

Megan Eaton Robb

Curriculum Vitae, Updated May 2020

Department of Religious Studies
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EDUCATION

- D.Phil Modern South Asian Studies, Oriental Institute, University of Oxford, 2014
- M.Phil Modern South Asian Studies, Oriental Institute, University of Oxford, June 2010
- B.A. India Studies and English Literature (*w highest distinction*), Indiana University, 2008

EMPLOYMENT

- 2016-Present Julie and Martin Franklin Assistant Professor of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania
- 2015-2016 Departmental Lecturer of Urdu and Hindi, University of Oxford
- 2014-2015 Mellon Junior Research Fellow, Atlas Project, Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, University of Oxford

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- forthcoming *Printing the Urdu Public: Muslims, Newspapers and Urban Life 1900-1947*, University of Oxford Press, Forthcoming October 2020

Journal Articles

In Progress

“These Eyes Can Peek into the Future: Photolithography Technology and a Women’s Print Periodical in 1960s Pakistan,” for inclusion in a special Journal Issue in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* co-edited by Francesca Orsini (SOAS) and Anjali Nerlekar (Rutgers).

“Converting to Britishness: An 18th century woman’s Journey from Christianity to Islam,” *Muslim Women in Britain*. Edited volume co-edited by Jamie Gilham and Sariya Cheruvallil-Contractor (Coventry). Publisher TBA by September 2020.

- Submitted “Becoming Elizabeth: The Transformation of a Bihari Mughal into an English

Lady, 1758-1822,” Submitted to the *American Historical Review* in April 2020.

Accepted

- 2020 “Back to the Future *Qasbah*: Print and the Timescape of an Islamic Town in British India,” *Contemporary Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*. Forthcoming September 2020.
- 2017 “Urban Emotions Behind the Veil: An Early Twentieth Century Muslim Wedding in Shahjahanabad,” in Special Journal Issue, “Urban Emotions in South Asia,” *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 27:4, pp. 649-665.
- 2017 Elizabeth Chatterjee, Sneha Krishnan, **Megan Robb**, “Feeling Modern: The History of Emotions in Urban South Asia,” Introduction to special journal issue “Urban Emotions in South Asia,” *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* 27:4, pp. 1-19.

Book Chapters

In Progress

- 2021 “A 19th Century Tazkirah of Urdu Periodicals in the Colonial Period,” abstract submitted for consideration in *Edinburgh Companion for British Colonial Periodicals*. Co-edited by Caroline Davis, David Finkelstein, and David Johnson. Edinburgh University Press.
- 2021 “The Correspondence of Elizabeth Sharaf un-Nisa Ducarel,” Book Chapter in Critical Editions of South Asian Women’s Correspondence, edited by Megan Robb, Rosalind O’Hanlon, and Sneha Krishnan
- 2020 “The Basketball Court of Islamic Center of Chester County,” Book Chapter in Progress for volume on Religion and Sports, edited by Jeff Scholes and contracted with Duke University Press.

Published

- 2017 “Advising the Army of Allah: Ashraf Ali Thanawi’s Critique of the Muslim League,” *Muslims Against the Muslim League: Critiques of Pakistan*. Delhi: Cambridge UP, pp. 142-168.
- 2017 “Introduction,” Dr. ‘Ali Usman Qasmi and **Megan Robb**, *Muslims Against the Muslim League: Critiques of Pakistan*, Cambridge University Press, 2017, pp. 1-34.
- 2016 “Women’s Voices, Men’s Lives: Masculinity in a North Indian Urdu Newspaper,” *Modern Asian Studies* 50:5, 1441-1473.

Book Reviews

Review of *Cosmopolitan Dreams: The Making of Modern Urdu Literary Culture in*

Colonial South Asia by Jennifer Dubrow, University of Hawai'i, 2018. *Journal of Urdu Studies*, Vol. 1 (2020), pp. 137-39.

