

William R. Pinch

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2005 – present Professor of History, Wesleyan University
1998 – 2005 Associate Professor of History, Wesleyan University
1991 – 1998 Assistant Professor of History, Wesleyan University
Spring 1990 Lecturer, History of Modern South Asia, College of William & Mary

ADMINISTRATIVE, EDITORIAL, & RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

2021 – present Consulting Editor, *History & Theory*
2015 – 2016 Chair, Environmental Studies Program, Wesleyan University
2014 – 2018 Treasurer, American Institute of Indian Studies
2012 – 2021 Associate Editor, *History & Theory*
2012 – 2013 Fulbright-Nehru Research Scholar, Delhi University
2009 – 2012 Chair, Department of History, Wesleyan University
2009 – 2011 Associate Editor, *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*
2007 – 2008 Visiting Fellow, Clare Hall, Cambridge University
2003 – 2004 Fulbright-Hays Research Scholar, Xavier Historical Research Institute
1997 – 2000 Book Review Editor, *The Journal of Asian Studies*
1994 – 1995 Fulbright-Hays Research Scholar, Jawaharlal Nehru University
1990 – 1991 Assistant Dean, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia
1987 – 1988 Fulbright-Hays Research Scholar, A. N. Sinha Institute of Social Studies

EDUCATION

University of Virginia: PhD 1990, History, Modern South Asia; chair: Walter Hauser
MA 1986, History, Modern South Asia
BA 1982, Government and Foreign Affairs

PUBLICATIONS***Books***

Warrior Ascetics and Indian Empires (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006; paperback edition, 2012), xii, 280 pp., 11 illustrations.

Peasants and Monks in British India (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996), xii, 242 pp.; reissued in the Oxford India Paperbacks series (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1999).

Edited Books

Speaking of Peasants: Essays on Indian History and Politics in Honor of Walter Hauser (New Delhi: Manohar, 2008), 504 pp. Sole editor; author of preface, introduction, and chapter four.

Edited journal theme issue

History and Theory in a Global Frame. Co-edited with Ethan Kleinberg. *History and Theory*, theme issue no. 53. December 2015.

Scholarly Articles and Book Chapters

- 2022 'Rajo guṇa: Sovereignty and the Self in India,' in Dilip Menon (ed.), *Concepts in the Global South* (New York, London, New Delhi: Routledge, forthcoming), 7000 words
- 2020 'Blown Away: The Prelude to Buxar, 1764,' in Kathinka Sinha Kerkhoff, Neeraj Kumar, and Sunita Lall (eds.), *Coming of Age in Bihar: Readings in Social Sciences* (New Delhi: Primus Books), pp. 237-253
- 2020 'The Yogi's Way of War,' in Robert Antony, Stuart Carroll, and Caroline Dodds Pennock (eds.), Philip Dwyer (gen. ed.), *The Cambridge World History of Violence*, vol. 3, 1500-1800 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), pp. 156-173
- 2019: 'Waterscape and Memory: The *Āīna-i-Tirhut* of Bihārī Lāl "Fitrat" and the Politics of a Bhakti Past' (co-authored with Aditi N. Kini), in J. S. Hawley, Christian Novetzke, and Swapna Sharma (eds.), *Bhakti and Power: Social Location and Public Affect in India's Religion of the Heart* (Seattle: University of Washington Press), pp. 203-213
- 2019 'Foreword' to Walter Hauser, *The Bihar Provincial Kisan Sabha, 1929-1942: A Study of an Indian Peasant Movement* (New Delhi: Manohar, 2019), pp. 7-28
- 2018: 'Walking in the Shadow of Bhakti Mountain,' review of John Stratton Hawley, *A Storm of Songs: India and the Idea of the Bhakti Movement* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2015), *H-Net Reviews* (Sept 2017), pp. 1-5
- 2018: 'Sites of Memory and Structures of Power in North India: *Anandamath* and *Hanumangarhi*,' in Sanjukta Ghosh, Ezra Rashkow, Upal Chakrabarti (eds.), *Memory, Identity, and the Colonial Encounter in India: Essays in Honour of Peter Robb* (New Delhi and London: Routledge, 2018), pp. 133-150
- 2018: 'War and Succession: Padmakar, Man Kavi, and the Gosains of Bundelkhand, 1792-1806,' *Text and Tradition in Early Modern North India*, ed. Tyler Williams, Anshu Malhotra, J. S. Hawley (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2018), pp. 235-259
- 2015: 'Women, Gender, Emotions: Rethinking Meerut in 1857,' *Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Occ. Papers, History and Society*, new ser., no. 83, pp. 1-46. http://www.nehrumemorial.nic.in/images/pdf/occasional/William_R_Pinch.pdf
- 2013: 'Prostituting the Mutiny: Sex-slavery and Crime in the Making of 1857,' in Crispin Bates (ed.), *Mutiny at the Margins: New Perspectives on the Indian Uprising of 1857, Volume I: Anticipations and Experiences in the Locality* (New Delhi: Sage), 61-87
- 2012: 'The Slave Guru: Masters, Commanders, and Disciples in early modern South Asia,' in Jacob Copeman and Aya Ikegame (eds.), *The Guru: Re-theorising Spiritual Leadership in India* (New York: Routledge), 64-79

