**AHONA PANDA**1130 East 59th St. | Chicago, IL 60637 |   
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**EMPLOYMENT\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

2021–2022 Visiting Assistant Professor in History  
*Claremont McKenna College*

2019–2021 Humanities Teaching Fellow

Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations & the College  
*University of Chicago*  
   
Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality  
*University of Chicago*

**EDUCATION\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

2012–2019 PhDin South Asian Languages and Civilizations, *University of Chicago*

“Philology and the Politics of Language: The Case of Bengali, 1893-1955”   
Committee: Rochona Majumdar (chair), Dipesh Chakrabarty, Thibaut d’Hubert

2011–2012 Graduate Research, Department of English, *University of Oxford*

2009–2011 MA in English Literature, *Jadavpur University*

2006–2009 BA in English Literature with Film Studies and History, *Jadavpur University*

**RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Modern South Asia; decolonization; history of philology; critical theory; book history; history of political movements; Bangladesh; gender and queer theory; postcolonialism; histories of empire; world literatures; *Mahābhārata*;Sanskrit literature; translation.

**PUBLICATIONS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Book Project**

In progress *Nation versus Nation-State: Decolonization and the Politics of Language in Bengal, 1893-1971*

**Articles and Book Chapters**

In progress“From Philology to Linguistic Nationalism: Language and Popular Sovereignty in

East Pakistan, 1947-1971”

In progress “Constructing the Linguistic Subject: Bengali Muslim periodicals, 1920-1940.”

2021 “From Fascism to Famine: Peasant passivity and the literature of conscience and complicity in Bengal, 1941-1944,” *Modern Asian Studies*, special issue “World War II in South Asia” coedited by Isabel Huacuja Alonso and Andrew Amstutz (accepted)

2021 “How to Be Political without Being Polemical: The Debate between Bankimchandra   
Chattopadhyay and Rabindranath Tagore over the *Kṛṣṇacaritra*,” in *Many   
Mahābhārata*s, eds. Nell Shapiro Hawley and Sohini Sarah Pillai (SUNY Press, 2021), 279-304.

**Reviews and Short Essays**

2021 Review of Partha Chatterjee, *I am the People: Reflections on Popular Sovereignty Today* (Columbia University Press, 2020), *South Asian History and Culture* [in press]

2021 Review of Sanjib Baruah, *In the Name of the Nation: India and Its Northeast* (Stanford University Press, 2020), *Indian Economic and Social History Review* 58:2 (2021): 283-6.

2015 “The Religious History of the Hindus and the Liberal Present of India,” an essay on Wendy Doniger’s *The Hindus: An Alternative History*, trans. into Hebrew by Eilat Maoz, *Theory and Criticism* (*Teoria U’vikoret*) 44 (2015): 303-10.

**Public Writing**

2021 Review of Bihani Sarkar, Classical Sanskrit Tragedy: The Concept of Suffering and Pathos in Medieval India (I.B. Tauris, 2021), *The Telegraph* [forthcoming]

2021 “Radio, Ghazals and Islami Gaan: What Nazrul’s Shift to Music said about his Syncretism” *Daily Star*, Dhaka, September 2.  
<https://www.thedailystar.net/daily-star-books/news/radio-ghazals-and-islami-gaan-what-nazruls-shift-music-said-about-his-syncretism-2166716>

2020 “In Memory of Professor Anisuzzaman, a Scholar of Bengals Past and Present,” *Daily Star,* Dhaka, May 22. [https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/tribute/news/memory- prof-anisuzzaman-scholar-bengals-past-and-present-1904782](https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/tribute/news/memory-%20prof-anisuzzaman-scholar-bengals-past-and-present-1904782)

2018 “‘Kaikeyi to Dasharath’: How Michael Madhusudan Dutt’s Radical Poetry Reworked the Narrative: A translation by Ahona Panda of the Bengali poet and playwright’s most anthologized poem,” *Scroll.in*, March 18.

<https://scroll.in/article/872379/kaikeyi-to-dasharath-how-michael-madhusudan-dutts-radical-poetry-reworked-the-narrative>

2015 “What Karna and Kunti Talked about the Night before the Battle of Kurukshetra: A New Translation of the Poem ‘Karna Kunti Samvad’, Recreating a Meeting between Them,” *Scroll.in*, November 8.

<https://scroll.in/article/767802/what-karna-and-kunti-talked-about-the-night-before-the-battle-of-kurukshetra>

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

2020 Research Associate, “Digital Scholarship for South Asian Studies”, *Regenstein Library, University of Chicago*

2018–2019 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, *Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago*

2017–2018 International Dissertation Research Fellowship, *Social Science Research Council*

2017 Dissertation Support Fellowship, *Committee on Southern Asian Studies, University of Chicago*

2016 Graduate Fellowship Award, *Nicholson Center for British Studies, University of Chicago*

2015 Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship, *Committee on Southern Asian Studies*

Graduate Fellowship Award, *Nicholson Center for British Studies*

2012–2017 Graduate Aid Initiative Fellowship, *Division of Humanities, University of Chicago*

2009 Krishna Kripalani Award and University Medal, *Jadavpur University*

**INVITED PRESENTATIONS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

2021 "The Muslim Periodical: Print and Identity in Twentieth-Century Bengal" in *Rethinking the Politics and Practices of Print in Comparative Colonial Perspective* (January 8-9), virtual workshop at the Edinburgh Center for Global History.

