

## **Rajeev Kinra**

Northwestern University  
Department of History  
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## **Employment**

2015-present: Associate Professor of South Asian & Global History / Comparative Literature, Northwestern University

### *Other Affiliations:*

Asian Studies Program (Director, 2015-2018)  
Department of Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC)  
South Asia Research Forum (SARF)  
Program in Middle East & North African studies (MENA)  
International Studies Program (ISP)  
Global Humanities Initiative (Co-founder/-director, with Laura Brueck)  
Equality Development & Globalization Studies Program (EDGS)

2008-2015: Assistant Professor, Department of History, Northwestern University  
2007-08: College Fellow, Department of History, Northwestern University  
2006: Lecturer, Department of History, Loyola University Chicago

## **Education**

Ph. D. (with distinction), University of Chicago, Dept. of South Asian Languages and Civilizations (2008)  
M. A., New York University, John W. Draper Program in Humanities and Social Thought (1998)  
B. A., University of Texas, Austin, Plan II Honors Program in Liberal Arts (1995)

## **Awards, honors, and fellowships**

### *Northwestern*

Named a lifetime fellow, Royal Asiatic Society, 2021-present  
Mohammad Habib Memorial Prize for the best book on medieval (or early modern) history  
published in India between 2015-2018, Indian History Congress (awarded December 2019)  
Research Fellowship, Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, 2018-2019  
Faculty Fellow, Buffett Institute for Global Studies, 2017-2021  
“Big Ideas” grant from Northwestern University’s Buffett Institute for Global Studies (in  
conjunction with the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities) to launch a new “Global  
Humanities Initiative,” 2015-2018 (with Laura Brueck)  
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Research Fellowship, 2010-11

Virani Lectureship in Islamic Studies, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Spring 2009

*University of Chicago*

Whiting / Franke Institute for the Humanities Dissertation Fellowship, 2005-06  
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) fellowship, 2003-04  
Committee on Southern Asian Studies (COSAS) Diss. Research fellowships, 2004-05, 2006-07  
Title VI Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship for Urdu, 2002-03  
Eastern Consortium in Persian and Turkish Fellowship, Summer 2001  
COSAS summer language study award, 2001  
Century Scholarship, University of Chicago, 1999-2003

*New York University*

Recipient of the inaugural Herbert H. & Rose Hirschhorn Master's Thesis Award for "Dante of the Orient Express: Situating E. E. Cummings's *EIMI*," May 1998

*University of Texas*

Phi Beta Kappa (1995)  
Golden Key National Honor Society (1995)

## Teaching

*Recent Courses:*

- Resistance: From Gandhi and Fanon to Black Lives Matter (undergraduate)
- British Colonial Roots of American Racial Thought (undergraduate)
- From Taj to Raj: Early Modern India, ca. 1500-1800 (HIS 385-1, lecture)
- Modern South Asia, ca. 1750-present (HIS 385-2, lecture)
- Global History and the Making of Modernity, Part 1: Oceans & Exchanges, ca. 600-1800 (HIS 250-1, lecture)
- Literary Cultures of Mughal India (seminar)
- Indiana Jones in Historical Context: Heroic Scholarship and the Imperial Imagination (seminar)
- Afghanistan: From Alexander the Great to the Anglo-Afghan Wars (seminar)
- The Languages of Political Islam in India, ~1200-1800 (seminar)
- The Indian Ocean World: Trade, Culture, and Politics, from Antiquity to 1800 (graduate seminar)
- The Global Indian Ocean (graduate seminar)
- What is Global History? (graduate seminar)
- Orientalism and Its Discontents (graduate seminar)
- Islam and the Global Renaissance

## Professional activities, service, and affiliations

*Northwestern:*

Director, Asian Studies Program (ASP) (2015-2018; Advisory Committee, 2010-2020)  
Co-Founder/Director (with Laura Brueck), [Global Humanities Initiative](#) (2015-present)

WCAS Curriculum and Degree Requirements Committee (2016-2017)  
International Studies Program Committee (2011-present)  
Faculty Associate, Equality Development and Globalization Studies (EDGS) program (Dec 2013-present)  
Chabreja Center for Historical Studies program committee (2015-2017)

**Professional Associations:**

American Historical Association (AHA)  
• John F. Richards book prize committee, 2018-2020  
Association for Asian Studies (AAS)  
American Oriental Society (AOS)  
Committee on Southern Asian Studies (COSAS) (associate member)  
Society for Advancing the History of South Asia (SAHSA)  
Renaissance Society of America (RSA)

