

**Ranjeeta Dutta**  
Associate Professor, Medieval History  
Centre For Historical Studies,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University  
New Delhi-110067



**Office:**

Room no.411, School of Social Science-III  
Ph: 91-11-26703022

[Ranjeeta.dutta@gmail.com](mailto:Ranjeeta.dutta@gmail.com)  
[ranjeetadutta@jnu.ac.in](mailto:ranjeetadutta@jnu.ac.in)

**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 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup>

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 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>.

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, 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 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, 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 5<sup>th</sup> 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. 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> 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. 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 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. 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>.

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 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

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 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.

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 4<sup>th</sup> -7<sup>th</sup>.
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 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

### **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. 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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. 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup>.
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 23<sup>rd</sup>.
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 22<sup>nd</sup>.
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 24<sup>th</sup>.
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 30<sup>th</sup>.
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 23<sup>rd</sup>.
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 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.
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 7<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>.
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. 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Lectures: National/International (Select)**

1. 2016. 'Devotion and Dissent in Bhakti Movements' 8<sup>th</sup> 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', 1<sup>st</sup> 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' 1<sup>st</sup> Interdisciplinary Course in Environmental Studies, UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, JNU. 30 August.
4. 2015. 'State in South India: A Historiographical Survey', 21<sup>st</sup> Refresher Course in History, Academic Staff College, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 29<sup>th</sup> Jan.
5. 2014. 'Monuments, Objects of Art and Contested Histories', *Skype lecture*, Department of Anthropology, University of Texas, Arlington, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> 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. 5<sup>th</sup> November.
8. 2013. 'From Forgotten Empire to Tidings in History: Vijayanagar State in Historiography', *Academic Staff College*, Jawaharlal Nehru University. 27<sup>th</sup> September.
9. 2013. 'Exchange Economy in Medieval India: From 1000 to 1600 AD', *Centre For Historical Studies*, Jawaharlal Nehru University. 5<sup>th</sup> April.
10. 2013. 'Trends and Factors of Change: From 1000-1600 AD', *Centre For Historical Studies*, Jawaharlal Nehru University. 6<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> –June 15<sup>th</sup>. Complete Project Report submitted.