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Head of Department
Department of History
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Education

BA (Hons, 1st class, LaT) 20.03.1998
PhD (LaT) 10.10.2003
Grad Dip (Higher Education, Teaching and Learning, UNSW) 04.05.2006

Academic Appointments

2020-	Chair of History, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg
2019	Professor, South Asian and World History, UNSW
2011	Associate Professor, South Asian and World History, UNSW
2010-	Editor, <i>South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies</i>
2008	Senior Lecturer, South Asian and World History, UNSW
2003	Lecturer, South Asian and World History, UNSW
2001	Research Officer, Maximising Australia's Asian Knowledge
1998	Tutor, Department of Politics, La Trobe University

Fellowships

2022	Honorary Professor, Humanities and Languages, UNSW
2019	Fellow, National Library of Australia
2018	Inducted into the Australian Academy of Humanities
2015-19	Fellow, Australia India Institute, University of Melbourne
2009-10	Professorial Research Fellow, United Arab Emirates University
2004	Australian Academy of the Humanities Fieldwork Fellowship

Awards and Scholarships

- 2021 Highly Commended, Victorian Premier's Literary Awards
- 2019 Global Scholarly Impact Award, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences UNSW
- 2018 Book Subvention, Australian Academy of Humanities
- 2016 Honourable Mention, Best Monograph, Dean's Research Awards UNSW
- 2009 Honourable Mention, *The Kentish Anand Coomaraswamy Book Prize* (AAS)
- 2003 ASSA Presidents' Prize
- 2007 Association of Asian Studies (AAS) First Book Subvention
- 2005 Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Post-Doctoral Writing Award
- 1998 La Trobe University Postgraduate Scholarship
- 1998 La Trobe Politics Department Postgraduate Award

Research Grants

Australian Research Council, Future Fellowship Grant, 'A sonic approach to Interwar India', 2021, \$1,011,852. (Ineligible to accept, due to appointment at the University of Heidelberg)

Australian Research Council (ARC), Discovery Grant, 'Imagining India in White Australia: Intercolonial relations and the empire: 1901-1950', (2012-15) \$150, 000.

Australia India Institute Grant, 'People to People: Australia-India Relationships in the Twentieth Century', 2011, \$20 000.

Editorial Boards

Editor, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* (2010-2023)

Editorial Board, Routledge's *Media, Culture and Social Change in Asia*

Manuscript reviews for:

Cambridge University Press, Stanford University Press, Princeton University Press, University of California Press, Oxford University Press, and a number of academic journals.

Full List of Publications

Monographs

Kama Maclean, *British India, White Australia: British India, White Australia: Overseas Indians, Intercolonial Relations and the Empire*, Sydney: UNSW Press, 2020.

A Revolutionary History of Interwar India: Violence, Image, Voice and Text, New York: Oxford University Press/London: Hurst & Co., 2015; New Delhi: Penguin, 2016.

Pilgrimage and Power: the Kumbh Mela in Allahabad, 1765-2001. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Edited Collections

Simona Sawhney and Kama Maclean (eds), *Yashpal: Gender and Revolutionary Thought*, Delhi: OrientBlackswan, 2024.

Kama Maclean and J. Daniel Elam (eds), *Revolutionary Lives in South Asia: Acts and Afterlives of Anticolonial Political Action*, London: Routledge, 2014.

Kama Maclean, J. Daniel Elam and Chris Moffat (eds), *Writing Revolution in South Asia: History, Practice, Politics*, London: Routledge, 2017.

Refereed Journal Articles

'Returning Insurgency to the Archive: the Dissemination of the "Philosophy of the Bomb"', *History Workshop Journal*, vol. 89, Spring 2020.

'Comrade Ryan, International Trade Unionism and White Australia: Global Communism, Trade Unionism and Empire in Interwar India', *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, vol. 47, no. 6, 2019, pp. 1125-1152.

'A Colonial in the Colonies: Casey, Gandhi, and the Endgame of Empire', *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, Vol. 19, Issue 3, 2018.