- 2012: 'Hiding in Plain Sight: Gosains in Banaras, 1809,' in Michael Dodson (ed.), *Benares: Urban History, Architecture, Identity* (New Delhi: Routledge India), 77-109
- 2012: 'Nath Yogis, Akbar, and the "Balnath Tilla"', in David Gordon White (ed.), *Yoga in Practice* (Princeton: Princeton University Press), 273-288
- 2011: 'The Corpse and Cult of Francis Xavier, 1552-1623', in Peter Gottschalk and Mathew Schmalz (eds.), *Engaging South Asian Religions: Boundaries, Appropriations, and Resistances* (Albany: SUNY Press), 113-131
- 2004: 'Gosain Tawaij: Sex, Slaves, and Ascetics in Rasdhan, 1800-1857,' *Modern Asian Studies* 38, 3 (July): 559-597
- 2003: 'Bhakti and the British Empire,' *Past & Present* 179, 1 (May): 159-196. Reprinted in William R. Pinch (ed.), *Speaking of Peasants: Essays on Indian History and Politics in Honor of Walter Hauser* (New Delhi: Manohar, 2008)
- 2000: 'Killing Ascetics in Indian History, ca. 1500-2000,' *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* (Methodology section) 23, 2 (November): 134-140
- 1999: 'Same Difference in India and Europe,' review essay on B. S. Cohn, *Colonialism and Its Forms of Knowledge: The British in India* (Princeton, 1996) and C. A. Bayly, *Empire and Information: Intelligence Gathering and Social Communication in India, 1780-1870* (Cambridge, UK, 1996), *History and Theory* 38, 3 (October): 389-407
- 1999: 'History, Devotion, and the Search for Nabhadās of Galta,' in Daud Ali (ed.), *Invoking the Past: The Uses of History in South Asia* (Delhi: Oxford University Press), 367-399
- 1998: 'Who was Himmat Bahadur? Gosains, Rajputs, and the British in Bundelkhand, ca. 1800,' *Indian Economic and Social History Review* 35, 3 (November): 293-335
- 1998: 'Historicity, Hagiography, and Hierarchy in Gangetic India, 1918-1936,' in William Radice (ed.), *Swami Vivekananda and the Modernisation of Hinduism* (Delhi: Oxford University Press), 244-263
- 1996: 'Reinventing Ramanand: Caste and History in Gangetic India,' *Modern Asian Studies* 30, 3 (July): 549-572. Reissued with slight changes as 'Remembering Ramanand: Caste and History in Gangetic India,' *Journal of Vaisnava Studies* 8, 1 (Fall 1999): 35-57
- 1996: 'Soldier Monks and Militant Sadhus,' in David Ludden (ed.), *Contesting the Nation: Religion, Community, and the Politics of Democracy in India* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania), 140-162. Released in India as *Making India Hindu: Community, Conflict, and the Politics of Democracy*; now in its second edition

COMMENT & MISCELLANEOUS (Public Scholarship)

Consulted on a Hindi feature film, *Laal Kaptaan* (released Oct. 2019, dir. Navdeep Singh, 2hr 35min), starring Saif Ali Khan, Zoya Hussain, Manav Vij, and Deepak Dobriyal

'The Political Yogi: Recalling warrior ascetics from history in the age of Adityanath,' *Scroll*, 13 April 2017 <https://scroll.in/article/833921/the-political-yogi-recalling-warrior-ascetics-from-history-in-the-age-of-adityanath>

