library*, New Delhi. 5th November.
8. 2013. 'From Forgotten Empire to Tidings in History: Vijayanagar State in Historiography', *Academic Staff College*, Jawaharlal Nehru University. 27th September.
9. 2013. 'Exchange Economy in Medieval India: From 1000 to 1600 AD', *Centre For Historical Studies*, Jawaharlal Nehru University. 5th April.
10. 2013. 'Trends and Factors of Change: From 1000-1600 AD', *Centre For Historical Studies*, Jawaharlal Nehru University. 6th April.

Courses Designed and Taught

- States in Medieval India
- Cultural History and Architecture and Painting.
- Religions and Society in Medieval India
- Aspects of Social Ideologies in Medieval India
- Early Medieval India: A Historical Survey, from the Sixth to Thirteenth century
- State Formations and Political Structures in Peninsular India. A Historical Survey. 1000-1700 CE
- State and Economy in India. 1200-1707 CE

Academic Service

- Associate Editor, *Medieval History Journal*, Sage, New Delhi. ISSN 0971 - 9458. Online ISSN 0973-0753
- 2009. Consultant for the project, 'Preparations of Site Management Plan, Ellora Caves, Aurangabad', Cultural Resource Conservation Initiative (For The Preservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage), New Delhi. April 15th –June 15th. Complete Project Report submitted.