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DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY  
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Columbia University, Department of Anthropology, 2013.  
Dissertation: *Nature, History, and the Sacred in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi*.  
Advisor: Partha Chatterjee.
- M.A. Jamia Millia Islamia, AJ Kidwai Mass Communication Research Center, 2004.
- B.A. Delhi University, Ramjas College, History (Honors), 2001.

CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor (tenure track), Department of Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University, August 2013 – present.  
Secondary appointments in Graduate Department of Religion, Department of Anthropology, Asian Studies Program, Islamic Studies Program, Cinema and Media Arts Program.

PREVIOUS POSITION

Preceptor, Columbia University, Columbia College Center for the Core Curriculum, 2012-2013.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Honorable Mention, Gregory Bateson Award, Society for Cultural Anthropology, 2019.
- Faculty Fellowship, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University, 2019-2020.
- Joseph W. Elder Prize in the Indian Social Sciences, American Institute of Indian Studies, 2016.
- Faculty Fellowship, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University, 2015-16.

Junior Faculty Teaching Fellowship, Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University, 2015-16.

EOS Environmental Project Fellowship, Vanderbilt University, 2015-16.

Preceptorship, Columbia College Center for the Core Curriculum, Columbia University, 2012-13.

Moses Asch Fellowship in Cultural Anthropology, Columbia University, 2011-2012.

Faculty Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, 2006-2009.

Principal's Medal for Outstanding Student, Ramjas College, Delhi University, 2001.

### BOOKS

*Jinnealogy: Time, Islam, and Ecological Thought in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi.*

Published by Stanford University Press, November 2017. 336 pages.

Honorable Mention, Gregory Bateson Prize, 2019; Finalist, American Academy of Religion Book Prize, Analytic-Descriptive Category, 2018; Winner, Joseph W. Elder Prize in the Indian Social Sciences, 2016.

### JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUE

*Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* 35/2 (2015). Special issue, *Animals and Enchantment in South Asia*. Co-edited with Manan Ahmed Asif; with contributions by Naisargi Dave, Bhrigupati Singh, Radhika Govindarajan, Richard McGregor, Rachel Dwyer, and Wendy Doniger.

“Introduction: Animals, Ethics, and Enchantment in South Asia and the Middle East.” Co-authored with Manan Ahmed Asif. *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 35/2 (2015): 200-203.

### ARTICLES IN REFEREED JOURNALS

“‘Hindustan is a Dream’: Urdu Poetry and the Political Theology of Intimacy.” *Public Culture* 34/1 (2022): Forthcoming, January 2022. (25 pages)

“The (Critical) Edge of Tradition: Understanding Ghalib as *Vali* in Contemporary Delhi.” *The Journal of Urdu Studies* 1/2 (2020): 211-240.

“Saintly Animals: The Shifting Moral and Ecological Landscapes of North India.”  
*Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 35/2 (2015): 204-221.

“Jinnealogy: Everyday Life and Islamic Theology in Post-Partition Delhi.” *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 3/3 (2013): 139-65.

“Saintly Visions: Other Histories and History’s Others in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi.”  
*Indian Economic and Social History Review* 49/4 (2012): 557-590.

#### CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

“Sharing a Room with Sparrows: Maulana Azad and Muslim Ecological Thought.” In  
*Cosmopolitical Ecologies Across Asia: Places of Power in Changing Environments*, edited by Riemsara Kuyakanon Knapp, Hildegard Diemberger, and David Sneath. London: Routledge, 2021. Pp. 228-242.

“Village Cosmopolitanisms: Or, I see Kabul from Lado Sarai.” In *Rumba Under Fire: The Arts of Survival from West Point to Delhi*, edited by Tim Albrecht and Irina Dumitrescu. Punctum Books: Brooklyn, 2016. pp. 175-195.

“Muslimness in Hindi Cinema” In *Seminar* (vol. 598): *Circuits of Cinema*, edited by Aarti Sethi. Delhi: Seminar Publications, June 2009. pp. 36-40.

“History and Heritage Woven in the New Urban Fabric: The Changing Landscapes of Delhi’s ‘First City’.” In *Patterns of Middle Class Consumption in India and China*, edited by Christophe Jaffrelot and Peter van der Veer. Los Angeles: Sage, 2008. pp. 157-169.