**Other professional activities:**

Editorial board, “Translating Cultures in the Early Modern World” book series (Brill) (2021-present)  
Editorial board, Murty Classical Library of India (2020-2024)  
Editorial board, *Middle Eastern Literatures* (2020-present)  
Editorial board, [Philological Encounters](#) (2014-present).  
Advisory panel, “[Endangered Archives Programme](#)” (EAP), sponsored by the Arcadia Fund (UK), and administered by the British Library (2016-2023).  
Academic advisory council for the “[South Asian American Digital Archive](#)” (SAADA), an independent non-profit project trying to document, preserve, and digitize archives related to the South Asian immigrant experience in the US. (2014-2018).  
Advisory board, or “Collegium,” for the international project “[Zukunftphilologie: Revisiting the Canons of Textual Scholarship](#)”; Forum Transregionale Studien, Berlin (2010-present).  
Contributor to the international project “[Perso-Indica: An Analytical Survey of Persian Works on Indian Learned Traditions](#)” (2010-present)

## Publications

**Book:**

[Writing Self, Writing Empire: Chandar Bhan Brahman and the Cultural World of the Early Modern Indo-Persian State Secretary](#) (Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2015). Published as part of the [South Asia Across the Disciplines series](#). (Indian edition by Primus books, 2016.)

\* Winner, Mohammad Habib Memorial Prize for the best book on medieval (or early modern) history published in India from 2015-2018, Indian History Congress

\* Included in the exhibit “India by Book in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” Serendipity Arts Festival, Goa, India, December 15-23, 2023

## Journal articles and chapters in edited volumes:

- “The Truth is out There (and also in Here): *Tahqīq* as an Investigative Modality in Mughal Culture and Scholarship,” *Journal of Early Modern History* 27, 4 (2023): 1-15.
- “William Jones and Indo-Persian Scholarship,” *Global Intellectual History* 8, 3 (2023): 1-16.
- “The Layered Thought-World of the Ghazal,” in *Sensitive Reading: The Pleasures of South Asian Literature in Translation*, edited by Yigal Bronner and Charles Hallisey, with translations by David Shulman (Oakland: University of California Press, 2022), pp. 236-247.
- “The Mughal Empire,” in *The Oxford World History of Empire*, vol. 2, edited by Peter Bang, C. A. Bayly, and Walter Scheidel (Oxford University Press, 2021), pp. 751-88.
- “[Revisiting the History and Historiography of Mughal Tolerance](#),” *ReOrient: The Journal of Critical Muslim Studies* 5, 2 (2020): 137-82.
- “A Letter of Advice from a Mughal Gentleman to His Son,” in [Empires of the Near East & India: Source Studies of the Safavid, Ottoman, and Mughal Literate Communities](#), edited by Hani Khafipour (New York: Columbia University Press, 2019). [This volume received the American Historical Association’s J. Franklin Jameson Award for outstanding achievement in the editing of historical sources.]
- “The Learned Ideal of the Mughal *Wazir*: The Life and Intellectual World of Prime Minister Afzal Khan Shirazi (d. 1639),” in [Secretaries and Statecraft in the Early Modern World](#), edited by Paul M. Dover (Edinburgh University Press, 2016), pp. 177-205.
- “[Cultures of Comparative Philology in the Early Modern Indo-Persian World](#),” *Philological Encounters* 1, 1: (2016): 225-87.
- “[Handling Diversity with Absolute Civility: The Global Historical Legacy of Mughal \*Sulh-i Kull\*](#),” *Medieval History Journal* 16, 2 (2013): 1-45.
- “Make it Fresh: Time, Tradition, and Indo-Persian Literary Modernity,” in [Time, History, and the Religious Imaginary in South Asia](#), edited by Anne C. Murphy (New York: Routledge, 2011), pp. 12-39.
- “This Noble Science: Indo-Persian Comparative Philology, c. 1000-1800 CE,” in [South Asian Texts in History: Critical Engagements with Sheldon Pollock](#), edited by Yigal Bronner, Lawrence McCrea, and Whitney Cox (Ann Arbor: Association for Asian Studies, 2011), pp. 359-85.
- “[Master and Munshī: A Brahman Secretary’s Guide to Mughal Governance](#),” *Indian Economic and Social History Review* 47, 4 (2010): 527-61.
- “[Infantilizing Baba Dara: The Cultural Memory of Dara Shekuh and the Mughal Public Sphere](#),” *Journal of Persianate Studies* 2, 2 (2009): 165-93.
- “[Fresh Words for a Fresh World: \*Tazā-Gu’i\* and the Poetics of Newness in Early Modern Indo-Persian Poetry](#),” *Sikh Formations: Religion, Culture, Theory* 3, 2 (2007): 125-49. Special number: “Time and history in Sikh and South Asian Pasts,” edited by Anne C. Murphy.

