

Department of History and Culture

Faculty of Humanities and Languages

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Profession: Assistant Professor in History, Department of History and
Culture, Faculty of Humanities and Languages, Jamia
Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

Date of Joining 26.2.2002
JMI

Educational Qualification

| S.No. | Course | Institution | Subjects | Division | Year |
|-------|--------|--|--------------------|------------|------|
| (i) | B.A. | Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University | History Honours | IInd | 1990 |
| (ii) | M.A. | JNU, New Delhi | History (Medieval) | A minus | 1992 |
| (iii) | M.Phil | JNU, New Delhi | History (Medieval) | A only | 1994 |
| (iv) | Ph.D. | JNU, New Delhi | History (Medieval) | - | 2004 |

Qualified UGC NET- JRF in 1992.

Scholarships Held

1. UGC JRF–SRF Scholarships

Specialization and Research Experience: Medieval Indian History, with focus on the Peninsular Region. Title of Ph.D thesis, “Community Identity and Sectarian Affiliations: The Srivaisnavas of South India(from eleventh to the seventeenth century); supervisor: Prof. R.Champakalakshmi; Interested in religion and society, the relation between the text, narratives and the context and the history of ideas in the pre–colonial period. Submitted a monograph, “From Hagiographies to Biographies: Ramanuja in Tradition and History” to the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, to be published shortly. The monograph questions the dichotomous categories of the ‘sacred’ and the ‘secular’ in general and their application to the textual genres of hagiographies and biographies respectively, emphasizing that such categories are irrelevant in the discursive context of the history of ideas in the pre–colonial period.

Teaching Experience and courses taught: 11.5 years of experience. Two years of undergraduate teaching at Lady Shriram College, University of Delhi. Nine and a half years of undergraduate and post–graduate teaching at Jamia Millia Islamia.

Courses Taught at Jamia Millia Islamia:

1. State and Economy in India. 1200-1707. (M.A. Final Medieval Indian History); Early Medieval India: A Historical Survey, from sixth to thirteenth century. (M.A. Previous); History of Ancient India from 3000 B.C. to 1200 A.D. (B.A. Ist Year, Pass Course); Medieval World (B.A. IIInd Year, Pass Course); Medieval World(B.A. History Hons, III rd Year); Political Structures and Regional Polities in Early Medieval India

Current Research: Religion and religious identities in pre–colonial Peninsular India

Awards and Achievements:

1. 2009-2011: Awarded Fellowship to the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla
2. 1994: Awarded the Senior Research Fellowship by the University Grants Commission.
3. 1992: Awarded the Junior Research Fellowship and National Eligibility Test by University Grants Commission.

**Knowledge of Languages: English, Hindi; Bengali, Tamil, Sanskrit,
Elementary Persian**

- **MPhil Dissertation:** Buddhist Monastic Organisations in Easter India: An Epigraphical Study (from sixth to twelfth century AD)
Status: Submitted and degree awarded, 2007 (Name of the Student: OI Prakash)

Other Distinctions:

Academic: Presentations in Seminars and Conferences:

1. Presented a paper entitled, 'Politics of Religious Identities: A Muslim Goddess in Srivaisnava Community of South India', at the Conference on Gender and History, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Oct., 2001.
2. Presented a paper entitled, 'Language and Religious Ideology of The Srivaisnavas of South India', at the Conference on South India, Past and Present, Department of History, Sri Venkateshwara College, University of Delhi, March , 2002.
3. Presented a paper entitled, 'The Evolution of the Srivaisnava Goddesses of South India'. at the Conference on South India, Past and Present, Department of History, Sri Venkateshwara College, University of Delhi, March, 2003.
4. Presented a paper entitled, 'Pilgrimage and Religious Identities of the Srivaisnavas of South India', at the Department of History, DSA Seminar Programme, University of Delhi, October 16, 2004
5. Presented a paper entitled, 'Kinship and the structuring of the Muslim Goddess Tradition in the Srivaisnava Community of South India', in the Department of History at Lady Shriram College, university of Delhi, November, 2004.
6. Presented a paper entitled, 'Language and Religious identities: the Srivaisnava Community of South India', Department of History, Jamia Millia Islamia, February 8, 2005
7. Presented a paper entitled, 'The Pilgrimage Processes in South India with Special Refernce to the Srivaisnavas', Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, March 2005.
8. Special Invitee to a Conference on Religion and Society in India at the Centre for Historical studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, March, 2005.
9. Presented a paper entitled, 'Pilgrimage and Religious Identities of the Srivaisnavas of South India', at the Second International Conference on Religions and Cultures in Indic Civilizations, organized by the Indic Studies Network, CSDS, Delhi and *Manushi*, a Journal about Women and Society, New Delhi, Dec 17-19, 2005.

