

**ROCHONA MAJUMDAR**  
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Chicago, IL 60637  
rmajumda@uchicago.edu

## **EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

Associate Professor, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations.  
Department of Cinema and Media Studies. University of Chicago, 2012-.

Assistant Professor (tenure track), Department of South Asian Languages and  
Civilizations, University of Chicago, 2005-2012. Affiliate member Department of  
History, Resource faculty, Cinema and Media Studies, University of Chicago.

Collegiate Assistant Professor and Harper Fellow. Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts  
and Social Science Division, University of Chicago. 2003-2007.

## **EDUCATION**

**Ph.D. University of Chicago.** August, 2003. Joint degree in History and South Asian  
Languages and Civilizations.

Dissertation: "Marriage, Modernity and Sources of the Self: Bengali Women, c. 1870-  
1956."

**Second BA (MA), St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford.** Modern History.  
1993-1995.

**BA, Presidency College, University of Calcutta.** History honors. 1989-1992.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Monographs**

*Art Cinema in India: Aesthetic and Political Histories.* (book manuscript under preparation)

*Writing Postcolonial History.* London: Bloomsbury Academic Publishing, 2010.

Reviewed in: *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 47, no. 2, 2012, pp. 469-70.

*Marriage and Modernity: Family Values in Colonial Bengal.* Durham: Duke University Press,  
2009; New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2009. Shortlisted by the International  
Convention of Asia Scholars, (Social Science short-list) 2011.

Reviewed in:

*Women's History Review*, Vol. 22, Issue 5 (2013), pp. 841-860.

*Feminist Formations*, Vol. 24, no. 2 (2012), pp. 211-217.

*Contributions to Indian Sociology*, Vol. 45, no. 2 (2011).

*Feminist Studies*, "The Lure of the Archive: New Perspectives from South Asia," Vol. 37, no. 1 (Spring 2011), pp. 93-110.  
*Asian Studies Review*, Vol. 35, no. 1 (March 2011), pp. 128-129.  
*Social History*, Vol. 35, no. 4 (November 2010), pp. 474-476.  
*Indian Historical Review*, Vol. 37, no. 2 (2010), pp. 321-325.  
*American Historical Review*, Vol. 115, no. 4 (October, 2010), pp. 1135-36.  
*Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 69, no. 3 (2010), pp. 941-942.  
*South Asian History and Culture*, Vol. 1, no. 3 (2010), pp. 450-453.  
*H-Asia*, July 2010, [www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=25828](http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=25828)  
*The Telegraph*, Nov 6, 2009,  
[www.telegraphindia.com/1091106/jsp/opinion/story\\_11703106.jsp](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1091106/jsp/opinion/story_11703106.jsp)  
*Anandabazar Patrika* (In Bengali), Nov 14, 2009.  
*Garavi* (In Gujarati), Nov 20, 2009.  
*South Asian Review*, Vol. 30, no. 2, Oct-Nov, 2009, pp. 241-243.  
*Feminist Review*, [feministreview.blogspot.com/2009/08/marriage-and-modernity-family-values-in.html](http://feministreview.blogspot.com/2009/08/marriage-and-modernity-family-values-in.html), August 9, 2009.

### **Edited Volumes**

Rochona Majumdar, Ashish Rajadhyaksha, and Moinak Biswas eds., *The Indian New Cinemas Reader: Texts, Debates, Histories* (Book manuscript under preparation for Orient Blackswan, India).

Helge Jordheim, Margrit Pernau, Rochona Majumdar, et al., eds. *Civilizing Emotions: Concepts in Asia and Europe, 1870-1920*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 2015.

Dipesh Chakrabarty, Rochona Majumdar & Andrew Sartori, eds. *From the Colonial to the Postcolonial: India and Pakistan in Transition*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Reviewed in:

*The Historian*, Vol. 72, no. 1, Spring, 2010, pp. 194-196.  
*The Indian Economic and Social History Review*, Vol. 46, no. 1, 2009, pp. 141-144.  
*Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 43, no. 7, 2008, pp. 35-38.  
*The English Historical Review*, Vol. 123, no. 5, pp. 2008, pp. 1605-1606.

