

Tiraana Bains

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Department of History, Brown University

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Brown University **Providence, RI**
Assistant Professor, Department of History July 2023 – Present

Dartmouth College **Hanover, NH**
Modern Intellectual History Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History September 2021 – June 2023

EDUCATION

Yale University **New Haven, CT**
Doctor of Philosophy in History 2015-2021
Master of Philosophy in History 2018

Dissertation Making and Debating Empires in South Asia and the Global British Empire, 1756-1799

Qualifying Examination Fields Britain and the British Empire, Early Modern South Asia and the Persianate World, Colonial and Postcolonial South Asia, Labor and Slavery in the Atlantic World **Passed with Distinction**

Yale University **New Haven, CT**
Bachelor of Arts in History, Master of Arts in History 2011-2015
Senior Essay Empire and Intimacy: The Evolution of British Attitudes Towards Mixed Relationships in the Bengal Presidency, 1764-1793
Honors Cum Laude, Distinction in Major, Phi Beta Kappa

WRITING AND PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

Instituting Empire: The Making of a British Imperial State in South Asia, 1750-1800 (under contract at Yale University Press, forthcoming in the Lewis Walpole Series in Eighteenth-Century History and Culture).

Peer-Reviewed Articles

"The Making and Unmaking of a Presidency: Envisioning Empire in British Bencoolen, 1685-1825," *Journal of British Studies* (2024), pp. 1-21.

<https://doi.org/10.1017/jbr.2023.142>

"All the Governments of India: Intra-Imperial Contests in the Makings of a British Imperial State in the Indian Ocean, 1750-1800," *The English Historical Review* (accepted in 2022; forthcoming).

Steven Pincus, Tiraana Bains, and A. Zuercher Reichardt, "Reconnecting the Global British Empire: Response to Critics," *History Australia* (December 2019), pp. 651-655.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/14490854.2019.1670700>

Steven Pincus, Tiraana Bains, and A. Zuercher Reichardt, "Thinking the Empire Whole," *History Australia* (December 2019), pp. 610-637. (This article has been the subject of a scholarly forum, featuring responses by Alison Bashford, Trevor Burnard and Lisa Ford.)
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14490854.2019.1670692>

Chapters in Edited Volumes

"Unsettling Sovereignty between the Mughal and British Empires: The Case of the Nawab of Arcot, circa 1749-1795," in *Sovereignty: European and Global Histories*, eds. Cornel Zwierlein and Daniel Lee (Leiden: Brill, 2024), pp. 299-317.
https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004218628_013

"Hindustan's Britain: Crown, Company, and Parliament in the Persianate Gaze" in *E'tesam al-Din's Shegarfnameh-e Velayat – Sources for the Study of the Persianate World*, ed. Abbas Amanat (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming).

"Inter-State Diplomacy and Imperial Transitions in South Asia, 1750-1800," in *The Cambridge History of International Law*, Vol. II, eds. Maria Adele Carrai and Surabhi Ranganathan (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, undergoing final round of review and copy-editing).

"The Many Laws of War and the Making of British India, circa 1756-1799," in *The Laws and Customs of Colonial War*, eds. Rotem Giladi and Jochen von Bernstorff (Under review).

Book Reviews

Europe's India – Words, People, Empires, 1500-1800 by Sanjay Subrahmanyam, *Reviews in History*, review no. 2148 (2017).
<https://doi.org/10.14296/RiH/2014/2148>

Writing Self, Writing Empire: Chandar Bhan Brahman and the Cultural World of the Indo-Persian State Secretary by Rajeev Kinra, *Itinerario*, 40, 3 (2016): pp. 556-558.
<http://doi.org/10.1017/S0165115316000802>

Other Writing

"How to Read an Eighteenth-Century Invoice: Situating Commerce in the Global British Empire," Adam Matthew Research Skills: Interrogating Colonial Archives and Narratives (2024).

"Making Empire Global – British Imperialism in India, 1750-1800," World History Commons (2022).

