BHRIGUPATI SINGH

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Brown University, July 2014 –
Watson Institute for International Studies, Faculty Fellow, July 2014 –

Lecturer (American equivalent: Assistant Professor) in Anthropology and Religious Studies, King's India Institute, King's College, London. 2013-14.

Brown University, Watson Institute for International Studies, Postdoctoral Fellow in Anthropology and International Studies. 2011-13.

Harvard University, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Postdoctoral Scholar.
October 2009 – July 2011

Sarai-Center for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi. Research Fellow, 2001-2002.

EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins University
Ph.D., Department of Anthropology, December 2009
Dissertation Title: *Gods and Grains: Lives of Desire in Rural Central India*

School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, U.K., 2000-2001
M.A. in Anthropology of Media
Graduated with Highest Marks Across all Anthropology Masters Courses

St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, India, 1997-2000
B.A. (Honors) in English
Graduated with Highest Marks in Delhi University

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

American Institute of Indian Studies, Senior Research Fellowship, (Jan-May) 2016

Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, Post PhD Grant, September 2015

Joseph Elder Prize for the Indian Social Sciences 2015, American Institute of Indian Studies, Awarded to *Poverty and the Quest for Life: Spiritual and Material Striving in Rural India.*

Office of the Vice President of Research, Humanities Research Funds 2015, Brown University

Dean's Teaching Fellowship Prize, Johns Hopkins University, 2008.

Nominated for Excellence in Teaching Award, Johns Hopkins University for course on Religion and Moral Economy, taught at the invitation of the Program for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality, 2007.

Andrew Mellon International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council (SSRC), USA, 2005-2006.

Research Fellowship, Institute for Global Studies in Culture, Power and History, Johns Hopkins University, 2003.

Taught Masters Prize (for Highest Marks across all Masters Courses). School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, U.K. 2000-01.

British Foreign Office - Chevening Open Social Sciences Scholarship for Masters Studies in the U.K., 2000-01.

Muriel Wasi Prize for Highest Aggregate in B.A. (Honors) English literature, St. Stephen's College, Delhi University. 1997-2000.

Scholarship for Proficiency in the German language from Max Mueller Bhavan (Goethe-Schule), New Delhi, 1996.

PUBLICATION

Books

Poverty and the Quest for Life: Spiritual and Material Striving in Rural India
University of Chicago Press (2015)
Winner of the Joseph Elder Prize in the Indian Social Sciences, 2015

Somatosphere Book Discussion Forum – Essays by William Mazzarella, Lisa Stevenson, Naveeda Khan, William E. Connolly, and others:
http://somatosphere.net/2015/03/book-forum-bhrigupati-singhs-poverty-and-the-quest-for-life.html

Roundtable at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC, December 2014, titled "Vitality, Sovereignty, Agonistics, Ethics: A Conversation with Bhrigupati Singh on *Poverty and the Quest for Life*"

Brown University Book Adda (event) on *Poverty and the Quest for Life*
Featuring responses to the book by Sudipto Kaviraj, Michael Taussig, Amanda Anderson and Leela Gandhi, and art works in response to the book by eleven leading Indian artists.

Edited Volumes

The Ground Between: Anthropologists Engage with Philosophy
Co-edited with Arthur Kleinman, Michael D. Jackson & Veena Das.
Duke University Press, 2014.

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

[Article in Preparation – to be submitted by June 2015] "Depression", in *Everyday English Keywords in India*. Special Issue of *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*. Edited by Craig Jeffrey, Assa Doron, and Meera Ashar.

[Article in Preparation – to be submitted for review to *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* by July 2015] "Rethinking Addiction Trajectories: Life Force as a Concept in Mental Health"

"On the Killing and Killability of Animals: Non-moral Thoughts for the Anthropology of Ethics", with Naisargi Dave, in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*. Forthcoming in June 2015

"Botched Enlightenment", with Leela Gandhi, in *E-flux: Journal of Contemporary Art, Culture and Theory,* Special Issue for the 56th Venice Biennale, (eds.) Raqs Media Collective . June 2015,

'The Headless Horseman of Central India: Sovereignty at Varying Thresholds of Life', *Cultural Anthropology,* Vol. 27, Issue 2, May 2012, pp. 383-407

'Agonistic Intimacy and Moral Aspiration in Popular Hinduism: A Study in the Political Theology of the Neighbor', *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 38, No. 3, Aug 2011, pp.430-450

'Frugality and Excess in Gandhi, Thoreau and Nietzsche', *Borderlands*, Special Issue on Religion and Sexuality, Vol.9, No.3, December 2010, pp.1-34

'*Aadamkhor Haseena* (The Man-Eating Beauty) and the Anthropology of a Moment: A Study of Cinema in an Un-cinematic City', *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 42, 2, May 2008. pp. 249-279.

