

Hallie Nell Swanson
303 N 37th St, Philadelphia, PA
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Education

- 2025 (expected) PhD., Religious Studies, University of Pennsylvania
Dissertation: "Moving Stories: The Indo-Persian Romance, 1657-1857"
- 2019 MSc., Modern South Asian Studies, University of Oxford
Thesis: "A New Shiraz: Constructing Indo-Muslim Space in Two Tazkirahs of Azad Bilgrami"
- 2016 B.A., Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University
Thesis: "Rivalry as Consensus: Forming a Literary Public in 18th Century Lucknow," awarded departmental honors

Short Courses/Certificates

- Aug 2024 The History of Typography, Rare Book School, Newberry Library, Chicago
- June-Aug 2023 "Devi: South Asia's Fierce Goddesses," SOAS Diploma in Asian Art, University of London
- June 2023 "Power, Politics and Architecture: Palaces and Gardens in Mughal South Asia," Courtauld Institute of Art, London
- June 2023 Introduction to Islamicate Manuscripts, Rare Book School, Free Library of Philadelphia
- 2022-present Undertaking Certificate in Museum Teaching and Learning, Penn Museum, Philadelphia
- 2022 "Islamic Spain: Treasures of Al Andalus," SOAS Diploma in Asian Art, University of London
- 2022 Awarded Certificate in Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
- 2021 Digital Islamicate Paleography and Codicology Summer School, Roshan Institute for Persian Studies, University of Maryland
- 2021 Digital Humanities Summer School, University of Pennsylvania
- 2019 Islamic Manuscripts Workshop, Penn Libraries, Philadelphia
- 2019 'Working in an Archive: Indo-Persian Documents' Summer School, MANUU University, Hyderabad, India
- 2018 Mughal Persian Summer Program, AIIS Lucknow, India
- 2016 "Arts of Medieval Iran," SOAS Diploma in Asian Art, University of London

Work Experience

- Beginning Sep 2024 Cheng-Harrell Graduate Intern (work on programs in the Islamic Arts department), National Museum of Asian Art, Washington D.C.
- June-Dec 2023 Research Assistant (catalogue eighteenth-century Indian manuscript, research related objects and texts, and prepare exhibition proposal), Hindustani Arts exhibition, Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, UK
- 2022-Present Graduate Tour Guide (lead tours of collections for members of the public), Penn Museum, Philadelphia

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- June-July 2022 Resident Director, Critical Language Scholarship (supervised group of 12 American students studying Urdu and liaised with local teachers), American Institute of Indian Studies, Lucknow, India
- 2021 Research Assistant, Unstable Archives Project (transcribed and translated eighteenth-century Indo-Persian and French letters and wrote articles for online exhibition), University of Pennsylvania
- 2019 Intern, Clive Collection Project (searched auction records for dispersed colonial collection of Asian art objects), University of Oxford
- 2016-17 Program Coordinator (managed events program), Gurmani Centre for Languages and Literature, LUMS University, Lahore, Pakistan
- 2016 Press Office Intern (wrote press releases and articles; sub-edited *Bonhams Magazine*), Bonhams Auctioneers, London

Publications

- 2021 Book Review: Pasha Khan, "The Broken Spell," *Iranian Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00210862.2021.1928954>
- 2020 "Chishti Sufis," Database of Religious History, <https://religiondatabase.org/browse/977/#/>

Grants and Fellowships

- 2024 Junior Fellow, Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography, Rare Book School
- 2024 Inaugural D.F. Mackenzie New Scholar, New Scholars Program, Bibliographical Society of America
- 2023 Short Course Fellowship, SOAS Diploma in Asian Art, University of London
- 2023 Travel Fellowship, American Institute of Iranian Studies
- 2023 Ibn Sina Dissertation Research Fellowship, Forum for Global Islamic Studies, University of Pennsylvania
- 2023 Penfield Fellowship for Dissertation Research, University of Pennsylvania
- 2023 Junior Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies
- 2023 Junior Fellowship, American Institute of Bangladesh Studies
- 2023 Finalist, Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography, Rare Book School (received grant to take summer 2023 short course)
- 2022 SASGov (graduate student government) Large Grant, University of Pennsylvania
- 2022 Postgraduate Student & Early Career Award, Barakat Trust
- 2021-2 Graduate Research Fellow, Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, University of Pennsylvania