### **Articles**

"Writing Postcolonial History: Origins, Expansion, Challenges". In Peter Burke and Marek Tamm eds., *New Approaches in History*. London: Bloomsbury Academic Publishing, 2018, pp. 49-74.

"Satyajit Ray and the Film Society Movement in India"  
<https://criticalcollective.in/SpecialProject.aspx?tid=21>

"Feluda on Feluda: A letter to 'Topshe'". *South Asian History and Culture*, vol. 8, no. 2, pp. 233- 244, 2017.

"Subaltern Studies as a History of Social Movements in India" in Stefan Berger and Holger Nehring eds. *The History of Social Movements in Global Perspective: A Survey*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 63-91, 2017.

"Policing Higher Education: A Historian's Perspective", *South Asian History and Culture*, Vol. 7, no. 3 (2016), pp. 312-314.

"Song Times and the Time of Narratives in Indian Films" (article under preparation for special issue of *Boundary 2*)

"Art Cinema: The Indian Career of a Global Category", *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 42, no. 3, Spring 2016, pp. 580-610.

"I want to be Topshe", in Boria Majumdar ed. *Feluda @ 50*, New Delhi: Harper Collins, 2015, pp. 77-89.

"Thinking through Transition: Marxist Histories in India", in Edward Quingjia Wang and Georg Iggers eds., *Marxist Histories: A Global Perspective*, London: Routledge, 2015, pp. 193-218.

"Subaltern Studies as a History of Social Movements in India" *South Asia*, vol. 38, no. 1, pp. 50-68.

"From Civilizational Heroism to Universal Humanity" in Helge Jordheim, Rochona Majumdar, Margrit Pernau, et al. *Civilizing Emotions: Concepts in Asia and Europe, 1870-1920*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015, pp. 207-228.

"Looking for Brides and Grooms." Reprinted in Tanika and Sumit Sarkar eds., *Caste in Modern India*, Vol. 2, New Delhi: Permanent Black/ Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 133-166.

"Debating Radical Cinema: A History of the Film Society Movement in India", *Modern Asian Studies*, Vol. 46, part 2 (May 2012), pp. 731-67.

"A Conceptual History of the Social: Some Reflections out of Colonial Bengal" in Michael Dodson and Brian Hatcher eds., *Transcolonial Modernities in South Asia*, London: Routledge, pp. 169-188.

With Dipesh Chakrabarty, "Gandhi's Gita and Politics As Such," *Modern Intellectual History*, Vol. 7, no. 2 (2010), pp. 335-353.

Reprinted in Shruti Kapila and Faisal Devji eds., *Political Thought in Action: The Bhagavad Gita and Modern India*, New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2013, pp. 66-87.

Marriage, Family, and Property in India: the Hindu Succession Act of 1956, *South Asian History and Culture*, Vol. 1, no. 3 (2010), pp. 397-415.

With Dipesh Chakrabarty, "Mangal Pandey: Film and History," *Economic and Political Weekly*, Special Issue on 1857, April 15, 2007, pp. 1771-1778. Reprinted in *1857: Essays from Economic and Political Weekly*, Orient Longman, 2008, pp. 303-328.

“Family Values in Transition: Debates on the Hindu Code Bill,” in *From the Colonial to the Postcolonial: India and Pakistan in Transition*. Editors, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Rochona Majumdar & Andrew Sartori, pp. 223-240, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2007.

“Snehalata’s Death: Dowry and Women’s Agency in Colonial Bengal,” *The Indian Economic and Social History Review*, October-December, Vol. 41, no.4 (2004), pp. 433-464.

“Looking for Brides and Grooms: *Ghataks*, Matrimonials and the Marriage Market in Bengal, c. 1875-1940,” *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 63, no. 4 (November 2004), pp. 911-935.