2021 “Politics Through Other Means: Moral Sovereignty and Citizenship Practices in

South Asia,” *Mutations of Sovereignty: Perspectives on Sanjib Baruah’s “In the Name of the Nation”* (pre-conference symposium), 49th Annual South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

2018 “Kazi Nazrul Islam and the Partition of Bengal,” South Asia Seminar Series at the

British Library, London, November 20.

“A Language of Hunger: Representing World War II and the Bengal Famine,”

*Rethinking World War II in South Asia* (pre-conference symposium), 47th Annual South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 11.

2017 “How to Be Political without Being Polemical: The Fallout of Rabindranath Tagore and Bankim Chandra Chatterjee over the *Mahābhārata*,” *Many Mahābhāratas* (pre-conference symposium), University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 26.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

2021 “Fifty Years of Bangladesh: Tracing Law, Literature, and Liberty in Transition,” Panel Organizer and Presenter, American Historical Association Virtual Colloquium, March 30.

2016 “*Dobhāshī*, or the Case of an Obdurate Category: Philology and Politics in Twentieth-Century Bengal,” *MESAAS* Graduate Students Conference, Columbia University, February 25-26.

2014 “From *Sikșā* (Education) to *Vidyā* (Wisdom): Rabindranath Tagore's Construction of

Knowledge and Selfhood, 1901-1941,” South Asia Graduate Students Conference,

University of Chicago, April 17-19.

2013 “From *Nabyatā* to *Ādhunikatā*: Nostalgia and the Various Forms of the Modern,”

South Asia Graduate Students Conference, University of Chicago, April 4-5.

**WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

2021 Participant, Dissertation to Book Workshop, American Institute of Indian Studies, October 20-21.

2021 *Revising the Dissertation*, workshop with Bill Germano, University of Chicago.

2018 “A Language of Unity, A Language of Loss: Kazi Nazrul Islam’s Bengali,” Theory and Practice of South Asia, University of Chicago, November 1.

2014 “Towards a Genealogy of Play: Rabindranath Tagore and Aesthetic Education,”

Brown Bag Talk, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations,

University of Chicago, April 15.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

2022

***As Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Claremont McKenna College***

Spring  *Makers of Modern India and Pakistan* (Seminar)

*Sex and Censorship in South Asia* (Special Topics)   
*Caste, Race and Equality* (First-year Humanities Seminar)

Fall *Gender and History in South Asia* (Seminar)

*Caste, Race and Equality* (First-year Humanities Seminar)

***As Lecturer, University of Chicago***

2021

Spring *Race and Caste in South Asia*

South Asian Languages and Civilizations, Sociology, Global Studies, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, Stevanovich Institute on the Formation of Knowledge

Winter *The Other Woman: Sexual Deviancy in South Asia*

South Asian Languages and Civilizations, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality

Autumn *Readings in World Literature I: The Epic*

Humanities Collegiate Division

2020

Spring *Can Women Think? The Female Intellectual in South Asia*

South Asian Languages and Civilizations

Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality

Winter *Sex and Censorship in South Asia*

South Asian Languages and Civilizations, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality, History, History of Religion

Autumn *Readings in World Literature I: The Epic*

Humanities Collegiate Division

***As Instructor, Teaching Assistant and Writing Intern, University of Chicago***

2016*Sex and Censorship in South Asia* (Instructor)

South Asian Languages and Civilizations, History

History of Religion, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality

2015–2016 *Readings in World Literatures* (Writing Intern)

Humanities Collegiate Division

2014

Winter *Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations* (Teaching Assistant)  
 Social Sciences Division

Autumn *Reading Cultures* (Writing Intern)

Humanities Collegiate Division

**SERVICE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

2016 Conference Organizer, *Dying in South Asia*

Annual South Asia Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago, March 3-4.

2014–2015 Representative, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, Humanities Division Graduate Student Council, University of Chicago

2013–2014 Humanities Representative, Graduate Council, University of Chicago

**LANGUAGES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Bengali Native language

Hindi Near-native fluency

Urdu Basic reading and speaking proficiency

Sanskrit Reading proficiency

French Reading proficiency

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

American Historical Association, February 2020­–present

Committee on Southern Asian Studies, University of Chicago, February 2020–present

**REFERENCES\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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Civilizations, and the College, University of Chicago

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Robert Kendrick

William Colvin Professor in Music, Romance Languages and Literatures, and the College, University of Chicago

[rkendric@uchicago.edu](mailto:rkendric@uchicago.edu)

Wendy Doniger

Mircea Eliade Distinguished Service Professor Emerita of the History of Religions; Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, the Committee on Social Thought, and the College

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Whitney Cox

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Associate Professor of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

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