GRANTS & HONORS

- 2021 Fulbright Research Chair in South Asian Islam, Residential Fellowship in Canada at the University of Calgary (4 month residency)
- 2020 American Institute of India Studies, Senior Fellowship, Short-Term, Alternate
- 2019 Co-Principle Investigator. Project: "Unstable Archives: Gender and Empire," John Fell Fund, \$25,000.
- 2019 Alice Paul Center's Selection Committee, Trustees' Council of Penn Women Grant, "Unstable Archives: Gender and Empire," \$2000.
- 2019 Fellowship, Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography.
- 2019 Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography, Grant from Directors' Scholarship Fund of \$1395 to attend Rare Book School course.
- 2017 University Research Foundation award. Proposal: "Unstable Objects in South Asia: Gender, Digital History and What to do with Things," \$3,000.
- 2017 School of Arts and Sciences Conference Research Fund award. Proposal: "Unstable Objects in South Asia: Gender, Digital History and What to do with Things," \$2,000.
- 2017 Julie and Martin Franklin Endowed Assistant Professorship, \$5000.
- 2016 Recipient of New College Ludwig Humanities Fund Grant, 1400 GBP.
- 2015 Non-Stipendiary Junior Research Fellowship Award, New College, Oxford, 1450 GBP
- 2014 Wolfson South Asia Research Cluster, The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities, and All Souls College, Oxford for conference "Urban South Asia, 1850-Present."
- 2014 Wolfson College Grimstone Travel Grant, 1500 GBP.
- 2011 AIIS Language Fellowship award for Urdu language study, U.S. State Department, \$5,000
- 2008 Clarendon Scholarship, Four-year fellowship by Oxford University Press, 45,000 GBP.
- 2008 Wolfson College studentship, Four-year fellowship, 45,000 GBP.

INVITED LECTURES

- 2020 Rare Book School, Keynote Lecture, Philadelphia, PA, July 2020.

- 2020 "Writing with Feeling: Calligraphy and Emotion in South Asia," CEIAS in Paris, France. January 31.
- 2020 "Writing with Feeling: Calligraphy and Emotion in South Asia," Typography Workshop, Stanford University, April 23-4.
- 2020 "Self-Fashioning and Passing in a Mughal-British Marriage 1760-1822," University of Oxford, Brasenose College, May 1.
- 2018 "The Idea of the Muslim World: Cosmopolitanism in Light of Cemil Aydin's *The Idea of the Muslim World*," University of Victoria, November 28.
- 2018 "Islam and Modernity," Templeton Honors College Forum at Eastern University, Oct. 2018.
- 2016 "Urban Emotions in Seclusion," Distinguished Alumna Lecture, co-hosted by India Studies, History, and English Literature, Indiana University at Bloomington, November 2016.
- 2015 "Can Men Speak in Women's Voices? Gender Ventriloquism and Masculinity in 20th Century Reformist Urdu Newspapers," University of South Carolina History Department, Columbia, South Carolina, 23 January.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels and Conferences Organized

- 2019 "Material Crossings: New Readings of 20th Century Urdu Print Culture," Association of Asian Studies Conference, Denver, Colorado, March 23-25.
- 2018 "Unstable Objects in South Asia: Gender, Digital History and What to do with Things," University of Pennsylvania, 15 September.
- 2017 "Materiality, Consumption and Religion: Negotiating Religious Markets in South Asian Islam," Madison South Asia Studies Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 23-25.
- 2017 "Time and the City in South Asia," Madison South Asia Studies Conference, October 23-25.
- 2016 "Urban Emotions: Responses to the City, 1850-1960," University of Oxford, 27 February.
- 2014 "Urban South Asia, 1850-Present," University of Oxford, 2 October.

Papers

- 2019 "Writing with Feeling: Calligraphy and Emotion in South Asia," American Academy of Religion Conference, San Diego, CA, November 23-26.

- 2019 “‘These Eyes Can Peek into the Future’: Women’s Print Periodicals in 1960s Pakistan,” Preconference on Postcolonial Archives, Madison Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 17-20.
- 2019 “Was Urdu Lithography a Religious Technology?” Association for Asian Studies Conference, Denver, Colorado, March 21-24, 2019.
- 2018 “Changing Names, Changing Lives: Sharaf un-Nisa Khanum and Elizabeth Ducarel in 18th Century,” Unstable Archives: Gender and Digital History in South Asia, University of Pennsylvania, September 8
- 2018 “Print and the Urdu Public: Small Town Newspapers in British India,” Association for Asian Studies in Asia, New Delhi, July.
- 2017 “The Ties that Bind Us: Alternate Histories of Urdu Newspapers,” Madison South Asia Studies Conference, October.
- 2017 “The Qasbah is Dead: Long Live the Qasbah,” Madison South Asia Studies Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October.
- 2014 “Interpreting the Qasbah Conversation: Muslims and Madinah Newspaper 1912-1924,” Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies Fellows’ Seminar, 12 May.
- 2013 “Pardah Woven of Words: Gender Anxiety and Colonial Discourse in Madinah Newspaper, Bijnor,” Muslim South Asia Graduate Research Conference, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London, 28 October.

