

Ashish Koul

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2018-till date Assistant Professor of modern South Asian history, Department of History,
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.
- 2017-18 Postdoctoral Associate and Lecturer in South Asian Studies, MacMillan Center
for International and Area Studies, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D., Department of History, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.
Dissertation: "Making New Muslim Arains: reform, law, and politics in colonial
Punjab, 1890s-1940s.
- 2006 M.A. in Modern Indian History, Center for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru
University, New Delhi, India.
- 2004 B.A. (Hons.) in History, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, Delhi University,
New Delhi, India.

RESEARCH FIELDS

19th-20th century South Asia; modern Islamic world; Punjab; caste, religion, law, gender, and politics.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- 2021 "Whom can a Muslim Woman Represent? Begam Jahanara Shah Nawaz and the
politics of party building in late colonial India." *Modern Asian Studies First View*,
29 March 2021, 1-46. DOI <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0026749X20000578>
- 2017 "Making New Muslim Arains: Reform and Social Mobility in Colonial Punjab,
1890s-1910s." *South Asian History and Culture*, 8: 1 (2017), 1-18.
- 2008 "Representing the Community in Late Colonial Punjab" *Social Science Probings*
(December 2008).
- 2008 "Gender and Politics in Late Colonial India: Women Activists in the Muslim
League" *Social Science Probings* (June 2008).

Book Reviews

- 2021 Review of Benjamin B. Cohen's *An Appeal to the Ladies of Hyderabad: scandal in the Raj* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2019). *Nineteenth Century Contexts* 43:4 (2021), 503-505.
- 2016 Review of Edward E. Curtis IV's *The Call of Bilal: Islam in the African Diaspora* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014). *Religious Studies Review*, 42: 4 (Dec. 2016), 305.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Monograph

Provisional title: "Caste Reinvented: Arains, Islam, and politics in twentieth century South Asia"
By tracing the political engagements of the Arains, a Punjabi Muslim community, my book will argue that caste played a key role in the Muslim politics of late colonial and early post-colonial South Asia. Caste, generally seen as a Hindu phenomenon, was a marked feature of the evolution of the Arains' identity and the community's emergence as a bounded, albeit ideologically heterogeneous, political unit distinct from other South Asian Muslims.

Journal Articles

Provisional title: "The allure of Arab descent: genealogy and caste among diasporic Arains"
Interrogates the persistent pull of narratives of Arab-Muslim descent among diasporic Arains in the United Kingdom. Asks why and how Arains in the UK reconcile their purported Arab-Muslim self-imagination with their roots in the Indian sub-continent as well as their British citizenship.

Provisional title: "Kashmir and the challenges of writing its history"
Offers a historiographical review of Kashmir to examine how competing claims about self-determination and the nationalist narratives of India and Pakistan have shaped scholarly writing on the subject.

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Courses taught

2018-till date

Northwestern University, Department of History

Hist 385-2: History of modern South Asia, 1750 to the present. Undergraduate lecture.
Survey course on the history of South Asia from the mid-eighteenth century to the present. Topics covered include political transitions from Mughal to colonial and colonial to post-colonial rule; rise of anti-colonial nationalisms; social movements against gender and caste-based discriminations; social, legal, and economic changes.

Hist 300: South Asians in the World, 18th century to the present. Undergraduate lecture.
Survey course on the history of South Asian migration from the eighteenth century to the present. Topics covered include the intertwining of imperial needs

with the economy of India and the experiences of Indian migrants in North America, Caribbean, Britain, South Africa, and South-east Asia.

Hist 393: Frontiers, Borderlands, Nationalisms. Undergraduate seminar.
Bi-weekly seminar focused on the history and theory of borderlands and nationalisms in South, Central, and Eastern Asia, with brief forays into Eastern Europe and North America.

Hist 103: Islam, Gender, and the Modern World. First-year undergraduate seminar.
First-year seminar on ideas of gender, religious practice, modernity, and colonialism in the 19th and 20th century Muslim world, with a special focus on colonial and post-colonial South Asia.

2017-2018

Yale University, South Asian Studies Council and Department of History
Caste and Religion in Modern South Asia. Undergraduate seminar.

Weekly seminar discussing the intersection of caste and various South Asian religious traditions. Covers caste among Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, and Jains in South Asia. Themes include religious articulations of caste, caste hierarchies, caste-class overlaps, social mobility, caste-based discrimination, and caste-based political mobilization in colonial and post-colonial South Asia.