"Making and Debating Imperial Transitions in South Asia, circa 1756-1799," North American Conference on British Studies Blog (2020).

"The Lives and Afterlives of Persianate Print: The Case of the *Tuzuk-i Timuri* and the *Tuzuk-i Napoleon*," Journal of the History of Ideas Blog (2018).

"The British Library," The Archives of Economic Life, Joint Centre for History and Economics (2017).

TALKS, PRESENTATIONS, AND COMMENTS

"The Constitution of British Imperialism in India, 1757-1857," **Brown Legal History Workshop, December 2024**
History Department, Brown University.

"Roads and Revenues in South Asia, 1756-1799," **North American Conference on British Studies Annual Conference, Denver. November 2024**

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| “A New Constitution for India? Parliamentary Reform and the India Question, circa 1757-1857,” American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting, San Francisco. | October 2024 |
| Discussant, Book Talk by Chandan Gowda on <i>Another India: Events, Memories, People</i> , Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University. | October 2024 |
| Panelist, Book Launch of Faisal Chaudhry’s <i>South Asia, the British Empire, and the Rise of Classical Legal Thought – Towards a Historical Ontology of the Law</i> , University of Massachusetts School of Law, North Dartmouth. | October 2024 |
| Commentator, Book Talk by Adam Mestyan on <i>Modern Arab Kingship: Remaking the Ottoman Political Order in the Interwar Middle East</i> , Center for Middle East Studies, Brown University. | September 2024 |
| Commentator, Manuscript Workshop on Steven Pincus’s <i>From Revolution to Empire</i> , University of Chicago. | May 2024 |
| “Budgeting India: The Making of a British Imperial State in South Asia,” Empire and the Origins of Capitalism, Annual Martens Economic History Forum, University of Southern California. | February 2024 |
| “The Ideological Origins of the British Empire in South Asia,” South Asia Seminar, Watson Institute, Brown University. | February 2024 |
| “East India Sugar and the Politics of Empire in the Indian Ocean World,” North American Conference on British Studies Annual Conference, Baltimore. | November 2023 |
| “Company, Parliament, and Mughal: Constituting Imperial Governance in India,” Medieval and Early Modern History Seminar, Brown University. | October 2023 |
| “Advertising and Everyday Economic Life in British Settlements in South Asia, 1750-1800,” Rethinking Business History Workshop, Max Weber Forum for South Asian Studies and Dartmouth College. | May 2023 |
| Panelist, Cambridge History of International Law Peer Review Workshop. | May 2023 |
| Commentator, Manuscript Workshop on David Engerman’s <i>Apostles of Development</i> , Dartmouth College. | May 2023 |
| “Unsettling India: Settler Colonialism and South Asia, 1750-1800,” From Mughal Rule to the Raj: The Imperial Transition in South Asia, University of Chicago. | May 2023 |
| Panelist, Discussion of Robert Travers’s <i>Empires of Complaints</i> , Providence College. | March 2023 |
| “The Board of Control for India Affairs and the Makings of a Global British Empire, 1784-1800,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia. | January 2023 |
| “Constitutional Politics in South Asia and the Global British Empire,” North American Conference on British Studies/ American Society of Legal History Annual Meeting, Chicago. | November 2022 |
| “Instituting Empire: The Contested Makings of a British Imperial State in South Asia and The Indian Ocean, 1750-1800,” American Institute of Indian Studies Book Workshop, Annual | October 2022 |

Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

- "Inter-Imperial Trade and Treaties in the Indian Ocean World, 1600 – 1800," Cambridge History of International Law Workshop.** July 2022
- "Reconceptualizing Sovereignty across the Mughal and British Empires, 1750-1800," Sovereignty, 1300- 1800 – Terrestrial and Maritime Negotiations, Freie Universität, Berlin.** May 2022
- "South Asian Visions of Political Economy and the Making of the British Empire," American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans [Held Online].** February 2022
- "Negotiating Subjecthood: Indigenous Claims and Protests in the Making of a British Imperial State in South Asia, 1756-1799," Conference on Liberal Democracy and the Age of Revolution, George Washington Forum, Ohio University.** November 2021
- Chair and Panelist, **"Rethinking Political Culture and Political Economy in Eighteenth-Century South Asia," Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison [Held Online].** October 2021
- Commentator, Abhishek Kaicker's *The King and the People*, **Conversations on South Asia, Interdisciplinary Debates at Dartmouth College [Held Online].** October 2021
- "Thinking the Empire Whole," Omohundro Institute Annual Conference, Williamsburg, Virginia [Held Online].** June 2021
- "Everyday Inter-Imperial State Making in Madras, 1750-1800," American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Seattle [Cancelled].** January 2021
- "Building Jails, Instituting Empire: Incarceration and Infrastructural Expansion in the Bengal Presidency, 1750-1800," Workshop on Captivity, Confinement and Incarceration, North American Conference on British Studies Annual Conference [Held Online].** November 2020
- "Debating and Contesting Taxation in South Asia, 1756-1799," North American Conference on British Studies Annual Conference [Held Online].** November 2020
- "The Board of Control for India Affairs: Constituting Global Imperial Rule in the Late Eighteenth Century," Global Histories of Colonialism Virtual Workshop, Queen's University Global History Initiative, Kingston, Canada [Held Online].** November 2020
- "India and the Global British Empire in the Eighteenth Century," Conference on Dynamism and Change in the History and Historiography of Britain and the British Empire in the Long Eighteenth Century, British and Imperial History Workshop, University of Chicago [Held Online].** July 2020
- "Feeding Empire: Everyday State-making and Governance in South Asia, 1750-1800," British and Imperial History Workshop, University of Chicago [Held Online].** June 2020
- "Settler Colonial India: The Debate over British Settlement in South Asia, circa 1756-1800," Greater Britain? Rewriting the Settler Colonies into the History of British Imperialism Conference, University of Cambridge.** March 2020
- "Thinking the Empire Whole," North American Conference on British Studies, Annual** November 2019

Conference, Vancouver.

- "All the Company's Governments: Intra-Imperial Relations in the Making of a British Imperial State," **Empires and Atlantics Forum, University of Chicago.** **October 2019**
- "Pepper Presidency and Sugar Island: Labor, Ecology and the Making of British Bencoolen," **Ordering the Anthropocene: Law and Environment in the Indian Ocean World Workshop, Drexel University, Philadelphia.** **October 2019**
- "Anchoring Empire: The Making and Remaking of a British Imperial State between Bombay and Bencoolen, Circa 1685-1824," **Indian Ocean Port Cities Workshop, New York University, Shanghai.** **September 2019**
- "Anglo-Persianate Texts and Publics: Making Empire in South Asia, Circa 1756-1799," **American Institute of Indian Studies Mughal Persian Archives Workshop, Lucknow.** **August 2019**
- "To Make 'A Well Concerted Union': State-Making and Intra-Imperial Conflict in Eighteenth Century South Asia," **Princeton South Asia Conference, Princeton University.** **April 2019**
- "Provincializing the Bengal Presidency: Intra-Imperial Contests and the Remaking of the British Empire in South Asia and the East Indies, circa 1750-1799," **International History Research Seminar, London School of Economics.** **December 2018**
- "Bencoolen Centre: Reconceptualizing the "Peripheries" of the British Empire, circa 1685-1824," **Colonial/ Postcolonial New Researchers' Workshop, Institute of Historical Research, London.** **November 2018**
- "The Company Persianate: The Remaking of Persian Textual Production in Late Eighteenth Century South Asia," **Harvard-Yale Book History Conference, Yale University.** **April 2018**
- "Centering Bengal, Debating Empire: Intra-Imperial Politics in the Remaking of State and Empire in Late Eighteenth Century South Asia," **Institute for Development and Communications, Chandigarh, India.** **January 2018**
- Panelist, Discussion of Jon Wilson's *Chaos of Empire*, **South Asian Studies Council, Yale University.** **November 2017**
- "The Company's Slaves: Empire and Exchange in the Territories of the British East India Company," **Global History Workshop, Yale University.** **October 2017**
- "A View from Arcot: Envisioning Empire in Eighteenth Century South Asia," **South Asia Brown Bag, Yale University.** **September 2017**
- "From St Helena to Bencoolen: The British East India Company's Practices of Slavery and the Slave Trade in the Late Eighteenth Century," **New Economic History of India Conference, Cambridge University.** **May 2017**
- "Empire within Empire: Intra-Imperial Politics in the Territories of the British East India Company in the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries," **Susman Graduate Student Conference on "Thinking with Empire," Rutgers University, New Brunswick.** **March 2017**

