

PRACHI DESHPANDE

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EDUCATION

Tufts University, Medford, MA 1997-2002
Ph. D., Department of History

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India 1993-1995
M.A. in History

Fergusson College, University of Pune, India 1988-1993
B.A. in History

ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta 2010-Present
Associate Professor of History

University of California, Berkeley, CA 2008 - 2010
Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of History

University of California, Berkeley, CA 2006 - 2008
Associate Professor (tenure-track), Department of History

Rutgers University, Newark, NJ 2004-2006
Assistant Professor, Department of History

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 2002-2004
Assistant Professor, Department of History

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Scripts of Power: Writing, Language Practices, and Cultural History in Western India,
Permanent Black/Ashoka University, 2023

Creative Pasts: Historical Memory and Identity in Western India, 1700-1960
Columbia University Press, New York & Permanent Black, New Delhi, 2007;
paperback edition, Ranikhet, 2013.

Selected Articles and Book Chapters (English):

“Remaking Marathi: Modern Histories of Language and V. L. Bhavé’s *Mahārāshṭra Sāraswat*,” in Ulka Anjaria and Anjali Nerlekar, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Indian Literatures* (online edn, Oxford Academic, 23 Feb 2023)

“What an 18th century sale deed reveals about language and territory in the Deccan, in *The Wire*, 23 July 2022

“The Marathi *kaulnāmā*: Property, Sovereignty and Documentation in a Persianate form,” *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, 64(5-6), 583-614, 2021.

“The Writerly Self: Discourses of Literate Practice in Early Modern Western India,” *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 53 (4), December 2016, pp.449-471.

“Shuddhalekhan: Orthography, Community and the Marathi Public Sphere,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. LI, No. 6, February 6, 2016, pp. 72-82.

“Scripting the Cultural History of Language: Modi in the Colonial Archive,” in Partha Chatterjee, Tapati Guha-Thakurta and Bodhisattva Kar, eds. *New Cultural Histories of India*, OUP, Delhi, 2014.

“Pasts in the Plural: A Review Essay on Bhalchandra Nemade’s *Hindu: Jaganyaachi Samruddha Adagal*,” *Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences*, Vol XVII, No. 1 & 2, 2010

“The Making of a Nationalist Archive: Lakshmibai, Jhansi and 1857” *Journal of Asian Studies*, 67 (3), 2008: 855-879

“Caste as Maratha: History, Colonial Sociology and Social Conflict in Colonial Maharashtra,” *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, January-March, 2004, pp.7-32.

Selected Articles and Book Chapters (Marathi):

“Itihasa akalan aani Antarshakhiya Drishtikon,” *Panchadhara*, Vol 62, No. 2, July-September 2020/ Ashadh-Bhadrapad, Sake 1942, pp. 76-81.

“Itihasakaranchya Nazaretun Smriti ani Athavan,” *Hakara: A Bilingual Journal of Creative Expression*, Vol 1, No, 1, May 2017, www.hakara.in.

“Bhashecha itihasa, bhashik samuha ani shuddhalekhan charcha: ek aitihāsik adhava”, *Nava Anushtubh*, November-December 2015, pp. 1-21.

“*Hemadrikrita Lekhanakalpataru*: badalatya chitnisi paddhatincha kanosa”, *Aaple Vangmaya Vrutta*, December 2015, pp. 14-18.

“Bhasha, Itihasa ani Sanskruti: Nemade ani Ngugi”, *Lalit*, June 2015, pp. 33-46.

“Hinduchi Itihasakalpana: Eka Chikitsa” *Mukta Shabda*, June 2014, pp. 23-28.

“Karkun, daptara ani kagadpatre: abhilekhagarchya itihāsakade”, *Samaj Prabodhan Patrika*, 53(112), July-September 2015, pp. 23-38.

REVIEWS:

“Ideas, Institutions, and Individuals in Colonial Bombay,” book review of *The Collected Works of J V Naik: Reform and Renaissance in Nineteenth Century Maharashtra*, edited with an introduction by Murali Ranganathan, Mumbai: Asiatic Society of Mumbai, 2016, Vol. 54, Issue No. 28, 13 Jul, 2019

“Empire and Bureaucracy.” Book Review of *Empires and Bureaucracy in World History: From Late Antiquity to the Twentieth Century*, ed. by Peter Crooks and Timothy Parsons. *H-Asia, H-Net Reviews*. May, 2018. URL: <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=49489>

Tarini Bedi, *The Dashing Ladies of Shiv Sena*, in *Biblio: A Review of Books*, May 2017

Gauri Deshpande, *Deliverance*, translated from the Marathi *Niragaathii*, by Shashi Deshpande, *Book Review*, Vol. Xxxii, No. 1, January 2013.

Anindita Ghosh, *Power in Print: Popular Publishing and the Politics of Language and Culture in a Colonial Society, 1778–1905*, *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 115, No. 2 (April 2010), pp. 525-526.

Meera Kosambi, *Crossing Thresholds: Feminist Essays in Social History*, in *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 45 (4), 2008: 601-604

“The Lakshmibai legend,” review of *Raj of the Rani*, by Tapti Roy, (New Delhi, 2006) in *Biblio: A Review of Books*, March-April 2007, pp. 28-29.

"Muslims and Dalits as Subalterns," review of *Subaltern Studies XII: Muslims, Dalits and the Fabrications of History*, edited by Shail Mayaram, MSS Pandian and Ajay Skaria, (New Delhi 2005) in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol XLI, No 34. Aug 26- Sep 1, 2006, pp. 3701-3.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

A book-length biography of the Marathi writer and activist Durga Bhagwat (1909-2002).

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS:

Infosys Prize for the Humanities, 2020, awarded by the Infosys Science Foundation.

University of Chicago, Delhi Center, Faculty Research Award for 2015-16 (with Professors Philip Engblom & Gary Tubb, University of Chicago), for the 17th International Conference on Maharashtra: Language & Power, to be hosted in New Delhi, January 2017.

National Endowment for the Humanities / American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Fellowship, 2008-2009

INVITED TALKS AND KEYNOTE LECTURES:

Subodh Kumar Mukhopadhyay Memorial Lecture, Presidency University, Kolkata, 15 September 2022

Infosys Prize Lecture, September 29, 2021, hosted online by Savitribai Phule Pune University,

Kerala Historical Research Council Online Seminar, June 11, 2021

University of California, Berkeley Online Seminar, April 26, 2021

Ram Bapat Memorial Lecture at Pune, 3 August 2018

Nandita Prasad Sahai Memorial Lecture at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University: “A Classical Past for a Modern Language: Historicizing Marathi” on 3 November 2017

Keynote Address, Undergraduate Student Conference on “Rethinking Cultural Studies in India,” FLAME University, Pune, 4 February 2016

PROJECTS:

Investigator, on **Decolonization, Disciplines, and the University**. Principal Investigator: Dr. Mahmood Mamdani, Makerere Institute of Social Research, Makerere University, Uganda. Sponsoring Agency: Andrew. W. Mellon Foundation, 2019-2023.

SERVICE & TEACHING:

M.Phil & Ph. D courses currently taught:

Problems in Historical Writing and Methods
Institutions and Identities in Contemporary India
Research Methodology
Academic Writing

Currently advising M.Phil and Ph. D scholars on topics in urban history, nationalism, law, myth and history, history and memory, and language politics and practices.

Convener, Jadunath Bhavan, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Member of Archives Committee, Library Committee, Campus Committee, JBMRC Committee.

LANGUAGES:

English, Marathi, Kannada, Bengali, Hindi (literate and spoken fluency)
French