Discussant/Chair

- 2021 Author Meets Critics Roundtable, American Academy of Religious Conference, SherAli Tareen, *Defending Muhammad in Modernity*, November 2020.
- 2020 “Conversion, Settlement, Sex, and Citizenship in 20th-century colonial India and the diaspora,” Eighteenth Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders and Sexualities, Johns Hopkins University, 21-23 May.
- 2019 “Author Meets Critics Roundtable: Simon Wolfgang Fuchs’ *In a Muslim Land*,” Madison South Asia Studies Conference, University of Wisconsin, October 16.
- 2016 “Author Meets Critics Roundtable: *Creating a New Madinah* by Venket Dhulipala,” Madison South Asia Studies Conference, University of Wisconsin, October 23.
- 2015 The Oxford Research Centre for the Humanities Book at Lunchtime Event, discussing Elleke Boehmer’s *Indian Arrivals: 1870-1915*.

Campus/Departmental Talks

- 2019 “Printing the Urdu Public: *Madinah* Newspaper, Muslims, and Urban Life in South Asia, 1900-1947,” History of Material Texts Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, March.
- 2019 “Islamic Feminism and the Future of Women,” Boardman Lecture Series, University of Pennsylvania, March.
- 2018 “A Dream of Two Moons: The Birth of a Muslim Newspaper in British India,” The Real in Islam Conference, University of Pennsylvania, February.
- 2016 “Printing Muslim Publics: Urdu Newspapers and Religious Identity in Colonial India,” Department of Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania, January 28.
- 2016 “Urban Emotions in Seclusion,” South Asia Studies Department’s Works in Progress Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, November.
- 2016 “Urban Emotions in Seclusion,” Works in Progress Seminar, at Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies Department, University of Pennsylvania, November.
- 2014 “Talking faith to reason in South Asian Islam: religion in the correspondence of Ashraf ‘Ali Thanawi and ‘Abdul Majid Daryabadi,” Interdisciplinary Seminar in the Study of Religion, Faculty of Theology and Religion, Oxford, 26 November.
- 2014 “Can Men Speak in Women’s Voices? Gender Ventriloquism in Urdu Reformist Newspapers,” Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies Fellows’ Seminar, Oxford, 27 October.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania

Gender, Sexuality & Religion (Fall 2018)

Religion & Sports (Spring 2018/2019, Fall 2019)

Women & Religion (Fall 2016/2017)

Media & Religion in South Asia (Spring 2017/ 2018/2019)

Graduate:

History of Islam in South Asia (Fall 2017/2018/ 2019)

History of Print in South Asia (Fall 2017)

Methodologies of Religious Studies (Spring 2018)

University of Oxford

Beginning Hindi (Fall 2015)

Beginning Urdu (Fall 2015)

Advanced Urdu (Spring 2016)
Intermediate Hindi (Spring 2016)

Graduate:

History of Colonial India (Fall 2015)
Gender and Sexuality in Hindi Literature (Fall 2015)
History of Islam in South Asia (Fall 2015)

DOCTORAL COMMITTEES

Anannya Bohidar, University of Pennsylvania
Max Dugan, University of Pennsylvania
Zain Mian, University of Pennsylvania
Mustafa Menai, University of Pennsylvania

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Peer Review

English Studies at New Bulgarian University, 2020
Illes i Imperis, 2020
Modern Asian Studies, 2019
Cambridge University Press, 2017-2019
Routledge Press, 2018

Editorial Work

Co-editor, special issue *The Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, "Urban Emotion in South Asia," 2016-18.
Co-editor, Edited Volume *Muslims Against the Muslim League: Critiques of Pakistan*, Cambridge University Press, 2016-18.

Department/University

School of Arts and Sciences Teaching Award Committee, 2019-2020
Assistant Chair of Graduate Studies, Department of Religious Studies, 2018-19.
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program Curriculum Committee, 2018-19.
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program Affiliated Faculty, 2017-present.
Search Committee Member for Assistant Professor of Global Christianity, Religious Studies, 2018-2019.
Search Committee member for Assistant Professor of Material Religion, 2016-17.
College House Faculty Fellow in Residence, Rodin College House, 2017-2019.
Convener of Rodin International Film Festival, Rodin College House, 2017-2019.
Fulbright Scholarship Faculty Review Committee, 2017-18
Penn Reading Project Discussion Leader, 2018.

Academic Fellow Supervisor, Balancing Living Residential Community, Rodin College House, 2018-2019.

Phi Beta Kappa Selection Committee, Spring 2018, 2019.

Undergraduate Research Mentoring Scheme, Faculty Mentor, 2017.

Junior Dean, New College, University of Oxford, 2012-15

LANGUAGES

Urdu: Advanced reading, writing, speaking

Hindi: Advanced reading, writing, speaking

Persian: Advanced reading, novice writing and speaking

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Historical Association

American Academy of Religions

Association for Asian Studies

European Association for South Asian Studies

American Historical Association