

**VIKAS RATHEE**  
**Department of History**  
**Central University of Punjab**  
**V.P.O. Ghudda, District Bathinda, Punjab, INDIA 151401**  
[vikas.rathee@cup.edu.in](mailto:vikas.rathee@cup.edu.in)

**APPOINTMENTS**

**July 2019 – now** Assistant Professor, Department of History, School of Social Sciences, Central University of Punjab

**Nov 2016 – July 2019** Assistant Professor of History, South and Central Asian Studies, School of Global Relations, Central University of Punjab

**Oct 2014-Sept 2016** PBC Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Harry S. Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

**March 2005-March 2006** Guest Lecturer, Dept of Germanic & Romance Studies, University of Delhi

**Aug 2001 – Jun 2002** Manager (Logistics) & Tour Guide, Aquaterra Adventures (Pvt.) Ltd, Delhi for river and mountain operations in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

**EDUCATION**

**Jan 2007-Aug 2015** Department of History, The University of Arizona

**Ph.D. in History (Middle Eastern Caucasus)**, for the thesis “*Narratives of the 1658 War of Succession for the Mughal Throne, 1658-1707*,”. Committee: Richard Eaton (Chair), Linda Darling, Allison Busch (Columbia University) and Brian Silverstein (Anthropology). **Minor: World & Comparative History.**

**2002-2006** Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India

- **M.Phil.** in History (CGPA: 7.69 on a scale of 9.0, first division)
- Unpublished M.Phil. Dissertation: “*Centre and the Region: Aspects of the Making of Mughal Rule in the Bengal Subah, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Centuries*” (Advisor: Rajat Datta)
- **M.A.** in History (specialisation - Medieval Indian History, CGPA: 6.56 on a scale of 9.0, First Division), Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences

**1998-2002** St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, India

**B.A. (Hons.) in History** (Minor fields: English, Philosophy and Political Science), 56.3 %, High Second Division.

**UGC-NET** passed UGC Ref. No. 1546/(NET-JUNE, 2005), Roll No. R172240, Certificate No. A035935

**RESEARCH LANGUAGES**

**Hindi – Standard, Khari Boli, Haryanvi, other Hindi-Urdu dialects:** Fluent (speaking, writing and reading);

**Urdu:** Fluent (speaking), Advanced (writing and reading)

**Literary Persian:** Intermediate to advanced depending on text and script/font type (reading);

**Pre-colonial Hindi, Punjabi & Urdu – Braj, Dingal, Pingal, Dakhani, Awadhi and others:** Intermediate to fluent depending on text (reading)

**Punjabi:** Advanced to fluent (speaking); Advanced to Fluent (reading-Gurmukhi & Shahmukhi; writing - Shahmukhi);

**Sanskrit:** five years in High School from Grade 6 through 10

**English:** Fluent (speaking, writing and reading);

**Arabic:** Introductory

## **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND HONORS**

### **EXTERNAL**

- (Major Grant) **Discipline Co-ordinator (co-P.I.)** for **History**, Member Core Team, Teaching Learning Centre @ Central University of Punjab, Centre for Excellence for Curriculum and Pedagogy, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching Scheme (**PMMMNTT**), Ministry of Human Resources & Development (total of Rs. 94,71,000 for AY 2018-19; of which Rs. 13,06,500/- for History Discipline)
- Avinder S. Brar Initiative Award, **Avinder S. Brar Foundation**, Delhi (INDIA), 2001 for documenting my own bicycle trip from Ludhiana (Punjab Plains) to Rohtang Pass (3980m).

### **INTERNAL**

- Research Seed Money (RSM) Grant from Central University of Punjab, 2017 (Rupees 1.5 lakh)
- SBSRI Dissertation Writing Grant, University of Arizona, 2014 (\$5,000).
- Travel Grant, Dept of History, University of Arizona, 2014.
- Travel Grant, Graduate and Professional Students Council, University of Arizona, 2013.
- Edwin Turville Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Department of History, **University of Arizona**, 2013.
- Michael Sweetow Fellowship, Department of History, University of Arizona, 2013.
- John Rockfellow Summer Research Scholarship, University of Arizona, 2011.
- Richard A. Cosgrove Summer Research Scholarship, University of Arizona, 2011 & 2008.
- Summer Research Grant, School of Social & Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona, 2011.

