POULAMI ROYCHOWDHURY

McGill University

Department of Sociology

poulami.roychowdhury@mcgill.ca

# **Academic Appointments**

2023 - Associate Professor of Sociology and International and Public Affairs, The Watson Institute, Brown University

2022 - 2023 Senior Fellow, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University

2022 - 2023 Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, McGill University

2014 - 2022 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, McGill University

2013 - 2014 Pre-doctoral Fellow, Consortium for Faculty Diversity, Smith College

# **Education**

2014 Ph.D. Sociology, New York University

2010 M.A. Sociology, New York University

2003 B.A. Political Science and Economics (Honors), Swarthmore College

## Awards

*Book Awards*

* **American Sociological Association, Human Rights Section, Gordon Hirabayashi Book Award 2022**
* Eastern Sociological Association, Mirra Komarovsky Distinguished Book Award 2022
* American Sociological Association, Distinguished Scholarly Book Award, Honorable Mention 2022
* Law and Society Association, Herbert Jacob Book Prize, Honorable Mention 2022

*Article Awards*

* American Sociological Association, Political Sociology Section, Best Article Award 2022
* American Sociological Association, Sociology of Law Section, Best Article Award 2022
* American Sociological Association, Sociology of Human Rights Section, Best Article Award 2022
* American Sociological Association, Crime Law and Deviance Section, James F. Short Jr. Distinguished Article Award, Honorable Mention 2022
* American Sociological Association, Development Section, Best Faculty Article Award, Honorable Mention 2022
* Society for the Study of Social Problems, Arlene Kaplan Daniels Paper Award, Honorable Mention 2022

## Books & edited volumes

**Books**

2021. ***Capable Women, Incapable States: Negotiating Violence and Rights in India*.** New York: Oxford University Press.

*Awards*

* **American Sociological Association, Human Rights Section, Gordon Hirabayashi Book Award 2022**
* Eastern Sociological Association, Mirra Komarovsky Distinguished Book Award 2022
* American Sociological Association, Distinguished Scholarly Book Award, Honorable Mention 2022
* Law and Society Association, Herbert Jacob Book Prize, Honorable Mention 2022

*Author Meets Critic*

* Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, 2021
* Annual Conference on South Asia, 2021
* UC Berkeley South Asia Reading Group, 2021

*Book Reviews*

* Sarah Khan. 2023. *Politics & Gender*.
* Joya Misra. 2022. *American Journal of Sociology*, 127(6): 1935-1937.
* Tugce Ellialte-Kose. 2022. *Feminist Legal Studies*, 30: 376-370.

**Edited Volumes**

Forthcoming 2023. ***Pandemic Inequality: Citizens, States, and Covid 19 in India***, with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner (UVA). Under contract with Oxford University Press.

## articles

2021. “Incorporation: Governing Gendered Violence in a State of Disempowerment.” ***American Journal of Sociology***, 124(4): 852-888.

*Awards*

* American Sociological Association, Political Sociology Section, Best Article Award 2022
* American Sociological Association, Sociology of Law Section, Best Article Award 2022
* American Sociological Association, Sociology of Human Rights Section, Best Article Award 2022
* American Sociological Association, Crime Law and Deviance Section, James F. Short Jr. Distinguished Article Award, Honorable Mention 2022
* American Sociological Association, Development Section, Best Faculty Article Award, Honorable Mention 2022
* Society for the Study of Social Problems, Arlene Kaplan Daniels Paper Award, Honorable Mention 2022

2019. “Illicit Justice: Aspirational-Strategic Subjects and the Political Economy of Domestic Violence.” ***Law & Social Inquiry***, 44(1): 1-24.

2016. “Desire, Rights, Entitlements: Organizational Strategies in the War on Violence.” ***Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society****,* 41(4): 793-820.

2016. “Over the Law: Rape and the Seduction of Popular Politics.” ***Gender & Society***, 30(1): 80-94.

2015. “Victims to Saviors: Governmentality and the Re-gendering of Citizenship in India.” ***Gender & Society***, 29(6): 792-816.

2014. “Brothers and Others: Organizing Masculinity, Disorganizing Workers.” ***Social Problems***, 61(1): 22-41.

2013. “The Delhi Gang Rape: The Making of International Causes.” ***Feminist Studies***, 39(1): 282-292.