"Imperial Intimacies: The Sexual and Political Economy of the Bengal Presidency, 1764-1793," **October 2016**
Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

"Imperial Intimacies: The Sexual and Political Economy of the Bengal Presidency, 1764-1793," Sex **April 2016**
and Money Conference, Columbia University.

Respondent, **Shariah in Motion Conference, Yale University.** **April 2016**

Respondent, **Early Modern Empires Workshop, Yale University.** **April 2016**

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Junior Faculty Teaching Fellowship Program, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University **September 2023**

Hans Gatzke Prize for an outstanding dissertation in the field of European History, Yale University **May 2022**

Modern Intellectual History Postdoctoral Fellowship, Dartmouth College **May 2021**

Perry Delman Memorial Graduate Fellowship, Yale University **November 2020**

Humboldt Yale History Network Travel Grant **January 2020**

North American Conference on British Studies Stern Grant **October 2019**

North American Conference on British Studies Dissertation Travel Grant **May 2019**

Research and Travel Award in International History and Security, Yale University **April 2019**

South Asian Studies Council Graduate Summer Award, Yale University **April 2019**

Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration Summer Research and Conference Travel Award, Yale University **April 2019**

Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art Summer Travel Grant, Yale University **March 2019**

American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Fellowship [Declined] **October 2018**

Mellon Visiting Student Grant, Programme on Exchanges of Economic, Legal and Political Ideas, The Joint Center for History and Economic Thought at Harvard and Cambridge Universities **June 2018**

Macmillan International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Yale University **June 2018**

South Asian Studies Rustgi Fellowship, Yale University **April 2018**

Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration Research and Conference Travel Award, Yale University **February 2018**

Macmillan Center Pre-Dissertation Grant, Yale University **May 2017**

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| South Asian Studies Council Summer Award, Yale University | May 2017 |
| The History Project Research Grant, The Joint Center for History and Economic Thought at Harvard and Cambridge Universities | December 2016 |
| Birgit Baldwin '82 Graduate Fellowship, Yale University | December 2016 |
| South Asia Language Fellowship, Yale University | May 2016 |
| Gilder Lehrman Center Graduate Research Fellowship, Yale University | May 2016 |
| Research and Travel Award in International Security Studies, Yale University | May 2016 |
| William A. Macy Graduate Fellowship, Yale University | January 2016 |
| Andrew D. White Prize for Best History Senior Essay on Latin America, Asia, and Africa, The History Department, Yale University | May 2015 |
| John Addison Porter Prize for "a work of scholarship in any field where it is possible through original effort, to gather and relate facts or principles or both and to make the product of general human interest," Yale University | May 2015 |
| Calhoun College (now Grace Hopper College) Prize for the Best in Academics, Yale University | May 2015 |

TEACHING

Brown University

HIST 1267 The Global British Empire, 1600 - The Present (Spring 2024, Spring 2025)
HIST 1974E The Intellectual History of Imperialism (Fall 2023, Fall 2024)
HIST 2910 Independent Reading (Fall 2024)
HIST 2972A Histories of Modernity (Spring 2025 - co-taught with Benjamin Hein)

