

RUCHI CHATURVEDI
Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town
Email: ruchi.chaturvedi@uct.ac.za

EDUCATION

Columbia University in the City of New York, Ph.D. (Anthropology) 2007
Dissertation: Down by Law: Violence and the Work of Politics in Democratic Kerala,
South India.

University of Delhi, India, M.Phil. (Sociology) 1998

University of Delhi, M.A. (Sociology) 1996

University of Delhi, B.A. (Sociology) 1994

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

National Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, South Africa
(Joint award for project on ‘Other Universals’)
2016-2017

African Critical Inquiry Program (Joint award for project on ‘Other Universals’)
Emory University; University of the Western Cape 2016

Emerging Research Scholars Program
University of Cape Town, April 2016; July 2015.

Visiting Research Fellow, Makerere Institute for Social Research
University of Makerere, Kampala Jan 1 2014-July 1 2014

Visiting Fellow, The Centre for the Study of Social Difference
Mumbai Global Centre, Columbia University, Jan 2013

Visiting Fellow, The Centre for Humanities Research
University of the Western Cape, Aug 2012-Aug 2013

Visiting Research Fellow,
The Center for the Study of Social Systems,
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Jan-March 2012

Scholar Incentive Award,
Hunter College, City University of New York, 2011

Professional Staff Congress-City University of New York
Faculty Research Grant, 2010-11

Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation Dissertation Fellowship 2004-05

Wenner-Gren Foundation Fieldwork Grant for Anthropological Research 2002-03

Inlaks Foundation, London Doctoral Studies Fellowship 1998-2001

Columbia University, Graduate Faculty Fellowship 1998-2001

PREVIOUS TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Makerere Institute for Social Research, Makerere University (Jan -Aug 2014)

Visiting Research Fellow, Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Social Studies

Courses Taught: Culture and Theory; Anthropology of Violence; Colonialism, Anti-Colonialism, Postcolonialism (Postgraduate)

University of the Western Cape Jan 2013-May 2013

Contractual Instructor, Department of Anthropology and Sociology

Courses Taught: Anthropological Theory (Honors and Masters)

Hunter College-CUNY Sep 2008-August 2013

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology

Courses Taught: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, Power, Performance and Politics, Anthropology of War, Law and Anthropology, Violence and Ethnic Conflict in South Asia (Undergraduate, Honors and Masters level)

Smith College 2007-2008

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology

Courses Taught: Introduction to Cultural Anthropology; Modern South Asia: Histories and Ethnographies; Modern Communities of Fear (Undergraduate level)

Colgate University 2006-2007

Postdoctoral Fellow, Peace and Conflict Studies

Courses Taught: War and Everyday Life (Undergraduate)

Columbia University Spring 2000; 2004-06

Co-instructor, Department of Anthropology and Southern Asian Institute

Instructor, The University Writing Program

Courses Taught: Ethnographies of South Asia (Undergraduate, Masters and PhD level); Writing 101 (Undergraduate).

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Democratic Violence: Equality, Community and Agonism in South India

Under contract with *Duke University Press*. Manuscript under revision.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Agentive Capacities, Democratic Possibilities and the Urban Poor: Rethinking Recent Popular Protests in West Africa

International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society. 2016.
doi:10.1007/s10767-016-9222-x

Political Violence, Community and its Limits in Kannur, Kerala

Contributions to Indian Sociology. 2015 vol. 49 (2).

North Kerala and Democracy's Violent Demands

Economic and Political Weekly (non-refereed) 2012 vol. XLVII, 42.

“Somehow it Happened:” Violence, Culpability and the Hindu Nationalist Community

Cultural Anthropology 2011 vol. 26 (3), pp. 340-6

BOOK REVIEWS

Mathew Hull. 2012. *Government of Paper: The Materiality of Bureaucracy in Urban Pakistan*.
Kronos December 2014 40(13).

Srila Roy. 2012. *Remembering Revolution: Gender, Violence, and Subjectivity in India's Naxalbari Movement*
Contributions to Indian Sociology October 2014 (48)

PRINT AND ONLINE MEDIA ARTICLES

Displacing Hierarchies: Nation and Universities in India and Africa

Co-authored with Faisal Garba and Amrita Pande, *Review of African Political Economy*
Published online, April 2016

The Rise of a Postcolonial University

Africa as a Country webzine April 6, 2015

Delhi 2012: Demanding Freedom from Fear

Amandla 36 November 2014

Before Hailing Modi-fication of India, Consider the Facts

Co-authored with Amrita Pande, *Business Day*, July 1, 2014

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Exalted Faces and Awkward Bodies:

Thinking about Political Protests, Imagination and Global Sociology

Center for Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape (March 2016)

Graduate Centre, City University of New York (December 2015)

Political Violence and the Shifting Scales of Justice
IUAES Commission on Global Transformations and Marxian Anthropology and Juan Marinello Center, Havana, Cuba (February 2016)

Pastoral Power, Masculinity and Political Communities
*Department of Sociology
University of Cape Town
(March 2015)*