## book chapters & special issues

2022. “Between Women and the State: Rights Brokers and Capital Accumulation in West Bengal.” *Toward a* ***Sociology of South Asia*: *Rethinking Politics, Labor, and Culture****.* Eds. Smitha Radhakrishnan and Gowri Vijayakumar. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

**In Process**

Forthcoming 2024. “States and Social Movements: Sociological Lessons from India,” with Rina Agarwala (Johns Hopkins). ***Annual Review of Sociology*,** vol. 51.

Forthcoming 2023. “Methodological Impasses: Facing Interrogation and Silence While Gathering Data on Sexual Violence,” with Aditi Malik (Holy Cross). Special Issue on Feminist Methods. ***Political Science & Politics***.

**public sociology**

2022. “Why Police Sexual Harassment? Women’s Rights and the Politics of Hindu Nationalism.” *India in Transition*. Center for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania.

2022. “Governing Gendered Violence” [blog post]. *Law in Action*. American Sociological Association, Sociology of Law Section.

2022. “Capable Women, Incapable States” [podcast]. *The Great Gender Divide*.

2021. “Capable Women, Incapable States” [podcast]. *New Books Network*.

2021. “Absence in the Time of Covid 19” [blog post]. *Ethnographic Marginalia*.

2018. “McGill Profs Back Students Call for External Investigation” [radio broadcast]. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*.

2016. “A Call to Knowledge: Let’s Gather More Data Before Rushing to Action” [blog post]. *Gender & Society*.

2014. “Gender-based Violence: An Index of ‘Tradition’ or Social Change” [blog post]. *Gender & Society*.

2013. “Focus on Rape in India Ignores Global Problem” [online article]. *CNBC*.

## fellowships & Grants

**External**

2016 - 2023 Fonds de Recherche du Québec, Établissement de Nouveaux Professeurs-Chercheurs

2016 - 2021 Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada, Insight Development Grant

2013 - 2014 Consortium for Faculty Diversity, Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Smith College

2010 - 2011 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant

2010 - 2011 Fulbright-Nehru Dissertation Research Fellowship

2009 - 2010 American Institute for Indian Studies Junior Research Fellowship

2006 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, UC Berkeley

**Internal**

2020 - 2023 Social Sciences & Humanities Development Grant, McGill University

2015 - 2016 Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council Travel Grant, McGill University

2015 - 2017 Social Sciences & Humanities Development Grant, McGill University

2012 - 2013 Georgette Bennett Fellowship, New York University

2009 - 2010 Pre-doctoral Research Fellowship, New York University

2009 Collaborative Research Grant, with Professor Judith Stacey, New York University

2005 - 2010 Henry McCracken Fellowship, New York University

2001 - 2022 Swarthmore Foundation Grant, Swarthmore College

1999 - 2003 Presidential Scholarship, Swarthmore College

## Invited talks & Workshops

2024 “Why Police Sexual Harassment: Women’s Rights and Religious Nationalism”

Workshop: Political Violence and its Legacies Workshop, Yale University

2023 “Why Police Sexual Harassment?”

Workshop: Politics and Social Change Workshop, Harvard University

2023 “Capable Women, Incapable States”

Book Talk: Department of Sociology, Northwestern University

2023 “Irregular Rights: Abortion in the US and Domestic Violence in India”

Talk: Department of Sociology, London School of Economics

2023 “Encountering Rape: Sexual Violence, Deadly Force, and the Production of State Authority”

Workshop: Gender/Power/Theory Network, Princeton University

2022 “Capable Women, Incapable States”

Book Talk: Centre for Sustainable Development, Oxford University (virtual)

2022 “Capable Women, Incapable States”

Book Talk: Open Society University Network, Bard College Berlin (virtual)

2022 “Capable Women, Incapable States”

Book Talk: Feminist Theory and Practice Seminar, University of Toronto (virtual)

2021 “Capability and Incorporation: Pathways to Redress in the Aftermath of Violence”

Book Talk: Center for South Asia, Stanford University (virtual)

2021 “Capable Women, Incapable States”

Book Talk: South Asia Reading Group, University of California Berkeley (virtual)

2021 “Capable Women, Incapable States”

Book Talk: Gender/Power/Theory Network & NYU Sociology (virtual)

2021 “Capable Women, Incapable States”

Book Talk: IDInsight India (virtual)

2021  “Encountering Rape: Sexual Violence and Police Use of Deadly Force in India”

