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## Lakshmi Subramanian

### Personal Information

Nationality Indian

Date of Birth 30 March 1955

### Education

B.A. History Hons., Calcutta University, 1976, II Class

M.A. History, Calcutta University, 1978, I Class

PhD ViswaBharati, Santiniketan, India, 1985

Diplome De Langue Francaise, Alliance Francaise de Calcutta, 1978

### Current Position

Professor in History, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta.

Dean, (Academic Affairs), CSSSC. (2012–2016)

Elected Associate Fellow, institute of Advanced Studies, Nantes, France, (2018–2020)

### Appointments

Lecturer, Department of History, Viswa Bharati, Santiniketan, 1982–1989

Senior Lecturer, Department of History, Calcutta University, 1989–1994

Reader, Department of History, Calcutta University, 1994–2002.

Senior Fellow in History, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta 2002–2007.

Coordinator, SEPHIS Resource Centre at the CSSSC

Professor, Department of History, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi 1 March 2007–30 June 2010.

Coordinator, Indian Ocean Studies Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi 2009–2010.

#### Visiting Appointments

Visiting Professor, Institute of Advanced Studies Nantes, France (2016)

Member, evaluation committee on research projects under the European Research Council from 2013–2017

Visiting Professor, University of Goettingen, 2015

Visiting Professor, 2014 University of Gottingen, Germany

Visiting Professor, University of Warsaw (March–May 2013)

T.V.Raman Pai Visiting Chair Professor at National Institute of Advanced Studies in Indian Institute of Science Bangalore. (February - March 2012)

Adam Smith Visiting Professor, University of Glasgow. (April–June 2011)

Visiting Faculty in the School of Arts and Aesthetics, J.N.U. New Delhi. (January April 2008)

Visiting Academic, Department of History, The Flinders University of Adelaide Australia, August 2001.

Guest Lecturer, Department of Culture Studies, University of Technology Sydney, August 2001.

Visiting Teacher Fellow, M.S.University of Baroda, 1998

Resource Person, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University, 1990, 1991, 1992.

#### Languages Known

English, Hindi, Bengali, Tamil

#### Fellowships Held

T.V.Raman Pai Chair Visiting Professorship at National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (February 20–30 March 2012)

Adam Smith research fellow University of Glasgow, May–June 2011.

Mellon Distinguished Visitor, University of Witwatersrand, May–June 2009

Senior Visiting Fellow, University of Wollongong. September 2005–November 2005

Isaac Manasseh Meyer fellowship, South Asian Studies Programme, National University of Singapore, May–June 2002.

Travel Grant (Australian Research Council) in connection with the Special South Asia lecture to travel in Australia in July 2000.

Invited to deliver the South Asia Special Lecture in the Asian Studies association of Australia, July, 2000

Charles Wallace Fellow, St. Antony's College, Oxford, 1996

Foundation Visiting fellow, Clare Hall, Cambridge, 1984–85.

U.G.C. Research Fellow, Government of India, Department of History, VisvaBharati, Santiniketan, 1978–82.

## Publications

### Books

*The Sovereign and the Pirate Ordering maritime subjects in India's western littoral* (Delhi, Oxford University Press, 2016)

*Three merchants of Bombay*. Penguin India, 2012

*A history of India 1707–1857*. Orient Blackswan, Delhi, 2010

*Veena Dhanammal The making of a legend*. Routledge, 2009

*Ports, towns and cities: A Historical tour of the Indian littoral*. Marg Mumbai, 2008

*New Mansions for Music Performance, Pedagogy and Criticism*. SSP– Orient Longmans, Delhi 2008

*From the Tanjore Court to the Madras Music Academy: A social history of music in South India*. O.U.P. New Delhi, 2006

*Medieval Seafarers*. Roli Books, Delhi, 1999.

Edited a Collection of Essays by the late Indrani Ray with an Introduction.  
*The French Collection of Essays by the late Indrani Ray East India Company and the Trade of the Indian Ocean*. Manohar, Delhi, 1999.

*Politics and Trade in the Indian Ocean World. Essays in Honour of Ashin*

*Dasgupta*. Edited with Rudrangshu Mukherjee. O.U.P, Delhi, 1998.