## Works in progress

BOOK: *The Mughals and the Modern Humanities: Entangled Lives and Legacies of Early Modern Indo-Persian & European Intellectuals, ca. 1600-1800* - in early preparation.

ARTICLES and BOOK CHAPTERS:

“Introduction,” *The Great Moghuls*, companion volume to a forthcoming exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum, November 2024 – April 2025.

“The Naked and the Dead: Revisiting the Religio-Political Career of the Mystic Wayfarer Hakim Sarmad (d. ca. 1660),” forthcoming in a new volume on religion and politics in seventeenth-century Mughal India, edited by Stephan Popp (to be published by Primus Books, New Delhi) (in production).

“Mughal Technologies of Rule,” forthcoming in the *Cambridge History of the Modern Indian Subcontinent*, Vol. 1, Part 1 (“The Mughals and their Worlds: 1520-1740”), edited by David Gilmartin, Prasanna Parthasarathi, and Mrinalini Sinha (in production).

“Hindus and Mughal Imperial Governance,” forthcoming in *Oxford Handbook of the Mughal World*, edited by Richard Eaton and Ramya Sreenivasan (Oxford University Press) (in production).

## Conference organization

*Panel chair and discussant*: “Urdu-Persianate Literary Worlds,” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 20, 2022

*Panel*: “Translation, Retelling, and Intertextuality in Pre-modern South Asia (Part II)” Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, Boston, March 19-22, 2020. [Canceled due to COVID pandemic]

*Colloquium*: “World History and the Temporalities of the Precolonial,” hosted by Northwestern University's Global Humanities Initiative, in partnership with the Saxo Institute at the University of Copenhagen, Northwestern University, April 12, 2019.

*Panel*: “The Language of Secular History: Reflections on Urdu, Politics, Religion, and Nation in Modern South Asia in Memory of Kavita S. Datla (d. 2017),” Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, Washington DC, March 24, 2018

*Panel*: “Tolerance, Civility, and Occult Political Science in Early Modern South Asia: New Perspectives on the Mughal Concept of *Sulh-i Kull*,” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 24, 2015.

*Panel*: “Islam in Modern South Asia, South Asian Islam in the Modern World: Trends and Transitions,” American Historical Association annual meeting, New York City, January 2-5, 2015. Co-organized with Teena Purohit (Boston University).

*Panel*: “Mughal Courtly Literature: Perspectives on Gender, Politics, and Religion,” Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, Boston, March 2007.

*Colloquium* (with Manan Ahmed): “One Hundred Years of the Muslim League, 1906-2006,” University of Chicago, November 4, 2006. (<http://muslimleague.uchicago.edu/>)

*Conference:* “Imagining Empire: Visions of a Unified Polity in South Asia, from Antiquity to the Present,” 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual South Asia Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago, February 24-25, 2006.  
(<http://lucian.uchicago.edu/blogs/sagsc/sagsc-iii/>)

*Panel:* “Rough Waters where Oceans Meet: Reassessing Dara Shukoh’s Political and Intellectual Legacy,” University of Wisconsin-Madison Conference on South Asia, Oct 9, 2005.

## Academic talks and presentations

*Panel chair:* “Sectarian and Intra-Faith Polemics,” presentations by Soofiya Mahmood (University of Calicut), Zainab Rashid (Princeton University), and Shabbir Agha Abbas (University of Arizona), as part of the 21<sup>st</sup> annual South Asia Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago, March 7-8, 2024.

*Moderator:* presentations by Jyotsna Singh (Michigan State University), Giancarlo Casale (University of Minnesota / European University Institute), and Daniela Bleichmar (University of Southern California), as part of “The *Tarib-i Hind-i Garbi*: Representing the Americas in the Ottoman Empire,” Newberry Library, Chicago, June 15-16, 2023.

[“The Enduring Legacy of Mughal Pluralism,” Satish Chandra Memorial Lecture](#), Bangalore International Centre, October 13, 2022.

“Ascertaining the Truth in Obedience to King Reason: *Tabqiq* in Mughal Intellectual Thought,” Annual Conference on South Asia, Symposium on Sources and Subjects of Mughal History, Madison, Wisconsin, October 21, 2021.