'Remembering Chris Bayly, 1945-2015,' *Azad Academy Journal* (June 2015)

'Criminal Conspiracies and Religious Violence: When Stranglers Roamed the Roads,' *CounterPunch* 16, 21 (1-15 Dec 2009), pp. 1, 3-7 (5,000 words)
<http://www.counterpunch.org/cockburn12182009.html> for description

'Mumbai Revisited,' *The Immanent Frame: Secularism, Religion, and the Public Sphere*, 25 Nov 2009 (1,700) words. <http://blogs.ssrc.org/tif/2009/11/25/mumbai-revisited/#Pinch>

WORK IN PROGRESS***Books***

Poems for a Warlord – a translation of Mān Kavī's *Anūp-prakāś* and Padmākar's *Himmat-bahādur Virudāvalī*, two long 'Braj' (early Hindi) poems dating from ca. 1790-1800 (with Dalpat Rajpurohit and Allison Busch)

Uncommon Ground: The Past of 1857 (working title) – explorations of the revolt of 1857, centering on Meerut cantonment but ranging widely in time and space (under contract with Cambridge University Press)

Articles/Book chapters

'Descent, Discipleship, Power' (working title), in David Gilmartin, Prasannan Parthasarathi, and Mrinalini Sinha (eds.), *Cambridge History of the Indian Subcontinent* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023). Revised chapter due March 2022. 8000 words.

'Who Killed Arjun Singh? Poetry and History in Bundelkhand,' in Manan Ahmed (ed.), 'Circuits of Culture in Early Modern South Asia: Essays in Honor of Allison Busch,' special issue of *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* 41.3 (December 2021). Accepted 20 May 2021, subject to revisions, due 1 July 2021. 6000 words.

'History and Hindi Film' (working title), co-authored with Navdeep Singh for the Windsor International Film Festival (November 2022) and published in Kim Nelson, Mia Treacey, and Marnie Hughes-Warrington (eds.), *A Companion to History and Film* (under contract with Routledge, projected publication in 2022). First draft due November 2021.

'Death at Panipat, 1761,' in Peter Gottschalk (ed.), *The Routledge Handbook of Hindu-Muslim Relations* (under contract with Routledge). First draft due December 2021.

MAJOR GRANTS & HONORS

Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University: spring 2018

Nehru-Fulbright, Senior Research, CIES/IIE: 2012-2013

American Institute of Indian Studies, National Endowment for the Humanities 'Superior Scholar/Indologist in the Humanities': 2012-2013 (declined)

National Endowment of the Humanities, Summer Institute, 'The American Maritime People', Mystic Seaport, CT: summer (five weeks) 2012

Meigs Semester Grant, Department of History, Wesleyan University: spring 2013

College of the Environment Think Tank, Wesleyan University: 2011-2012

'Friend of India', Global Organization of People of Indian Origin, CT chapter, 2012

Meigs Semester Grant, Department of History, Wesleyan University: fall 2007

National Endowment for the Humanities, Senior Research: fall 2007

Fulbright-Hays, U.S. Department of Education, Faculty Research Abroad: fall 2003

National Endowment for the Humanities, Senior Research: spring 2001

Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University: spring 1999

American Council of Learned Societies and Social Science Research Council, Faculty Research: summers 1995 - 1997

Fulbright-Hays, U.S. Department of Education, Faculty Research Abroad: 1994-95 academic year

American Institute of Indian Studies, Senior Research: 1994-95 (declined)

University of Virginia, Center for South Asian Studies, Teaching Internship in Modern South Asian History, College of William & Mary: Spring 1990

American Council of Learned Societies and Social Science Research Council, Doctoral Dissertation Research: 1988 calendar year

Fulbright-Hays Award, U.S. Department of Education, Doctoral Research Abroad: 1987 calendar year

American Institute of Indian Studies, Doctoral Research: 1987 (declined)

American Institute of Indian Studies, Hindi Language Study: 1982-83

University of Virginia, Center for South Asian Studies, Foreign Language Area Scholarships, Title VI: Hindi (1983-85), Urdu (summer 1985), Persian (1985-86)