*Indigenous Capital and Imperial Expansion: Bombay, Surat and the West Coast*.  
O.U.P. Delhi, 1996

#### Papers in Refereed Journals and Books

Law and the Spaces of Empire: Introduction to the Special Issue of the Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History by Nandini Chatterjee and Lakshmi Subramanian  
Vol.15 No.1, 2014

Piracy and Legality in the Northward: Colonial Articulations of law, custom and policy in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century Bombay Presidency,  
Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History, Vol.15, No.1, 2014

“Whose Pirate”? Reflections on state power and predation on India’s western littoral’ in India and Europe in the global eighteenth century. Edited by Simon Davies, Daniel Roberts and Gabriel Sanchez Espinosa. Voltaire foundation. Cambridge, 2014

Reaping the risks of Transition: Merchants and Trade in Western India, 1750–1818’, in *The Trading world of the Indian Ocean* edited by Om Prakash. Pearson, New Delhi (February 2012)

‘Seths and Sahibs: Negotiated Relationships between Indigenous Capital and the East India Company’, in H.V. Bowen, Elizabeth Mancke and John Reid (edited) *Britain’s Oceanic Empire: Atlantic and Indian Oceanic Worlds, 1500–1850*. Cambridge University Press, February 2012

‘Commerce, circulation and consumption: Indian Ocean communities in historical perspective’ in *Indian Ocean Studies: Cultural, Social, and Political Perspectives* (Routledge, 2009)

‘Negotiating Orientalism: The Concert and the Critic in Modern South India’, Bennett Zon and Martin Clayton (edited) *Orientalism and Music in South Asia*.(Ashgate,2008)

‘Embracing the canonical: Identity, Tradition and Modernity in Karnatik Music in Indira Peterson and Davesh Soneji (eds.) *Performing Pasts: Reinventing the Arts in Modern south India*.(O.U.P., Delhi 2008)

“Merchants in Transit: Risk Sharing Strategies in the trading world of the Indian Ocean” in Himangshu Prabha Ray (ed.) *The Indian Ocean 1500–1800* O.U.P.

Delhi, 2006

“Accompanist” as “Star Performer”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, April 8, 2006

“The Voice in Colonial and Post Colonial India”, *Economic and Political Weekly* April 9, 2005

“A Trial In Transition: Courts, Merchants and Identities in Western India, circa 1800”, *The Indian Economic and Social History Review* 3, 2004

“Contesting the Classical: the Tamil Isai Movement and the Politics of Custodianship”, *Asian Journal of Social Science*, Brill, Vol.32 No.1, 2004

Colonialism and the Indian Economy. Merchants, Markets and Trade 1757–1857”, *IGNOU M.A. Course Unit*, Delhi, 2004.

‘Arms and the Merchant : The Making of the Bania Raj in late Eighteenth century India’, *South Asia*. New Series, Vol.XXIV, No.2, December 2001.

‘East Indian Fortunes’, Merchants, Companies and Conquest : An Exercise in Historiography’ in Sekhar Bandyopadhyay (ed.) *Bengal: Rethinking History. Essays on Historiography*. Manohar, Delhi, 2001.

‘Of Pirates and Potentates : The Construction of Piracy and Maritime Jurisdiction in India’, *The UTS Review (University of Technology, Sydney) Special Issue on the Indian Ocean*, Vol. 6, No.2, December 2000.

‘The Master, Muse and the Nation : The Reification of Colonial Modernity in Modern India’, *South Asia*, New Series, Vol.23, No.2, December 2000.

‘The Reinvention of a Tradition. Nationalism, Carnatic Music and the Madras academy, 1900–1947’, *The Indian Economic and Social History Review*. Vol.36 No.2, 1999.

‘Power and the Weave : Weavers, Merchants and Rulers in Eighteenth century Surat’ in Rudrangshu Mukherjee and Lakshmi.Subramanian (eds.) *Politics and Trade in the Indian Ocean World. Essays in memory of Ashin Dasgupta*. O.U.F Delhi, 1998.