“The Truth is Out There (and also In Here): *Tabqiq* as an Investigative Modality in Mughal Culture and Scholarship,” presented at “Cultures of *Tabqiq* from the Mughals to the Mediterranean,” European University Institute, Florence, June 22, 2021 [Europeans were in-person; others, like myself had to participate over Zoom]

“Rebel Without a Cause? Revisiting the Life, Career, and Execution of the Mughal Mystic Muhammad Sa’id ‘Hakim’ Sarmad (d. 1661),” presented at The 17<sup>th</sup> Century in India: Events, Society, Thought, and Art, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, April 7-10, 2021 [held over Zoom]

“Translating the Past to Revive the Present: Antiquarianism in Early Modern Indo-Persian (and British) Philology,” Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, March 22, 2020. [Cancelled due to COVID pandemic]

“Revisiting the History and Historiography of Mughal Pluralism,” Empires and Atlantics Forum, University of Chicago, February 28, 2020.

*Roundtable participant:* “Open Access Monographs in History,” American Historical Association annual meeting, New York, January 5, 2020.

“An Attempted Answer to the Question: What was the Mughal Enlightenment?” presented at the workshop “Peace with All Religions (Sulh-i Kull): Indo-Persian Political Theology and Cosmopolitanism,” University of Texas at Austin, December 7, 2019.

“Hindus and Mughal Imperial Governance: An Overview,” presented at a special session on “The History of the Modern Indian Subcontinent: The Mughals and their Worlds, 1520-1740,” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 17, 2019.

*Roundtable participant:* “Provincializing Romanticism: Opening Discussion,” the first in a yearlong series of talks, panels, and workshops on global romanticism(s), Northwestern University, October 4, 2019.

“Reason, Enlightenment, and Governance in Mughal India,” presented at “The Enlightenment as a Global Phenomenon,” Center for Contemporary Arab Studies Summer Institute for Educators, Georgetown University, August 8, 2019

Opening remarks, “World History and the Temporalities of the Precolonial,” hosted by Northwestern University’s Global Humanities Initiative, in partnership with the Saxo Institute at the University of Copenhagen, Northwestern University, April 12, 2019.

*Roundtable participant:* “President’s Panel: Governments and Scholars in Historical Context: Examples from South Asia, East Asia, and the United States,” Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, Denver, March 22, 2019.

*Commentator:* Faculty Book Colloquium on Brannon D. Ingram’s *Revival From Below: The Deoband Movement and Global Islam* (2018), Northwestern University, February 19, 2019.

“What Did Akbar and Abu al-Fazl Actually Mean by *Şulh-i Kull*? Some New Thoughts on a Very Old Question,” University of Texas at Austin, South Asia Institute, February 15, 2019.

*Roundtable participant:* “Translation as Humanistic Inquiry,” with Laura Brueck (Northwestern), Jason Grunebaum (University of Chicago), and Ulrike Stark (University of Chicago), in conversation with novelist Manzoor Ahtesham; part of the “Dialogues in the Global Humanities” series, Northwestern University, November 12, 2018.

“Locating the Mughals in World History,” remarks delivered at a symposium in honor of Sanjay Subrahmanyam, Center for India and South Asia / Center for Near Eastern Studies, University of California Los Angeles, October 29, 2018.

“Philological Practices in Modern Persian,” presented at “Philological Practices: A Comparative Historical Lexicon,” an international workshop in collaboration with the Dahlem Humanities Center (DHC) and the Collaborative Research Center (CRC) 980 (“Episteme in Motion: Knowledge Transfer from the Ancient World to the Early Modern Period”), Institute of Philosophy, Freie Universität, Berlin, September 26-28, 2018.

*Commentator:* “A Discussion of Ruby Lal’s *Empress: The Astonishing Reign of Nur Jahan*,” Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University, Atlanta, September 18, 2018.

*Roundtable participant:* “The Language of Secular History: Reflections on Urdu, Politics, Religion, and Nation in Modern South Asia in Memory of Kavita S. Datla (d. 2017),” Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, Washington DC, March 24, 2018.

“Revisiting the History and Historiography of Mughal Pluralism,” Indiana University, Dhar India Studies Program Academic Lecture Series, November 30, 2017.

“Mughals, *Munshis*, and Modern Intellectual History: Revisiting William Jones’s Persian Sources,” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 28, 2017.

*Moderator:* “The Humanist as Public Intellectual and Activist: A Conversation with David Shulman,” second annual “Dialogues in the Global Humanities” event, Northwestern University, May 26, 2017.

*Roundtable participant:* “Rethinking the Global Renaissance. Session II: Encounters Between East and West,” with Kaya Şahin (Chair; Indiana University), Paul Losensky (Indiana University), and Daniel J. Vitkus (Univ. of California, San Diego). Renaissance Society of America annual meeting; Chicago, March 30, 2017.