## **PUBLICATIONS** (all hyperlinked)

### **PEER-REVIEWED**

[“Cosmopolitan Particularism: Mahamati Pran-nath’s dawa in the Laldas Bitak,” in \*Purushartha\*, 33 \(2015\), 185-206. ISBN 978-2-7132-2492-8](#)

### **REVIEWS and ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES**

- A Complex Portrait: Review of Supriya Gandhi, *The Emperor Who Never Was: Dara Shukoh in Mughal India*, Cambridge MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2020, for *The Book Review*, vol. XLIV, no.5, May 5, 2020, pp.13-14. ISSN (Print): 0970-4175, [UGC Care List Group I journal](#)
- Characterising the Culture of the Mughal Era: Chronicles of a Munshi, Review of Rajeev Kinra, *Writing Self, Writing Empire: Chandar Bhan Brahman and the Cultural World of the Indo-Persian State Secretary*, Delhi: Primus Books (by arrangement with University of California

Press, Berkeley), 2016, for *Economic & Political Weekly*, Vol. 53, Issue No. 38, 22 Sep, 2018 (ISSN Print: 0012-9976), pp.24-26. Group I journal, UGC Care List

- The Text and Context of Literarization: Review of Christian Lee Novetzke, *The Quotidian Revolution: Vernacularization, Religion and the Premodern Public Sphere in India*, Ranikhet: Permanent Black (in association with Ashoka University, by arrangement with the University of California Press, Berkeley), 2016, for *The Book Review*, vol. XLII, no.5, May 2018, pp.19-20. ISSN (Print): 0970-4175 UGC Care List Group I journal
- Fractured Memories: Review of Audrey Truschke, *Aurangzeb: The Man and the Myth*, Delhi: Penguin Random House India, 2017, for *The Book Review*, vol. XLI, no.7, pp.5-6. ISSN (Print): 0970-4175 UGC Care List Group I journal
- Contextualising Tod's Work: Review of Lloyd I. & Susanne Hoerber Rudolph, *Romanticism's Child: An Intellectual History of James Tod's Influence on Indian History and Historiography*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2017, pp. Xx+236 for *The Book Review*, vol. XLI, no.6, June 2017, pp.15-16. ISSN (Print): 0970-4175 Group B journal, UGC Care List
- "Bakhtāvar Khān" for *Encyclopedia of Islam 3*, edited by Kate Fleet et al. Leiden: 2015, 26-29. 978-90-04-28212-4.
- Review of Ayesha Irani, *Sacred Biography, Translation and Conversion: The "Nabivamsa" of Saiyid Sultan and the Making of Bengali Islam, 1600-present*," dissertation submitted to University of Pennsylvania, 2011 for **Dissertation Reviews**

#### POPULAR MEDIA

- "The BJP's denial of refugee status to Rohingyas is in line with the (flawed) logic of Partition." *Scroll*. October 20, 2017 (on role of Partition of 1947 in determining refugee policies of South Asian nation-states)
- "The Tyrant Diaries, Part II," *Outlook India* (web). April 16, 2013 (on late-eighteenth century Deccan)
- "A Slanging Match," *Outlook India* (web). February 28, 2014 (on Wendy Doniger controversy).

#### ADVISING and TEACHING

**Ph.D. Advisor** (all at Dept of History, Central University of Punjab)

**Gopale, Amarnath Machhindranath**, since December 2016 (thesis titled 'Developmental Response to Left Wing Extremism in Gadchiroli Distt'; synopsis approved; in Dept of SCAS)

**Kamble, Abhitodhan Baburao**, since January 2017(thesis titled 'Radical, Orthodox and Modern: The Content and Character of Tilak's Nationalism '; synopsis approved)

**Saba Parveen**

#### Course Instructor – Graduate/Masters

- *South Asian History and Politics; Government and Politics of South and Central Asia* for **MPhil/Phd Coursework at Central University of Punjab**
- *Mughal India, Society and Culture of Medieval India, Principles of History, History of Indian Literatures; Approaches to History; World History; Modern World; Ancient World; Polity, Society and Economy: Mughal Period (1526-1757); Indian Nationalism; Society and Culture in*

*19<sup>th</sup> Century India; Mass Movements during the British Period; and, History of Dalits (Ancient to Contemporary Period); for M.A. History at Central University of Punjab.*

- *Texts of Indian History, Texts of World History* (Inter-Disciplinary courses) for non-History Masters programmes, Central University of Punjab

### **Course Instructor – Undergraduate**

- *Reading Mughal India*, Department of **Asian Studies**, The **Hebrew University of Jerusalem**, Spring 2015
- *World History, to 1500*, Department of **History, University of Arizona**, Summer Session II 2012, Summer Session II 2011, Winter Session 2011
- *World History, since 1500*, Department of **History, University of Arizona**, Winter Session 2011
- *Modern Europe*, Department of **Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Delhi**, July 2005 - March 2006.
- *Modern India*, Department of **Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Delhi**, February 2005 – March 2005.