‘Towards a Commercial history of India’s western littoral. Some Reflections on the Holdings of the Maharashtra State Archives’ in *Sources Europeennes pour*

*le Gujarat. Moyen Orient Ocean Indien. X, 1997.*

‘Alternate Approaches to Maritime India’ *The Indian Economic And Social History Review*, Vol. XXXIII, No.2, 1996.

Rabindranath Tagore and the Crisis of Personal Identity in Colonial India’ in R.K.Ray (ed.) *Mind, Body and Society. Life and Mentality in Colonial Bengal*. O.U.P., Calcutta, 1996.

‘The Eighteenth Century Social Order in Surat. A Reply to and an Excursus on the Riots of 1788 and 1795’, *Modern Asian Studies*, 25, 2, 1991.

Banias and the British: The Role of Indigenous Credit in the Process of Imperial Expansion in Western India in the Second half of the Eighteenth Century’, *Modern Asian Studies*, 21, 3, 1987.

‘Capital and Crowd in a Declining Asian Port City: The Anglo-Bania Order and the Surat riots of 1795’. *Modern Asian Studies*, 19,2,1985.

**Seminars and  
Conferences  
(select list)**

1. Government of India BIMSTEC Initiative Paper presented on Historical and Civilizational Linkages in the Bay of Bengal, 27–28 March 2016, Kolkata
2. Conference on Ports of India in Naval War College, Mandavie, Goa 10 March 2016, Paper presented on Ports of Maritime India – A Historical Narrative”
3. Founders Day address to the Bombay Maritime Society, 12 May 2016
4. International Conference on Music, Modernity and the Public Sphere, University of Chicago Centre, New Delhi, 27–28 February 2016
5. Conference on the Maratha Experiment State and Society Department of History, Calcutta University, 26 February 2016
6. International Seminar on Radiating Globality in the University of Dakar, Senegal, 19–22 February 2016
7. Presented a paper “Regimes of Regulation in the Indian Ocean: Old Questions, New 4. perspectives” in a seminar organized by the CSSSC and University of Glasgow 12–13 December 2015
8. Keynote address in workshop on “Texts, tunes, and technologies’

organized at ISER, Pune, 20 and 21 March 2015.

9. Special Address in the 'Gulf to Gulf to Gulf seminar' organized by the Bhau Daji Lad Museum in Mumbai, 28 March 2015
10. Seminar organized by Darshak Itihas Nidhi on Trans-Regional Trade and Traders Situating Gujarat in the Indian Ocean from early times to 1900, Surat 10-12 December 2015
11. Special Address on "Music Histories in India", International Conference on Historical Methodology", University of Amsterdam, 24-25 January 2014.
12. Presented a paper on "Piracy in the western littoral" at an international conference organized by the Cama Institute in Mumbai, 11 & 12 January 2014.
13. Presented a paper 'Petitions and Predation in the North-western Littoral: Making Sense of a Fragmented Archive (1790-1818)' in Gottingen, Germany on 21 May 2014
14. Delivered two Special Lectures on "Crime and Law in Colonial India" at IPSIR, University of Warsaw, 29 April 2013
15. Invited speaker at the international conference on Politics of law, Poetics of Self, Plymouth University, 5 & 6 September 2013
16. Invited speaker at an international seminar on Provincialising the Globe, Princeton University, 19-20 April 2013
17. Invited speaker at a seminar on 'Empires and Networks Maritime Asian Experiences Ninth to Nineteenth centuries' organized by the Institute of south East Asian studies, National University of Singapore 21-22 February 2011.
18. Directed and coordinated along with Professor Eng seng Ho, Duke University an International workshop on Inter-Asian connections organized by the Social Science Research Council, New York and Asia Research institute, National university of Singapore (7-10 December 2010). Our panel was titled Old Histories, New geographies: Contrapuntal Mobilities of Trade and State across Asia and was selected through a competitive process.
19. Invited keynote speaker for the conference on 'Salty geographies: Subaltern maritime networks, spaces and practices' organized by the University of Glasgow 7-8 October 2010.
20. Invited speaker for a one day Conference on South Indian Music organized by the Southern Methodist University, Dallas on 9 October 2010.