

Tiraana Bains

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Department of History, Brown University

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Brown University

Assistant Professor, Department of History

Providence, RI

July 2023 – Present

Dartmouth College

Modern Intellectual History Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History

Hanover, NH

September 2021 – June 2023

EDUCATION

Yale University

Doctor of Philosophy in History

Master of Philosophy in History

New Haven, CT

2015-2021

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

Bachelor of Arts in History, Master of Arts in History

New Haven, CT

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.* (<https://doi.org/10.1080/14490854.2019.1670692>)

* This article has been the subject of a scholarly forum, featuring responses by Alison Bashford, Trevor Burnard and Lisa Ford.

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

Chair and Commentator, Panel on "Transimperial Movement in the Seventeenth-Century English Empire," **Renaissance Society of America Annual Conference, Boston** **March 2025**

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

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

Participant, Manuscript Workshop on Christopher Baldwin's *An Empire of Plunder*, **John Carter Brown Library, Providence and the Program in Early American Economy and Society, Library Company of Philadelphia** **November 2024**

"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	October 2022

The Indian Ocean, 1750-1800," American Institute of Indian Studies Book Workshop, Annual 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 <i>The King and the People</i> , 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 Conference, Vancouver	November 2019
"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	January 2018
Panelist, Discussion of Jon Wilson's <i>Chaos of Empire</i>, 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," Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison	October 2016
"Imperial Intimacies: The Sexual and Political Economy of the Bengal Presidency, 1764-1793," Sex and Money Conference, Columbia University	April 2016
Respondent, Shariah in Motion Conference, Yale University	April 2016
Respondent, Early Modern Empires Workshop, Yale University	April 2016

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Mellon Mays Faculty Mentor Award, Brown Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Program	October 2024
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
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 260 Early Modern India, 1500-1800 (Fall 2025)
HIST 1267 The Global British Empire, 1600 – The Present (Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026)
HIST 1974E The Intellectual History of Imperialism (Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025)
HIST 2910 Independent Reading (Fall 2024, Spring 2025)
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

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

GRADUATE ADVISING

Dissertation Committees

Elis Nielsen, "Ship Shape: Health and Bodies at Sea in the Early Modern World" (in progress)	2024-Present
Goutam Piduri "Owning Renunciation: Studies in Early Modern Non-Possession" (in progress; English Department)	2025- 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
Amelle Zeroug, Empires in Comparative Perspective	2024-Present

SERVICE

Departmental Service

Participant, Session on Postdoctoral Fellowship Applications hosted by the Director of Graduate Advising, History Department, Brown University	March 2025
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Elected Member, Planning and Priorities Committee, History Department, Brown University	2024-2025
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Co-facilitator, Brown European History Workshop, Brown University	2024-2025
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University Service

Co-organizer, Humanities in the World – Covering Islam, Cogut Institute for the Humanities, Brown University	Spring 2025
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Moderator and Organizer, Book Adda for Janaki Bakhle's <i>Savarkar and the Making of Hindutva</i> , Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University	February 2025
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Moderator, Panel on "Concepts and Categories," Labor and the Global South Workshop, History Department, Brown University	December 2024
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Moderator, Back from the Field Research Presentations, Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University	November 2024
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Moderator and Organizer, Book Adda for Sudev Sheth's <i>Bankrolling Empire</i> , Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University	September 2024
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Seminar Leader, First Readings: <i>The Slavery and Justice Report</i> , Brown University	September 2024
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First and Second Year Advisor, The College, Brown University	August 2024 - June 2026
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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
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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 Ellen 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
American Society of Legal History
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
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