### **Teaching Assistant, Writing Tutor & Grader**

**Africana Studies Program, University of Arizona**      Fall 2013 *The Africana Experience*

Department of **History, University of Arizona** for 9 semesters from Spring 2007 to Fall 2012, for *World History, to 1500, World History, since 1500, What is Politics?* and *Western Civilisation*.

**Writing Tutor**, Department of History, University of Arizona, Spring 2013

### **CONSULTANCY, ADVISING, ETC**

- Advisor for **Dharma Productions Pvt Ltd** for ‘Takht’ (under production, dir: **Karan Johar**)
- Advisor, “Heritage Itineraries in the Himalayas,” **White Magic Adventure (Pvt.) Ltd.**, Delhi  
[www.whitemagicadventure.com](http://www.whitemagicadventure.com)

**SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS/SPEECHES/SESSIONS CHAIRED** (underline indicates event/panel I organised; asterisk indicates invited lecture)

- “The Portrayal of Shah Jahan in Some Seventeenth-century Narratives of the War of Succession,” as part of *Seventeenth Century in India: Events, Society, Thought and Art* organised (online) by Institute of Iranian Studies, **Austrian Academy of Sciences**, Vienna, April 7 – 10, 2021.
- “Narratives of the War of Succession of 1658: An Introduction,” **Ashoka University**, Sonapat, Haryana, April 6, 2021.
- Convened one-week (valid for CAS as per UGC) workshop titled *'Ebb and Flow: Emerging and Declining Trends in History and Allied Disciplines'* as Discipline Co-ordinator for History, Teaching Learning Centre, Teaching Learning Centre @ Central University of Punjab, Centre for Excellence for Curriculum and Pedagogy, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching Scheme (**PMMMNTT**), **Ministry of Human Resources & Development**, March 15 – 19, 2021 (online).

- “A War of Succession for the Mughal throne (1658) as Described in Muhammad Saleh Kamboh's Shah Jahan Nama,” as part of the **9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention** of the **Association for the Study of Persianate Societies** at University of Chicago Centre, New Delhi, March 11-13, 2020. CANCELLED/POSTPONED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS EPIDEMIC.
- “Qissa Subhash Bose: A Ballad of World War II by an INA soldier from Rohtak District,” **Ashoka University**, Sonapat, Haryana, November 4, 2019. CANCELLED/POSTPONED DUE TO SEVERE POLLUTION IN DELHI-NCR REGION
- “Sects and Religions of Seventeenth-century North-West India as Reported in the *Bahr-ul Asrar*,” as part of the 2-day National Seminar *Study of ‘Sacred Spaces’ and ‘Cults’ in Pre-Modern North-West India* organised by North-West Regional Centre, Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) & Department of History, **Panjab University** at Panjab University, Chandigarh, March 18-19, 2019.
- “Texts and Contexts: A two-way Relationship,” in panel titled ‘Politics of Translation’, for *Translation: Challenges and Possibilities*, **Punjabi University: Guru Kashi Campus, Talwandi Sabo**, March 17, 2019.
- Keynote Speaker, “Jallianwala Bagh Massacre and the Crumbling of British Empire” at an *eponymous symposium*, Government **Brijindra College, Faridkot**, March 5, 2019.
- “Islam and Authority during Aurangzeb’s Reign,” for the workshop *Religious Authority in Islam in South Asia: Fragmentation, Plurality and Exclusivity*, as part of the series *Authority in Islam: The Dialectics of Fragmentation and Plurality*, Islamic Studies Program, School of Global & International Studies, **Indiana University** held at Indiana University Gateway, Delhi, January 18-19, 2019.
- Panel Chair, *The Mongols Mattered: Cultural, Social, and Commercial Changes During the Mongol Century*, **5<sup>th</sup> AAS-in-Asia Conference**, July 7, 2018, Delhi.
- Invited Subject Expert for ‘History’, Workshop on Identification of Subject-wise Resources for Teachers, National Resource Centre for Education, Pt Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission for Teachers Training, **Ministry for Human Resources Development** (Govt of India) at National Institute for Education Policy and Administration (**NIEPA**), Delhi, June 6-8, 2018
- “The Subject and World Literature: Literary and Historical Reportage of Aurangzeb's Accession (1658), c.1670-c.1730,” for *World Literature: Postcolonial Perspectives*, Departments of English, and Germanic & Romance Studies, University of Delhi, March 15-17, 2018.
- Part of **Round Table Discussion on 'New Questions and Approaches for Historians of South Asia'**, **Hebrew University** of Jerusalem (Mount Scopus Campus), May 23, 2017 (with Gyan Pandey, Ruby Lal, Yigal Bronner and Rotem Geva).
- “The Evolution of Hindi Literary Traditions in late-Seventeenth Century Deccan,” for the conference *Maratha-Mughal Relations Through North-South Historical Linkage* on occasion of the ‘350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Visit of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Agra’ at Department of History and Culture, **Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Agra** (UP) in association with Dept of History, **Bhimrao Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad**; **Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)**; and, **Aurangabad Historical Society**, February 19-21, 2017.
- \* “Evolution of Persian History-writing from Akbar's reign to Aurangzeb's Reign,” at the Centre for **Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University**, September 21, 2016.
- “The Present Memory of Mehar Singh's Adventures with the British Indian and the Indian National Army,” for “*The Indian Predicament: South Asia in WWII*,” at The **Hebrew University** of Jerusalem, Mount Scopus, June 5-6, 2016, as part of the **European Research Council** funded project *Judging Histories*.

