

Farina Mir
Department of History
University of Michigan
1029 Tisch Hall
435 South State Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109
(734) 647-5416; fmir@umich.edu

EDUCATION

- 2002 **Columbia University, New York, NY**
Ph.D. *Distinction*.
Department of History.
Thesis: "The Social Space of Language: Punjabi Popular Narrative in Colonial India, c. 1850-1900"
- 1993 **Barnard College, New York, NY**
B.A. *Magna cum Laude*.
Majors: Asian & Middle Eastern Languages & Cultures (Honors & Distinction)
English Literature (Honors)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan. 2003-present.
- Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Virginia. 2002-2003.
- Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Asian Studies, Cornell University. 2001-2002.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2008-2009 *Faculty Fellow*, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan.
- 2008 *Rackham Faculty Research Grant*, University of Michigan.
- 2008 *Ludolph Research Grant*, Department of History, University of Michigan.
- 2007 *Ludolph Research Grant*, Department of History, University of Michigan.
- 2006 *Ludolph Research Grant*, Department of History, University of Michigan.
- 2005 *Ludolph Research Grant*, Department of History, University of Michigan.
- 2004 *Bernadotte Schmitt Research Grant*, American Historical Association.
- 2002 *Sardar Patel Dissertation Award*, University of California at Los Angeles.
National award for the best Ph.D. dissertation on modern India (co-recipient).
- 2001-2002 *Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship*, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University.
- 2000-2001 *Whiting Dissertation Fellowship*, Columbia University.

- 1999 *Fulbright Research Grant* (India), International Institute of Education.
- 1998-1999 *Columbia University Traveling Fellowship* (England & India).
- 1998 (Summer) *Foreign Language Area Studies Award*, Columbia University Program in Punjabi Language and Culture (India).
- 1997 *Dissertation Research Grant* (Pakistan), Social Science Research Council.
- 1996-1997 *Dissertation Research Grant* (Pakistan), American Institute of Pakistan Studies.
- 1996 (Summer) *Pre-Dissertation Research Grant* (India & Pakistan), Ford Foundation.
- 1995 (Summer) *Fellowship*, Summer Language Consortium in Persian, University of Michigan.
- 1993-1998 *Fellowship*, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Columbia University.
- 1993 *Tarakanath Das Prize in South Asian Studies*, Columbia University.

PUBLICATIONS

The Social Space of Language: Vernacular Culture in British Colonial Punjab. (Book manuscript currently under review with Duke University Press and the University of California Press).

“Imperial Policy, Provincial Practices: Colonial Language Policy in Nineteenth-century India.” *Indian Economic and Social History Review* 43.4 (December, 2006): 395-427.

“Genre and Devotion in Punjab’s Popular Narratives: Rethinking Cultural and Religious Syncretism.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 48.3 (July, 2006): 727-758.

“South Asian Languages.” *Encyclopedia of the Modern World*. Ed. Peter Stearns. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

“Sikhism;” “Punjab and Punjabis;” “Ranjit Singh;” “Lahore;” “Zulfikar Ali Bhutto;” “Muhammad Zia ul-Haq;” “Simla Peace Agreement;” “Pakistan People’s Party;” “Indus Waters Treaty;” “Pervez Musharraf;” “Muhajir Qaumi Movement;” “Yahya Khan;” “Faiz Ahmed Faiz;” “Deoband;” “Benazir Bhutto;” “Mohammad Ayub Khan;” and “Aligarh.” *Cambridge Dictionary of Modern World History*. Eds. John Stevenson and Chris Cook. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (forthcoming).

“Communalism;” “Heer Ranjha;” and “Waris Shah.” *Oxford Companion to Pakistani History*. Ed. Ayesha Jalal. Karachi: Oxford University Press (forthcoming).

“The East India Company in the Eighteenth Century,” *World and its Peoples: Eastern and Southern Asia*. Ed. Clive Carpenter. London: Marshall Cavendish, 2007. 352-355.

“Jallianwala Bagh.” *A Historical Companion to Postcolonial Thought in English*. Eds. David Johnson and Prem Poddar. New York: Columbia University Press, 2005. 252-53.

“Hir Ranjha” and “Waris Shah.” *Encyclopedia of Modern Asia*. Eds. David Levinson and Karen Christensen, et al. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2002.

IN PROGRESS

“The Making of a Regional Literature: Historicizing *Hir-Ranjha*.” Essay under preparation for submission to an academic, peer-review journal.