*Commentator:* “Imperial Interstices: Political Elites.” Plenary session remarks on papers by Michelle N. Cleary (University of Melbourne), Soren Stark (NYU), Daud Ali (Penn), and Matthew Kapstein (University of Chicago, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes) for the second workshop in the yearlong series “Imperial Interstices: Agents of Eurasian Interaction in Late Antiquity.” Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society, University of Chicago, February 24, 2017.

*Discussant:* Seminar on Sanjay Subrahmanyam, “One Asia or Many? Reflections From Connected History” and responses by Simon Schaffer, Edmund Herzig, and Craig Clunas included in the special 50th-anniversary issue of *Modern Asian Studies* 50, 1 (January 2016). Asian Studies Graduate Cluster colloquium, Northwestern University, February 21, 2017.

“Cosmopolitan Maintenance in a Vernacular World: Sources, Methods, and Multilingualism in *Farhang-i Jahāngīrī* (1608),” presented at “Perso-Indica IV: Translation and the Languages of Islam: Indo-Persian *Tarjuma* in a Comparative Perspective,” Centre for South Asian Studies, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), Paris, December 8-9, 2016.

“The Muslim Roots of Mughal Tolerance: A Partial History,” presented at “Muslim Thought and Practice in South Asia,” Boston University, October 27-28, 2016.

“Cultures of Mystical Civility in Early Modern Indo-Persian Governance, From Shiraz to Delhi,” Yale University Early Modern Empires Workshop, October 4, 2016.

*Workshop:* Reading Dara Shukoh’s *Majma‘ al-Babrain* across English, Persian, and Sanskrit; Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi, September 6, 2016.

“The Mysterious Career of a Most(ly) Modern Indo-Persian Philologist: The Life and Legacy of Jamal al-Din Husain Inju of Shiraz (d. 1626),” Delhi University, September 1, 2016.

*Moderator:* “What are the Global Humanities, and What are They Good For? A Conversation with Sheldon Pollock.” Inaugural “Dialogues in the Global Humanities” event, sponsored by the Global Humanities Initiative, Northwestern University, April 26, 2016.

“Indo-Persian Philology at the Frontiers of Modernity: Or, Three Ways of Looking at the *Farhang-i Jahāngīrī* (1608),” presented at “The Frontiers of Persian Learning: Testing the Limits of a Eurasian Lingua Franca, 1600-1900” (Session 3: The Epistemological Frontiers of Persian Learning), University of California, Los Angeles, April 8-9, 2016.

“When Tolerance Became Good for Business: Sir Thomas Roe, the Mughal Empire, and Early British Capitalism,” American Historical Association annual meeting, January 9, 2016.

“The Intellectual History of *Sulb-i Kull*: A Revisionist Perspective,” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 24, 2015.



*Roundtable participant:* “*The Millennial Sovereign: Sacred Kingship and Sainthood in Islam* by A. Azfar Moin: Discussion of the 2013 John F. Richards Prize-Winning Book,” with Hussein Fancy (University of Michigan) and Jonathan Sheehan (Berkeley). American Historical Association annual meeting, New York City, January 3, 2015.

“The Global Context of Mughal Civility: Or, Rethinking What We Think About When We Think About *Sulh-i Kull*,” American Historical Association annual meeting, New York City, January 4, 2015.

*Respondent:* “Publics, Polemics, and the Projects of Religious Reform,” presentations by Brannon Ingram (Northwestern University), Cassie Adcock (Washington Univ. in St. Louis), and Sher Ali Tareen (Franklin and Marshall College), as part of the conference “Imagining the Public in Colonial India: Print, Polemics, and the People,” Northwestern University, May 16-17, 2014.

*Commentator:* “The Politics of Dangerous Reputations,” presentations by Keith Rathbone (Northwestern University), Mariah Hepworth (Northwestern University), Teresa Segura Garcia (Cambridge University) and Nick Abbott (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison), as part of the conference “Reputations in History,” Chabreja Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University, May 9, 2014.

*Roundtable participant:* “Persianate Studies in Academic Disciplines,” with Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak (University of Maryland) and Ahmet Karamustafa (University of Maryland), closing session for “The Wide World of Persian: Connections and Contestations, 1500-Today,” co-hosted by the U.S. Library of Congress, Washington DC, and the Roshan Institute of Persian Studies, University of Maryland, May 2-3, 2014.

“The Learned Ideal of the Mughal *Wazir*: The Life and Intellectual World of Prime Minister Afzal Khan Shirazi (d. 1639),” presented at “The Wide World of Persian: Connections and Contestations, 1500-Today,” co-hosted by the U.S. Library of Congress, Washington DC, and the Roshan Institute of Persian Studies, University of Maryland, May 2-3, 2014.

