

Rahul Bjørn Parson

Rahul.Parson@colorado.edu
Office: 315 Woodbury
Phone: 720-755-1096

EDUCATION

- 12.2012 Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley: Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies
The Bazaar and the Bari: Calcutta, Marwaris, & the World of Hindi Letters
Committee: Vasudha Dalmia (chair), Munis Faruqui, Raka Ray, Harsha Ram
- 08.2004–06.2005 American Institute of Indian Studies Year-long Hindi Program in Jaipur
- 12.2004 M.A. University of California, Berkeley: Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies
- 12.1999 B.A. University of California, Los Angeles: Department of English Literature.

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

The contemporary Hindi novel and prose literature; Urdu literature; early-modern North Indian literature; Jain studies and literature; gender and women's writing in South Asia; minor literature; comparative approaches to literature; the Marwari community of Kolkata; deterritorialized and diasporic literatures of South Asia; merchant culture and vernacular capitalism; satire; post-colonial studies; literary theory; South Asian cinema.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 08.2016 Assistant Professor of Hindi/Urdu Literature and Culture, Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Colorado at Boulder, 08/2016 until present.
- 04.2014-08.2016 Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter (Postdoctoral Fellow), Max Weber-Kolleg, Universität Erfurt.
- Spring 2013 Visiting Assistant Professor, *Modern Indian History*, Santa Clara University.

RESEARCH: PUBLICATIONS & CONFERENCE PAPERS

Monograph (in progress):

Confluences at the End of the Ganges: Modernity, Migration and Hindi Letters in Kolkata

Peer Reviewed:

“Untold Tales of the Self: The Ineffable in Early-Modern Jain Poetry.” *Journal of Dharma Studies* 1, no 2 (March 2019): 215-227.

Editorial Team Reviewed:

“Individualization and Democratization of Knowledge in Banārasīdās’ *Samayasāra Nāṭaka*.” In *Religious*

Individualisations: Historical Dimensions and Comparative Perspectives, edited by Martin Fuchs, Antje Linkenbach, Martin Mulsow, Bernd-Christian Otto, Rahul Parson and Jörg Rüpke, (Berlin: de Gruyter, 2019).

“Afterword: Conventions and Contentions: Texts and Narratives.” In *Religious Individualisations: Historical Dimensions and Comparative Perspectives*, edited by Martin Fuchs, Antje Linkenbach, Martin Mulsow, Bernd-Christian Otto, Rahul Parson and Jörg Rüpke, (Berlin: de Gruyter, 2019). (*This Afterword was composed by me. The other contributors are given author credit because they served as proofreaders in order to approve of my discussion of their work within the volume*).

Parson, Rahul Bjørn, and Bernd Otto. “Introduction: Conventions and Contentions: Texts and Narratives.” In *Religious Individualisations: Historical Dimensions and Comparative Perspectives*, edited by Martin Fuchs, Antje Linkenbach, Martin Mulsow, Bernd-Christian Otto, Rahul Parson and Jörg Rüpke, (Berlin: de Gruyter, 2019).

“*Kānūnīmāl kī bahas: The Lawyer’s Argument*,” in Shobna Nijhawan, *Nationalism in the Vernacular: Hindi, Urdu, and the Literature of Indian Freedom* (Bangalore: Permanent Black, 2010) 204-223.

Submitted, Reviewed and Accepted Book Chapters:

“Itinerant Locals and Globals: Hindi Women’s Writing in Late 20th-Century Kolkata,” in ed. Caroline Clements, *Local Cities: Foreign Capitals*, Chapel Hill, UNC Press, 2019/2020. (*The publication has been delayed because a hurricane in North Carolina took out the server and the proofs were lost. The manuscripts and reviews were backed up and therefore the editing has started again. This should come out this year or early next year*).

“Accounting for Merchants: Marwaris and the Business of Hindi in Colonial Calcutta,” in eds. Hardgrove and Nakatani, *Rise of Hindu Capital: Cultural Ascendancy of Marwari Merchants in India*. Routledge, 2019/2020. (*The editor, Nakatani, informed me that this book is still waiting for one contributor to submit their chapter*).