Postgraduate Research and Writing
*Makerere Institute for Social Research
University of Makerere
(February 2014)*

Gender Violence, the Street and the State: Reflections on Public Protests in Delhi 2012-13
*Department of Women and Gender Studies
Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of the Western Cape
(February 2013)*

Lumpenproletariat and Postcolonial Democracies
*The Centre for the Study of Social Difference
Columbia University, Mumbai Global Centre (January 2013)*

“Who Did It?” Political Violence and the Elusive Culpable Subject
*The Centre for Humanities Research
University of the Western Cape (October 2012)*

Equality, Community and Violence in Democratic India
*Department of Anthropology and Sociology
University of the Western Cape (April 2012)*

What is Political about Political Communities?
*Department of Sociology, The Center for the Study of Social Systems
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (Feb 2012)*

Community beyond Communion: Some Reflections via Party and Partition Violence in India
*Developing the Commons Workshop, The Center for Humanities Research,
University of the Western Cape, (Oct 2011)*

For A Little Participation: “People’s Democracy” and Violence in South India
Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Stellenbosch University (Sep 2011)

Clashing for Justice: Political Agency, Violence and Criminal Courts in India
Roosevelt House, Public Policy Institute, Hunter College (May 2011)

Of “Real Culprits” and “The (Made) Accused”
Law and Social Science Network, Delhi Chapter Symposium (July 2010)

Political Conflict in North Kerala: History and Futures

The Tellicherry Peace and Conflict Committee, Tellicherry, Kerala (August 2009)

Violent Articulations of People's Democracy in Kerala, South India
*Beyond Good Governance Conference, Watson Institute for International Studies,
Brown University (May 2009)*

Violence, "Love" and Elisions: An Ethnography of Hindu Nationalism in North Kerala
Friday Colloquium, Department of Sociology, University of Delhi (August 2008)

Violence, Narrative and the Hindu Nationalist Community in Kerala, South India
Inter-Asian Faculty Seminar, Five Colleges Inc., Amherst College (September 2007)

A Contract to Kill: Violence, Politics and Justice in Kerala, South India
The Program on Order, Conflict and Violence Speaker Series, Yale University (April 2004)

To Kill and Be Killed: Violence, Politics and Justice in Kerala, South India
Ethnographies of the Political in South Asia, Columbia University (April 2004)

SELECT CONFERENCE PAPERS

Lumpenproletariat and Democratic Dispositions
*First Asia-Africa Conference, Accra, Ghana
International Institute of Asian Studies and University of Ghana (September 2015)*

Love, Violence and Culpability in Hindu Nationalist Communities, South India
Love and Revolution Workshop, University of Minnesota (March 2011)

"Not Even a Faint Legal Idea about What Transpired": Political Agency, Violence and the
Criminal Courts
Law and Social Science Network Conference, Pune, India (December 2010)

Political Violence and the Problem of Culpability
Association for Culture, Law and Humanities, Brown University (March 2010)

Ardent but Incomplete: Hindu Nationalist Communities in Kerala.
Association for Asian Studies, Philadelphia (March 2010)

"The Party has a Hold on My Mind:" Absorption and Singularity in Political Communities
American Ethnological Association, Vancouver (May 2009)

On People's Democracy: Ethics, Politics and Violence in Kerala, South India"
Society for Cultural Anthropology, Long Beach, California (May 2008)

Violence, Justice and a 'People's Democracy in Kerala, South India
American Association for Asian Studies, Atlanta (March 2008)

Co-authored with Guillermina Seri "Grassroots Accounts of the Rule of Law: Comparative
Evidence from Latin America, India and the United Kingdom,"
American Political Science Association, Chicago (September 2007)

Violent Revolutions, Non Violent Utopias: Re Telling the Lives of Communists in Kerala, South India
American Anthropological Association (November 2005)

The State and Self: Violence, Law and Narrative in Kerala, South India
34th Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison (August 2005)

SELECT PANELS CO-ORGANIZED

Africa and South Asia: Migrations, Popular Assertions and the Urban Imaginary
First Asia-Africa Conference, Accra, Ghana, September 2015

Performing Law, Producing Justice: Some Ethnographic Investigations
American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, November 2010

Democracy, Anti-Democracy: People's Politics in the Global South
Association for Asian Studies, Atlanta, March 2008

GUEST LECTURES (INSTRUCTIONAL)

June 2013, Thesis Writing Workshops
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
University of the Western Cape

March 2012, Guest Lecture, Academic Staff College
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Feb 2012, March 2012, Guest Lecture in 'Historical Methods' class for M.Phil students and 'Sociology of Development' class for Masters students.
Department of Sociology, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Spring 2011, 2010, 2009 Guest Lecture at 'Topics in Anthropology' class
Department of Anthropology, Graduate Center, City University of New York

Fall 2009 Guest Lecture at 'South Asia: Ethnography and History' class
Department of Anthropology, Graduate Center, City University of New York

OTHER SELECT INVITED ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

November 2014 Discussant at Contemporary History and Humanities Seminar, *Centre for Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape*

February 2013 Discussant at Workshop on Violence and Reconciliation Workshop, *Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, Cape Town and Centre for Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape*

March 2012 Discussant at Workshop on Law, Violence and Politics, *The Makerere Institute for Social Research, University of Makerere, Kampala, Uganda*

February 2012 Discussant at Law and Society workshop, *The Center for Study in Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi*

January 2012 Discussant at Love and Revolution conference, *Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi*

Fall 2010 Welfare Measures and Democracy in India. Co-presenter at *South Asian Solidarity Initiative workshop*.