*Panel chair:* “Traditions of Self-Fashioning,” presentations by Blake Smith (Northwestern University), Daniel Morgan (University of Chicago), and Ahona Panda (University of Chicago), as part of “The Self in South Asia,” the 11<sup>th</sup> annual South Asia Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago, April 17-19, 2014.

“A Lost Age of Translation: Mughal Patronage of Indic Arts and Sciences in the ‘Age of Decline’”; Cornell University, April 14, 2014.

*Discussant:* “Rethinking Aurangzeb’s Reign, 1658-1707,” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 18, 2013.

“Universal Civility: Some Thoughts on Mughal *Sulh-i Kull* and Global Early Modernity,” presented at “Was there a Reformation in India?” University of Wisconsin, October 17, 2013.

*Panel chair:* “Oceans of History: Connecting Spaces of Contest and Exchange” (Session 2), Northwestern University, Chabreja Center for Historical Studies (CCHS), May 10, 2013.

“The Naked and the Dead: The Story of a Jewish Armenian Wayfarer Turned Muslim Mystic Turned Hindu Yogi in Mughal India,” presented at the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, San Diego, March 21-24, 2013.

“Indo-Persian Cultures of Translation: Beyond Akbar and Dara Shukoh,” presented at “Philologies Across the Asias: The Translation, Transmission and Transformation of Knowledge in the Early

Modern World,” the second workshop in the multi-year project, “Zukunftstphilologie: revisiting the Canons of Textual Scholarship,” organized by the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin’s Forum for Transregional Studies (<http://www.forum-transregionale-studien.de/en.html>), held at the Center for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi, December 10-21, 2012.

*Panel chair:* “Jami’s Works in the Persian-speaking World”; presentations by Sunil Sharma (Boston University), Paul Losensky (Indian University), and Justine Landau (Institut für Iranistik, Vienna); “A Worldwide Literature: Jāmi (1414-1492) in the *Dar al-Islam* and Beyond,” University of Chicago, October 18-19, 2012.

“This Insubstantial Pageant: Notes on Dream Imagery and Self-Fashioning in a Mughal Memoir,” presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 12, 2012.

“Mughal Attitudes towards Pluralism in the Seventeenth Century: Three Case Studies,” presented at “Religion, Conflict, and Accommodation in Indian History: The Medieval Period,” Institute for Religion, Culture & Public Life (IRCPL), Columbia University, September 28-29, 2012.

“Mughal Letters and Mughal Lives: A Brahman *Munshi* at Shah Jahan’s Court,” presented at “Cities, Courts, and Saints: Muslim Cultures of South Asia,” a conference organized by the South Asia Research and Information Institute (SARII), Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX, September 22, 2012.

“Notes toward a Reconsideration of Early Modern Indo-Persian Literary Historiography: Beyond the So-Called *Sabk-i Hindi*,” University of Chicago, May 30, 2012.

*Panel chair:* “Rethinking Mughal Texts”; presentations by Shankar Nair (Harvard) and Abhishek Kaickar (Columbia); Ninth Annual South Asia Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago, April 6, 2012.

*Commentator:* Sugata Bose, “The Idea of Asia in Modern History: The Global Imagination of the Colonized,” a lecture delivered as part of the research workshop “Transnationalism, Dialogue, Politics,” jointly coordinated by the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities and the Center for Global Culture and Communication, Northwestern University, April 4, 2012.

“Urban Life in the Mughals’ Frontier Metropolis: Revisiting Chandar Bhan Brahman’s Lahore,” presented at the Association of Asian Studies annual meeting, Toronto, March 16, 2012.

“Civility and Its Discontents: The Use and (More Often) Abuse of Mughal Letters,” presented at the South Asia Seminar, University of Chicago, February 16, 2012.

“Epistles from the Seat of Worldly Power: The Persian Letters of a Punjabi Brahman in the Mughal King’s Court,” presented on one of two panels honoring the late John F. Richards (“The Mughal Empire: New Debates”), American Historical Association (AHA) annual meeting, Chicago, January 12, 2012.

*Panel chair:* “Outsider Perspectives on Mughal Power”; presentations by Roy Fischel (University of Chicago), Audrey Trusckhe (Columbia University), A. Azfar Moin (SMU), and Ishan Chakrabarti (University of Chicago); Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 22, 2011.

“Mughal Tolerance, European Modernity: Dispatches from India’s ‘Short’ Eighteenth Century,” presented at the History Department seminar, Columbia University, October 17, 2011.