Rev. of *Moral Languages from Colonial Punjab: The Singh Sabha, Arya Samaj and Ahmadiyahs*, by Bob van der Linden; and *The Darbar of the Sikh Gurus: The Court of God in the World of Men*, by Louis Fenech. Review essay for the *Indian Economic and Social History Review*.

Rev. of *Women and Social Reform in India: A Reader*, edited by Sumit Sarkar and Tanika Sarkar. Review for the *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*.

BOOK REVIEWS

Rev. of *In the Time of Trees and Sorrows: Nature, Power, and Memory in Rajasthan*, by Ann Grodzins Gold and Bhoju Ram Gujar. *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 47.4 (2005): 895-896.

Rev. of *Pakistan: Nationalism Without a Nation*, ed. Christophe Jaffrelot. *The Journal of Asian Studies* 63.1 (February 2004): 230-232.

Rev. of *The Scandal of the State: Women, Law, and Citizenship in Postcolonial India*, by Rajeswari Sunder Rajan. *History: Review of New Books* 32.1 (October 2003): 30.

“Partition Redux.” Rev. of *The Partition Omnibus*, by David Page, Anita Inder Singh, G.D. Khosla, and Penderel Moon. *H-Asia, H-Net Reviews* (July 2003).

“New Strategies in Partition Historiography.” Rev. of *Inventing Boundaries: Gender, Politics, and the Partition of India*, ed. Mushirul Hasan. *H-Asia, H-Net Reviews* (July 2003).

Rev. of *Gender, Caste and Religious Identities: Restructuring Class in Colonial Punjab*, by Anshu Malhotra. *Seminar* 524 (April 2003): 56-58.

Rev. of *The Sikhs*, by John R. Thursby. *International Journal of Punjab Studies* 1.2 (1995).

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“A Punjabi Literary Formation.” The Anthropology and History Workshop, University of Michigan. October, 2008.

“Popular Representations of Gender in the Age of Islamic Reform.” University of Texas, Austin. November, 2007.

Respondent, Islamophobia/Islamophilia: Beyond the Politics of Enemy and Friend Conference. University of Michigan. October, 2007.

“The Politics of Post-Colonial Studies.” Roundtable at the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies. University of Michigan. April, 2007.

“Fiction as Historical Archive? Reconfiguring Inquiry into India’s Colonial Past.” University of California, Santa Barbara. February, 2007.

- “Historicizing *Hir-Ranjha*” Moving Literatures: Literary Transformation in Islamate South Asia Conference. North Carolina State University. March, 2006.
- “‘To Open a History of the Times:’ Punjabi Literature as Cultural Production and Historical Reflection.” Translating Culture Conference. University of California, Berkeley. November, 2005.
- “From Ludhiana to London: Punjabi Popular Culture in Local and Transnational Contexts.” University of California, Riverside. April, 2005.
- “Imperial Policy, Provincial Practice: Colonial Language Policy in British India.” University of California, Santa Barbara. April, 2005.
- Respondent, Panel on Criticism, Reorientations: The Study of the Non-West after the Saidian Critique Conference. University of Chicago. February, 2005.
- “Language, Community, and Cultural Production in Colonial India: Punjab’s Literary Epics as Social Commentary, c.1850-1900.” Harvard University. October, 2004.
- “The Evolution of Punjab’s Regional Literary Tradition.” International Conference on the Culture of the Punjab, University of California at Santa Barbara. May, 2004.
- “The Partition of India: History, Historiography, and Questions of Representation.” South Asia Film and Lecture Series. University of Dayton. March, 2004.
- “Religious Conflict and Convergence: North India’s Complex History of Communal Relations.” Phi Alpha Theta Society. University of Michigan. January, 2004.
- “Said and the Public Intellectual.” Department of History Faculty Colloquium: Commemorating Edward Said. University of Michigan. November, 2003.
- “Communal Divides, Cultural Affinities: Religious Community and Language in Colonial Punjab.” Center for South Asian Studies. University of Michigan. October, 2003.
- “Language and Religious Communities in Colonial India.” Center for South Asian Studies. University of Virginia. April, 2003.
- “Reevaluating Syncretism in the South Asian Context.” Department of Anthropology. University of Virginia. March, 2003.
- “The Kashmir Dispute in Historical Perspective.” Symposium on the Kashmir Conflict. University of Virginia. February, 2003.
- “Punjabi Religious Narratives,” Department of Philosophy and Religion. North Carolina State University. January, 2003.
- “South Asian Cinema.” Tasvir Festival of South Asian Film. University of Virginia. November, 2002.
- “Syncretism Reconsidered: Genre and Devotion in Punjab’s Popular Narratives.” New Perspectives on Regional, Religious & National Identities in South Asia Workshop. Harvard University. May, 2002.