“Begum Samru and the Security Guard,” In *Sarai Reader 05: Bare Acts*, edited by Jeebesh Bagchi, Lawrence Liang, Geert Lovink, Monica Narula and Shuddhabrata Sengupta. Delhi: Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, 2005. pp. 287-296.

“*Puratatv ka mithak va mith ka puratatv: Purana Qila* [The myth of archaeology and the archaeology of myth: Purana Qila].” In *Deewan-e-Sarai 02: Shaharnama*, edited by Ravikant and Sanjay Sharma. Delhi: Center for Study of Developing Societies, 2005. pp. 307-320.

#### ARTICLES IN CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

“Lost in La Mancha: Terry Gilliam, Holy Fools, Pirates, and the Mullah.” In *Cervantes and Don Quixote: Proceedings of the Delhi Conference on Miguel de Cervantes*, edited by Vibha Maurya and Ignacio Arellano. Hyderabad: Emesco Books, 2008. pp. 393-414.

### BOOK REVIEWS

Review of “Poetry of Belonging: Muslim Imaginings of India 1850-1950.” In *Scroll.in*, November 15, 2020.

Review of Saif Mahmood, *Beloved Delhi: A Mughal City and her Greatest Poets*, in *Scroll.in*, October 6, 2018.

Review of Rana Safvi, *The Forgotten Cities of Delhi*, in *The Hindu*, July 21, 2018.

Review of Audrey Truschke, *A Culture of Encounters: Sanskrit at the Mughal Court*, in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 40/4 (2017): 917-19.

Review of Emilio Spadola, *The Calls of Islam: Sufis, Islamists, and Mass Mediation in Morocco*, in *The Journal of Religion* 97/4 (2017): 581-83.

Review of Ruth Vanita, *Gender, Sex, and the City: Urdu Rekhti Poetry in India, 1780-1870*, in *Indian Social and Economic History Review* 51/2 (2014): 279-82.

Review of Christopher Pinney, *Photography and Anthropology*, in *The Book Review* 36/3 (2012): 53.

Review of Ravi Sundaram, *Pirate Modernity: Delhi’s Media Urbanism*, in *Contemporary South Asia* 19/3 (2011): 347-48.

Review of Ira Bhaskar and Richard Allen, *Islamicate Cultures of Bombay Cinema*, in *Economic and Political Weekly*, 45/4 (2010): 30-32.

Review of Ranjani Mazumdar, *Bombay Cinema: An Archive of the City*, in *Contemporary South Asia* 17/2 (2008): 232-33.

### WORKING PAPERS AND BOOKS

Currently working on book manuscript, *The Gabriel of Madness: Indian Muslim Poetry, Ethics, and Politics in the Age of Hindu Nationalism*.

### RESEARCH GRANTS RECEIVED

Research Scholar Grant—Semester (Vanderbilt University), Spring 2018 (\$33,750).

Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, calendar year 2010 (\$15,000).

Summer Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University, Summer 2008, 2009, 2011.

AW Firestone Award, Department of Anthropology, Columbia University, Summer 2007 (\$3,000).

Student Stipend for Research on the City, SARAI-Center for Study of Developing Societies, Delhi, 2003 (INR 10,000).

#### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

*Jinnealogy* teaching visit. Anthropology of Islam graduate seminar, Prof. Noah Salomon, Department of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, November 3, 2021 (via Zoom).

“Sainly Animals: The Shifting Moral and Ecological Landscapes of North India,” Indian Animal Studies Collective Table Talk, September 24, 2021 (via Zoom).

“Interpreting the Pew Report on Religions in India: A Discussion with Neha Sahgal,” Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University, September 17, 2021 (via Zoom).

“Sharing a Room with Sparrows: Maulana Azad and Muslim Ecological Thought,” Centre of Islamic Studies, University of Cambridge, May 11, 2021 (via Zoom).

“The Critical Edge of Tradition: Understanding Ghalib as Wali in Contemporary Delhi,” *Islam After Colonialism* seminar series, University of Exeter and Habib University (Karachi), April 29, 2021 (via Zoom).

*Jinnealogy* teaching visit. Seminar on the Sacred in South Asia, Prof. Joel Lee, Department of Anthropology, Williams College, March 24, 2021 (via Zoom).