Conferences and Invited Talks:

- 04.19 “Neutral Partisans and the In-dox-icated: Early-modern Jain Ādhyātmik views of other Religious Paths.” Paper presented at the Encounters in Premodern South Asia workshop at the University of Toronto, Canada.
- 04.19 “Neo-liberal Reform and Kolkata’s Literary Resistance.” Paper presented and closing remarks given at International Conference of the Literary Society of Pakistan “Getting our Bearings Right: Literature, Society and Prosperity,” Islamabad, Pakistan.
- 04.19 Key Note, Moderator, and Closing Remarks for the Conference on War, Trauma and Literature, National University of Modern Languages, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- 03.19 “Whose Golden Bengal?” Paper presented at the Association of Asian Studies (AAS), Denver, Colorado.
- 03.19 “Rajkamal Chaudhuri: A Bihari view of Nehruvian-era Bengal.” Paper presented at the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), Washington, DC.
- 11.18 “Encounters and Reconciliations: ‘Tolerance’ and (Im)partiality in Two Jain Intellectual Lineages.” Paper presented at the American Academy of Religion (AAR), Denver, Colorado.
- 10.18 “Rajkamal Chaudhary: Confluences at the end of the Ganges.” Paper presented at the 46th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.

- 10.18 “Narratives of Internal Migrants: Kolkata's Hindi Legacy.” Paper presented at the 46th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin.
- 04.18 “The Ineffable in a Strand of Early Modern Jain Poetry.” Paper presented at Religion and Ritual: The Poetics and Performance of the Ineffable, 35th Annual Symposium, Center for South Asian Studies, University of Hawaii at Manoa.
- 03.18 “Madhu Kankaria’s Khule Gagan Ke Lāl Sitāre: Jain and Naxalite Consciousness and Reconciliations.” Talk presented at Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.
- 01.18 “Accounting for Merchants: Marwaris and the Business of Hindi in Kolkata.” Paper presented at the International Conference: Rise of Hindu Capital: Marwari Culture and History, Kolkata, India.
- 01.18 “Deterritorialized Hindi in Kolkata.” Paper presented at a three-day international conference: *हिन्दीतर प्रांतों एवं विदेशों में हिंदी भाषा-साहित्य: दशा-दिशा* (Hindi-Language Literature in non-Hindi Provinces and Abroad: Present and Future), Kolkata, India. (Talk given in Hindi).
- 11.17 “Cultures and Counter-Cultures of Individualization: Banārasīdās’ *Samayasāra Nāṭaka* as a Democratization of Knowledge.” Paper presented at Asian Languages and Civilizations Department Research Forum, CU Boulder.
- 10.17 “Itinerant Locals and Globals: Hindi Women’s Writing in late 20th Century Calcutta.” Paper and separate keynote lecture presented at the Second IUI-UNCW Conference on Local Cities, Foreign Capitals: Finding the Local Anchor in the Global Cultures, Islamabad, Pakistan.
- 06.17 “Individualisation and Democratisation of Knowledge in Banārasīdās’ *Samayasāra Nāṭaka*.” Paper presented, conference co-organizer and moderator at the Conference on Religious Individualization in Historical Perspective, Eisenach, Germany.
- 01.17 “Jain Poetic Individualization.” Paper presented at the workshop for the Research Group: Religious Individualization, Max-Weber-Kolleg, Erfurt, Germany.
- 08.15 “Relatively ‘Right’: Manifold Perspectives of Truth in the works of Banārsīdās.” Paper presented at the World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Universität Erfurt, Germany.
- 08.15 “Towards Indic Idioms of the Individual: Tolerance, (Im)partiality, and Individualization in two Jain Intellectual Lineages.” Paper presented at the World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions, Universität Erfurt, Germany.
- 04.15 “An Affective Archive of Migrant History: Alka Saraogi’s Kalikathā: Via Bypass.” Paper presented at the University of Hawaii, Center for South Asian Studies Symposium, "Decolonial Futures in South Asia and Beyond," University of Hawai'i at Manoa.
- 10.14 “Women’s Hindi Novels in Bengal.” Paper presented at the Conference on Bengal Related Studies, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Germany.
- 08.14 “The Bazaar and the Bari: Calcutta and the World of Hindi Letters.” Talk given at University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India.
- 08.14 “बाज़ार और बाड़ी: कलकत्ता और हिंदी लेखन का दुनिया (The Bazaar and the Bari: Calcutta and the World of Hindi Writing).” Talk given in Hindi at Presidency University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India. (This is the Hindi version of this talk was given at Calcutta University).

- 09.13 “Making Public Enemies: Chānd’s Mārwārī Ank and the National *Feindbild*.” An invited presentation at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata, India.
- 03.13 “The Calcutta Hindi Movement: Deterritorialized Regionalism and the Technology of Knowledge.” Paper presented at the Association of Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, San Diego.
- 02.11 “Extraterritorial Origins: Hindi Novels in a Bengali Literary Milieu.” Paper presented at the Berkeley Graduate Student Symposium: The Transregional: Circulation, Limits, and Transformations, UC Berkeley.
- 10.09 “Past and Present Tensions: Alka Saraogi’s *Kali-Katha via Bypass*.” Paper presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Outreach Talks:

- 11.18 “Lecture on V.S. Naipaul.” Lecture given at the Boulder Bookstore Nobel Prize Series, Boulder, Colorado.
- 04.18 Speaker and Roundtable Panelist for *Happy 70th Birthday India. Making the World's Largest Democracy Work*. Conference on World Affairs, CU Boulder.
- 11.17 “Lecture on Rabindranath Tagore.” Lecture given at the Boulder Bookstore Nobel Prize Series, Boulder, Colorado.