Dartmouth College

HIST 90.14 The Global British Empire, 1600 - The Present (Winter 2022, Winter 2023)
HIST 90.15 State and Society in Early Modern India, 1500-1800 (Fall 2022)
HIST 40.02 The Intellectual History of Capitalism (Spring 2022)

The University of Chicago

Teaching Fellow, The Global British Empire to 1784 (Fall 2020)

Yale University

Teaching Fellow, China, Present to Past (Spring 2018)
Teaching Fellow, Europe, 1648-1945 (Fall 2017)

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

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| Advisor, Indigo Mudbhary (Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow) | 2024-2026 |
| Senior Thesis Advisor, Adit Kadakia (History) | 2024-2025 |
| Senior Thesis Advisor, Aditya Lodha (History) | 2024-2025 |

GRADUATE ADVISING

Dissertation Committees

E.M. Nielsen, "Ship Shape: Health and Bodies at Sea in the Early Modern World" (in progress) 2024-Present

Comprehensive Oral Examinations

Arif Erbil, Early Modern States and Empires 2024-Present

Ria Modak, The Global British Empire 2024-Present

Ariba Naqvi, Empire and Capitalism 2024-Present

SERVICE

Departmental Service

Elected Member, Planning and Priorities Committee, History Department, Brown University 2024-2025

Co-facilitator, Brown European History Workshop, Brown University 2024-2025

University Service

Moderator and Organizer, Book Adda for Sudev Sheth's *Bankrolling Empire*, Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University September 2024

Seminar Leader, First Readings: *The Slavery and Justice Report*, Brown University September 2024

First and Second Year Advisor, The College, Brown University August 2024 - June 2026

Director of Undergraduate Studies, South Asian Studies, Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University July 2024 - June 2025

Faculty Associate, Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University November 2023 - Present

Professional Service

Elected Member, Nominating Committee, North American Conference on British Studies November 2023 - November 2025

Co-organizer, "The Global and the Local: New Histories from Across the Seventeenth-Century World," Dartmouth History Institute Workshop June 2023

Co-organizer, "Rethinking the Business History of South Asia: Social History, Ethnohistory and Capitalism on the Indian Subcontinent," Dartmouth College May 2023

Facilitator, Reading Group on Elleni Zeleke's *Ethiopia in Theory*, Dartmouth College March 2023 - April 2023

Facilitator, Reading Group on Antonio Gramsci's *Prison Notebooks*, Dartmouth College September 2022 - November 2022

Managing Editor, *Modern Intellectual History* September 2021 - August 2023

Moderator, "Illnesses in Asia: A Comparative History," Dartmouth History Institute Workshop June 2022

Social Media Coordinator, British and Imperial History Workshop, University of Chicago **May 2020 – May 2022**

Co-organizer, Conference on “Migration and South Asia,” Yale University **May 2018 – October 2018**

Co-organizer, Panel on “Women in History,” History Department, Yale University **April 2018**

Co-organizer, Ehsan Yarshater Lectures, Program in Iranian Studies, Yale University **April 2017**

Coordinator, Early Modern Empires Workshop, Yale University **May 2016 – May 2018**

Coordinator, South Asia Brown Bag Series, Yale University **May 2016 – May 2017**

Coordinator, Center for Historical Enquiry and the Social Sciences, Yale University **July 2015 – July 2016**

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association
 North American Conference on British Studies

LANGUAGES

Hindi/Urdu Native; **Punjabi** Native; **Persian** Advanced; **Arabic** Intermediate; **French** Intermediate; **Portuguese** Elementary; **Tajiki** Elementary

REFERENCES

Steven Pincus

Thomas E. Donnelly Professor of British History and the College
 The University of Chicago
spincus@uchicago.edu

Darrin M. McMahon

David W. Little Class of 1944 Professor of History and Chair, Department of History
 Dartmouth College
darrin.m.mcmahon@dartmouth.edu

Abbas Amanat

William Graham Sumner Professor of History
 Yale University
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Rohit De

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 Yale University
rohit.de@yale.edu