“Urdu in the Western World: Research and Experiments.” 2<sup>nd</sup> Urdu Ghar Literary Festival, Anjuman Taraqqi-e Urdu (Hind), Delhi, 30 January 2021 (via Zoom).

“Multi-species Scholarship Across the Generations—In Conversation with Donna Haraway,” Virtual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 7, 2020 (via Zoom).

- Jinnealogy* teaching visit. Graduate seminar on Religion and Ideology in Modern India, Prof. William Elison, Department of Religious Studies, University of California Santa Barbara, October 29, 2020 (via Zoom).
- “Sharing a Room with Sparrows.” Honors Seminar on Art and the Anthropocene, Prof. Christine Rogers, Belmont University, October 28, 2020 (via Zoom).
- “The *Watan* as a Piece of the Heart: Urdu Poetry and the Political Theology of Intimacy in Contemporary India.” Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, September 28, 2020 (via Zoom). (Honorarium of \$700 provided).
- “Jaun Elia and the Strangeness of Belonging: The Afterlife of a Pakistani Poet in Delhi.” Robert Penn Warren Center, Vanderbilt University, January 17, 2020.
- “Ethics at the Edge of Madness: *Vehshat* and Muslim Selfhood in Contemporary India.” Conference on *Mental Health in India—Bridging the Gap*. St. Antony’s College, Oxford, October 31, 2019. (travel and lodging expenses provided).
- “The Critical Edge of Tradition: Urdu Poetry and Political Theologies in Contemporary India.” South Asia Seminar Series, Emory University, September 23, 2019. (Travel Expenses and honorarium of \$500 provided).
- “Archives, Urdu Literature, and Stranger Intimacy: A Genealogy of *Jinnealogy*.” Emory Forum for the Ethnographic Study of Religion. September 23, 2019. (Honorarium of \$200 provided).
- “Urdu Poetry in Contemporary India: An Islamic Language for ‘Indian Secularism’?” Workshop on *Word, Image, Sound*. Institute of Religion, Culture, and Public Life, Columbia University, April 5, 2019. (travel and lodging expenses provided).
- “The Other Asad: Ghalib and the Ethical Work of Urdu Poetry in Contemporary India.” Columbia University Seminar on South Asia, March 4, 2019. (Travel and lodging expenses provided).
- “The Gabriel of Madness: Urdu Poetry and Ethical Life in Contemporary India.” South Asia Studies Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, February 13, 2019. (Travel and lodging expenses).
- “Muslim Ethics in the Age of Hindutva.” Public talk at Karvaan India, Ghaffar Manzil, Delhi, December 22, 2018.
- “Stones, Snakes, Dams, and Saints: Remembering the Vanished Sacred Geographies of Delhi.” Public Lecture at India International Centre New Delhi, organized by Shiv Nadar University, December 11, 2018 (travel expenses provided).

- “Snakes, Jinns, and Saints: Unusual Intimacies and Ethical Life in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi.” Public conversation with Ali Usman Qasmi (Lahore University of Management Sciences) at the Afkar-e-Taza Thinkfest, Institute of Business Administration, Karachi, Pakistan, December 8, 2018 (travel and lodging expenses provided).
- “Elsewhen in the City: Islam, Ecology and Other Temporalities in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi.” Jindal School of Art and Architecture, Sonipat, India, September 6, 2018 (travel expenses provided).
- “Islam, Ecology, and Other Temporalities in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi.” Center for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi, India, August 30, 2018 (travel expenses and honorarium of Rupees 1000 provided).
- “The Shape of Culture Through History—2<sup>nd</sup> Millenium AD.” In conversation with Romila Thapar (JNU), Kunal Chakrabarti (JNU), Audrey Truschke (Rutgers). At “The Idea of Culture: An International Conference on Teaching History,” organized by The Seagull Foundation for the Arts, Calcutta, India, August 3, 2018 (travel expenses and lodging provided).
- “Snakes, Jinns, and Other Muslim Saints: Unusual Intimacies and Ethical Life in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi.” Department of History, Delhi University, April 7, 2018 (honorarium of Rupees 2000 provided).
- “Snakes, Jinns, and Other Muslim Saints: Unusual Intimacies and Ethical Life in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi.” Departments of Sociology, Anthropology, and Environmental Studies, Ashoka University, Sonipat, India, February 27, 2018 (Travel expenses and honorarium of Rupees 5000 provided).
- “Elsewhen in the City: Islam, Ecology, and Other Temporalities in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi.” Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, February 20, 2018 (honorarium of Rupees 2000 provided).
- “Muslim Saints and Hindu Daughters: Unusual Intimacies and Ethical Life in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi.” Centre for Studies in Social Sciences (CSSS), Calcutta, February 12, 2018 (travel and lodging expenses and honorarium of Rupees 1000 provided).
- “Religion, Nationalism, and the Anthropocene”. Workshop on Nationalism, Populism and Racism in Post-Liberal Times, Vanderbilt University, March 25, 2017. (honorarium of \$200 provided).