10. Discussant for the panel, Sacred space, Divine Centres: Understanding Religious Institutions, at the Second International Conference on Religions and Cultures in Indic Civilizations, organized by the Indic Studies Network, CSDS, Delhi and *Manushi*, a Journal about Women and Society, New Delhi, Dec 17-19, 2005. Commented on papers of Ann Grodzin Gold, Ishita Banerjee-Dube and Vishnu Mahapatra.
11. Presented a paper entitled, 'Accommodation of a Tribal Past in a Brahmanical Temple: The case of Tirumala Tirupati at INTACH, New Delhi, December 23, 2005.
12. Participated in various workshops for course revision and curriculum framework at the National Open School, New Delhi.
13. Discussant for the paper titled, Negotiating (-) Patriarchy: Goddess cults in Early Medieval Kamarupa by Susmita Chatterjee in the seminar titled, Revisiting Transitions at Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. March 6 to March 9, 2007.
14. Presented a paper titled, 'Studying Economic History of Medieval India: Perspectives and Problems', at the seminar on Teaching Economic History organized by the Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia, Mar 30, 2007.
15. "From Uniformity to Multiplicity: Aspects of Hindu Identities with reference to South Asia", Seminar on History of Religion to mark the Centenary of Mircea Eliade, Academic Staff College, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, September 2007
16. Presented a paper titled, 'Community, Religion and Pilgrimage: The Growth of Srirangam in the Tamil Region', Seminar on Cities in Indian History at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Mar 4-7, 2008.
17. Presented a paper titled, 'Gendered Divinities and the Goddess Tradition in South India', Department of History, Jamia Millia Islamia, Jan.23, 2008
18. Presented a paper titled, 'Devotion and Dissent in the Biographical Process of a Medieval Saint: Ramanuja in Srivaisnava Tradition and History', Seminar on Devotion and Dissent in Indian History, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 11-13 March, 2010.
19. Presented a paper titled, 'Development in the Vaisnava Religious Tradition in Medieval Indian History', Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi, March 8, 2010.
20. Presented a paper titled, 'Biography of a Medieval Town: Srirangam and the Networks of Pilgrimage', Department of History, St. Stephens College, University of Delhi, September 23, 2010.
21. Presented a paper titled, 'Consensus and Control: The Mathas, Household and Religious Devotion in Medieval South India', Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, February, 2011.

Papers/ Books published

1. *From Hagiographies to Biographies: Ramanuja in Tradition and in History. From Eleventh to Fourteenth Century.* (Shimla, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, 2011).
2. *Negotiating Religion: Perspectives from Indian History* (New Delhi, Manohar, 2011). Co-edited with R.P.Bahuguna and Farhat Nasreen, Forthcoming

Articles

1. Representations of a Past: Life of Ramanuja and the Srivaisnava Community, in Ranjeeta Dutta, R.P.Bahuguna and Farhat Nasreen, eds., *Negotiating Religion: Perspectives From Indian History.* (New Delhi, Manohar, 2011), pp. Forthcoming.
2. Pilgrimage as a Religious Process: Some Reflections on the Identities of the Srivaisnavas of South India, in *Indian Historical Review*, Vol.37, No.1 (New Delhi, Sage, 2010), pp.17-38.
3. Srivaisnava Community in History and Historiography, *Occasional Papers, Department Research Support-Special Assistance Programme of the Department of History and Culture*, Jamia Millia Islamia. New Delhi, 2008.
4. Texts, Tradition and Community Identity: The Srivaisnavas of South India, in *Social Scientist*, Vol.35, Nos 9-10, September-October (New Delhi, Sage, 2007), pp. 22-42.
5. Politics of Religious Identity: A Muslim Goddess in Srivaisnavism of South India in *Studies in History, July-December, Volume XIX, Number 2.* (New Delhi. Sage, 2003), Pp.157-184
6. Imaging the Goddess: A Process in the Identity Formation of the Srivaisnavas of South India in Neelima Chitgopekar Ed. *Indian Goddesses: Gender and Politics in Indian Religion* (New Delhi, Har Anand, 2002), Pp.112-139