“History of Women’s Rights: A Non-Historicist Reading,” *Economic and Political Weekly*, 30 (May 2003), pp. 2130-2134.

“Self-Sacrifice” versus “Self-Interest”: A Non-Historicist Reading of the History of Women’s Rights in India,” in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, Vol. 22, nos. 1-2 (2002), pp. 20-36.

“Writing the Self: Rassundari Dasi’s *Amar Jiban*”, in *The Calcutta Historical Journal*, Volumes 19-20 (combined) (1997-1998), pp. 13-34.

### **Review Essays (peer reviewed)**

“Gandhi and the Contemporary World”, *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*, vol. 15, no. 1, (2014). DOI: [10.1353/cch.2014.0004](https://doi.org/10.1353/cch.2014.0004).

“Love and Marriage in the Public Sphere”, *Journal of Women’s History*, Vol. 24, no. 3 (Fall 2012), pp. 182-194.

“Arguments within Indian Feminism”, *Social History*, Volume 32, no. 4 (November 2007), pp. 434 – 445.

“Understanding Marriage Dowry,” [www.history-compass.com](http://www.history-compass.com) (2004), no. 2, pp. 1-9.

### **Book Reviews**

Review of Sudipta Kaviraj, *The Invention of Private Life*, *Journal of Asian Studies* Vol. 75, no. 2 (May 2016), pp. 545-546.

Review of Tanika Sarkar *Rebels, Wives, Saints: Designing Selves and Nations in Colonial Times*, *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, December 26, 2009. (In Bengali)

Review of Mahua Sarkar, *Visible Histories Disappearing Women*, *Economic and Political Weekly*, July 11-17, 2009, pp. 30-32.

Review of Robert Travers, *Ideology and Empire in Eighteenth Century India*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 68, no. 1 (February 2009), pp. 327-329.

Review of an exhibition curated by Divia Patel entitled “Cinema India: the Art of Bollywood,” Powerhouse Museum, Sydney, in *re Collections: A Journal of the National Museum of Australia*, Volume 2, no. 2 (2008).

Review of Priya Jaikumar’s *Cinema at the End of Empire* for *Visual Resources*. Vol. 23, no. 3 (2007), pp. 271-272.

Review of Antoinette Burton and Tony Ballantyne, eds. *Bodies in Contact, Journal of World History*, Vol. 17, no. 3 (2006), pp. 345-347.

Review of Dorothee Wenner’s *Fearless Nadia*, *Biblio*, Vol, 12, nos. 1 & 2 (January-February, 2007), p. 30.

Review of Sanjay Joshi’s *Fractured Modernity*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 65, no. 2 (2006), pp. 440-442.

Review of Vinay Lal’s *The History of History*, *American Historical Review* Vol. 109, no. 5 (2004), pp. 1534-1535.

Review of Anupama Rao edited *Gender and Caste*, in *Biblio*, Vol. 9, 1-2 (January-February 2004) p. 34.

Review of Rajul Sogani’s *The Hindu Widow in Indian Literature*, in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 37, no. 50 (December 14, 2002), pp. 5013-5015.

### **Print and Electronic Journalism**

“Shab Arthe Nagarik”, Dec 30, 2018, <https://www.anandabazar.com/editorial/in-mrinal-sen-s-film-india-and-world-were-connected-in-a-single-link-1.924529>

“Why Mrinal Sen was India’s first politically committed filmmaker” DailyO, <https://www.dailyo.in/variety/mrinal-sen-filmmaker-documentary-bhuvan-shome-bengali-cinema/story/1/28625.html>

“Why we Marched?”, January 24, 2017, The Indian Express.

“Into the Wild”, Dec 16, 2016, The Indian Express.

“Kacher Manush Topshe”, Ei Shomoy, Dec 26, 2015. (In Bengali)

“Sudhu 26 November?” *Anandabazar Patrika*, December 14, 2008. (In Bengali)

“Silent No Longer” *India Today*, Special Issue on Sex and Marriage, November 5, 2007, pp. 76-78.