“Elsewhen in the City: Islam, Ecology, and Other Temporalities in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi.” New York University Urban Humanities Lecture Series, March 6, 2017. (travel expenses provided).

“Muslim Saints and Hindu Daughters: Unusual Intimacies and Ethical Life in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi.” Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto Scarborough, January 25, 2017. (travel expenses provided).

“Muslim Saints and Hindu Daughters: Kinship, Ethical Self-Fashioning, and Inter-Religious Relations at Firoz Shah Kotla Dargah, Delhi.” South Asia Seminar, University of Chicago, January 5, 2017. (travel expenses and honorarium of \$400 provided).

“Saintly Visions: The Ethics of Elsewhen.” Workshop Paper, Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History, University of Michigan, November 11, 2016. (travel expenses and honorarium provided).

“Islam as Ethical Inheritance: Rethinking the ‘discursive tradition’ through ‘dargah culture’.” Workshop on *Muslim Thought and Practice in South Asia: New Practices and Directions*, Boston University, October 28, 2016 (travel expenses and honorarium of \$ 200 provided).

“The Afterlives of Islamic Architecture: Ethics, Ecology and Other Times in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi.” South Asia Center, Syracuse University, September 20, 2016 (travel expenses and \$ 500 honorarium provided).

“The Afterlives of Islamic Architecture: Ethics, Ecology, and Other times in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi.” Invited Lecture, South Asia Program and Department of Anthropology, Cornell University, September 19, 2016 (travel expenses and \$250 honorarium provided).

“The (Vanished) Nature of the Sacred: Workshop Paper, Department of Religious Studies, Stanford University, March 10, 2016.

“Post-Colonial Temporalities: Archival Amnesia and Apotropaic Mnemonics in Post-Colonial Delhi.” Public lecture, Stanford University, March 9, 2016 (travel expenses and honorarium of \$500 provided).

“Jinnealogy: Archival Amnesia and Islamic Theology in Post-Partition Delhi.” Rising Cities in Asia workshop, Yale University, March 7, 2016 (travel expenses provided).

- “Muslim Saints and Hindu Daughters: Kinship, Ethical Self-Fashioning, and Inter-Religious Relations at Firoz Shah Kotla Dargah, Delhi.” South Asia Institute, Harvard University, February 26, 2016 (travel expenses provided).
- “Islamic Saints and Hindu daughters: Kinship, Ethical Self-Fashioning, and Inter-Religious Relations at Firoz Shah Kotla Dargah, Delhi.” Bogitsch Lecture, Vanderbilt Divinity School, February 25, 2016. (\$600 honorarium).
- “Saintly Animals: Islam and the Shifting Ecological Landscapes of North India.” Center for Global Islamic Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville, October 14, 2015 (travel expenses and honorarium of \$500 provided).
- “The Small Voices of History: Rekhti Poetry, A Dargah Amongst Ruins, and Letters Written to Jinns.” Asian Studies Colloquium on Muslim Communities in India and South Asia, Michigan State University, East Lansing, October 8, 2015 (travel expenses and honorarium of \$500 provided).
- “Muslim Saints and Hindu Daughters: Kinship, Ethical Self-Fashioning, and Inter-religious Relations at Firoz Shah Kotla Dargah, Delhi.” Workshop on *Sufism in India and Pakistan: Rethinking Islam, Democracy, and Identity*. Institute of Religion, Culture and Public Life (IRCPL), Columbia University, New York, September 25, 2015 (travel and lodging expenses provided).
- “Rekhti Poetry, Jinns, and Popular Religious Practice in Delhi.” Workshop on *Gender and Sexuality in Urdu Literature*, Hindi-Urdu Flagship Program, University of Texas, Austin, April 27, 2015 (travel expenses and a honorarium of \$500 provided).
- “History in a City without Literature: Some Reflections on Delhi and Urdu.” Invited lecture at the seminar on History and Literature, Department of History, Lady Sri Ram College, Delhi, October 31, 2014 (honorarium of INR 1000 provided).
- “Jinnealogy: Archival Amnesia and Islamic Theology in Post-Partition Delhi.” Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS), Bangalore, October 20, 2014 (travel and lodging expenses provided).
- “Apotropaic Mnemonics: Islamic Spirits, Everyday Life, and the Post-Colonial Condition in Delhi.” Department of Anthropology, Vanderbilt University, March 14, 2014.
- “Jinnealogy: Everyday Life and Islamic Theology in Post-Partition Delhi,” Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Delhi, August 8, 2012.
- “Of Saints and Justice: On Presence-in the Past in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi,” Center for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi, August 12, 2011.