• Academic Course Material:

1. Unit 12, Regional Kingdoms in Indian History. From Twelfth to Eighteenth Century. Class XII, *National Open School*, NOIDA , 2010
2. Unit 18, Rural Society: Peninsular India. (Block 5, Medieval Society-1), IGNOU M.A. History. MHI-06 titled *Evolution of Social Structures in India through the Ages.*
3. Unit 21, Changing Social Structure in Peninsular India. (Block 6, Medieval Society-2) IGNOU M.A. History. MHI-06 titled *Evolution of Social Structures in India through the Ages.*
4. Unit 22, Socio-Religious Movements. (Block 6, Medieval Society-2) IGNOU M.A. History. MHI-06 titled *Evolution of Social Structures in India through the Ages.*

Book Reviews

1. Forging a Region: Sultans, Traders and Pilgrims in Gujarat, 1200-1500 by Sameera Sheikh (New Delhi, OUP, 2010) in *The Book Review*, Vol.XXXIV, No.6, June 2010, pp.8-9.
2. Gwilym Beckerlegge, ed., Colonialism, Modernity, and Religious Identities: Religious Reform Movements in South Asia, (Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2008), in *Indian Historical Review*, Vol.36, No.2, December 2009 (New Delhi, Sage), pp.320-323.
3. Sunil Kumar, Edited with an Introduction, *Demolishing Myths or Mosques and Temples? Readings on History and Temple Desecration in Medieval India*. (Three Essays Collective. New Delhi. First Edition. April 2008), in *Social Scientist*, 2009 (Sage, New Delhi), pp.
5. Jigar Mohammad, 2002.Revenue *Free Land Grants in Mughal India. Awadh Region in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries. (1658-1765)* Manohar, New Delhi. In *Book Review*, April, 2004: New Delhi.
6. Reviewed and *Produced Advisory titled, Learning History without Burden. A Note to School Teachers*, the NCERT Class VII History Text book, *India and the World* by Sima Yadav, Basabi Khan Banerjee, Sanjay Dubey and Themmichon Woleng for the *NCERT.*, 2004.

Conferences organized:

“Religion in Indian History: Ideas, Practice and Change”, National Conference sponsored by the Special Assistance Programme, University Grants Commission at the Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia (A Central university by Act of Parliament), New Delhi.

Administrative Activities:

1. Advisor, History Association, Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 2003-2004, and 2007-2008.
2. Assistant Superintendent, Annual Examination, 2007.
3. Member, Entrance Examination Committee, Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 2002-2003 and 2005-2007.
4. Member, Committee for Drafting the detailed proposal and programme for the introduction of the Semester system, Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.
5. Member, for the drafting of the XIth Plan proposal for the Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia.
6. Member, Hospitality Committee for the Annual Convocation, 2007-2008.
7. Member, Library Committee, DRS-SAP, Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia.
8. Moderator, Annual Examination, B.A., 2008
9. I designed the following courses for the semester system for M.A., History:

Compulsory:

- (i) Medieval World: Fifth to the Sixteenth Century.
- (ii) Social and Economic History of India: 1550-1750.

Optional

- (i) State Formation and Political Structures in Peninsular India: A Historical Survey (1000-1700).
- (ii) Political Structures and Regional Polity in Early Medieval India, From Sixth to the Thirteenth Century.
- (iii) Religion and Religious Identities in the Peninsular Region: A Historical Survey: From Eleventh to Eighteenth Century.

Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla

1. Member, Library Committee, 2009-2010.
2. Member, Womens' Welfare Association, 2010
3. Member, Committee for Reforms in the Administration, 2009