“Where Will It End?” *Outlook*, March 15, 2007, [www.outlookindia.com](http://www.outlookindia.com)

“In Good Faith.” *Outlook*, August 17, 2005, [www.outlookindia.com](http://www.outlookindia.com)

“Thou Shalt Not See.” *Outlook*, July 8, 2004, [www.outlookindia.com](http://www.outlookindia.com)

“Give Them Death... Or Life?” *Outlook*, July 1, 2004, [www.outlookindia.com](http://www.outlookindia.com)

“Theft of the Nation.” *Outlook*, March 28, 2004, [www.outlookindia.com](http://www.outlookindia.com)

“What’s In a Name?” *Outlook*, September 6, 2003, [www.outlookindia.com](http://www.outlookindia.com)

“Empowerment or Insult” *Outlook*, August 29, 2003, [www.outlookindia.com](http://www.outlookindia.com)

“Shorn of Desire in a Modern World,” *The Telegraph*, February 10, 2000.

### **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Award of distinction. Katherine Singer Kovacs award for best essay. Society for Cinema and Media Studies, 2017.

Visiting fellow IWM, Vienna. October 14-31, 2014.

Senior Research fellowship, American Institute for Indian Studies. 2012-2013.

Mellon Sawyer Seminar fellow, Center for Study in Gender and Sexuality, University of Chicago. 2011-12.

Residential Faculty Fellowship, Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago. 2008-2009.

Visiting scientist in residence, Max Planck Institute for the History of Emotions, Berlin. November-December 2008.

Nominated for Center for Gender Studies, University of Chicago Junior Faculty prize for innovative course.

Arts Planning Council, Curricular Development Grant, University of Chicago. 2006.

Bessie Pierce Prize Preceptorship in History, Department of History, University of Chicago. 2002-2003.

Committee on Southern Asian Studies. Dissertation award. 2002-2003.

Whiting Dissertation Fellowship. 2001-2002.

Doctoral Fellow, Franke Institute for the Humanities. 2001-2002.

Harry Frank Guggenheim Dissertation Fellowship. 2001-2002.

Von Holst Prize Lecturer. Department of History, University of Chicago. Winter 2001.

Junior Research Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies. 1999-2000.

Kunstadter Fellowship, Department of History, University of Chicago. 2000.

University of Chicago Unendowed Fellowship. 1996-2000.

Radhakrishnan Fellowship. Awarded by Government of India, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK. 1993-1995.

Kuruvilla Zachariah Memorial Award for securing highest marks in BA History (Part II) examinations. 1992.

Rai Bahadur Debendra Chandra Ghosh Prize for securing highest marks in BA History (Part I) examinations. 1991.

## **COURSES TAUGHT (Select list)**

Screening India: Bollywood and Beyond (Graduate and College)  
Indian Art Cinema. (Graduate and College)  
Feminism, Democracy, and Violence. (College)  
Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations. Core Course in Gender Studies. (College)  
South Asia as a Unit of Study. (Graduate seminar)  
Critics of Inequality in Modern India: Caste and Gender. (Graduate seminar)  
Introduction to South Asian Civilizations, Modern Indian history, 1757-2001. (College)  
Introduction to South Asian Civilizations. State and Society in India. Pune Study Abroad Program. (College)  
Feminism and Liberalism in India. (College and graduate)  
Love, Conjuality, and Capital: Comparative Perspectives from India and Africa (co-taught with Jennifer Cole) (College and graduate seminar)  
Critics of Inequality in Colonial India. (Graduate seminar)  
Advanced Bangla (Graduate)