- “Regional Literatures and Sacred Music: *Qissa* and *Qanwali* in India and Pakistan.” Cornell Faculty Programs in Residential Communities. Cornell University. April, 2002.
- “Pakistani Popular Literature and its Islamic Context.” South Asia Beyond the Stereotypes Lecture Series. Bucknell University. March, 2002.
- “The Social Space of Punjabi Popular Literature in Colonial India.” Department of History. University of Toronto. March, 2002.
- “Popular Devotion in Punjabi Oral Tales.” South Asia Center. Syracuse University. February, 2002.
- “The Social Space of Punjabi Popular Literature in Colonial India.” Department of Asian Studies. Cornell University. February, 2002.
- “The Social Space of Punjabi Popular Literature in Colonial India.” Department of History. Purdue University. February, 2002.
- “The Social Space of Language: Literature as History in Colonial India.” Department of History. Villanova University. February, 2002.
- “The Social Space of Popular Literature in Colonial India.” Clarks Honors College. University of Oregon. February, 2002.
- “Representations of Piety and Community in Late-nineteenth-century Punjabi *Qisse*.” Seminar in Islamicate Aesthetics in South Asia. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. April, 2001.
- “History, Memory, Community: the Punjabi *Qissa* Tradition.” Biennial Conference of the International Punjabi Society. New York, NY. July, 2000.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “An Agenda for Partition Historiography: Reflections on Veena Das’ *Life and Words: Violence and the Descent into the Ordinary*.” 37th Annual Conference on South Asia. University of Madison, Wisconsin. October, 2008.
- “Vibrant at the Margins: The Popularity of Punjabi Print Culture in Late-nineteenth-century India.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies. April, 2006.
- “Shifting Archives in Pakistan Studies: The Place of Literature in the Writing of Pakistan’s History.” Biennial Conference on Pakistan Studies. University of Pennsylvania. April, 2005.
- “Fiction as Historical Archive? Reconfiguring Inquiry into India’s Colonial Past.” Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association. January, 2005.
- “Punjab’s Literature as Historical Source: Hir-Ranjha in the Nineteenth Century.” Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies. March, 2004.
- “Tracing Orality in the Printed Text: Colonial-era Punjabi Popular Literature and its Performative Context.” 32nd Annual Conference on South Asia. University of Madison, Wisconsin. October, 2003

- "New Perspectives in Pakistan Studies." Roundtable panel at the 31st Annual Conference on South Asia. University of Wisconsin, Madison. October, 2002.
- "Shared Piety in Punjabi Popular Narrative, c. 1850-1900." Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies. April, 2002.
- "Representations of Community in Punjabi Oral Epics." South Asia: Histories of the Present Conference. University of Michigan. March, 2001.
- "Alternative Imaginings: Representations of Community in Punjabi Oral Epics." The 16th Annual South Asia Conference. University of California, Berkeley. February, 2001.
- "Presidential Panel on Graduate Studies and Asian Languages." Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies. March, 2000.
- "Punjabi as an Oral Tradition: the Publishing Paradox." The 28th Annual Conference on South Asia. University of Wisconsin, Madison. October, 1999.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Organized a public lecture by Prof. Sunil Kumar, University of Delhi: "'The Woman in the Accounts (*hisab*) of Men: Sultan Raziyya and Early Sultanate Society." University of Michigan. February, 2008.
- Organized a public lecture by Prof. Richard Bulliet, Columbia University: "Cotton and Climate in Early Modern Iran." University of Michigan. January, 2008.
- Organized a workshop on writing research proposals for graduate students in the Program in Anthropology and History. University of Michigan. January, 2007.
- Organized the keynote lecture by Prof. Mridu Rai, Yale University, at a symposium on Kashmir sponsored by the Indian American Students Association. University of Michigan. January, 2007.
- Co-Organizer of the Gendering Islamicate Histories Workshop. University of Michigan, September, 2005. This one-day workshop invited Nadia El Cheikh (American University, Beirut), Afsaneh Najmabadi (Harvard University), and Leslie Peirce (New York University) to present work in progress along with University of Michigan graduate students (Kristina Richardson and Taymiya Zaman).
- Participant, Seminar on Gender Historiography. University of Michigan. May, 2004.
Seminar organized by the editors of *Gender and History* focused on teaching gender historiography from a transnational perspective.
- Organizer, panel on "Print and Pleasure in 19th Century India." Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies. March, 2006.
- Co-organizer, panel on "Literature and the Writing of South Asian History." Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies. March, 2004.
- Co-organizer, panel on "Hindu Na, Nahin Musulman: Shared Idioms of Piety and Sanctity." Annual Meeting of the Association of Asian Studies. April, 2002.