INVITED LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 *Culture Matters* series on [FolkBrain](#) (Facebook Live), hosted by Dr. Kailash Kumar Mishra, 10 April: 'Swami Sajahanand Saraswati in the USA: Teaching मेरा जीवन संघर्ष to American students' (80 min.)
- 2020 *Janashakti* (Facebook Live), hosted by Anish Ankur, 1 June: 'Walter Hauser and Bihar' (35 min.)
- 2020 Wesleyan Eighteenth-Century Group, 27 February: 'Poems for a Warlord,' with Dalpat Rajpurohit
- 2018 Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University, 2 April: 'Blown From Cannon: A History of Violence, 1857-1764'
- 2018 Jnanapravaha, Mumbai, 18 January: 'Killing Ascetics: From Yogiraja to Karmayogin'
- 2017 46th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, 27 October: 'Environmental Humanities in South Asia: Legacies and Potentials'
- 2017 Asian Development Research Institute, Silver Jubilee Lecture XVII, 27 March: 'Prelude to Buxar: Blown from Cannon.' Silver Jubilee Lecture XVIII. Conference entitled 'Bihar and Jharkhand: Shared History to Shared Vision.'
- 2016 Center for South Asia, Stanford University, 4 April: 'Micro-history, Macro-history, and 1857.'
- 2015 Essex Meadows Retirement Community, 20 November: 'Poems for a Warlord: Translating Padmākar's Himmatbahādur Virudāvalī and Mān Kavi's Anūpaprakāśa'
- 2015 South Asia Institute, University of Texas – Austin, 29 October: 'Where was the Battle of Ajaigarh? Ballad and History in Bundelkhand'
- 2015 *First Year Matters*, Wesleyan University, 4 September: 'When was History?'
- 2015 Essex Meadows Retirement Community, 12 June: 'India Changes Course'
- 2015 The Seminar, Department of History, Johns Hopkins University, 20 April: 'Women, Emotions, Gender: Rethinking 1857'
- 2015 Columbia University, Department of Middle East, South Asian, and African Studies, Hindi-Urdu Poetry Workshop, 11 April: 'Razm-o-bazm I: Poetry of War—Selections from Padmakar's *Himmatbahadur Virudavali*.' With Allison Busch and Dalpat Rajpurohit.
- 2015 Jaipur Literature Festival, 21 January. 'Anupgiri—the Warrior Yogi.' Introduced by William Dalrymple.
- 2015 Wesleyan University Faculty Luncheon talk, 1 December: 'Gender, Emotions, and the 1857 Revolt: Revisiting Some Evidence from Meerut Cantonment'

- 2014 Ramjas College, Delhi University, 5 March: 'Battles for Asceticism in the Long Nineteenth-Century: Literature, History, Memory.'
- 2014 Center for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi, 27 February: 'When was Caste? Reflections on Early Modern South Asia.'
- 2013 U.S.-India Educational Foundation, Pre-Departure Orientation Conference, Indian Fulbright Grantees, Kolkata, 13-15 May: 'Plagiarism'
- 2013 Indian Council for Historical Research, New Delhi, 25 Apr: 'Eulogy, Chronology, Memory, History: Tracking Himmat Bahadur in Bundelkhand and Beyond'
- 2013 Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, 9 Apr: 'Staging the Mutiny: Prostitutes and the Cantonment Bazaar in the Making of 1857'
- 2013 V. V. Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, 13 Mar: 'Role of Anup Giri in Indian History'
- 2013 American Institute of Indian Studies & the University of Texas Program in Lucknow, 8 Mar: 'Prostituting the Mutiny: Sex-work, Slavery, and 1857'
- 2013 South and Central Asia Fulbright Conference, Plenary Address, Kochi, Kerala, 26 Feb: 'Soldiering: Dying for Love in Modern South Asia'
- 2013 Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 20 Feb: 'Dying for Love: Prostitutes and Wives in the Making of the Mutiny'
- 2012 Centre for South Asian Studies, Edinburgh University, 20 Sep: 'The *Suspicious Fakeer* and a *Cashmerian Girl*, named *Sophie*: Two Rebels of 1857?'
- 2012 Department of History, Delhi University, 8 Aug: 'Poets and Politics: Man Kavi, Padmakar, and the Gosains of Bundelkhand, 1792-1806'
- 2012 Earth House, Wesleyan University, 2 May: 'The History of Human Activity on and Changes to Middletown's Watershed'
- 2011 Global Organization of People of Indian Origin—Connecticut Chapter, Stamford, CT, 2 Dec: 'World History, the Oceans, and the Future of Global Conflict'
- 2011 The Global Initiative, SUNY-Orange, 10 Mar: 'The Worlds of Mohandas Gandhi'
- 2010 South Asia Center, Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington, 22 Apr: 'Religion and Empire in South Asia, 1500-1800'
- 2009 *First Year Matters*, Wesleyan University, 3 Sep: 'Oceans, Boats, and Human History'
- 2009 South Asia Center, Department of South Asia Studies, and Department of History, University of Pennsylvania, 9 Apr: 'Understanding Warlords, from Anupgiri to Akbar'
- 2008 Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Museum, gallery talk for the Exhibit, *Garden and Cosmos: The Royal Paintings of Jodhpur*, 2 Nov: 'The Secret History of Yoga'

