

## PRACHI DESHPANDE

**Date of Birth:** 14 December 1972  
**Nationality:** Indian  
**Address:** 76A Lake View Road, Kolkata – 700 029, West Bengal, INDIA  
**Phone:** +91 9748660152  
**Email:** [pdeshpande@cssscal.org](mailto:pdeshpande@cssscal.org); [prarochana@gmail.com](mailto:prarochana@gmail.com)

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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:*

**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):*

The Marathi *kaulnama*: Property, Sovereignty, and Documentation in a Persianate Form, forthcoming in the *Journal of Economic and Social History of the Orient*.

“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 aitihasik 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 itihasakade”, *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 Lakshmbai 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 project on Marathi language *practices* in different overlapping spaces – scribal, pedagogical, political, multilingual. Explores a history of language through usage and users, through writing practices, and a multilingual and multi-territorial focus for languages understood as *deshi*, or geographically rooted. Brings together ideas and practices of Marathi in diverse materials ranging from revenue surveys to grammars and language histories, in the early modern and the colonial modern, and within and outside Maharashtra. Seeks to uncover a more ‘polyglot’ history of language.

### **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 17<sup>th</sup> 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:**

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:**

Collaborator on **Lawforms Project: Forms of Law in the Early Modern Persianate World, 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries**. Principal Investigator: Dr. NANDINI CHATTERJEE, Department of History, University of Exeter, UK. Sponsoring Agency: European Research Council (ERC), 2017-2021.

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.