

NABAPARNA GHOSH

Associate Professor, History & Society
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor, Babson College, 2022-Present
Assistant Professor, Babson College, 2017-2022
Fellow of Urban Studies, Northeastern University, 2017 (Summer)
Postdoctoral Fellow of History, The Cooper Union, N.Y., 2016-2017
Lecturer of History, University of Virginia, 2015-2016

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Princeton University, 2010- 2015
M.A., Princeton University, 2008-2010
M.A., Presidency College, 2005-2007
B.A. (Hons.), Presidency College, 2002-2005

FIELD SPECIALITIES

South Asian History, Environmental History, Urban History, Global Histories, River and Delta Studies.

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs:

A Hygienic City-Nation: Space, Community, and Everyday Life in Colonial Calcutta. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020.

In Progress: *Amphibious Empire: Caste, Labor, and Environmental Rule in Colonial South Asia*.

Refereed Journal Articles:

“Between Land and Water: A Caste History of Land Reclamation in the Sundarbans Delta.”
Environmental History (Accepted, In press. 2026).

“Rivers of Resistance: Caste, Colonialism, and River-Making in the Nineteenth-Century Sundarbans.” *Environment, Space, Place* 17, no. 1 (2025): 108-135.

“Water as the ‘Other’: Crafting Land–Water Binary in Colonial South Asia.” *Environment and History* 30, no. 4 (2024): 530–550.

“Inheriting Caste: The Judicial Construction of Bengali Kayastha Caste Identity in Inheritance Settlements in Colonial Calcutta.” *South Asian History and Culture* 14, no. 3 (2023): 336–55.

“Modern Designs: History and Memory in Le Corbusier's Chandigarh,” *Journal of Architecture and Urbanism* 40, no. 3 (2016): 220–228.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Amphibious Worlds: Caste, Labor, and the Making of Environmental Knowledge in the Bengal Delta,” *American Society for Environmental History*, Richmond (upcoming, March 2027)

Selected, Work in Progress: “Making Land: Caste, Labor, and Reclamation in the Colonial Sundarbans,” *Fourth Annual Voices in Labor Histories Speaker Series*, Vancouver (upcoming, February 2027)

“Mapping the Seepsah: A Caste History of River Management in the Sundarbans.” *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, Chicago (2026)

“The Political Significance of Coasts in South Asia: Land and Water in the Sundarbans.” *Annual Conference on South Asia*, Madison, WI (2025)

“Modernity in South Asian Cities.” *Urban History Conference*, Leicester (2023). Invited Talk

“Caste, Property, and an Entangled History of colonial capitalism,” *International Planning History Society*, Moscow (2020)

“Colonial river making in Sundarban’s tidal estuaries.” *Annual Conference on South Asia*, Madison, WI (2022)

“The idea of the *Para*: Space and Community in colonial cities.” *Cities and Sustainability*, Gottingen (2019) Invited Talk

“The global versus local in making space in colonial Calcutta.” *The Pursuit of Global Urban History Workshop*, Leicester (2019)

“Everyday Space and Neighborhoods in South Asia.” *Urban Affairs Association Annual Conference*, Los Angeles (2019)

“Disciplining the Body in colonial Calcutta,” *The Body in colonial India workshop*. Goldsmiths, University of London, London. (July 2018) Invited Presentation at the workshop

“Neighborhoods of Calcutta: Everyday Life and Urbanization as a bodily discipline,” *Annual Conference on South Asia*, Madison, WI (2015)

“Unequal Settlements: Bustees and Paras in Calcutta,” *Annual Conference on South Asia*. Madison, WI (2017)

“Black Town Calcutta: Making and Remaking Colonial Space,” *Appropriating imperial Spaces* workshop. Aix Marseille University, France. (2017)

“City Planning and Self,” *Association of Asian Studies*, Philadelphia. (2016)

HONORS THESIS ADVISING

Aanshi Choksi, *Redefined, Not Refined: The Shifting Symbolic Weight of Jewelry Across India’s Political Histories* (Ongoing)

Akshat Malu, *Towards Integrated Sustainability in India: A Multifaceted Approach Informed by Culture* (2024)

Dhruv Mukhija, *Education in India: Untangling the public education system by exploring part-privatization of education to achieve collective public welfare*. (2020)

Khanh-Lin, *Densely Populated Cities: Advancing Societal Wellbeing by Means of New High-Rise Compact Living Spaces*. (2019)

Swapnika Yarlagadda, *The Luxury Market in India: The Key to Success* (2018)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

International Advisory Board Member Urban History Journal (2025 - Present)

Editorial Review Board Member Global Nineteenth-Century Studies (2020 - 2023)

Served as Manuscript Reviewer for Cambridge University Press, Chicago University Press, Orient BlackSwan India.

SERVICE FOR BABSON COLLEGE

Senator, History & Society Division, 2023-2025

Board Member, Curriculum Committee, University Undergraduate Academic Policy Committee, 2025- Present

Search Committee Member, History and Society, 2023 Fall.

Chair, Dean of Faculty Excellence in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, 2022-2023

Board Member, Teaching Innovation Faculty Grant Committee, 2018-2021

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

American Historical Association

Global Urban History Project

American Society for Environmental History

European Society for Environmental History

Association for Asian studies

REFERENCES

Dr. Gyan Prakash

Dayton-Stockton Professor of History

Princeton University

prakash@princeton.edu

Dr. Bhavani Raman

Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Graduate Program

University of Toronto

bhavani.raman@utoronto.ca

Dr. Partha Chatterjee

Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies

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