

TEENA U. PUROHIT

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Education

Ph.D. Religion. Columbia University.

Dissertation: *Formations and Genealogies of Ismaili Sectarianism in Colonial India*. 2007.

Committee: John S. Hawley (Supervisor), Rachel F. McDermott, Partha Chatterjee, Frances Pritchett, and Tazim Kassam. 2007

M. T.S. Harvard Divinity School, World Religions. 1999.

B.A. Kenyon College, Classics (with Distinction). 1995.

Positions Held

Boston University, Department of Religion: Associate Professor. 2016-

Boston University, Department of Religion: Assistant Professor. 2009-2016.

University of California, Irvine, Department of Religious Studies: Lecturer. 2008-2009.

Columbia University, Department of Middle East Languages and Civilizations: Lecturer. 2004-2007.

Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

Institute for Critical Social Inquiry Fellowship (ICSI). June 2015.

Merlin Swartz Award in Islam and Muslim Studies. February 2015

Junior Scholar Academic Leave of Absence, Boston University. 2014.

Humanities Foundation Junior Fellowship, Boston University. 2011.

Virani Lecturer in Islamic Studies, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. 2008.

Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Columbia University. 2004.

Summer Doctoral Fellowship, Department of Religion, Columbia University. 2003.

Dissertation Research Fellowship, Institute of Historical Research, London. 2002.

Books

Making Islam Modern (Cambridge: Harvard University Press). Under contract and in progress.

The Aga Khan Case: Religion and Identity in Colonial India (Cambridge: Harvard University Press). 2012.

Reviews published in *American Historical Review* (2013) 118 (4): 1167, *Asian Ethnology* (2014) 73 (1-2): 314-316, *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* (2013) 76 (3): 545-547, *Contemporary South Asia* (2015) 23 (1): 104-105, *The Historian* (2014) 76 (3): 611-613, *History: Reviews of New Books* (2013) 41 (4): 139-140, *Islamic Studies* (2013) 52 (1): 117-121; *Law and History Review* (2014) 31 (1): 207-209, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* (2013) 36 (4): 688-690, *South Asian History and Culture* (2014) 5 (1): 128-130.

Refereed Articles

“Religion between Empire and Nation: Iqbal’s Islam and Sarvarkar’s Hindutva,” In progress.

“Modernist Critiques of Sectarianism: Muhammad Iqbal, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, and the Question of Heresy,” *Journal of Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* 36:2 (August 2016), 246-255.

“Muhammad Iqbal on Muslim Orthodoxy and Transgression: A Response to Nehru,” *ReOrient: The Journal of Critical Muslim Studies* 1:1 (October 2015), 78-92.

“Identity Politics Revisited: Secular and Dissonant Islam in Colonial South Asia,” *Modern Asian Studies* 44: 2 (May 2011), 709-733.

“Reading Global Islam through Messianic Renewal in *Dasavatar*,” *Journal of Sikh Formations: Religion, Culture, and Theory* 3:2 (December 2007), 151-167. (Reprinted as: “Reading Global Islam through Messianic Renewal in *Dasavatar*.” In *Time, History, and Religious Imaginary in South Asia*, edited by Anne Murphy, 55-69. New York: Routledge, 2011).

Book Chapters

“Shribuddha’s Gracious Rescue of the Pandavas in *Buddhavatar*.” In *Ginan Texts and Contexts: Essays on Ismaili Hymns of South Asia in Honour of Zawahir Moir*, edited by Tazim Kassam, pp. 133-147. Delhi: Primus, 2010.

Invited Talks

“Tauhid and its Infractions: Modernist Muslim Definition-Making.” “Islam and Religious Identity: the Limits of a Definition” Workshop, UNC-Chapel Hill. October 2016.

“Muhammad Iqbal’s Reconstruction of Spirituality.” Robert Penn Warner Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University. November 2015.

“Jawaharlal Nehru and Muhammad Iqbal: An Exchange on Religious Orthodoxy.” South Asia Series, NYU. April 2015.

Minorities within the Minority: Who is/is not a Muslim according to Muhammad Iqbal.” Muslim South Asia Series, Stanford University. October 2014.

“Heresy and Prophetic Authority in Modernist Islamic Thought.” Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Faculty Seminar Series, Harvard University. March 2014.

“The ‘Heresy’ of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad According to Muhammad Iqbal.” Department of Religion, Florida International University. February 2014.