- “Tolerance is Good for Business: European Enlightenment Perspectives on Mughal Pluralism,” presented at “Handling Diversity: Premodern Europe and India in Comparison (13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Centuries CE),” Freie Universität (Berlin), September 8-13, 2011.
- “Reading the Epistolary Arts Back into Mughal History: Letters from a Punjabi Brahman in King Shah Jahan’s Court,” a lecture (with accompanying workshop) at the University of Washington, Seattle, May 2011.
- “Thoughts on the Mughals, Modernity, and Historiography,” presented at “Beyond Golden Age and Decline: The Legacy of Muslim Societies in Global Modernity, 1300-1800,” sponsored by the NEH and hosted at George Mason University, March 14-15, 2011.
- Speaker, seminar leader, and roundtable participant:* “Textual Practices beyond Europe, 1500-1900,” a Winter Academy hosted by the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin at the American University of Cairo, December 5-16, 2010. This was part of a larger, multi-year project known as “Zukunftstphilologie: Revisiting the Canons of Textual Scholarship,” under the auspices of the Wissenschaftskolleg’s Forum for Transregional Studies (<http://www.forum-transregionale-studien.de/en.html>).
- Panel chair:* “Fractured Genres: The Afterlives of Medieval Indo-Persian Histories”; presentations by Manan Ahmed (Freie Universität), Anand Taneja (Columbia University), and Pasha Mohamad Khan (Columbia University); Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 15, 2010.
- “A Fondness for Madmen: Eighteenth-Century Memories of Dara Shukoh and His Interlocutors,” presented at “*Humood and Musulman*: Exploring Religious Identities in 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> Century India,” University of California-Berkeley, October 3-5, 2008.
- “The Place of Place in Early Modern Indo-Persian Comparative Philology,” presented at the International Society for Iranian Studies (ISIS) Seventh Biennial Conference, Toronto, Canada, July 31-August 3, 2008.
- “Notes on the Culture and Politics of Early Modern Indo-Persian Astronomy: The *Zij-i Shah Jahan* and *Zij-i Muhammad Shah*,” presented at “Encounters between Early Modern Sanskrit and Persian Cultures,” in conjunction with the ISIS Biennial Conference, Toronto, July 31- August 1, 2008.
- “Persian ↔ Hindi and Poetic Philology in an Early Modern *Masnawi*: Tajalli’s *Allah-Khuda’i*,” presented at “Persian Literature in Multilingual India: Genres, Contexts, Styles,” Cambridge University, UK, June 16-18, 2008.
- “A Mirror for *Munshis*: Chandar Bhan Brahman’s *Chahar Chaman* and the Mughal Secretary’s Spectating Eye,” presented at “Munshis, Pandits and Record-Keepers: Scribal Communities and Historical Change in India, c. 1500-1800,” Oxford University, UK, June 13-14, 2008.
- “Poetic Justice: Indo-Persian Philology and the Fight for Cultural Authority in Early Modern India,” presented at “Language, Culture, and Power: New Directions in South Asian Studies,” Columbia University, February 22-23, 2008.
- “*Bazar*, *Musba’irah*, and *Tazkirah*: Traces of Persophone Public Opinion in Mughal India,” presented at “Vernacular Public Spheres,” Yale University, April 6-7, 2007.

“‘The Heart is Me and You’: A Mughal Conversation about Familiarity and Difference,” presented at the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, March 23, 2007 (part of the panel “Mughal Courtly Literature”).

“‘The Mirror has Both Luminous and Blind Sides’: Dara Shukoh’s Conversations with Baba Lal Dayal,” presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison (part of the panel “Unmaking the Other: Representation and Negotiation in Indo-Islamic Texts”), October 21, 2006.

“The Writing of Empire: *Insba’* and *Munshis* in Indo-Persian Literary and Political Culture,” presented at “Traveling Traditions: Comparative Perspectives on Near Eastern Literature,” a Summer Academy hosted by the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin at the American University in Beirut, October 2-13, 2006 (part of the multi-year interdisciplinary research project “Europe in the Middle East; the Middle East in Europe”).

“Crimes against Imperiality: Rogue States and ‘Suitable Chastisement’ in 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Mughal India,” presented at “Imagining Empire,” University of Chicago, February 25, 2006; also accepted for “Empires, Borderlands, and Border Cultures,” California State University Stanislas, March 2006 (unable to attend).

“Of Master and Munshi: Notes on Francis Gladwin’s *Persian Moonshee*,” presented at the Annual South Asia Conference, University of California, Berkeley, February 17, 2006 (part of the panel “Fissures in the Imperial Narrative: Production and Consumption of Historical Memory in Colonial India”).

“Infantilizing Baba Dara: Negative Portrayals of Dara Shukoh in 17<sup>th</sup>- and 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Indo-Persian Literary Texts,” presented at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Conference on South Asia, October 9, 2005 (part of the panel “Rough Waters where Oceans Meet”).