'The Fundamental Rights Resolution: Nationalism, Internationalism and Cosmopolitanism in an Interwar Moment', *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, 37, 1, 2017, pp. 213-219.

'Revolution and Revelation, or, When is History too Soon?', in J. Daniel Elam, Kama Maclean and Chris Moffatt (eds), *South Asia*, 2016, 39, 3, pp. 678-694.

'Examinations, Access, and Inequity within the Empire: Britain, Australia and India, 1890-1910', *Postcolonial Studies*, 18, 2, 2015, pp. 115-132.

'Imagining the Nationalist Movement: Revolutionary Metaphors in Imagery of the Freedom Struggle', *Journal of Material Culture*, 19, 1, 2014, pp. 7-34.

'Who is a Revolutionary?', *Postcolonial Studies*, 16, 2, 2013, pp. 113-123 (with J. Daniel Elam).

'What Durga Bhabhi Did Next: or, Was there a Gendered Agenda in Revolutionary Circles?' *South Asian History and Culture*, 4, 2, 2013, pp. 176-195.

'The History of a Legend: Accounting for Popular Histories of Revolutionary Nationalism', *Modern Asian Studies*, 46, 6, 2012, pp. 1540-1571.

'The Portrait's Journey: The Image, Social Communication and Martyr-Making in India', *Journal of Asian Studies*, 70, 4, 2011, pp. 1051-1082.

'Seeing, Being Seen, and Not Being Seen: Pilgrimage, Tourism and Layers of Looking at the Kumbh Mela', *Cross Currents*, 59, 3, 2009, pp. 319-341.

'Making the Colonial State Work for You: the Modern Beginnings of the Ancient Kumbh Mela', *Journal of Asian Studies*, 62, 3, 2003, pp. 873-906.

'Conflicting Spaces: The Fort of Allahabad and the Kumbh Mela, 1801-1860', *South Asia*, XXIV, 2, 2001, pp. 135-159.

'Embracing the Untouchables: The BJP and Scheduled Caste Votes', *Asian Studies Review*, 23, 4, 1999, pp. 488-509.

Refereed Book Chapters

'Violence, Non-Violence, the State and the Nation: India, 1858-1958', in Louise Edwards, Nigel Penn, and Jay Winter (eds), *The Cambridge History of Violence IV: The Modern World*, Cambridge University Press, 2020. With Benjamin Zachariah.

'Naming Charlie: Inscribing British Indian Identities in White Australia, 1901-1940', in Sekhar Bandyopadhyay and Jane Buckingham (eds), *Indians in the Antipodes: Networks of Empire, Boundaries of Race*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2018, pp. 94-128.

'On the Art of Panicking Quietly: British Expatriate Responses to "Terrorist Outrages" in India, 1912-33, in Harald Fischer-Tiné (ed), *Empires on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown: Crisis, Panic and Anxiety in the Age of Imperialism, 1860-1940*, London: Palgrave, 2016, pp. 135-167.

'India in Australia: A recent history of a very long engagement', in Rick Hosking and Amit Sarwal (eds), *Wanderings in India: Australian Perceptions*, Monash Asia Institute Press, 2012, pp. 20-35.

Situating the Role of Religion in the Rebellion: the Case of the Prayagwals of Allahabad', in Crispin Bates (ed), *Anticipations and Experiences in the Locality, Mutiny at the Margins New Perspectives on the Indian Uprising of 1857*, Vol. 1, Delhi: Sage, 2013, pp. 149-166.

'Hybrid nationalist or Hindu nationalist? The life of Madan Mohan Malaviya', Kate Brittlebank (ed), *Tall Tales and True: India, historiography and British Imperial Imaginings*, Melbourne: Monash Asia Institute, 2008, pp. 107-142.

Essays

'The Embodiment of Quicksilver: Picturing Chandrashekhar Azad',

<http://www.tasveergharindia.net/essay/quicksilver-chandra-azad.html>

'Is a Revolutionary Turn Tautological?' in 'New Histories of political violence and revolutionary terrorism in modern South Asia, *South Asian History and Culture*, published online August 15, 2019.

