

Dr Richa Raj

Assistant Professor
Department of History
Jesus and Mary College
University of Delhi

Areas of interest: Communalism, Socio-religious reform movements, Gender Studies, Education in Modern Indian History; Oral History

Awarded PhD degree for research work on ‘Social and Political Impact of the Arya Samaj Movement in North India, 1890-1947’ in 2013, at Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, under the research guidance of Professor Mridula Mukherjee

Member of the Statutory Body, Academic Council, University of Delhi, February 2017-February 2021

- Have taught papers: History of Modern India, 1750s-1950s (BA Hons), History of India, 1750s-1970s (BA Prog), The Rise of the Modern West (BA Hons), Reading Gandhi (Inter-disciplinary course), Issues in 20th century World History, History of China and Japan (BA Hons), Cultural Transformations in Early Modern Europe (c.1500-1800), Introduction to Indian Art, Delhi Through the Ages.

Member of Academic Bodies:

***Indian History Congress (IHC)**

***Oral History Association (OHA)**

PhD Evaluation:

*Evaluated PhD thesis on ‘State Policy towards Elementary Education in Independent India: 1966-2009’, by Resmi P. Bhaskaran, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, February 2019

Summer Institute:

Attended Summer Institute 2019 at Columbia Centre for Oral History Research, Columbia University, from June 17th till June 29th, 2019. The theme of the Institute was ‘Oral History from the Margins to the Centre: Narrating the Politics of Our Time’

Project Mentoring

- Have mentored a group of 10 students of **Jesus and Mary College** on a research project entitled ‘Amalgamation: A Study of Buddhist Monastic Orders and their Belief Systems in Sikkim’ under the auspices of the Gyanodaya project of the University of Delhi, 18 December-

29 December 2014. The objective was to create an **oral history narrative** of Buddhism and its belief systems as it exists in a small Himalayan state of Sikkim through interviews of monks, believers, tourists and the various communities living there.

- Presently, mentoring an Oral History project on 'Mapping Gender in Delhi: People's Narratives of Challenges and Hope' for the Oral History Archive of History Department of Jesus and Mary College

Publications

- **Published** article entitled, 'A Pamphlet and Its (Dis)contents: A Case Study of *Rangila Rasul* and the Controversy surrounding it in Colonial Punjab, 1923-29,' in *History and Sociology of South Asia*, vol. 9.2, 2014/15. ISSN: 2230-8075
- **Published** article (as co-author) in the e-journal of Delhi University entitled 'Buddhism in Sikkim: a Study in Cultural Syncretism', *Journal of Undergraduate Research and Innovation*, University of Delhi, volume 1, issue 2, pp. 291-302, 2015. ISSN: [2395-2334](#). <http://journals.du.ac.in/ugresearch/pdf/Richa%20Raj%2018.pdf>
- **Published e-lesson** entitled, 'The Origins of the Renaissance: A Study of its Emergence in Italy' for the Virtual Learning Environment Programme of Institute of Lifelong Learning, University of Delhi (NME-ICT in History under the MHRD project), 2015. ISSN: 2349-154X. https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0Izh6GcIA_DMWdQNGhfMUMtMVk/view
- **Published paper** on 'Arya Samaj and the Question of 'Maternalist' Paradigm in Colonial Punjab, 1900-1930', *Journal of Centre for Professional Development in Higher Education*, University of Delhi, May 2016. ISBN: 978-93-85503-20-7
- **Published e-lesson** entitled, 'The Italian Renaissance: A Study of Visual Culture in Early Modern Era,' for the Virtual Learning Environment Programme of Institute of Lifelong Learning, University of Delhi (NME-ICT in History under the MHRD project), 2015. ISSN: 2349-154X. http://vle.du.ac.in/file.php/1/2/Renaissance_Art_Richa_Raj_2_.pdf
- **Published e-lesson** entitled, 'Renaissance Humanism: An Introduction,' for the Virtual Learning Environment Programme of Institute of Lifelong Learning, University of Delhi (NME-ICT in History under the MHRD project), 2015. ISSN: 2349-154X. http://vle.du.ac.in/file.php/1/2/Renaissance_Humanism.pdf
- **Published** chapter entitled 'Shattering the Myth of Women's Passivity in Politics: the Vision of Rajiv Gandhi regarding Women in Panchayati Raj Institutions' in Chayanika Uniyal Panda (ed.), *Journey of Modern India: Contributions of Rajiv Gandhi*, 2016. ISBN: 978-81-924731-7-8
- **Published** 'Of Communal Rhetoric in South Asia: A Study of Proscribed Communal Literature in Colonial Punjab, 1900-1935', *South Asian History Conference Proceedings* (October 16-18, 2015), Publication Bureau, Punjabi University, Patiala, [978-81-302-0406-2](#), pp. 323-330
- **Published** 'Alternatives to Educating the Empire: A Study of the 'Nationalist' Response to Colonial Education in Punjab, 1890-1930', *South Asian History Conference Proceedings* (October 7-9, 2016), Publication Bureau, Punjabi University, Patiala