## **UNIVERSITY AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Interim-Director, The Nicholson Center for British Studies, 2018-19.  
Member, Advisory Board. Women in Comedy.  
Member. Editorial Board. Anthem Studies in South Asian Literature, Aesthetics, and Culture.  
Director of Graduate Studies. Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations. 2015-.  
Senior fellow. Society of Fellows. The University of Chicago. 2017- .  
Chair. Bernard Cohn Prize Committee, Association for Asian Studies. 2016-17.  
Reviewer, Otto Hahn Medal. Max Planck Society, Germany, 2016.  
Harper Schmidt selection committee. The University of Chicago, 2016-17.  
Member, Bernard Cohn Prize Committee, Association for Asian Studies. 2015-16.  
Member. Franke Institute for the Humanities Governing Board. 2016- .  
Member, Editorial Board of *Journal of the History of Concepts*. 2015-.  
Member, Editorial Board of *Moving the Social: A Journal of Social History and the History of Social Movements*. 2014-.  
Member. Events Committee. Cinema and Media Studies. 2015-.  
Member, Master of Arts in the Humanities, 2014-2016.  
Chair, Faculty Board to review and recommend new leadership for the MAPH program, 2014.  
Member, Nicholson Center for British Studies, 2014-.  
Member, University wide Student Disciplinary Committee, 2014-.  
Member, UChicago Arts Board to review the Arts Abroad Initiative.  
Member, Faculty Board, MAPH, University of Chicago (2013-2016)  
Member, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, University of Chicago, 2010-.  
Chair, Curriculum Committee, Center for Gender Studies, University of Chicago, 2011-.  
Reviewer for Endangered Archives Program, British Library.  
“Hundred Years of Indian Cinema: A Retrospective of Films by Adoor Gopalakrishnan”, April 11-13, 2013.  
New Directions in South Asian Intellectual History. April 8-9, 2013.  
A two-day conference entitled “Engendering the rights tradition in India: The Colonial encounter and beyond.” Co-organizer with Linda Zerilli, Martha Nussbaum, and Leela Gandhi under the aegis of the Sawyer seminar, “Women’s International Human Rights:

Problems, Paradoxes, Possibilities, Center for Gender Studies, University of Chicago (May 3-4, 2012).

“The Many World of Rabindranath Tagore”. A two-day conference organized with Dipesh Chakrabarty, Thibaut d’Hubert, and Mandira Bhaduri. University of Chicago (October 27-28, 2011).

South Asia editor, *History Compass*, 2011-.

Faculty Coordinator, South Asia Seminar, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2007, 2006.

Manuscript reviewer for *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Journal of Women’s History*, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Society (Incorporating Man)*, Columbia University Press, and Taylor and Francis (Routledge.)

Member, Executive Committee, The Society for Advancing the History of South Asia, American Historical Association, 2009-.

Faculty Trustee for the University of Chicago, American Institute of Indian Studies, 2006-2011.

Served on Stuart Tave Graduate Fellowship Committee, Civic Knowledge Projects, University of Chicago. 2005, 2011.

Co-organizer of a two day conference entitled “From the Colonial to the Postcolonial: South Asia In Transition”, University of Chicago, April 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

Co-organizer of “Family Values”, The Weissbourd Annual Conference sponsored by the Society of Fellows, University of Chicago.

## **PRESENTATIONS (Select)**

### **2019**

“The ‘New’ Indian Cinema: Journeys of the Art Film.” Invited lecture. Center for South Asia. Stanford University. Jan 17.

### **2018**

“Temporalities and the Nation in Indian Cinema.” Invited speaker in a workshop entitled Democratic Theory in India. Neubauer Collegium, The University of Chicago. (November 9)

### **2017**

Curator, “Screen India”. A film series at the Bard Gallery, New York to accompany an exhibition on the works of John Lockwood Kipling. (September 15- January 5)

“Gendering World History”. Invited speaker. Cambridge University. (September 27-28).

Invited speaker. “Ministry of Light”. A program about Films Division shorts. Block Museum, Northwestern University. (September, 21)

Plenary keynote speaker, Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, University of Notre Dame, “Songs and Story-telling in Bollywood”. (Sept 16)