Workshop: Gender/Power/Theory Network (virtual)

2021 “Sexual Harassment and Enemies of the Nation in the era of Hindu Nationalism”

Workshop: Gender and Politics in South Asia, University of California, Berkeley (virtual)

2021 “Capable Women, Incapable States: Talking through Methods”

Book Talk: Brown University, Department of Sociology, Providence, RI

2020 “Capable Women, Incapable States”

Book Talk: Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, London School of Economics

2020 “Capabilities Without Rights”

Workshop: Department of Sociology, University of Southern California

2019 “Incorporation: Governing Violence in a State of Disempowerment”

Workshop: Political Violence and its Legacies Workshop, Yale University

2019 “Capable Citizens: How India Outsources Justice for Gendered Violence,” Workshop: Oxford University Press Annual Conclave, New Delhi

2019 “Claiming Rights While Distrusting the State: State Failure and Democratic Practice”

Talk: Challenges Facing the World in the 21st Century, ISID, McGill University

2019 “Protection vs Incorporation: Why State Capacity Matters for Legal Redress”

Workshop: Department of Sociology, University of Chicago

2018 “Outsourced! Solutions to Law and Order in Weak Institutional Contexts.”

Talk: Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University

2018 “A Sentimental Education: How NGOs Train Survivors to Want Rights”

Workshop: Department of Sociology, UMass Amherst

2018 “The Governmental Strategies of Incapacitated States”

Workshop: Department of Sociology, University of California Berkeley

2018 “Balancing Academia and Life”

Talk: Professional Development Seminar, McGill University

2017 “Violence and Incapacitated States”

Talk: Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University

2017 “Bureaucratic Manipulations: Outsourcing Criminal Justice to Women”

Workshop: Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University

2016 “Going Beyond Governance: New Research Directions on States and Citizens”

Workshop: Department of Sociology, Brown University

2016 “Moving the Criminal Justice System: When do Women Make Gains?”

Talk: Department of Sociology, University of Toronto

2016 “How Does State Capacity Influence Case Processing?”

Talk: Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University

2016 “Dealing with Difference: Sociological/Anthropological Perspectives on Field Work”

Talk: Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, McGill University

2015 “Over and Against the Law: The Politics of Sexual Violence in India”

Talk: School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University

2015 “Bureaucratic Incorporation: Violence and Neoliberal Government”

Workshop: Ethnography Workshop, New York University

2015 “The Extended Case Method in Practice: Reflections on Fieldwork”

Talk: Qualitative Research Methods Seminar, McGill University

2015 “Illicit Justice: Measurement Issues with Gendered Violence”

Talk: Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University

2014 “Dealing with Difference: Sociological/Anthropological Perspectives on Field Work”

Talk: Feminist Theories and Methods Seminar, McGill University

2013 “Power and Disempowerment: Exploring Cross-cultural Sources of Violence:”

Talk: CARE Gender Violence Panel, New York

2013 “Ambivalent Citizens and the Politics of Entitlement”

Talk: Department of Sociology, Smith College

2013 “The Legal Uses of Anger: Examining Recent Mobilizations against Sexual Violence”

Talk: Symposium on Gender Violence, Annual Conference on South Asia

2013 “Rape, Media, and Global Politics”

Talk: Visiting Speaker Series, Bard College

2012 “Illegality as Strategic Action in India’s Criminal Justice System”

Talk: Criminal Justice Colloquium, New York University School of Law

2012 “Abortion, Family Planning, and Women’s Health: What is Happening to the GOP?”

Talk: Graduate Student Conference, New York University

2012 “Has Breaking the Silence Gone Too Far? Feminism and Domestic Violence Reform”

Talk: Spring Conference, New York University

2011 “The Cultural Politics of Violence: Women’s Rights Campaigns in India”

Workshop: Center for Human Sciences, New Delhi

2011 “Entering and Exiting the Field: Reflections on Ethnographic Research”

Talk: Research Methods Seminar, New York University

## conference Presentations

2023 “Revisiting Feminist State Theory”

Social Science History Association Conference, Washington, DC

2022 “Why Police Sexual Harassment?”