Reviews

Review of *Gentlemanly Terrorists: Political Violence and the Colonial State in India, 1919-1947*. By Durba Ghosh (New York, Cambridge University Press, 2017), for the *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*.

Review of *Between Love and Freedom: the Revolutionary in the Hindi Novel* by Nikhil Govind, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, Vol. 38, No. 1, 2015, pp. 135-7.

Review Essay, 'Handbooks of Hinduism', *Asian Studies Review*, Vol. 30, No. 3, 2006, pp. 322-23.

Review of *Clothing Matters: Dress and Identity in India*, by Emma Tarlo, *Asian Studies Review*, Vol. 23, No. 1, 1999, pp. 126-7.

Public Engagement

Press Interviews

'A Fresh Perspective', [The Statesman](#), April 7, 2016.

'Revolutionary Road', [First Post](#), April 3, 2016.

'Theory of Revolution', [Asian Age](#), April 10, 2016.

'History Textbooks Craft the History Narratives of Future Students', *DNA India*, January 26, 2017.

Radio/Podcast/Video Interviews

New Books Network, May 28, 2021, *A Revolutionary History of Interwar India*, interviewed by Samee Siddiqui, [link](#).

New Books Network, April 2, 2021, *British India, White Australia*, interviewed by Bede Haines, [link](#).

Discussion with Sukhraj Singh about Revolutionary Histories, Sikh Archive, [Link](#).

Bookshelf, *British India, White Australia*. Institute of South Asian Studies, Singapore, hosted by Robin Jeffrey, April 17, 2020. [Link](#)

Booktalk with Geraldine Doogue, *British India, White Australia*, for Saturday Extra, April 16, 2020. [Link](#).

Booktalk with Peter Goers, *British India, White Australia*, ABC Radio Adelaide, March 31, 2020.

Interview with Kumud Merani, SBS Hindi Radio, Jan 26, 2020. [Link](#).

Australia and the Bengal Famine, SBS Hindi Program, October 18, 2019. [Link](#)

[Richard Casey and the Bengal Famine](#), Late Night Live, ABC Radio National, September 3, 2019.

[India Before and After the British Raj](#), November 30, 2017. ABC radio, in conversation with Philip Clark.

['A Salute to Indian Cameleers in Australia'](#), SBS Radio interview with Amit Sarwal, February 5, 2016.

['Indian Hawkers in Australia during the 1890s'](#), SBS Radio interview with Kumud Merani, June 17, 2014.

The [Goodlife](#) and The Greatest of Hindu Pilgrimages, ABC Radio interview with Noel Debien, March 3, 2013.

'Bombay Bar Girls', on [Life Matters](#), ABC Radio, June 13, 2011.

Literary Festivals

In Conversation at the Sydney Writers Festival with Sonia Falconio, subsequently on [Life Matters](#), June 13, 2011.

'Lest we Forget: Rescuing Lost Histories', Apeejay Kolkata Literary Festival, 17 January, 2017.

'Lahore, 1929: the centre of the Freedom Movement', Afkar-e-Taza, Lahore Thinkfest, January 12, 2019.

Select Workshops and Seminars

2021 Satadru Sen Memorial Lecture, October 2. [On Zoom](#).

'Coercive Institutions and the Crisis of Collaboration in late Colonial India', 24 February. University of Exeter. Via Zoom.

'Rituals of Leadership and the Making of a Dynasty', ETHZ-UZH Research Colloquium on Extra-European and Global History, September 30.

2020 'A Sonic Approach to Anticolonialism in South Asia', Winter Colloquium, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, November 11. Available [here](#).

2019 'The Embodiment of Quicksilver: Picturing Chandrashekhar Azad'

'Manly Matters: Representations of Maleness in South Asian Visual Culture', at Duke University May 1-3. Available [here](#). Fully funded.

2018 'Tracing the "Steel-Frame of the Violence Movement": the Production and Dissemination of the "Philosophy of the Bomb", Insurgency in the Archives: the Politics and Aesthetics of Sedition in Colonial South Asia Workshop, UCL, January 12-13, 2018.