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- 2020 Summer Fellow (one of 2% of applicants admitted), Digital Islamicate Paleography and Codicology Project, Roshan Initiative in Persian Digital Humanities, University of Maryland
- 2019 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Persian, US Department of Education
- 2019 Postgraduate Student & Early Career Award, Barakat Trust
- 2019 India Travel Award, Victoria & Albert Museum
- 2018 Language Study Scholarship, John Speak Foundation
- 2016 Babar Ali Foundation Fellowship, LUMS University
- 2016 Honors for Senior Thesis, Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University
- 2012 John Jay Academic Scholarship, Columbia University

Conferences

- April 2024 "Bouquet as Garden: Illustration Copying and Dakhni Romance," XXIst Biennial Symposium of the American Council for Southern Asian Art, Ann Arbor, MI
- January 2024 "Tales as Textbook: The Indo-Persian Romance Manuscript Between Moveable Type and Lithograph," Bibliographical Society of America Annual Meeting, New York, NY
- November 2023 "Moving Stories: The Indo-Persian Masnavi," American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX
- May 2023 "Translating Love: The Indo-Persian Masnavi," International Society for Persianate Societies, Yerevan, Armenia
- May 2023 "Translating Love: The Indo-Persian Masnavi," International Congress on Medieval Studies annual meeting, Kalamazoo, MI
- April 2023 "The Four Dervishes in the Colony: Tales as Textbook in an Indo-Persian Manuscript," Archival Kismet, Mississippi State University
- Sept 2022 "From Manners and Conduct to Travels and Adventures: The Indo-Persian Romance in the American Rare Book Library," International Trade in Premodern Manuscripts Conference, London Rare Book School
- June 2022 "Material Philology: Affective Training in Early Urdu Literary Culture," American Comparative Literature Association, Taipei
- April 2022 "Coffee with a Codex: Correspondence (Ms. Codex 1958)," Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- Nov 2021 "Lightning Talk: "Lost Leaves, Orphaned Leaves and Composite Codices: Searching for Persian Manuscript Culture in Digitized Projects," Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies Annual Symposium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

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- Nov 2021 "Constructing Lahore's Sacred Space through the "Modern" Tazkirah: A Reading of Three 1960s Sources," American Academy of Religion, Boston
- Oct 2021 "Persian in Early Modern India: A Material Approach," Middle East Center, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- March 2020 (cancelled) "Examining Text, Material and Power through a Collection of 19th Century Ta'wiz," Texts and Textiles, Library of Congress and the GW / Textile Museum, Washington, D.C.
Organizer
- 2022 "What Makes Islamic Literature Islamic?" UPenn, Philadelphia
- 2021 "Placing Pakistan," UPenn, Philadelphia
- 2020 "Troubling Translations," UPenn, Philadelphia
- 2017 "Representing South Asian Sufism," LUMS, Lahore
- 2015 "Cosmopolitanism," Columbia University, New York

Teaching

- July 2024 Lecturer, "Power, Politics and Architecture: Palaces and Gardens in Mughal South Asia" week-long short course, Courtauld Institute of Art, London
- Spring 2022 Guest Lecturer, "Media and Religion in South Asia," University of Pennsylvania
- Spring 2022 Teaching Assistant, "Existential Despair," University of Pennsylvania
- Fall 2021 Teaching Assistant (taught discussion section), "Introduction to Buddhism," University of Pennsylvania
- Spring 2021 Teaching Assistant, "Satan," University of Pennsylvania
- Fall 2020 Guest Lecturer, "Introduction to Islam," University of Pennsylvania
- Fall 2020 Teaching Assistant (taught two discussion sections), "Religion of Anime," University of Pennsylvania

Service

- AY 2021-2 Vice President for Social Affairs, School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Government, University of Pennsylvania
- AY 2020-1 Religious Studies Department Representative, School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Government, University of Pennsylvania

Research Languages

Hindi (proficient), Urdu (proficient), Persian (proficient), Punjabi (reading proficient in Gurmukhi and Shahmukhi), French (proficient), German (reading proficient)