“Vanished Pirs and Absent Kings: Spirits, Saints, and Stories around Delhi’s Medieval Monuments.” Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Delhi, August 5, 2011.

“The Commonwealth Games and the Ghosts of the Medieval: Delhi 2010.” Pratt Institute School of Architecture, Brooklyn, November 13, 2007.

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Haunting and the Politics of South Asian Archaeology.” Virtual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology, Society for Historical Archaeology, January 7, 2021.

“Secular Kinship in the Time of the Chicken.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, British Columbia, November 21, 2019.

“Demonetization and the Bazar of Love: The Economics of Indian Muslim Political Imaginaries in the Age of Hindutva.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 18, 2019.

“Thoughts on Islam and Asian Studies.” Roundtable on Islam in South Asia, Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Denver. March 23, 2019.

“The Other Asad: Ghalib and the Ethical Work of Contemporary Urdu Poetry.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, California, November 14, 2018.

“Stranger Intimacies: Challenging the Oikos and Refashioning the Self at a Muslim Shrine in Delhi.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC, November 30, 2017.

“Saintly Visions: The Ethics of Elsewhen.” Pre-Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 26, 2017.

“Muslim Saints and Hindu Daughters: Rethinking the Discursive Tradition from Delhi.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 18, 2016.

“Desiring Women at the Dargah: Love and Transgression at an Islamic Shrine in Delhi.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 22, 2016.

“The Popular Afterlives of Mughal Translation: Some Thoughts from the Dargah of Firoz Shah Kotla.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, Seattle, Washington, April 3, 2016.

- “Strangeness and the Role of Islam in the Ethical Life of Hindus: Some Reflections on the Dargah of Firoz Shah Kotla.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 21, 2015.
- “Hospitality and Ethical Life: Gharib-Navazi and Inter-Religious Relations at a Muslim Shrine in Delhi.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 18, 2015.
- “Marginal Memory: Urdu Poetry, Archival Amnesia, and Popular Theology in Delhi.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 23, 2015.
- “The Necromancy of Traces: Post-Colonial Regimes of Evidence and Absence around the Medieval Ruins of Delhi.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, December 5, 2014.
- “Of Birds, Stones, and Other Muslim Saints: The Shifting Moral and Ecological Landscapes of Delhi.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, November 22, 2014.
- “Apotropaic Mnemonics: Forgetful Archives, Everyday Life, and the Post-Colonial condition in Delhi.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 24, 2013.
- “Of Birds, Stones, and Other Muslim Saints: The Shifting Moral and Ecological Landscapes of Urban North India.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 18, 2013.
- “Jinnealogy: Everyday Life and Islamic Theology in Post-Partition Delhi.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 13, 2012.
- “The Vanishing of Memory: Everyday Life and Islamic Theology in Post-Partition Delhi.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 20, 2011.
- “On the Ambivalence of the Suddenly ‘Old’ towards (Unexpectedly) ‘New’ Delhi: Reading Bashiruddin Ahmad’s *Vaqi’at-e Darulhukumat Dehli*.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 22, 2011.
- “Of Saints and Justice in the Ruins of Delhi.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 15, 2010.
- “‘What Grace Lovers Find From Idols’: The Ambivalence of Idols in Indo-Muslim Poetics.” Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, April 25, 2009.

“‘Muslimness’ in Hindi Cinema: The Ambiguity of the (Anti)National Self.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 19, 2008.