Co-organizer, panel on "Vernacular Futures: Language, Literature, and Modernity in Colonial India." 28th Annual Conference on South Asia. University of Wisconsin, Madison. October, 1999.

SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT

Postdoctoral Fellowships Committee. 2008-09, 2007-08.
Eisenberg Institute of Historical Studies Steering Committee. 2006-07, 2005-06.
Institute of Historical Studies Planning Group. 2004-05.
Honors Committee. 2004-05.
Undergraduate Advising. Winter, 2005.
Postdoctoral Fellowships Committee. 2003-04.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Islamic Studies Initiative Steering Committee, 2008-09.
University of Michigan Trustee, American Institute for Pakistan Studies. 2007-08, 2003-06.
Speakers' Committee. Center for South Asian Studies. 2007-08, 2004-05.
Executive Committee, Program in Anthropology and History. 2004-05.
Fulbright Applicant Reviewer. International Institute. Fall, 2004.
Pre-Dissertation Grant Committee, International Institute, University of Michigan. 2003-2004.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

I have served as an anonymous reviewer for:

The American Historical Review
The Journal of Asian Studies
Comparative Studies in Society and History
Radical History Review
History of Religions
Gender & History
Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East
Blackwell Publishing (UK)
Journal of Women's Middle East Studies.

American Institute of Pakistan Studies
Executive Committee (2003-2006)
Chair, Fellowships Committee (2005)
Chair, Nominating Committee (2005).
Chair, Nominating Committee (2007).

Editorial Advisor, *Journal of Punjab Studies.*

LANGUAGES

Punjabi (fluent), Hindi/Urdu (fluent), Persian (intermediate reading skills)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Historical Association
Association of Asian Studies
American Institute of Pakistan Studies

COURSES TAUGHT

UNDERGRADUATE:

The History of Modern South Asia
The History of Islam in South Asia
Gandhi's India
Mughal India
The Partition of British India: History, Literature, and Film
Writing Violence (UM College of Literature, Science, and the Arts honors course)
Junior History Colloquium (UM History Department honors course)

GRADUATE:

Publics in Colonial and Postcolonial India
Language and Nationalisms in Modern South Asia
The History of Islam in South Asia

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Dissertation Committees:

Purvi Mehta (Chair), ABD, Program in Anthropology and History (Modern South Asia)
Afshon Ostovar, ABD, Department of History (Modern Middle East)

Preliminary Exam Committees:

Purvi Mehta, ABD, Program in Anthropology and History (Modern South Asia)
Andrea Wright, Ph.D. Candidate, Program in Anthropology and History (Modern South Asia)
Anshuman Pandey, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History (Modern South Asia)
Nafisa Essop-Shaikh, ABD, Department of History (Modern Africa)
Kevin Jones, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of History (Modern Middle East)

M.A. Committees:

Monika Bhagat, Ph.D. Candidate, Department of English (Indian Nationalism)

REFERENCES

Ayesha Jalal, Mary Richardson Professor of History & Director, Center for South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155. ayesha.jalal@tufts.edu. (617) 627-2133.

Gurinder Singh Mann, Kapany Professor of Sikh Studies & Director, Center for Sikh and Punjab Studies, University of California at Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106. mann@humanitas.ucsb.edu. (805) 893-5115.

Sugata Bose, Gardiner Professor of History, Department of History, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138. sbose@fas.harvard.edu. (617) 384-7683.

Kathleen Canning, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of History & Director, Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109. kcanning@umich.edu. (734) 763-9937.

Richard Bulliet, Professor, Department of History, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027. rwb3@columbia.edu. (212) 854-1741.