

**Academic Profile:** I am an interdisciplinary qualitative researcher trained in Human Geography, Social Anthropology, Sociology and History. My research addresses the broad themes of political ecology, postcolonial urbanism, climate change adaptation and the politics of infrastructure development with a focus on South Asia. My methodological strengths include ethnography, oral histories, narrative analysis, critical discourse analysis, archival research and participatory fieldwork methods. I'm well versed in project management and public speaking, while also possessing a working knowledge of quantitative research methods.

**Current Employment:** Doctoral Researcher in Human Geography and Urban Studies at the Department of Geography and Environment of The London School of Economics and Political Science.

**Previous Employment:**

August 2019 – January 2022

- Cultural Heritage Consultant, Immersive Trails, Kolkata

February 2018 – May 2018

- Film Archivist, Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archive, Budapest

June 2015 - November 2016

- Oral History Apprentice, The 1947 Partition Archive, Delhi and Kolkata

**Education**

- MA Sociology and Social Anthropology, Central European University, Budapest (2019)
- MA Sociology, Ambedkar University Delhi (2016)
- BA History (Hons), Hindu College, University of Delhi (2014)

**Publications**

*Publications in Progress*

- Sircar, S. "The Politics of Celebration: Interrogating the Secular Heritage of the 'Phool Waalon Ki Sair' Festival in Delhi", forthcoming as a free - standing article in the double - blind, peer reviewed *South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal (SAMAJ)*.

*Research Blogs*

- Sircar, S. (2020) "Preserving the Taj: A Tale of Colonialism, Conservation and Conquest", <https://www.immersivetrails.com/post/tajcommittee1>
- Sircar, S. (2020) "The Squatter of the Taj: A British Officer pretends to be the Mughal Emperor", <https://www.immersivetrails.com/post/tajcommittee2>
- Sircar, S. (2020) "Demolishing the Taj: Ending the Saga of the Taj Committee", <https://www.immersivetrails.com/post/tajcommittee3>

## Research Experience

### Graduate

- Successfully defended MA thesis titled **The Politics of Celebration: Power, Agency, and Placemaking in a Festival in Delhi** at the Central European University. It received a grade of A -
- Conducted **archival research** at the National Archives of India and the Delhi State Archives, along with **ethnographic fieldwork** of 6 months in Mehrauli, Delhi for the aforementioned thesis.
- Co - authored an academic report titled **On Memory, Activism and Solidarity: An Analysis of How Activists Remember the 2015 Refugee ‘Crisis’ in Budapest** based on 15 oral history interviews (Ethnographic Methods Course).
- Completed the elective courses required for the **specialization in Global and Urban Studies** offered by the CEU Sociology and Social Anthropology Department.
- Successfully defended MA thesis titled **Screening Authority, Negotiating Modernity: The Politics of *Shaktimaan*, India’s First Superhero** at the Ambedkar University Delhi. It received a grade of A -
- Undertook a qualitative study of the living conditions of workers from the Sansi caste operating in the **informal economy** of the New Aruna Nagar Colony in Delhi (Sociology of India Course).
- Carried out a qualitative study of the social and economic factors influencing **urban migration of workers** from Bihar who serve as rickshaw drivers in Delhi (Social Research Course).

### Professional

- Published 3 research blogs as a part of the project called **Heritage Policy as Colonial Legacy**. It focused on exploring the history of heritage legislation in India during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It involved archival research at the **Asiatic Society**, the **National Archives of India**, and the **West Bengal State Archives**.
- Conducted a **Family History Project** between January and March 2020 for the *The Guardian* journalist Nick Davies and *BBC Docs* journalist Manisha Ganguly as a part of the brand *Tracing Legacies*.
- Prepared a policy recommendation report titled **Relics of a Forgotten Past: Conserving the Dunlop Industrial Estate in Sahaganj**. It was based on focus group discussions, qualitative interviews and community mapping among former workers of the Dunlop Factory in Sahaganj, West Bengal, India. It was submitted to the the **Industrial Heritage as a Source of Social Empowerment and Economic Revitalization** summer school held in July 2020 at the Central European University.
- Recorded oral history interviews of 62 individuals in Delhi and Kolkata for **The 1947 Partition Archive** between June 2015 and May 2016, with the average length of the interviews being 120 minutes.
- Edited and researched the data and conclusions presented in Chapter II (International Framework) and Chapter IV (Sexual Harassment at Workplace: A Case of Delhi/NCR) of the report titled **Gender Dimensions at Work and Employment: A Case of Sexual Harassment** published by the **V. V. Giri National Labour Institute** in Delhi in 2016. Read more here - <https://vvgnli.gov.in/sites/default/files/2016-115.pdf>
- Conducted research on **social entrepreneurship** in India and updated the organizational database of **Start Up!** It is an angel investor, incubator and consultant based in Delhi.