### RESPONDENT TO BOOKS, PAPERS, AND PANELS

Respondent to Katherine Ewing and Rosemary Corbett (eds.) *Modern Sufis and the State: The Politics of Islam in South Asia and Beyond*,” Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life (IRCPL), Columbia University, October 6, 2021.

Respondent to Megan Eaton Robb’s *Print and the Urdu Public: Muslims, Newspapers, and Urban Life in Colonial India*. Department of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania. February 18, 2021 (via Zoom). (honorarium of \$500 provided).

“Response to Katherine Lemons’s *Divorcing Tradition: Islamic Marriage Law and the Making of Indian Secularism*.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Vancouver, British Columbia, November 21, 2019.

Respondent to Panel “Roundtable on Anand Taneja’s *Jinnealogy: Time, Islam, and Ecological Thought in the Medieval Ruins of Delhi*.” Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, Colorado, November 20, 2018.

“Response to Stefania Pandolfo’s *Knot of the Soul: Madness, Psychoanalysis, Islam*.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Jose, California, November 15, 2018.

Respondent to Panel “Time and Event in the Anthropology of the Middle East.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 29, 2017.

Respondent to Beth Conklin’s “Rethinking Cannibalism: The Interplay of Sensation and Emotion in an Amazonian Ritual.” Vanderbilt History Seminar, January 23, 2017.

Respondent to Vinayak Chaturvedi’s “Geography, Blood, and the Essentials of Hindutva.” Vanderbilt History Seminar, March 28, 2016.

Respondent to Panel “Power and Persuasion: Representing Religious Communities in Colonial India.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 18, 2013.

### TEACHING

Vanderbilt University

Religion and Climate Change (HONS 1820W), Fall 2020 (Honors Seminar), Fall 2021 (as RLST 3472)

Religion and the Anthropocene (ANTH 8010), Fall 2019 (new graduate course)

Cinema and Islam (CMA 3892; co-taught with Jennifer Fay), Spring 2017 (new course)

Introduction to Islam (RLST 113/1500), Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2020, Spring 2021

Devotional Traditions of South Asia (RLST 266), Spring 2014

Islam in the Modern World [formerly, Reformers of Islamic Traditions] (RLST 252/4552; REL 8821; DIV 5453), Spring 2015 (new course), Spring 2016, Spring 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021

Islam in South Asia (RLST 3561; REL 8830; DIV 5455), Fall 2015 (new course), Fall 2016

The Sacred and the Secular (RLST 3079; REL 5279; DIV 5474), Fall 2015 (new course), Fall 2016

Religion and Film in India (RLST 1111), Spring 2016 (new course), Spring 2019, Spring 2021

Independent Study: graduate course on Islam in South Asia with Shounak Ghosh, Spring 2019; undergraduate course on ethnographic fieldwork with the Nashville Coptic community, with Lydia Yousief, Fall 2017.

Senior Thesis Committee (one thesis Spring 2014)

Senior Thesis Advisor (one thesis AY 2016-17)

Graduate Thesis Committee: Ashkan Bahrani (GDR), Mohammad Meerzaei(GDR), Shounak Ghosh (History), Rachel Heath (GDR), Austin Luebke (GDR), Reha Ozgurur (Human and Organizational Development)

Columbia University

Contemporary Civilization, Fall 2012, Spring 2013

Delhi University

Languages of the Media, Fall 2010

#### SERVICE TO AFFILIATED DEPARTMENTS AND PROGRAMS

Member, Advisory Board, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Fall 2021 onwards.

Member, Climate Studies Major Planning Committee, Spring 2021 onwards.

Collaborator, Climate and Society Grand Challenge Initiative, Fall 2020 onwards.

Presenter, International Lens Screening, *Wadjda*, November 14, 2019.

Organizer, “For Love of the Prophet: The Art of Islamic State-Making in Sudan,” a public talk by Noah Salomon (Associate Professor of Anthropology, Carleton College), March 13, 2019.

Area Director, *Critical Studies in Asian, Islamic and Jewish Traditions*, Graduate Department of Religion, AY 2016-17.

Organizer, “Never-Ending Story of a Minor River in Rajasthan,” a public talk by Ann Grodzins-Gold (Thomas J. Watson Professor of Religion and Professor of Anthropology, Syracuse University), March 29, 2017.