'Narrating *Injustice*: British Cultural Studies & its Media', *Television and New Media*. Vol. 7, No.2, May 2006. pp. 135-153.

'Another Investigation of Postcolonial Failure', *Journal of Cultural and Religious Theory*, Vol. 7. No.1, Winter 2005. pp. 55-82.

'A Critical Look at the Films of Anand Patwardhan' in *Critical Asian Studies*, Vol. 34, No. 4, December 2002. pp. 623-636.

Edited special issues of journals

[In Preparation - All the article-length contributions finalized and submitted to us, review process will begin in July 2015] *A Joyful History of Anthropology* co-edited with Jane Guyer. Special Issue of *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*

[In preparation – all the articles have been solicited and submissions are due on June 15th 2015] *Anthropology and Life Itself*, co-edited with Robert Desjarlais, Clara Han and Giovanni da Col. Special Issue of *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*

Guest edited and wrote introduction to 'Unsettling Cinema', Special issue of the journal *Seminar* on Cinema Studies in India. Issue 525, May 2003.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

Forthcoming in September 2015, 'Hunger and Thirst: Crises at Varying Thresholds of Life' in *The Anthropology of Living and Dying in the Contemporary World*. (eds.) Clara Han and Veena Das. University of California Press: Berkeley.

"Conceptual Vita" in *Wording the World: Veena Das and Scenes of Inheritance*. (ed.) Roma Chatterji. 2014. Fordham University Press: Fordham.

'How Concepts make the World Look Different: Affirmative and Negative Genealogies of Thought' in *The Ground Between: Anthropologists Engage with Philosophy*. (eds.) Arthur Kleinman, Michael D. Jackson & Veena Das and Bhrigupati Singh. 2014. Duke Univ. Press: Durham, NC.

'Re-inhabiting Civil Disobedience' in *Political Theologies* (eds.) Hent deVries and Lawrence Sullivan. 2006. Fordham University Press: Fordham. pp. 365-382

Other Scholarly Publications

'What is to be done?' in *Crisis/Media*, Sarai Reader 04, Sarai-CSDS and Society for Old & New Media, De Waag, Delhi/Amsterdam 2004. pp. 60-71.

'Race, Violence and Media Flows' in *Cities of Everyday Life*, Sarai Reader 02, Sarai-CSDS and Society for Old & New Media, De Waag, Delhi/Amsterdam 2002. pp. 85-91.

'One Week in Aman Chowk: On the Aftermath of Collective Violence in Gujarat, India', *Seminar,* Issue 517, September 2002. pp. 78-85.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures

Anthropology and Philosophy: Affinities and Antagonisms, Institute for Education, University of London, April 2014

Caste and Conflict in Contemporary India: Thoughts on the Political Theology of the Neighbor

- King's India Institute, King's College, London, March 2014
- Harvard University, Department of South Asian Studies, November 2013

Sacrificial Life and Death in Contemporary Hinduism, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, February 2013.

What does Accumulation do to us? An inter-disciplinary conversation at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston. November 2012.

'*Gods and Grains: Political Theologies of Popular Hinduism (A Book Overview)*', Street Scholars Collective, Bangalore (India), January 2011.

'*Erotics and Agonistics in Rural Central India: Notes on Political Theologies*'
- Harvard University, Department of Anthropology Colloquium Series, September 2010.
- Brown University, Department of Anthropology Colloquium Series, September 2010.
- UC Berkeley, Department of Anthropology Colloquium Series, October 2011
- University of Pennsylvania, Department of South Asian Studies, November 2012
- UNC-Chapel Hill, Department of Anthropology, October 2010

'*Gandhi and Thoreau: Signals and Affinities*', Invited Lecture, Humanities Lecture Series, York College, Pennsylvania. December 2009.

'*Preliminary Work for a Future Morality: Spiritual and Political Exercises in Gandhi, Thoreau and Nietzsche*', Johns Hopkins University, Department of Politics Colloquium Series, October 2008.