- 2008 Honors College, College of the Holy Cross, 30 Sep: 'Killer Yogis in Context: Revisiting the History of Banaras'
- 2008 Honors College, College of the Holy Cross, 19 Feb: 'The Corpse and Cult of Francis Xavier'
- 2008 Public Affairs Center lunch talk, Wesleyan University, 10 Apr: 'Prostituting the Mutiny: Sex-slavery and Crime in the Making of 1857'
- 2008 Department of Religion, Barnard College, Columbia University, 29 Oct: 'Discussion of *Warrior Ascetics and Indian Empires* (Cambridge 2006)'
- 2007 Center for South Asian Studies, Cambridge University, 10 Oct: 'The State of Akbar's Soul'
- 2007 Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge University, 16 Nov: '*Yogi Akbar: Ascetics in the Making of the Mughal Empire*'
- 2007 ASH Colloquium, Clare Hall, Cambridge University, 4 Dec: 'Monkey business at the Mughal court, and other clues to the genealogy of religion in the early modern world'
- 2007 Center for South Asia, University of Wisconsin, 12 Apr: 'The Death of a Warlord, 3 June 1804'
- 2005 Department of Religion, Barnard College, Columbia University, 5 Dec: 'Discussion of *Warrior Ascetics and Indian Empires*'
- 2005 Wesleyan Club of New York, New York City, 4 May, & 'WESeminar,' Reunion & Commencement Weekend, 20 May: 'Hindu and Muslim in India: The View from Jadrup Gosain's Cave'
- 2005 College of Social Studies, Lunchtime Lecture Series, Wesleyan University, 11 Apr: 'Oceans Need Boats'
- 2004 Oslo-Gothenburg School of Asian and African Studies (University of Oslo and Gothenburg University), Gothenburg, Conference on *Religion, Power, and Politics in Asia and Africa*, 27-28 May: Keynote address, 'Religion and Power'
- 2004 Xavier Centre for Historical Research, Goa, 9 Jan: 'The Corpse and Cult of St. Francis Xavier, 1552-1622'
- 2003 Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, 16 Dec: 'Religion *en route*: Goa, 1500-1700'
- 2003 Goa Heritage Action Group Festival, Goa, 30 Nov: 'Small Town Preservation: Middletown, Connecticut, USA'
- 2003 Goodenough College, Port Talk, London, 17 Sept: 'Naked Killer *Yogīs*: The Secret History of the British Empire'
- 2003 College of Social Studies, Lunchtime Lecture Series, Wesleyan University, 3 Feb: 'Killer *Yogīs*: The Challenge for Historians of India'

- 2001 Department of History, Wesleyan University, 13 Dec: 'The Whore-*Begam* of Rasdhan, ca. 1808-1841'
- 2001 Department of History, University of Virginia, 26 Jan: 'Killing Ascetics in Indian History'
- 2000 South Asia Institute, Columbia University, 13 Nov: 'Killing Ascetics in Indian History'
- 1999 Center for South Asia Studies, University of California, Berkeley, 21 Oct: 'Mughal *Yogīs*: Religious Difference and History's Memory Problem in India'
- 1999 Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University, 12 Apr: 'Killing Ascetics: Godmen and Violence in Indian History'
- 1997 Center for South Asian Studies, Cornell University, 31 Mar: 'Peasants, Monks, and Indian History'
- 1995 Center for South Asian Studies Seminar, Edinburgh University, 9 May: 'Soldier Ascetics in Northern India'
- 1994 South Asia Regional Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2 Mar: 'Soldier Monks and Militant *Sadhus*'
- 1990 Center for South Asian Studies, North Carolina State University, 2 Mar: 'Ramanandis, Vaishnava Ideas, and Caste Identity Movements in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Gangetic North India'

CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 'Forgotten Genealogies: A *History and Theory* Roundtable' (organizer and moderator), at AAS-in-Asia conference, New Delhi, 6 July
- 2018 *History and Theory* editors' comments (with Ethan Kleinberg, Gary Shaw, and Matthew Spectre), conference on 'Assessing the Islamic Past: Historical and Philosophical Interventions,' Brown University, 20-21 April
- 2018 'Meerut Reports: The Mutiny on Time,' Association for Asian Studies annual conference, panel entitled 'Between Past and Present: People, States, and Events in Asian History,' 24 March
- 2017 Chair/Discussant, Panel on "Early Colonial Borderlands," conference on "Colonial and Post-Colonial Borderlands," Madison, WI, 46th Annual Conference on South Asia, 26 October
- 2017 "'No kisses for cowards": Flora Annie Steel and the History of 1857,' AAS-in-Asia panel title 'Historical Fiction and Fictional History: The Sublime Experience of Violence in India,' conference, Seoul, South Korea, 25 June
- 2017 'Global History and Micro-History: Some Reflections,' pre-circulated paper for Wesleyan University – Social Sciences in China Press Forum on Globalization, Middletown, CT, 17-19 May

- 2017 'Beheading/Debodying: Violence, Spectacle, and Sovereignty, 1631-1858,' American Historical Association panel title: 'Escalation: Micro-Global Histories of Political Violence,' Denver, CO, 8 January 2017
- 2016 '*Rajo guṇa*: Sovereignty and the Self in India,' Center for Indian Studies in Africa, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, conference: "Tropics of Capricorn: Concepts from the Global South," 22 October
- 2016 'The Waterscape of North Bihar: Notes from the *Āina-i Tirhut* of Bihārī Lāl "Fitrat," ca. 1880' (co-authored with Aditi N. Kini), Yale University, South Asian Studies Council conference, 'Exploring Bhakti: Is Bhakti a Language of Power or Protest?' 14 May
- 2016 'Middletown/Mattabessett: Past, Present, and Future,' organizer and moderator of panel discussion with Stephen Devoto, Lucianne Lavin, Erik Hesselberg, John Hall, and Meg Walker, College of the Environment, Wesleyan, 26 March
- 2016 'Historiographical Symbiosis: Micro-History and Global History,' Association for Asian Studies, panel title 'Rethinking Microhistory in an Age of Global Narratives,' 3 April
- 2015 'Where was the Battle of Ajaigarh? Ballad and History in Late Eighteenth-Century Bundelkhand,' 12th International Conference of Early Modern Literatures of North India, Lausanne, Switzerland, 15-19 July
- 2015 Panel participant, 'Terror and Faith', Jaipur Literature Festival, 22 January
- 2015 'Gosains on the Ghats.' Conference to honor Professor Sir Christopher A. Bayly, Jnana-Pravaha Centre for Cultural Studies and Research, Banaras, 8 January
- 2013 'Akhara, Math, Mandir: Fortified "Abbeys" in North India, ca. 1750-1900.' Conference to honor Peter Robb, School of Oriental and African Studies, 19-20 September
- 2013 'Life on a U.S. campus' (panel chair) and 'Privileges and Obligations under the Fulbright Grant—Visiting Lecturers,' U.S.-India Educational Foundation, Kolkata, India, 13-15 May
- 2012 'War and Succession, ca. 1792-1804: Padmakar, Man Kavi, and the Gosains in Bundelkhand,' International Conference on Early Modern Literatures of North India, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, India, 2-6 Aug
- 2011 'Warrior Ascetics and Hindu Temples, 1756-1858,' American Historical Association, panel titled 'The Modern Lives of Hindu Temples', 9 Jan
- 2009 Respondent for Sanjay Subrahmanyam, 'Intertwined Histories: Crónica and Tarikh in the Sixteenth-Century Indian Ocean World,' *History and Theory* conference, 'The Next Fifty Years', 13-14 Nov
- 2009 Chair, panel title, 'Text, community, patronage and power in the history and historiography of the bhakti movement,' Annual South Asian Studies Conference (Madison, WI), 27 Oct