Presenter, International Lens screening, *A Separation*, March 22, 2017.

Organizer, “Non Human Creation’s Devotion to God in the Islamic Tradition: Significance and Ecological Impact,” a public talk by Sarra Tlili (Associate Professor of Arabic Language and Literature, University of Florida), October 4, 2016.

Organizer, “The Cow Herself Has Changed: Hindu Nationalism, Cow Protection, and Bovine Materiality,” a public talk by Radhika Govindrajan (Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Washington), April 7, 2016.

Interviewing Short-Listed Candidates, Hindi-Urdu Senior Lecturer Position, Asian Studies Program, March 24, 2016.

Overlook Seminar Co-coordinator, Graduate Department of Religion, Vanderbilt University, Fall 2013—Spring 2016.

Co-Author, LOAP (Learning Outcomes Assessment Annual Report), Department of Religious Studies, Academic Year 2014-15.

Organizing Committee, Local Islams Workshops, Department of Religious Studies, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015.

Presenter, International Lens screening, *Maqbool*, February 3, 2015.

Organizer, “Seeing the World from Delhi: writing from the post-western world,” a public talk by author Rana Dasgupta, Vanderbilt University, March 26, 2014.

Organizer, “Global Folktales: Tokyo, Bulgaria, Delhi,” a public conversation between author Rana Dasgupta and Ben Tran, Curb Center, Vanderbilt University, March 25, 2014.

Presenter, International Lens screening, *The Muslims are Coming!*, March 12, 2014.

### SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Peer Review: *Contributions to the History of Concepts, Anthropology and Humanism, HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory, South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal, Anthropologica: Journal of the Canadian Anthropology Society, American Ethnologist, Journal of Asian Studies, History and Anthropology, Public Culture, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Journal of Social Archaeology; Modern Asian Studies, Comparative Studies in Society and History, Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East; Political Theology, Journal of the American Academy of Religion, .*

Manuscript Peer Review: *Cornell University Press, Columbia University Press, Stanford University Press, Duke University Press.*

Contributing Editor: *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East (CSSAAME)*, since July 2020.

Panel Chair: “Islam, Imagination, Madness, and the Possibilities of Ethnography: Conversations on Stefania Pandolfo’s *Knot of the Soul*.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 15, 2018.

Panel Co-Organizer: “Thinking the Figural in Islamic Tradition: Inscription, the Invisible, and the Discursive Condition.” Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, November 14, 2018.

Organizer: “Open Discussion on *Another World was Possible: Re-Imagining an Un-Partitioned India*.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 27, 2017.

Panel Co-Organizer: “Being Muslim from South Asia” Annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Minneapolis, November 18, 2016.

Commentator on article, “Nostalgia, Lahore and the Ghost of Aurangzeb,” by Taymiya Zaman, for the journal *Fragments: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Ancient and Medieval Pasts*, Volume 4 (2015).

Panel Organizer and Chair: “Other than Human: Affective Spaces and Animals in Contemporary India.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 18, 2013.

Panel Organizer: “Heritage and the City.” Delhi Urban Platform, Humayun’s Tomb, Delhi, January 8, 2011.

Workshop Co-organizer: “The Ruination of the Social and the Social Life of Ruins.” Columbia University, March 26, 2009.

Panel Co-organizer: “Negative Archaeology: Much Ado About Nothing.” Theoretical Archaeology Group Annual Meeting, May 25, 2008.

### PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

“Response to *Altar of Fire* and *There is Something in the Air*,” *A Supplementary Country Called Cinema* film festival, Cinema Akil, Dubai, UAE; November 3, 2021 (via Zoom).

“‘We Will Witness’ (‘Hum Dekhenge’ by Faiz Ahmed Faiz)”. A video conversation with William Elison. Sant Jordi New York Literary Festival, April 24, 2020.

“The Secret Life of Miracles.” A response to Angie Heo’s *The Political Lives of Saints. Contending Modernities*, October 28, 2019.  
<https://contendingmodernities.nd.edu/theorizing-modernities/secretlifeofmiracles/>

“The Elegy for Good Days: Encounters with Urdu Poetry in Delhi.” *The Immanent Frame*, May 29, 2019. <https://tif.ssrc.org/2019/05/29/the-elegy-for-good-days/>

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