Selected Conference presentations

"After Life: Design Ideas from the Spirit World" in *Critical Design/Critical Future*, Rhode Island School of Design, April 24th, 2015

"Thinking Bureaucratically", Seminar on the *India Exclusion Report,* Watson Institute, Brown University, April 29th, 2015

Discussant, Brown University India Initiative Book Adda on Pradeep Chhibber's *Religious Practice and Democracy in India* (Cambridge University Press, 2014), February 2015

Organizer and Discussant, Brown University India Initiative Book Adda on Leela Gandhi's *The Common Cause: Postcolonial Ethics and the Practice of Democracy, 1900-1955* (University of Chicago Press, 2015)

Author's Response, "Vitality, Sovereignty, Agonistics, Ethics: A Conversation with Bhrigupati Singh on *Poverty and the Quest for Life,*" Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC, December 2014. Speakers include William Mazzarella (UChicago), Lisa Stevenson (McGill), William E. Connolly (Johns Hopkins), Naveeda Khan (Johns Hopkins)

Discussant, for a panel entitled "Animate Encounters: Responses to the Ontological Turn in Anthropology", Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Washington DC, December 2014.

"On the Killability of Animals in India: Immoral Thoughts for the Anthropology of Ethics" on a panel entitled 'Undeadening Death', Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Chicago, December 2013.

"Against the Dominance of History in the Study of South Asia: Thoughts for the Present from Mythologies and Political Theologies", on a panel entitled 'Other Times in South Asia', Annual Meeting of the South Asian Studies Association, Madison, Wisconsin, October 2013.

'The Quality of Life (A non-economist's view) on a panel entitled 'Anthropology and Life Itself', Executive Panel, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, November 2012. Co-organized panel with Robert Desjarlais and Clara Han

'The Vulnerability of Power' on a panel entitled 'Anthropology and Political Theologies' Invited Panel, Society for Cultural Anthropology, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, Montreal, November 2011. Co-organized panel with Stefania Pandolfo.

'*Mitra-Varuna: A Bipolar Concept of Sovereign Power*', on a panel entitled 'Law and the Politics of Religion', Lassnet (Law and Social Science Network) Conference, Pune (India), December 2010.

'*Philosophical Allegiances and Ethnographic Attentiveness*', on a panel entitled 'Deleuze and Anthropology', Invited Panel, Society for Cultural Anthropology, Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, New Orleans, November 2010.
Co-organized panel with Joao Biehl & Peter Locke

'*Extra-Marital Affairs in Rural Central India: A Chapter in the Political Theologies of Hinduism*', Conference on 'Religion and Sexuality: Politics/Affect', Program for the Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality, Johns Hopkins University, September 2009.

TEACHING

Religion and Culture (Undergraduate)
Spring 2015, Spring 2013, Department of Anthropology, Brown University

Anthropology of State Power and Powerlessness (Graduate Seminar)
Fall 2014, Spring 2012, Watson Institute/Department of Anthropology, Brown University.

History of Anthropology (Undergraduate)
Fall 2014, Fall 2012, Department of Anthropology, Brown University

The Politics of Religion and Secularism (Undergraduate)
Fall 2011, Watson Institute/Department of Anthropology, Brown University. Cross-listed with International Relations.

Religion and Moral Economy
Fall 2007, Program for the Study of Women, Gender & Sexuality, Johns Hopkins University. Cross-listed with Anthropology, Classics, German & Romance Languages.
Nominated by students for JHU Excellence in Teaching Award.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Member, Steering Committee, Brown India Initiative, Brown University, July 2014-
[Involves monthly committee meetings, co-running seminar series with Leela Gandhi, reviewing graduate and undergraduate funding applications for research on India, helping with the formation of a Center for the Study of Contemporary South Asia at Brown]

Associate Editor, *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*
[Involves reviewing 7-8 article manuscripts/year, putting together Special issues, helping create network of copy-left academic institutions across the world]

Reviewer for *Cultural Anthropology*, *Critique of Anthropology*, *American Anthropologist, Asian Ethnology, Political Theory, Journal of Cultural and Religious Theory, Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*

PhD Dissertation Committee Member (Department of Anthropology, Brown University):
Yana Stainova, Rama Srinivasan, Brian Horton, Andrea Wright, Anar Parikh, Lauren Deal, Jessica Katzenstein

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor (Brown University):
Ana Carolina Barry Laso, Theo-Peck Suzuki

External Examiner for MA/PhD Thesis: Temple University, Rhode Island School of Design