American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA

2021 “Incorporation and Capability: Theorizing States and Gendered Citizenship”

American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL

2021 “Policing Gendered Violence: Lessons from the Indian Case”

American Political Science Association Conference, Seattle, Washington

2021 “The Rights Market: Why Brokers Help Survivors of Violence”

Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI

2021 “Author meets Critics Session: Capable Women, Incapable States”

Social Science History Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA

2020 “Capabilities as a Model of Rights Acquisition”

Social Science History Association Conference, Washington, DC (canceled due to Covid-19 pandemic)

2020 “Protecting Women, Affirming Hindu Hegemony: Sexual Harassment and the BJP”

American Sociological Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA

2020 “Incorporation: Governing Violence in a State of Disempowerment”

Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Denver, CO (canceled due to Covid-19 pandemic)

2019 “Aspirational-Strategic Women: Citizenship Practices in Stalled States”

American Sociological Association Annual Conference, New York, NY

2019 “States of Disempowerment: Governing Gendered Violence in Limited States”

Research Committee on Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy, Mannheim University, Germany

2019 “Incorporation: Law Enforcement Strategies for Governing Gendered Violence”

Contemporary South Asia Miniconference, Eastern Sociological Association Conference, Boston, MA

2018 “Beyond State Control: Theorizing Crime and Punishment in Limited States”

Social Science History Association Conference, Phoenix, AZ

2017 “Political Parties and Gendered Violence in India”

Social Science History Association Conference, Montreal, QC

2016 “Gender Violence and Incapacitated States: The Case of India”

Social Science History Association Conference, Chicago, IL

2016 “Between Rights Discourse and Practice: The Significance of Institutional Capacity”

American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA

2016 “Reconciliation or Resistance: The Social and Political Basis of Redress”

Law and Society Association, New Orleans, LA

2015 “Rethinking Regimes: Rape and Popular Politics in India”

American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL

2015 “Might Makes Rights: Sexual Violence and Citizen Ambivalence in India”

Law and Society Association, Seattle, WA

2015 “Co-optive Politics: Sexual Violence, Social Change, and Governance in India”

Sociology of Development Conference, Brown University, Providence, RI

2014 “Narrative Demands: The Institutionalized Incoherence of Legal Truths”

Legal Studies Pre-Conference, Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI

2014 “Victims to Saviors: Rights against Violence and the Re-gendering of Citizenship”

Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI

2013 “Narrative Disjunctures: Gender Violence and Conflicting Testimony”

American Sociological Association, New York, NY

2013 “Dangerous Desires, Wicked Women: Exclusionary Categories in Feminist Politics”

Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI

2012 “What is Domestic About Domestic Violence?”

Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI

2012 “Migrating Feminists: Mediation and Scale in Contemporary Rights Practice”

Feminist South Asia Pre-conference, Madison, WI

2012 “Might Makes Rights? Using Violence to End Violence Against Women”

Locating Solidarity, New School for Social Science Research, New York, NY

2012 “Narrating Abuse: Dilemmas of Feminist Legal Engagements”

Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University, New York, NY

2012 “Narrative Disjunctures: Feminism, Gender Violence, and the Law”

Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference, New York, NY

2011 “Women’s Bodies as Political Resources: Negotiating Violence against Women”

Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI

2009 “Brothers and Others: Organizing Masculinities, Disorganizing Workers”

American Sociological Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA

**professional Service**

**Editorial**

2023 – 2026 Editorial Board, *American Journal of Sociology*

2023 - 2026 Editorial Board, *Law & Social Inquiry*

2021 - 2024 Editorial Board, *Sociological Theory*

2021 - 2024 Editorial Board, *Gender & Society*

2018 - 2022 Associate Editor, *Social Politics*

**Council & Advisory**

2023 - 2026 Council Member, ASA Global and Transnational Sociology Section

2023 - 2025 Committee Member, ASA Sections Committee

2019 - 2022 Advisory Board, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University

2017 - 2020 Council Member, ASA Development Section

2017 - 2019 Organizer, Law & Society Colloquium, McGill University

2015 - 2017 Advisory Board, Institute for Gender Sexuality and Feminist Studies, McGill University

**Awards**

2022 - 2023 Committee Member, ASA Political Sociology, Article Awards

2022 - 2023 Committee Chair, ASA Sociology of Law Section, Article Awards

2021 - 2022 Committee Member, ASA Sex & Gender Section, Article Awards

2021 - 2022 Committee Member, ASA Theory Section, Article Awards

2020 – 2021 Committee Chair, ASA Development Section, Article Awards

2019 - 2020 Committee Chair, ASA Development Section, Article Awards

2016 - 2017 Committee Member, ASA Political Sociology Section, Article Awards

2015 - 2016 Committee Member, ASA Development Section, Article Awards

**University Service**

2021 - 2022 Department Contact to the Administration on Equity & Diversity, McGill University