“Reflections on a Hindu/Muslim Past and the Modern Turn to Religion.” Religion, Conflict, and Accommodation in Modern India Conference, Institute for Religion and Public Life, Columbia University. October 2013.

“Islam Beyond the Middle East: the Case of the Aga Khan.” Middle East Studies Society, University of Miami. April 2013.

“Defining Religious Conversion: Islamic Ambiguity and British Colonialism in South Asia.” Religion Department Annual Lecture, Mt. Holyoke College. February 2013.

“Legal Identity as Religious Identity: the Aga Khan Case of 1866.” Center for the Humanities Research, University of Western Cape. April 2012.

“The Fractured Project of Modernist Islam.” Delhi University. January 2012.

“Why the Study of Local Islam Matters.” South Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore. August 2011.

“Gujarati Islam: Epistemic Shifts from the Early Modern to Modern Periods.” Religion in the making of a region: Perspectives from Gujarat Conference, University of Oxford. July 2010.

“Global Islam and Local Muslim Identity: Readings from the Colonial Archive.” South Asian Institute, Columbia University. April 2009.

“Conversion and Islam: Passages from the Medieval to the Modern.” “Indo-Muslim Cultures in Transition” conference, University of California Irvine. November 2008.

“Incommensurate Languages of Religiosity: Reading ‘Panth’ through the Lens of Sect.” Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia. January 2008.

“The Secular Grammar of Muslim Identity in Colonial India.” Politics of Religion-Making conference, Hofstra University. October 2007.

The Avatar/Imam and Converting Communities.” Siting South Asia conference, Columbia University. October 2005.

“Where Secular Canonicity Meets Popular Theology: *Dasavatar* in the Aga Khan Case of 1866.” South Asian Muslims and the State: New Approaches in History, Historical Anthropology, and Political Theory conference, University of Edinburgh. June 2005.

“Chameleon Dispositions: Muhammad Shah as Secular Messiah,” “Siting Secularism” conference, Oberlin College. September 2003.

Conference Papers

Invited Respondent for “What is Madrasa?” book panel. Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison. November 2015.

“The Interface of Prophecy and Modernity in the Teachings of Mirza Ghulam Ahmad.” American Historical Association, New York. January 2015.

“Declarations of Prophetic Authority and Heresy in Colonial India.” Association for Asian Studies, Philadelphia. March 2014.

“Effacing Messianic Possibility and Constituting Identity: the Case of Nineteenth Century Ismailis.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison. October 2013.

“The Modernist Islam Legacy in the Discipline of Religion.” International Comparative Literature Association, Paris. July 2013.

“Sect-Making and Secularism: Colonial Law in Nineteenth Century Bombay.” Association for Asian Studies, San Diego. March 2013.

“Islam in the Colonial Nationalist Public Sphere.” American Historical Association, Boston. January 2013.

“Secular and ‘Dissonant’ Islam in Partition Identity Politics.” Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison. October 2010.

“Islam as Discourse: Identity Construction in Medieval and Modern India.” American Academy of Religion, Chicago. November 2008.

“Vernacular Messianic Time in the Ismaili Ginan Tradition.” Association for Asian Studies, Boston. March 2007.

Academic Presentations at Boston University

“The Conceptual Limitations of the term ‘Sect’ in the Study of Islam.” Tertullia presentation, February 2012.

“Why Religion and Politics are Inseparable in the Study of Islam.” Asian Studies Initiative, February 2012.

“The Contours and Cracks of Modernist Islam.” Society of Muslim Studies and Civilizations, November 2011.

“The Difference between Religious Identity versus Religious Practice in South Asian Islam.” Religion department Faculty Colloquium, April 2011.

Courses Taught

Boston University: Religion and Politics in South Asia, Sufism, Islam, Modern Islam, Hinduism, Introduction to Asian Religions, Theory and Methods in the Study of Religion, Islam in the Eyes of the West.

University of California, Irvine: Introduction to World Religions: Asian Religions.

Columbia University: Major Texts of the Middle East and India and Introduction to Hinduism.

Languages

Reading proficiency in Greek, Latin, Sanskrit.

Reading and speaking proficiency in Hindi/Urdu, Gujarati, and French.

Academic and Administrative Service to the University

Faculty Coordinator for the Religion Department Faculty Colloquium. 2014.

Religion Department Coordinator for International Relations and Religion Program. 2013.

Professional Societies

American Academy of Religion

American Historical Association

Association for Asian Studies