## Administrative Roles and Duties

- Between June and August 2021, participated in the selection committee of the **Research Residency Grant** offered by **The 1947 Partition Archive** and **Tata Trusts** to Indian graduate students for conducting new research in the field of Partition Studies.
- Assisted with the **research and implementation** of the Dalhousie Square Walk, Calcutta in World War II Walk, Murder and Mayhem: 19<sup>th</sup> Century True Crime Walk, Chowringhee and Beyond: An Architecture Trail, India's Oldest Chinatown Walk, and the Bengal Rising Walk: Renaissance and Independence organized by **Immersive Trails**.
- Helped launch the **Ghats of Kolkata** project in April 2021 in collaboration with the **Living Waters Museum**. It involved participant observation of the everyday water practices along the river Hooghly in Kolkata.
- Hosted the inaugural seminar of the research project called **Digital Urbanism and Diasporas: Walking the Cultural Heritage of Calcutta's Riverfront** at the Ballygunge Science College, University of Calcutta in January 2020. It was jointly funded by the **Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)** of the United Kingdom and the **Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)**.
- Collaborated with the **Going to School Fund** and the **Sarmaya Arts Foundation** on issues related to heritage outreach, promotion and curation.
- Launched the **Chinatown Memory Project** in June 2021 to record oral history interviews of the Indian Chinese community residing in Kolkata.
- Peer interviewed candidates shortlisted for subsequent rounds of the **Oral History Apprenticeship** between October 2015 and June 2016.
- Helped set up and briefly managed the **South Asia regional office** of The 1947 Partition Archive in Delhi between May and November 2016.
- Conducted public outreach and maintained track of applications received for the Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award, 2015, organized by the **Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship** and the **Jubilant Bhartia Foundation**, while interning at Start Up!
- Assisted with the logistical implementation of the Girl Child Education and Great Delhi Run Campaigns hosted by **Child Rights and You (CRY)** in Delhi in 2012.

## Awards and Grants

- Recipient of the full scholarship called the **LSE PhD Studentship** for the four years of the doctoral programme.
- Recipient of the **Central European University Master's Scholarship** for the two years MA programme in Sociology and Social Anthropology.
- Recipient of the **Academic Merit Scholarship** in all the four semesters of the MA programme in Sociology at Ambedkar University Delhi.
- **Golden Jubilee Scholarship** (2011) from the Reserve Bank of India for excellent academic performance in the 12<sup>th</sup> standard.
- First Runner Up Award at the **Frank Anthony Memorial National Debate (2010)** hosted by the Council for Indian School Certificate Examinations.
- Golden Jubilee Scholarship (2009) from the **Reserve Bank of India** for excellent academic performance in the 10<sup>th</sup> standard.
- **Winner** of the Brainstorm Quiz (2009) hosted by **The Statesman**.
- First Runner Up Award at the **Perceptum Essay Competition (2008)** hosted by the M. P. Birla Group and the South Point School.

## Conference Participation

- "Sharing the Divine, Curing the Profane: Worshipping the Goddess of Cholera in Kolkata" to be presented at the **26<sup>th</sup> European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS), Vienna**,

- 29 July - 1 August 2020 (cancelled due to the Covid - 19 pandemic).
- “Performing the Divine: Cultural Heritage and the Construction of Religious Identities in a Festival in Delhi” presented at the **25<sup>th</sup> European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS), Paris, 24 - 27 July 2018.**

### **Public Engagements**

- Hosted the **Global Hackathon Virtual Cultural Project** in February and March 2021 in collaboration with the University of Exeter. Undergraduate students from the **University of Exeter, Ashoka University, Presidency University and Banaras Hindu University** were trained in creating virtual cultural experiences based on their research on urban history and heritage conservation. Read more here - <https://www.immersivetrails.com/global-hackathon-2021>
- Organized the online summer school called **Heritage Outreach in the Time of Covid - 19: A Virtual Global Leaders Programme** for the students of the University of Exeter in July 2020.
- Conducted online workshops called **Narratives of Memory: An Introduction to Oral History** and **Knowing the ‘Other’: An Introduction to Ethnography** between May and September 2020.
- Worked as a film archivist at the **Blinken Open Society Archive** and catalogued the 43 documentary films that had been submitted to the **14<sup>th</sup> Verzio Film Festival** held in Budapest between 14 and 19 November 2017.
- Participated as a panelist in a public outreach programme named **Voices of Partition** at the **India Habitat Centre** in Delhi in April 2016, along with **Urvashi Butalia** (founder of Zubaan Books and Kali for Women), **Ajeet Cour** (Sahitya Akademi Award winning Punjabi novelist), and **Tarlochan Singh** (member of Rajya Sabha, upper house of the Indian parliament).
- Worked as a teacher of English and History for high school students in the low-income neighbourhood of Pratap Nagar in Delhi in 2012, as a part of the Hindu College branch of the **National Service Scheme (NSS).**

### **Software Skills**

- **Koha:** archiving and cataloguing
- **Canva:** graphic design
- **Microsoft Sway:** graphic design
- **Prezi:** graphic design
- **Skysoft Media Converter:** audio and video editing
- **R:** data visualization and quantitative analysis
- **ClickUp:** project management and data visualization

### **Language Skills**

<b>Language</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Writing</b>	<b>Speaking</b>
English	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
Bangla	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
Hindi	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
Urdu	Intermediate	Intermediate	Intermediate