

CURRICULUM VITAE

Aparajita Majumdar
Brown University, Providence, RI
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Employment

Assistant Professor of History and Environment and Society, History Department and Institute at Brown for Environment and Society (IBES), Brown University, Providence, 2024-Present

Education

PhD in History, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, 2017- 2024
MPhil in Modern History, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 2014 - 2017
MA in Modern History, Hindu College, University of Delhi, 2012 - 2014
BA (Hons) in History, Hindu College, University of Delhi, 2009 - 2012

Non-degree program

IvyPlus Exchange Scholar, Yale University, New Haven, Spring 2020.

Research interests

Environmental history, climate change, plant humanities, commodity studies, Indigenous studies, borderland studies, South Asian Studies, critical heritage studies, and multi-species ethnography

Academic publications

‘Recalcitrant Lifeworlds of a Tree: Decolonizing the History of Human-Plant Relations’, *Environmental Humanities*, Duke University Press, Vol 16, No 1 (March 2024):79-99

‘Objects of Appropriations: Locating Material Efficacies of Rubber in the North eastern Resource Frontier of British India. 1810-1890’ in Lipokmar Duvichu, Manjeet Baruah and Gunnel Cederlof eds. *Objects and Frontiers: Between the Mekong and the Indus, 18th to 20th Century*. New Delhi: Routledge, 2019

‘The Colonial State and Resource Frontiers: Tracing the Politics of Appropriating Rubber in the Northeastern Frontier of British India, 1810-84’, *Indian Historical Review*, ICHR, Sage Publications, Vol 43, No 1 (2016):25-41

Awarded grants/prizes

2024 Messenger Chalmers Prize for Best Dissertation on Research and Thinking on Human Progress, Cornell University

2023-2024 Charlotte Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Institute for Citizens & Scholars, Princeton, New Jersey, US

2023-2024 (declined) Andrew W. Mellon Graduate Fellowship, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, US

2020 International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (SSRC), New York, US

2019 Mellon Collaborative Studies Award in Architecture, Urbanism, and Humanities, Expanded Practice Seminar, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, US

2019 Einaudi-SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Program (DPDP) Award, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, US

2018 Einaudi Centre International Research Travel Grant, Mario Einaudi Centre for International Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, US

2016 Conference Travel Grant, The Indian Council of Historical Research, to participate in the international workshop, 'Global Commodity Frontiers in Comparative Historical Context,' held in London, UK, 9-10 December

2016 Conference Travel Grant, Asian Borderlands Research Network, to participate in the international conference, 'Dynamic Borderlands: Livelihood, Commodities and Flows,' held in Kathmandu, Nepal, 12-14 December

Select conferences

2024 Presented the paper, 'Recalcitrant Structures of Feeling: Co-labouring with Plants in the India-Bangladesh Borderlands,' at the workshop, 'Reimagining Ruralities: From Heartland to Hinterlands,' at Centre for Place, Culture and Politics, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, USA, March 8-9

2023 Presented the paper, 'Recalcitrance: Co-labouring Histories of Humans and Plants in the India-Bangladesh Borderlands,' in the panel 'Reading Agrarian Transition Through the Lens of Raymond Williams.' Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, USA, October 18-21

2022 Discussant at the workshop, 'Art of the Borderland Across South and Southeast Asia,' organized by the Yale Inter Asia Initiative & South Asian Studies Council, Yale University, New Haven, USA, May 6-7

2021 Presented the paper, 'Why a Tree Demands Indigenous Expertise in Northeast India,' at the GRISTS 2021, 'Disrupted Lives: Linking, Delinking and the Infrastructures of Recovery,' at STS Program, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, October 29-30

2020 Presented the paper, 'Recalcitrant Lifeworlds of a Tree,' at the South Asia Brown Bag Series, at Yale University, New Haven, USA, February 25

2018 Presented the paper, 'Borgos, Bridges, and Potted Plants: A Study of the Things that Outlived the Rubber Frontier of British India,' in the Yale Inter-Asia Conference 2018, 'Wood Age in Asia: Connection and Comparison in Forest History,' organized by the Department of Anthropology, Yale University, New Haven, USA, September 21-23