TEACHING HISTORY

At CU Boulder, Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations:

HIND 1011: *Introduction to South Asian Civilization* (Fall 2016, Fall 2017 and Fall 2018). A large survey course (60 students) focusing on South Asian history, culture, religions, and politics from the classical period to the present.

HIND 3851: *Devotional Literatures of India* (Spring 2017, Spring 2018). The course explores the poetry and music of medieval and early-modern devotional (*bhakti*) movements of Hindu, Jain, Sikh, and Sufi traditions.

HIND 3811: *The Power of the Word: Banned and Subversive Indo-Pakistani Literature of the 20th Century* (Spring 2017 and Fall 2018). This course uses cultural texts to study various social and political struggles in modern South Asian history including anti-colonial, revolutionary, gender and sexuality, caste and tribe, and communal.

HIND 3441: *Screening India: A History of Bollywood Cinema* (Fall 2016, Fall 2018, Fall 2019). This course provides a critical overview of one of the world's largest and most beloved film industries, the popular Hindi cinema produced in Bombay (Mumbai), as well as independent films sometimes referred to as parallel cinema.

HIND 3661: *South Asian Diasporas* (Fall 2017). This course explores the vibrant contributions immigrant South Asians have made to the cultures of their new homes – through music, film, and literature. The course also investigates the legacies of the forced migration of two million indentured Indians to European colonies.

ASIA-4001-803: *Advanced Language Co-Seminar* (Fall 2018). This co-seminar is an addition to the modern literature course, HIND 3811, in which the participants read a prepared selection of material from the parent course in Hindi/Urdu. The course is restricted to students who have reached at least intermediate Hindi/Urdu or the equivalent.

ASIA-4001-802: *Advanced Language Co-Seminar* (Fall 2019). This co-seminar is an addition to the film course, HIND 3441, in which Hindi/Urdu materials are used to explore the topic including secondary literature, reviews, and films without subtitles. The course is restricted to students who have reached at least intermediate Hindi/Urdu or the equivalent.

FYSM-1000-036: First Year Seminar: Ideas of India: Intellectual Legacies of Saints, Scholars and Scoundrels (Fall 2019). The First Year Seminar introduces new students to college-level critical thinking and writing. This course explores the intersections of empire, orientalist scholarship, Indian literature and nationalism. Students are tasked to think about how canons of literature have emerged, why they are privileged, and the ways our thinking takes place sometimes without any awareness of the intellectual legacies that impose frames of nationalism, orientalism, and a stable idea of India.

Independent Study: Introduction to Sanskrit (Fall 2017 and Spring 2018). This course was taught as overload for two graduate students and one professor. The course introduces the main aspects of Sanskrit grammar and language.

Mentorship and Supervision:

- Undergraduate faculty advisor for the South Asia program.
- Advisor for South Asian Language and Culture Certificate.
- Advisor for the Minor in Hindi/Urdu.
- Second Doctoral Advisor for a student in History at the Universität Erfurt.
- Mentor a graduate student in the Department of English, CU Boulder, as part of the Consortium for Doctoral Studies in Literature and Culture.
- Member of honors thesis committee, Religious Studies (completed May 2019).

Training and Pedagogy at CU Boulder:

FTEP training sessions: (NAPP Certificate of Completion, see Teaching Portfolio)

- FTEP Workshop: Seven FTEP Lunches for Early Career Faculty in the Arts & Humanities
- FTEP Workshop: Hands-on Humanities: Pedagogies of Doing, Moving, and Making
- FTEP Workshop: Doing it All: The first seven years.
- FTEP Workshop: Teaching in a Nutshell
- FTEP Workshop: Active Learning and Group Work in Classes of Any Size.
- FTEP Workshop: Designing a Syllabus of an Effective and Flexible Course
- FTEP Workshop: Time Management
- FTEP Workshop: Using Clickers Effectively in the Humanities Classroom
- FTEP Workshop: What Do You Want Them to Learn Today?: Writing effective learning goals to drive instruction and assessment
- Individual Teaching Portfolio consultation with Tim Lyons.
- LEAP Introductory Leadership Workshop

Previous Teaching Experience:

Resident Director (American Institute of Indian Studies) *Jaipur Hindi Program (Summers 2013, 2014, 2018).*