- \*“Narratives of a War of Succession for the Mughal Throne,” Department of **Asian Studies, University of Haifa**, May 16, 2016.
- “The bases of description and analysis of the religious sects in the *Dabistan-i mazahib*,” as part of the workshop “Developments in in the Islamic World, c.1600-c.1800,” Department of **Middle Eastern Studies, Hebrew University** of Jerusalem, May 27-30, 2016.
- \*“The *Vachanika Rathor Ratansinghri*: A Rajput View of the Contest Between Aurangzeb and Dara Shikoh,” Department of **History, University of Delhi**, February 10, 2016.
- \*“History of *Rai/Raya*: Persian Culture and the Making of an Autochthonous Indian Title, c.1000-c.2000,” **Nehru Memorial Museum and Library**, Delhi, September 30, 2015. <http://nehruememorial.nic.in/en/digital-archives/62-seminar/detail/1272-81-dr-vikas-rathee-28-9-15.html?tmpl=component> (audio)
- \*“History of *Rai/Raya*: Persian Culture and the Making of an Autochthonous Indian Title, c.1000-c.2000,” Department of **Asian Studies, The Hebrew University** of Jerusalem, June 3, 2015.
- “Religion and Politics in the pre-Islamic Hindu past of Indo-Persian *tawarikh*: The case of the *Khulasat al-tawarikh*” for “Persianate Studies: A Conceptual Inquiry,” Yale Program in **Iranian Studies, Yale University**, New Haven CT, May 9-11, 2014.
- “Hodgson’s ‘Islamicate’ and the Knowledge of Indian Society and Culture in Persian Language Works by Authors of Indian Origin” at the workshop “Reconsidering the Non-Muslim Other: Internal and External Religious Differentiation,” part of the on-going project “Being Muslim,” Department of **Religious Studies, Vanderbilt University**, Nashville TN, Sept 23-26, 2013.
- “The ‘*Amal-i Salih* of Muhammad Salih Kamboh: A Shah Jahani Historian’s Treatment of Aurangzeb’s Enthronement,” for the panel “Rethinking the Alamgiri Regime, 1658-1707,” 42<sup>nd</sup> **Annual Conference for South Asian Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison WI**, October 17-20, 2013. *organised panel*
- “*Sujan Rai Bhandari’s Khulasat-u-tawarikh: A Hindu Narrative of A Mughal War of Succession,*” for the panel “Assessing Notions of Communities through South Asian Literary Texts, c.1550-c.1800,” the Annual Conference of **Association of Asian Studies, San Diego CA**, March 21, 2013. *organised panel*
- “The *Vachanika Rathor Ratansinghri*: A late-Seventeenth Century Account of the War of Succession Amongst the Sons of Shah Jahan” at the **12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Early Modern Literature of North India, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies**, Shimla, Aug 5-8, 2012.
- “Visiting Syncretism and Secularism through the *Bitak* of Laldas” at the workshop titled “Conceptualising Caste and Religion Prior to Colonialism in South Asia,” **Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Delhi**. July 28, 2012. *organised conference*
- “The Laldas *Bitak*: Conceptualising Mahamati Pran-nath’s Attempts to Bring Spiritual Awakening to Aurangzeb and Chhatarsal Bundela” at the workshop “Cosmopolitanism in the Early Modern World: The Case of South Asia (16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> centuries): Sources, Itineraries, Language,” **Centre d’Etudes de l’Inde et de l’Asie du Sud, CNRS, EHESS, Paris**. May 24-25, 2012.
- “Fani Kashmiri’s Search for the utopian ideals of *bahar* (spring) and *dust* (friend) in the Dystopic *Padshahi* of Aurangzeb” at “History and Culture of Friendship in Precolonial South Asia,” **Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia**. May 2-4, 2011.