- **Published** 'Of Swadeshi, Self-Reliance and Self-Help: A Study of the Arya Samaj In Colonial Punjab, 1890 - 1920s', *Moving the Social: Journal of Social History and the History of Social Movements*, 62 (2019), Institute for Social Movements, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany
- **Published Book Review** of Vikas Pathak, *Contesting Nationalisms: Hinduism, Secularism, and Untouchability in Colonial Punjab, 1880-1930*, Primus Books, Delhi, 2018, In *Studies in People's History*, 5, 2 (2018): 245-248

Paper Presentations

- **Presented paper** on 'Retrieving the Classical Past: Explorations of the Role of the Arya Samaj in creating a Common Cultural Identity through Education, 1890-1940,' at the 75th session of the Indian History Congress held at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi from 28 till 30 December 2014
- **Presented paper** on 'Of Communal Rhetoric and its Contestations: A Study of Proscribed Communal Literature in Colonial Punjab, 1900-1935' at the 3rd South Asian History **International Conference** at Punjabi University, Patiala, from 16-18 October 2015. Paper published in the Proceedings
- **Presented paper** on 'Art as Representation of Contestations within the Public Sphere: The Case of the Indian Statue of Mother Mary' at the **International Conference** on 'Cultural Practices in the South Asian Public Sphere' organised by South Asian Literary Association, Austin, Texas, USA, from 4-6 January 2016
- **Seminar** on 'The Creation of Communal Ethos in Colonial Punjab: A Study of Proscribed Communal Literature, 1920s and 1930s' at Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi on 10 February 2016
- **Presented paper** on 'Shattering the Myth of Women's Passivity in Politics: the Vision of Rajiv Gandhi regarding Women in Panchayati Raj Institutions' at a national conference, 'Journey of Modern India: Contributions of Rajiv Gandhi', organised by Rajiv Gandhi Study Circle on 19 May 2016.
- **Presented paper** on 'Alternatives to Educating the Empire: A Study of the 'Nationalist' Response to Colonial Education in Punjab, 1890-1930' at the 4th South Asian History **International Conference** at Punjabi University, Patiala, from 7-9 October 2016. Paper to be published in the Proceedings
- **Presented paper** on 'The Star and the Lion: Contextualising Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and Lala Lajpat Rai in Late-19th century India' at **International Seminar** on Commemorating Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: A Historian, Intellectual and Man of Reason' held on 29-31 January 2018
- **Presented paper** on 'The Arya Samaj and Education: Shaping of Public Identities in Colonial Punjab, 1890-1930' at a **Workshop** on History of Education in Colonial & Post-colonial India', organised by Educational Records Research Unit, CHS/JNU, on 22 February 2018
- **Presented paper** on 'The Arya Samaj and Female Education in Colonial Punjab, 1900-1930', in a **National Seminar** on 'Caste and Gender, Past and Present: Literary Perspectives', organised by Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, New Delhi on 23 March 2018

- **Presented paper** as panelist at the 79th Session of the Indian History Congress, Bhopal, 26-28 February 2019, on 'Mahatma Gandhi and the Making of the Indian Nation'. The title of the paper was '*Does Economic Progress clash with Real/Moral Progress? A Critical Response by Gandhi*'

Lecture Series on CEC-EDUSAT

UGC-Consortium for Educational Communication Lecture Series on 'Religion, Society and Culture in Indian History' at CEC-EDUSAT, Consortium for Educational Communication, IUAC Campus, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi to be telecast on 'Vyas', satellite channel dedicated to higher education:

- 'Colonial Education in India: Ideological Contexts' and 'The Nationalist Response: A Case Study of the Arya Samaj in Colonial Punjab' to be telecast on 'Vyas' satellite channel dedicated to higher education on 6.3.2017
- 'Women and Social Reforms in India, Nineteenth Century: Ambiguities or Assertions' and 'Caste and Census: A Study of the Emergence of Caste Associations in Colonial India' on 27.3.2017
- 'Understanding Theories of Western Imperialism' and 'Colonialism and Nationalism: The Indian Context' on 26.04.2017
- 'The Mid-wife of Intellectual Change: Print Culture and its Implications in Colonial India, late-19th century' and 'Imagining the Nation: Popular Visual Culture and the Early Nationalist Phase, 1890-1910' on 26.5.2017

Visiting Faculty/Resource Person

Lecture on 'Birth of a Nation: Contesting Colonialism, Emerging Nationalism in India' on 18.07.2017, International Summer School, organised by Centre for Escalation of Peace, New Delhi

Chair

- **Chaired** a session on 'Studying Environment: Challenges and Trends' at the UGC **National Seminar** held by Department of Sociology, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi on 7-8 April 2016
- **Chaired** a Master Class on 'Outcomes and Effects of Social Activism: Whose voices are heard & How?' as part of the **International Conference** on Social Media Marketing: Opportunities & Challenges, held at Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi on 28-29 March 2019