Visiting Assistant Professor (Santa Clara University), *Modern Indian History (Spring 2013).*

Instructor (UC Berkeley), *India in the Writer's Eye (Spring 2003, Spring 2010, Spring 2011).*

Instructor (UC Berkeley) *Great Books of India (Fall 2009).*

Instructor (UC Berkeley), *First Year Hindi (Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2011).*

Instructor (UC Berkeley), *Introduction to Hindi (Intensive Summer Program 2005).*

Instructor (UC Berkeley), *Intermediate Hindi (Spring 2012).*

Co-Instructor (UC Berkeley), *Pedagogy for Graduate Student Instructors (Fall 2012).*

GRANTS, AWARDS, HONORS

AY 2020-21	Center for the Humanities and Arts Faculty Fellowship, UC Boulder
Spring 2019	CLAC Co-Seminar Course Development Grant.
Spring 2018	CLAC Co-Seminar Course Development Grant.

04.17	President's Fund for the Humanities, CU Boulder.
04.14-08.16	Postdoctoral Fellowship, Max Weber-Kolleg, Universität Erfurt.
Summer 2011	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Bengali (FLAS).
AY 2010	Teaching Effectiveness Award, UC Berkeley Teaching and Resource Center.
AY 2010	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Berkeley Teaching & Resource Center.
Summer 2010	FLAS Fellowship for Bengali training in Kolkata (Summer 2010).
AY 2008-2009	Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, UC Berkeley (2008-2009).
AY 2007-2008	American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Research Fellowship.
May 2005	AIIS Pre-Dissertation Grant.
AY 2002-2003	FLAS Fellowship received for academic year.
AY 2003-2004	FLAS Fellowship received for academic year.
Summer 2003	FLAS Fellowship for Hindi.

LANGUAGES

Advanced (near-native) proficiency in Hindi
 Advanced proficiency in written and spoken Urdu
 Advanced proficiency in written and spoken German
 Intermediate Sanskrit
 Intermediate Bengali
 Intermediate Danish

SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Hiring and Fellowship Committees:

Chair of Search Committee, CU Boulder: Hindi-Urdu Instructor (2018-19)
 Search Committee, CU Boulder: Assistant Prof. in Modern Arabic (2017-18)
 Chair of Search Committee, CU Boulder: Hindi-Urdu Instructor (2016-17)
 Search Committee, CU Boulder: Korean Instructor (2017)
 Search Committee, Universität Erfurt: Tenure track professorship for Religion and Anthropology of South Asia (2016).
 Search Committee, Universität Erfurt: Tenure track professorship for History of Science (2015).
 Critical Language Scholarship: First and Second round reader and review panelist for India and Bangladesh (2013, 2014, 2015).
 Boren Scholarship: Reader and review panel participant for East, Southeast Asia (2014).

Service to the Hindi-Urdu Language Program, Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations:

- Hiring and training three instructors.
- Support with materials and syllabi development.
- Program building: student recruitment and course development.
- Promotion and event attendance: South Asian Student Association, Pakistani Student Association, Nepali Student Association, Sikh Student Association, and campus events to promote majors and minors. Special events such as the Kabir Singers concert (04.17) and the Jaipur Literature Festival, Boulder.
- Successfully secured funding and submitted an application for our current instructor to participate in a ten-day South Asian Language Instructor Training Certificate Program (SASLI, UW Madison, June 2019).

Additional Departmental Committees:

AY 2016-2017: Curriculum Committee; Reappointment Committee; Salary Committee.
AY 2017-2018: Curriculum Committee

AY 2018-2019: Curriculum Committee; Merit Committee; Peer-review of teaching for two colleagues.

Editing and Organizational Activities:

Co-editor of a four-volume publication *Religious Individualisations: Historical Dimensions and Comparative Perspectives*, edited by Martin Fuchs, Antje Linkenbach, Martin Mulsow, Bernd-Christian Otto, Rahul Parson and Jörg Rüpke, (Berlin: de Gruyter, 2019).

Panel Organizer: "Margins of the Indian City." Association of Asian Studies (AAS), Denver, Colorado. (March, 2019).

Co-Organizer of final conference of the KFG (Kolleg-Forschergruppe "Religiöse Individualisierung in historischer Perspektive") Eisenach, Germany. (June 2017).

Workshop leader for first volume of the KFG (Kolleg-Forschergruppe "Religiöse Individualisierung in historischer Perspektive"), Erfurt, Germany. (January 2017).

Co-Organizer of the Indian devotional literature conference: "Bhakti and Self" Conference at the Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt, Germany. (June 21-23, 2016).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Asian Studies
American Academy of Religions
American Comparative Literature Association
Regional Bhakti Scholars Association
Modern Language Association