2020 - 2022 Equity Committee, McGill University, Sociology

2019 - 2020 Events Committee, McGill University, Sociology

2018 - 2021 Graduate Admissions Committee, McGill University, Sociology

2018 - 2019 Visiting Speakers Committee, McGill University, Sociology

2016 - 2017 Graduate Committee, McGill University, Sociology

2015 - 2017 Website Committee, McGill University, Sociology

2014 - 2016 Faculty Recruitment Committee, McGill University, Sociology

2014 - 2017 Consortium for Qualitative Research Methods (CQRM), McGill University, Sociology

2014 - 2022 Development and Social Change Exam Committee, McGill University, Sociology

2014 - 2022 Sex and Gender Exam Committee, McGill University, Sociology

2014 - 2015 Visiting Speaker’s Committee, McGill University, Sociology

2014 - 2015 Spring Conference Organizer, McGill University, Sociology

2012 - 2013 Gender Workshop Organizer, New York University, Sociology

2007 - 2008 Graduate Student Association Representative, New York University, Sociology

**Workshop & Panel Organizer**

2018 Gender Power Theory Workshop (with Ann Orloff and Abigail Andrews), UC Berkeley

2018 Special Session: Retheorizing States (with Gowri Vijaykumar), American Sociological Association Conference

2018 Panel: Reconceptualizing Gendered States (with Ann Orloff), Social Science History Association Conference

2017 Panel: Movements and Counter-movements (with Ann Orloff), Social Science History Association Conference

2017 Regular Session: Culture and Narrative, American Sociological Association Conference

2016 Panel: States, Gender, Social Transformation, Social Science History Association Conference

2016 Panel: Redress and Recognition (with Michael Yarborough), Law and Society Conference

2015 Spring Conference, McGill University, Sociology

2015 Panel: Sovereigns Beyond the Law, Law and Society Conference

2014 Panel: The Age of Rights, Annual Conference on South Asia

2012 Panel: Legislating Conjugality, Annual Conference on South Asia

2012 Panel: Transnational Narratives, Eastern Sociological Society Conference

2011 Panel: Political Transformations in West Bengal, Annual Conference on South Asia

**Book Discussant**

2022 Paige Sweet, *The Politics of Surviving*, Social Science History Association Conference

2022 Zachary Levenson, *Delivery as Dispossession*, Knowing Africa Seminar, Carleton University

2022 Gowri Vijayakumar, *At Risk*, Annual Conference on South Asia

2021 Chaitanya Lakkimsetti, *Legalizing Sex*, Annual Conference on South Asia

**Journal Reviewer**

*American Ethnogologist Political and Legal Anthropology Review*

*American Journal of Sociology Qualitative Sociology*

*American Political Science Review Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*

*Contexts Social Problems*

*Gender & Society Social Politics*

*Journal of Law & Society Social Science Research*

*Mobilization Sociological Theory*

**Professional Memberships**

American Sociological Association

Law & Society Association

Sociologists for the Study of Women in Society

Social Science History Association

## TeachinG & supervision

**Teaching**

*Brown University*

States, Power, Politics

*McGill University*

Gender and the State

Gender and Development

Gender, Deviance, Social Control

Developing Societies

Qualitative Research Methods I

Qualitative Research Methods II

**Student Supervision**

*Brown University*

Dissertation Committee Member: Nabila Islam

*McGill University*

PhD Chair: Nandini Krishnan

MA Chair: Harmata Aboubakar; Aylish Cotter; Hilary Flowers; Nathaniel Lamont

MA Research Paper Reader: Natasha Comeau; Jessica Farivar

Dissertation Committee Member: Maike Isaac; Angela Kalyta; Candice Shaw

Oral Defense Committee Member: Cassandra Cotton

Undergraduate Research Supervisor: Natasha Comeau; Ariane Kent; Ximena Villanueva

**Research Assistants**

*McGill University*

PhD: Ina Filkobski, Maike Isaac; Nandini Krishnan

MA: Aylish Cotter; Nathaniel Lamont

Undergraduate: Ralph Haddad