### TRAININGS ATTENDED

- Two-week training on ‘Managing Online Classes and Co-creating MOOCs’ organised by Teaching Learning Centre, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi as part of Pt. Madan Mohan

Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Training (PMMMNTT), Ministry of Human Resources Development, Govt of India. From April 20, 2020 to May 6, 2020.

- Four-week Faculty Induction Program, organised by Centre for Curriculum Research, Policy and Educational Development, School of Education, Central University of Punjab as part of Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Training (PMMMNTT), Ministry of Human Resources Development, Govt of India. From June 4, 2019 to July 3, 2019.

### **SERVICE to DISCIPLINE**

- **Peer-reviewer**, *Archive Journal* (<http://www.archivejournal.net/>)
- **Peer-reviewer**, *Itinerario: International Journal of European Expansion and Global Interaction* (<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/itinerario/>)

### **SERVICE to UNIVERSITY, HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM, INDUSTRY, etc**

- Presiding Officer, Lok Sabha Elections 2019, Election Commission of India
- **Presiding Officer**, Punjab State Legislative Assembly Elections 2017, for **Election Commission** of India
- Observer, Central Teacher Eligibility Test (CTET), conducted by CBSE, December 8, 2019
- Designed the **Central Universities Common Entrance Test – CUCET** for M.A. History (2017, 2018)
- **Discipline Co-ordinator** for History, Member Core Team, Teaching Learning Centre, Centre for Excellence for Curriculum and Pedagogy, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching Scheme (PMMMNTT) of Ministry of Human Resources & Development, Central University of Punjab
- Incharge, **University Museum**, Central University of Punjab, Sept 2017 – Feb 12, 2020
- Member, Board of Studies, Dept of Languages & Comparative Literature, Central University of Punjab, Jan 2019 – Dec 2020.
- Member, School Board, School of Social Sciences, Central University of Punjab, Sept 11, 2019- June 3, 2020
- Member, Board of Studies, Department of History, Central University of Punjab, Feb 2020 – now
- Member, Board of Studies, Dept of Sociology, Central University of Punjab, Jan 2021 – now

### **OUTREACH**

- Chief Guest, Scholar Badge Ceremony for classes IX-XII, November 16, 2019, Delhi Public School, Goneana Road, Bathinda
- Volunteer Judge, **National History Day**, Regional Competition, Tucson (AZ), March 2, 2013.
- Invited commentator to the news and analysis show **The X Factor** on the TV channel **NDTV 24\*7**. The show was on the issue of caste-based affirmative action in India. May 2006.

### **MEMBERSHIPS, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE and OTHER**

2019-20	Association for the Studies of Persianate Societies (of North America)
2018-19	Association of Asian Studies (of North America)

- 2017-18 Member, Punjab History Congress  
2008-09 Secretary, History Graduate Association, University of Arizona  
2004-05 Secretary, History Association, Centre of Historical Studies, JNU  
2002-03 Student-Faculty Co-ordinator, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU  
2009-14 Member, Group of Early Modern Studies, University of Arizona  
(<http://www.ic.arizona.edu/ic/mcbride/gems/gems.htm>, accessed July 31, 2013)  
Past Member American Institute of Indian Studies  
Past Member American Historical Association  
**Founding Member, Students Campaign for Claim on Nation**, a pro-affirmative action student initiative (2006) based in JNU, Delhi ([http://claimonnation.blogspot.com/2006\\_05\\_01\\_archive.html](http://claimonnation.blogspot.com/2006_05_01_archive.html), accessed July 31, 2013).  
Summer 2006 Research Assistant, Earthcare Films (Pvt) Ltd, New Delhi  
July – Sept 2002 Research Assistant, Aureole Publications (Pvt) Ltd., Delhi; I had to liaise with copyright-holders of historical images required in the production of a coffee-table history of India.

HYPERLINK "<http://www.amazon.co.uk/books/dp/1903025222>"<http://www.amazon.co.uk/books/dp/1903025222>

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