Spring 2009 Invited Commentator on Panel to mark the release of Sally E. Merry's "Gender Violence and Culture," and Ida Susser's "AIDS, Sex and Culture: Global Politics and Survival in South Africa." *Graduate Center, City University of New York*

Fall 2008 Invited Speaker at Student Teach-in on Extremist Violence in Mumbai, November 2008. *Hunter College, City University of New York*

ADVISEES

Select PhD Advisees:

2015-Emma Daitz, Specialization: South African Intellectual History, Critical Race Studies, Women and Gender Studies.

2015-Vrinda Chopra, Specialization: Development Studies, Comparative Political Economy, South Asia.

2015-Ragi Bashonga, Specialization: African Diaspora, Performance Studies, Youth and Gender, Critical Race Studies.

2015- Emmily K. Naphambo, Specialization: Southern Africa, Child Marriage, Gender and Sexuality

2015-2016 Meredith Evans, Specialization: Gender and Sexuality, Southern Africa, Critical Race Studies.

Select Masters Advisees:

2015-Shabashni Moodley, Specialization: Development Studies, Social History, Southern Africa.

2009- 2011 Nadia Augutyani, Specialization: Anthropology of Violence, Refugee and Migration Studies, Eastern Europe and Sri Lanka.

2009-2012 Emily Ramsey, Specialization: American South, Developmental capital and everyday life, Theories of subjectivity, History and memory.

2010- 2011 Raina Klunski, Specialization: South Asia, Anthropology of Religion, Caste Conflict, Conversions.

Select Undergraduate Advisees:

2016 Courtney Titus. Specialization: Sociology of Violence, Urban History and Ethnography, Development Studies.

2016 Donatha Narcis. Specialization: Gender and Sexuality, Student Protest, South Africa.

2015 Juliana Pita, Specialization: East Africa, Popular Protests, Political Society

Nandini Biswas, Specialization: Anthropology of Experience, South Asian Diaspora. 2008-09

Lakshman Kalasapudi, Specialization: South Asia, Caste Histories and Practices, Colonial India, Performance Studies 2009-10

Marissa Lombardo, Specialization: Urban Anthropology, Social Stratification, Anthropology of Experience. 2009-10

ACADEMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE and OTHER SERVICE

2016 Member of committee to review Andrew Mellon Chair in African Languages and Linguistics

2016 Member of permanent staff selection committee, Department of Psychology, University of Cape Town

2015- Member of the committee on Social Justice and Inequality M.Phil Initiative

2015 Member of the postgraduate student selection committee, Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town

2015 Member of the adjunct staff selection committee, Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town

2015 Member of the Media and Curriculum Sub Committees, Black Academics Caucus, University of Cape Town

June-August 2015 Member of Dean's Committee for the Humanities Faculty Assembly, University of Cape Town

2014 Member of the staff selection committee, Department of Sociology, University of Cape Town

2014 Member of the staff selection committee, Makerere Institute of Social Research, Makerere University

2014 Member of the postgraduate student selection committee, Makerere Institute of Social Research, Makerere University

2013 Convener of research thematic on ‘Space, Technics, Politics’ at the Centre for Humanities Research, University of the Western Cape, attendant reading groups and colloquia.

Served as reviewer for Journals including *South Asia*, *Antipode*, *Political and Legal Anthropology Review (POLAR)*, *American Anthropologist* and Duke University Press.

Served as Grants Reviewer Professional Staff Congress-City University of New York 2008

Series Organized:

2010-11 Co-coordinator South Asia Faculty Reading Group. New York Region.

2009-10 Member, South Asia Initiative at Hunter College, CUNY

2009-10 Socio-Cultural Anthropology Faculty Search, Hunter College, CUNY

Fall 2009 Alternate Member, Faculty Senate, Hunter College, CUNY

2009 Reviewer, Applications to the Masters Program, Department of Anthropology, Hunter College, CUNY

Spring 2009 Helped the Peace and Conflict Committee, a consortium of scholars and activists, in Kannur District of Kerala organize seminar on Political Violence in the region and the prospects for peace.

Member of the South Asian Solidarity Initiative, which seeks to bring to the U.S. public sphere issues related to state repression and democracy in South Asia.

2008-09 Co-coordinator, Faculty Workshop on ‘Power, Identity and Contestation,’ *Department of Anthropology, Hunter College, City University of New York.*

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

South African Sociology Association
Anthropology Southern Africa

LANGUAGES

Hindi, Malayalam, Spoken Urdu and Punjabi, Beginners isiXhosa