2018 Presented the paper, 'A Recalcitrance of Rubber in the North Eastern Frontiers of British India,' in the Annual Conference of Association of Asian Studies, held in Washington, D.C, USA, March 22-25

2018 Presented the paper, 'Objects of Appropriations: locating material efficacies of rubber in the northeastern tracts of British India,' in the international conference, 'Locating Northeast India: human

mobility, resource flows, and spatial linkages,' organized by Tezpur University, Assam, India, January 9-12

2017 Presented the paper, 'Objects of Appropriations: locating material efficacies of rubber. 1810-1890,' in the international workshop, 'Mobile Bodies: A Long View of the People and Communities of Maritime Asia,' held at Binghamton University, New York, November 10-11

2017 Presented the paper, 'Rubbery Tales from the North Eastern Tracts of British India,' in the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, India, April 4

2017 Presented the paper 'Rubber Extraction in India's Northeast', in the India-China Corridor Spring School, 'Modern Empires, Flows, Environments and Livelihoods,' held in the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, India, March 25-26

2016 Presented the paper, 'Colonial State and Resource Frontiers', in the international conference, 'Dynamic Borderlands: Livelihood, Commodities and Flows,' organized by the Asian Borderlands Research Network, held in Kathmandu, Nepal, December 12- 14

2016 Presented the paper, 'Objects of Appropriations: locating material efficacies of rubber. 1810-1890', in the international workshop, 'Global Commodity Frontiers in Comparative Historical Context', organized by the University of London-based, Commodities of Empire Project, in London, UK, December 9-10

2016 Presented the paper, 'The Colonial State and Resource Frontiers', in the Centre for Historical Studies Young Scholars' Conference, 2016, 'Constructing the Past: Disciplines, Sources and Methods', held at School of International Studies (SIS)-II, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, March 18-19

Public writing (other media)

Interview correspondence with Prof. Malini Sur on her book, *Jungle Passports: Fences, Mobility and Citizenship at the Northeast India-Bangladesh Border* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021), published by Chapati Mystery (an academic blog) on January 21, 2022
https://www.chapatimystery.com/archives/xqs_xxix_-_a_conversation_with_malini_sur.html

'Ficus elastica beyond Plantations', Glenn Adamson ed., *Material Intelligence* 1, no 3, September 15, 2022, Chipstone Foundation, Milwaukee, US
<https://www.materialintelligencemag.org/rubber/>

Hosted Episode 88, Gatty Lecture Rewind Podcast, Cornell University, with Prof Alyssa Parades, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan. <https://soundcloud.com/gattyrewind/episode-88-alyssa-paredes-department-of-anthropology-university-of-michigan>

['Why the 'Stone-Age Sentinelese' is a figment of racist imagination,' published on India Today's DailyO on December 12, 2018](#)

'Hindutva agenda and Dhola-Sadiya will not bridge the distance between Assam and Arunachal', published on *DailyO* on June 4, 2017.

Teaching experience

Instructor, Upper-Division Seminar, 'Environmental Pressures of South Asia,' Fall 2024, History Department, Brown University

Instructor, First Year Writing Seminar, 'Environmental Pressures of South Asia,' Spring 2023, History Department, Cornell University

Instructor, First Year Writing Seminar, 'Social Justice in Human and Nonhuman Worlds,' Fall 2022, History Department, Cornell University

Teaching Assistant for the undergraduate course, 'Mughal Empire,' Fall 2019, History Department, Cornell University

Teaching Assistant for the undergraduate course, 'History of Modern India,' Fall 2018, History Department, Cornell University

Teaching Assistant for the undergraduate course, 'Introduction to Modern Asian History,' Spring 2019, History Department, Cornell University

Languages

Assamese (native), Hindi (advanced in reading, speaking and writing), Bengali (intermediate-level proficiency in reading, speaking and writing)

References

Prof. Durba Ghosh, History Department, Cornell University, email: dg256@cornell.edu

Prof. Stacey A. Langwick, Anthropology Department, Cornell University, email: sal54@cornell.edu

Prof. Eric Tagliacozzo, History Department, Cornell University, email: et54@cornell.edu

Prof. K. Sivaramakrishnan, Anthropology Department, Yale University, email:

kalyanakrishnan.sivaramakrishnan@yale.edu