

Kris K. Manjapra

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ACADEMIC POSITION

TUFTS UNIVERSITY

Assistant Professor in History
Modern South Asia, Modern Germany
Research interest in transnational approaches and intellectual history

EDUCATION

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Cambridge, MA

PhD, June 2007, Department of History
Fields of specialization: Modern Intellectual History, Modern South Asia, Modern Germany 1789-Present, World History

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Cambridge, MA

AM, 2003, Department of History
Fields of specialty: Modern South Asia and Modern Germany.
Emphasis on Intellectual History, Social Theory, Postcolonial Theory, Hermeneutics.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Cambridge, MA

AB, *magna cum laude* with highest honors, 2001, Concentration: German Intellectual History.

DISSERTATION

"The Mirrored World: Cosmopolitan Encounter between Indian Anti-Colonial Intellectuals and German Radicals, 1905-1939"
Advisors: David Blackbourn, Sugata Bose and Peter Gordon

This study brings to light an early twentieth-century cosmopolitan zone of intellectual and social interaction across the colonial divide, using a wide range of sources including printed treatises of political philosophy, surveillance reports, memoirs, newspaper and magazine articles, films and literary works. I focus attention on the cultural contact zone of 1920s Berlin. A detailed sociological study of Berlin's diasporic Indian community sets the stage for my investigation into the braided itineraries of Germans and Indians in the communist world

of the revolutionary Left, on one hand, and in conservative revolutionary circles of the radical Right, on the other. The chorus of thinkers studied includes Benoy Kumar Sarkar, Manabendranath Roy, Bhupendranath Datta, August Thalheimer, Karl Haushofer and Werner Sombart, among others. Acts of intellectual mirroring engendered empathy between Indian anticolonial thinkers and German radicals. Yet transnational communication and political alliance belied systemic misunderstandings, as well as power inequalities. I argue that cosmopolitanism in the interwar years produced warped spaces for global intellectual exchange, with liberal and illiberal consequences.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

UCLA Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities, 2007-2009
 Harvard Center for European Studies in Berlin, Fellow, 2006-07
 Harvard University Graduate Society Dissertation Writing Fellowship, 2005-06
 Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst (DAAD) Research Fellowship, 2004-05
 Krupp Foundation Research Fellowship, 2004-05
 South Asia Institute, Harvard University, Research Grant, 2004
 German Historical Institute Summer Seminar Fellowship, 2003
 American Institute for Indian Studies Summer Language Fellowship, 2002
 Thomas Hoopes Prize for outstanding senior thesis, 2001
 History Department highest GPA award for graduating seniors, 2001

PROJECTS

Bengal Oral History Project to create a digital audio archive of life history interviews with Calcutta and Dhaka intellectuals born before Independence. (Co-organized with Neilesh Bose, Colorado College)
 2007 - Ongoing

Conference convener:

"Exchange of Ideas and Culture between South Asia and Central Europe"

An international two-session conference on new approaches to transnational intellectual history.

Session I: Harvard University, October 2005

Session II: South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, October 2006

PUBLICATIONS

"Think Ecumenically: the Gadamerian Critique of Postcolonial Hermeneutics," (submitted and under review)

"The illusions of encounter: Muslim 'minds' and Hindu revolutionaries in First World War Germany and after,' in: *Journal of Global History*, vol. 1, no. 3, November 2006

PAPERS PRESENTED

"Bengali and German Discourses of Secular Redemption." Delivered at the Mellon Postdoctoral Program in Humanities Annual Conference.
May 31, 2008.

"The Brush of Modernity: The Critical Practice of Nandalal Bose." Delivered at the San Diego Museum of Art symposium *Rethinking Nandalal: Asian Modernism and Nationalist Discourse*, April 5, 2008.

"Gadamer's Hermeneutics and the Critique of Postcolonial Theory." Presented at the Mellon Postdoctoral seminar, UCLA. March 3, 2008.

"The Swadeshi International." Presented at the Center for India and South Asia seminar, UCLA. October 15, 2007.

"The Swadeshi-Communist Amalgam." Delivered at the "Global Perspectives on the Legacies of World War I" conference, Duke University, March 4, 2007

"Conceptual Borderlands and Anticolonial Politics after the First World War." Paper presented on a panel of the American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, January 7, 2007

"War of the Races: German War Aims and *Völkerpsychologie*." Delivered at the "Inclusion and Exclusion in the Long-Nineteenth Century" conference, University of Hamburg, May 5, 2006

"Intellectual Diasporas to Central Europe." Delivered at the Council for European Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, March 4, 2006

"Red Orientalism: Communist Knowledge of South Asia and the Implicated Colonial Intellectual." Delivered at the "Exchange of Ideas and Culture between South Asia and Central Europe" conference, Harvard, Cambridge, MA, October 29, 2005

"Limiting Accommodation: German Scholars of Cultural Despair and

Indian Nativist Intellectuals in 1920s Berlin." Delivered at the Center for European Studies Graduate Student Workshop, Harvard, Cambridge, MA, October 24, 2005

"Inhabitations of Freedom? The displaced lives of British colonial subjects in 1920s Berlin." Delivered at the Heidelberg University South Asian Institute Colloquium Series, Heidelberg, July 14, 2005

"In the Prison Cell: The Paradoxes of M.N. Roy's Late Anti-Colonial Thought." Delivered at American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, College State, University of Pennsylvania, March 12, 2005

"A Space of Encounter: M.N. Roy's struggle for liberation and the Intellectual World of Berlin, 1919-1931." Delivered at the Humboldt University South Asian Institute Colloquium Series, Berlin, November 15, 2004

TEACHING

Current course offerings:

Cosmopolitanism and Colonialism, History 109.05

South Asia and Europe: History of Encounter, History 139.03

Anticolonialism in Global Perspective, History 01.25

UCLA, History Department, 2007-2008:

Cosmopolitanism

Intellectual History of Modern South Asia

Heidelberg University, 2005:

M.N. Roy and Spiritual India

Harvard University, History Department, 2002-2007:

The Making of Modern South Asia, Head teaching fellow

Germany 1871-1990: From Unification to Reunification,

Teaching fellow

Western Economies, Societies, and Politics: From 1646 to the Present, Head teaching fellow

European Intellectual History, Teaching fellow

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

German, Bengali, French