2017 'When Casey met Gandhi', SouthAsia@UNSW Encounters Workshop, UNSW, July 14, 2017.

'Violence and the Visual', Seminar at University of Leipzig, June 13, 2017. Invited/Fully funded.

- 'Gandhi's Australian Interlocutor: Governor Casey of Bengal and the Endgame of Empire', European Association for Studies of Australia Conference, University of Liege, January 26-8, 2017. Fully funded.
- 2016 'Communal Violence and Anticolonial Violence: Exploring the Dialectic', workshop on violence at the University of Exeter, 14 June 2016. Invited/Fully funded.
- 'Violence, Non-Violence, the State and the Nation', Cambridge History of Violence in the 20th Century Workshop, University of Notre Dame, Rome, 20-22 June, 2016. Fully funded.
- Co-convenor of a pre-conference [workshop](#) at the Annual South Asia conference at the University of Wisconsin, Madison in October 2016, on the de-mythification of nationalist biographies.
- 2015 'Chasing Comrade Ryan: On (not) being Communist in 1929', Moving Ideas Symposium, UNSW, February 13, 2015; New Zealand Asian Studies Conference, Christchurch, November 29-30, 2015.
- Convenor, Moving Ideas Symposium, February 13, 2015.
- 'When was Nehru Nehruvian?', Pacific and Asian History School of Culture, History and Language, ANU, February 18, 2015.
- 'Non-violence, Anti-colonial Violence, and Communal Violence: Exploring the Dialectic', St Antony's College, Oxford, June 2, 2015. Invited & Fully funded.
- 'The Value of South Asia Studies: Looking Up from Down Under', Round Table, ANU, 24 March 2015. Partly funded.
- 'Gandhi as a Joke', at Gandhi: A workshop on his enduring influence, ANU, 18 March 2015. Partly funded.
- 'Naming Charlie: Inscribing British Indian Identities in White Australia, 1901-1940, Indian Migration to the Pacific and Indian Ocean States, Workshop held at University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. April 15, 2015. Invited & Fully funded.
- 2014 'Snapshots as Archive: Analysing photography of Indian Hawkers in White Australia' at 'Fast History, Slow Reading. He Pukapuka Tataku Tenei', Symposium, 16 May 2014, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Fully funded.

2013 'The Congress and the Revolutionaries: Political Pressure and the 1929 Purna Swaraj Resolution', University of Chicago, Seminar, May 16, 2013. Invited & Fully funded.

'Paradoxical Panics: the Innocence and Culpability of Bhagat Singh', Northwestern University, Chicago. Seminar, May 14, 2013. Invited & Fully funded.

'Motilal Nehru and the Revolutionaries: A Clandestine History', Seminar, Friday March 15, 2013. University of Adelaide. Invited & Fully funded.

2012 'Empires on the verge of a nervous breakdown: Panic in imperial settings, 1860-1940', Georg-August-Universität, Göttingen, Germany 9-10 July 2012. Invited & Fully funded.

Public Lectures

2023 'What Can the Subaltern Hear?', German Historical Institute London, February 21.

2021 Satadru Sen Memorial Lecture, 'Beyond Failure: Implications of Revolutionary Politics in Interwar India', October 2, University of Witwatersrand (via [zoom](#)).

Karwaan Heritage Special Lecture, November 24, on [youtube](#).

2019 R.G Casey, the Bengal Famine and Australia India Relations, National Library of Australia, August 29. Available to view [here](#).

2018 'When Casey met Gandhi: The Governor, the Mahatma, and the Endgame of Empire', Annual South Asia Research Institute Public Lecture, ANU, February 15, 2018.

2011 'Kumbh Mela: the Ephemeral City', at City Images, A Symposium on Indian Cities, The Asian Arts Society of Australia, August 20.

2010 'Tigers and the Raj', Art Gallery of NSW, Symposium for *Indian Empire: Multiple Realities*, September 12.

2009 'The Political Economy of Dress', Art Gallery of NSW, August 8.

2007 'Mughal India: Clash of Civilizations?', Ages of Islam lecture series for the Art Gallery Society, Art Gallery of NSW, June 29.