Islam and Gender in South Asia, 1750-2000. Undergraduate seminar.

Weekly seminar examining the complexity of the Islamic tradition in South Asia by focusing on controversial gender issues from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. Topics include reformist education, Muslim women reformers, seclusion, polygamy, divorce, women's inheritance rights, women's franchise, and modes of political expression.

2011-2015

Vanderbilt University, Department of History

Graduate Teaching Assistant

History of World War II. Undergraduate lecture taught by Michael Bess.
A History of Islam. Undergraduate lecture taught by Leor Halevi.

Guest Lecturer

Samira Sheikh's undergraduate lecture on Modern South Asian history
Julia Cohen's undergraduate lecture on the history of the Ottoman Empire.

Graduate advising

2019-2020 Exam committee for Anisha Bhat

2020-2021 Exam committee for Aisha Valiulla

2020-till date Primary adviser, Ziyana Fazal

Undergraduate advising

2019-2020 Honors thesis adviser for Andrew Reed, Department of History

2019-2020 Second reader for Sharmain Siddiqui's honors thesis, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Post-doctoral

- 2021 "For Muslim Unity? Caste in the Electoral Politics of Late Colonial India" 49th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin. (Virtual)
- 2020 "Whom can a Muslim Woman Represent? Begam Jahanara Shah Nawaz and the politics of party-building in late colonial India" SEC-AAS Conference, New College of Florida.
- 2019 "Whom can a Muslim Woman Represent? Begam Jahanara Shah Nawaz and the politics of party-building in late colonial India, 1930s-1940s" Gender In and Out of Punjab: Regional Heterogeneity and Specificity in Transnational Asian Studies, Yale University.
- 2018 Discussant for Shenila Khoja-Moolji's *Forging the Ideal Educated Girl*. Perspectives symposium at the Institute for the Study of Islamic Thought in Africa, Northwestern University.
- 2018 "Making a Muslim Caste in South Asia: Arab Genealogy and Arain Identity, 1910s-1980s" Annual Conference of the American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO.
- 2018 "The Politics of Muslim Caste: Arains in Twentieth Century South Asia" South Asia Colloquium, Yale University.
- 2018 "The Making of a Muslim Caste in Colonial India" MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University.
- 2017 "Narratives of Muslim Belonging in South Asia" panel organized for the 46th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 2017 "The Making of a Muslim Caste: Arains and Arab Genealogy in Colonial Punjab" 46th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.

Pre-doctoral

- 2016 "Recovery, Reform and Progress: Marking Arain Identity in Colonial Punjab, 1890s-1910s" poster at the 45th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 2016 "Reviving Arab-ness in British India: Arain Identity in Colonial Punjab, 1890s-1910s" conference paper at the 6th Annual Islamic Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of California, Santa Barbara, California.

- 2015 “Moving up the Social Ladder: Biradari Identity in British India, 1890-1920” conference paper at Graduate History Association Conference, Vanderbilt University.
- 2015 “History-writing as a ritual of belonging and un-belonging” short paper at Vanderbilt History Seminar graduate student workshop on ‘Rituals of Belonging.’
- 2015 “Personal Law and Arains’ Muslim Identity in Colonial Punjab, 1910s-1930s” conference paper at the 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

Post-doctoral

- 2021-22 Faculty fellow at Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University.
- 2021 Spring Pandemic Recovery Grant from Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University.

Pre-doctoral

- 2015-16 Graduate Student Fellowship from Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar on ‘When the Fringe Dwarfs the Center: Vernacular Islam Beyond the Arab World’ at the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University.
- 2015 Summer Research Award from College of Arts and Sciences, Vanderbilt University.
- 2013-14 International Dissertation Research Fellowship awarded by Social Science Research Council.
- 2011 Summer Research Award from College of Arts and Sciences, Vanderbilt University.
- 2010 Harold Sterling Vanderbilt Scholarship, Department of History, Vanderbilt University.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2020 Reader, article manuscript for the scholarly journal *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*.
- 2019-20 Reader, three article manuscripts for the scholarly journal *International Feminist Journal of Politics*.

2016

Reader, article manuscript for the scholarly journal *The Journal of Asian Studies*.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association
Association for Asian Studies

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Urdu	advanced (reading, writing, and speaking)
English	advanced (reading, writing, and speaking)
Hindi	advanced (reading, writing, and speaking)
Arabic	introductory (reading and writing)
Kashmiri	native fluency