“The Persistence of Gossip: Memories of Chandar Bhan and ‘Memorative Communication’ in the Indo-Persian *Tazkirah*,” presented at the American Oriental Society’s 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, March 21, 2005.

“Meet the New Orientalism: Same as the Old Orientalism?” presented at “Re-Orientations: The Study of the Non-West after the Saidean Critique,” February 26, 2005, University of Chicago.

“A Jewel Onto His Memory: Ezra Pound’s patronage of E. E. Cummings,” presented at the American Literature Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, May 1998.

## Other presentations

*Moderator:* [An interview and discussion with novelist Amitav Ghosh on his new book \*Gun Island\* \(2019\)](#), Anita and Prabhakant Sinha Program, Chicago Humanities Festival, October 27, 2019

"Civility Towards All: Diversity, Inclusion, and Other Leadership Strategies of the Mughal Emperors," lecture delivered as part of the Alumnae of Northwestern University’s continuing education course "Profiles in Leadership," October 18, 2018.

*Moderator:* Discussion with entertainer, satirist, and commentator Aasif Mandvi, Northwestern University, February 17, 2017.

- Moderator:* Discussion with playwright Ayad Akhtar, presented by the Northwestern Arts Circle, Global Humanities Initiative, and Program in Middle East and North African Studies. Northwestern University, November 7, 2016.
- Google Hangout:* Participated in a live interactive roundtable as part of #SaveMesAynak Day (July 1, 2015), an international effort to rescue Mes Aynak, a major Buddhist archaeological site in Afghanistan that faces impending destruction at the hands of international copper-mining interests. Other participants included Brent Huffman (director of the documentary film *Saving Mes Aynak*), Stephen Carter of Global Witness-Afghanistan, artist Rima Fujita, and Kelly Krause of Heritage in Action.
- Roundtable:* “Teaching the History Survey,” part of the “Teagle Workshops on Teaching History” series, a joint project of the American Historical Association and Northwestern University Department of History, January 17, 2014.
- “Not Merely a Daughter: Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India,” lecture presented as part of the Alumnae of Northwestern University’s continuing education course, “Women: Power, Politics, and Influence,” November 8, 2012.
- “Modern India: A Historical Introduction,” lecture delivered at the Kellogg School of Management, Global Initiatives in Management (GIM) program, Northwestern University, January 11, 2012.
- “Rajasthan in Historical Context,” a pre-departure orientation lecture presented for students traveling to Udaipur with the Global Engagement Studies Institute (GESI; <http://www.gesi.northwestern.edu/>) June 22, 2011.
- Guest lecture at “Iraq Veterans Against the War presents: What the Hell do You Know about Afghanistan?” The Hideout, Chicago, March 8, 2010.
- “Citadel of the Heart: Sufi Islam in Indo-Persian Literary Culture and History,” seminar for the Newberry Library Teachers Consortium, February 3, 2010.
- Moderator:* “Human Rights Violations,” Northwestern University Conference on Human Rights (NUCHR), January 22, 2010.
- Roundtable:* “History behind the Headlines: Escalation in Afghanistan?” Northwestern University, November 10, 2009.
- Roundtable:* “What is the Future of History,” Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University, February 26, 2009.
- “Why the Mughals Matter: Thoughts on Tolerance and Political Islam, from Akbar to Tennyson to Thomas Friedman,” seminar for the Newberry Library Teachers Consortium, February 11, 2009.
- Commentator:* “Perfecting the Pitch: Or, Why You Should Hire Me in 10 Minutes or Less,” Department of History Program for Professional Development workshop, Northwestern University, November 14, 2008.
- “Peace with All: Tolerance in Mughal Political Culture and its Contemporary Relevance,” South Asian Students Association Fall Academic Lecture, Northwestern University, November 12, 2008.
- “An Utterly Inadequate Primer on Indian History,” lecture delivered at the Kellogg School of Management, Global Initiatives in Management program, Northwestern University, January 9, 2008.

*Roundtable*: “Digitizing the Muslim League Archives,” presented at “One Hundred Years of the Muslim League, 1906-2006,” University of Chicago, November 4, 2006.

Lectures on the historical background and political context of communalism in Mani Ratnam’s *Bombay* and Aparna Sen’s *Mr. and Mrs. Iyer* (part of the South Asian Students Association “Communalism in Film Series”), University of Chicago, October 20-21, 2006.

“The Politics of History in South Asia,” pre-departure orientation lecture delivered to Fulbright teaching fellows (high school) conducting curriculum research in India under the auspices of the United States Educational Foundation in India (USEFI), Chicago, June 2006.