- 2009 'Mughal Vaishnavas, Rajputs and Religion in Early Modern India, 1450-1800,' World History Association, panel title 'Policy and Piety: How Early Modern Empires Shaped Modern Religion,' 27 Jun
- 2009 Panel Chair and Conference Commentator, 'Terrestrial Environments and their Histories in Modern India,' South Asian Studies Council, Yale University, 1-2 May
- 2008 'Religion and Slavery in India, ca. 1600,' Association for Asian Studies, panel title 'Systems of Slavery in Asia: Comparative Approaches,' 6 Apr
- 2007 'Devotion to War: Religion and Mughal Expansion,' conference on 'Tributary Empires Compared' (European Science Foundation), Rethymnon (Crete), Greece, 2 Nov
- 2007 'Staging the Mutiny,' Association for Asian Studies, panel title, 'The Many Meanings of 1857: Perspectives on the 150th Anniversary,' 23 Mar
- 2003 'Colony, Empire, and the Presumption of Difference,' Association for Asian Studies, panel title, 'Knowing South Asian Religion,' 29 Mar
- 2003 Conference Comment, conference on Jaisingh's Jaipur: Scientific, Religious, and Artistic Mediations at Court, Columbia University, 7-9 Feb
- 2002 'The *Kumbh Melā* in Context: Pilgrimage and Military Slavery in Allahabad, 1500-1800,' American Academy of Religion, panel title, 'The Kumbh Mela: When the Divine Meets the Mundane,' 25 Nov
- 2002 'The *Bhaktamāla* in British India and Indian Britain,' American Historical Association, panel title 'East Meets West on the Historiographic Frontier of Colonial India,' 5 Jan
- 2001 'The "Whore-Begam" of Rasdhan, ca. 1808-1841,' Dartmouth College, conference on 'South Asia, 1780-1840: The Early Transition to Colonialism,' 8 Dec
- 2001 'The Aftermath of Complicity: Soldiering Gosains near Kanpur, 1804-1858,' Colegio de México, Mexico City, conference on 'Colonial Questions,' 14 Jun
- 2000 'Same Difference in India and Europe,' Middlebury College, conference on 'Empire, Culture, and Globalization,' 29 Apr
- 2000 'Ideologues, Ideology, and the Asian History of Indian Martial Asceticism,' University of Virginia, symposium on 'Asian Scholarship in Politically Charged Environments,' 21 Apr
- 1997 'Subaltern *Sādhus*? Political Ascetics in Indian Myth, Memory, and History,' University of Virginia, conference to honor Walter Hauser, 25 May
- 1997 'Subaltern *Sādhus*? Towards a Military Genealogy of North Indian Asceticism,' Tufts University, conference on 'Rethinking South Asian History,' 9-10 May
- 1997 'Powerful Ascetics: Devotion, Discipline, and Armed *Sādhus*,' Wolfson College, Cambridge University, conference on 'The New Military History of South Asia,' 16 Jul

- 1997 'Nabhadas and the *Bhaktamāla*: Monasticism, Devotion, and Historical Consciousness, ca. 1600-1910,' School of Oriental and African Studies, conference on 'The Place of the Past: Uses of History in South Asia,' 16-18 Apr
- 1996 'Who Was Himmat Bahadur? Mercenaries and *Sadhus* in Bundelkhand, ca. 1800,' Association for Asian Studies, 12 Apr
- 1993 'Hagiography and Historicity in North India,' School of Oriental and African Studies, conference on 'The Modernisation of Hinduism,' 26-27 Nov
- 1993 'Subaltern *Sādhus*?' South Asia Regional Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 'Work in Progress' symposium, 31 Mar
- 1992 'Swami Dharnidharacharya and *Kshatriya* Political Identity in Gangetic India, 1891-1930,' Association for Asian Studies, 5 Apr
- 1992 'Partisan Pasts in Ayodhya: Remembering Ramananda and Ramanuja,' University of Virginia, conference on 'Myth, Memory, and History,' 7 Mar
- 1990 'Ramanandis, Vaishnava Ideas, and Caste Identity Movements in Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Gangetic North India,' University of California, Berkeley, Annual South Asia conference, 10 Feb
- 1989 'Sadhus and Social Change: Ascetic Settlement Patterns and Agrarian Caste Power in Gangetic South Bihar, 1909-1916,' Association for Asian Studies, mid-Atlantic states, 22 Oct