

## AHONA PANDA

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### EMPLOYMENT

- July 2022– Assistant Professor in History  
Claremont McKenna College
- 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 PhD in South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago  
“Philology and the Politics of Language: The Case of Bengali, 1893-1955”  
Committee: Rochona Majumdar, 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; archives and curation; Bangladesh; gender and queer theory; postcolonialism; histories of empire; world literatures; *Mahābhārata*; Sanskrit literature; translation.

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Book Project

- In progress *Bengal Undivided: Language and the Limits of Nationalism in South Asia*

## Articles and Book Chapters

- In progress “From Philology to Linguistic Nationalism: Language and Popular Sovereignty in East Pakistan, 1947-1971”
- “Constructing the Linguistic Subject: Bengali Muslim Periodicals, 1920-1940”
- 2022 “From Fascism to Famine: Complicity, conscience, and the narrative of ‘peasant passivity’ in Bengal, 1941-1945,” *Modern Asian Studies*, special issue on “World War II in South Asia” coedited by Isabel Huacuja Alonso and Andrew Amstutz (in press)
- 2021 “How to Be Political without Being Polemical: The Debate between Bankimchandra Chattopadhyay and Rabindranath Tagore over the *Krsnacaritra*,” in *Many Mahābhāratas*, 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*, September 3.  
<https://www.telegraphindia.com/culture/books/review-classical-sanskrit-tragedy-the-concept-of-suffering-and-pathos-in-medieval-india-by-bihani-sarkar/cid/1829183>
- 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>

- 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

- 2021 Faculty Research Grant, Claremont McKenna College
- 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), 49<sup>th</sup> 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), 47<sup>th</sup> 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 “*Dobbāshī*, 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 *Sikṣā* (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 William 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

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

AY 2021-2022

- 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)

### *Humanities Teaching Fellow, University of Chicago*

AY 2020-2021

- 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

AY 2019-2020

- 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

***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

## REFERENCES

Rochona Majumdar  
Associate Professor of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago  
[rmajumda@uchicago.edu](mailto:rmajumda@uchicago.edu)

Dipesh Chakrabarty  
Lawrence A. Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor of History, South Asian Languages and Civilizations, and the College, University of Chicago  
[dchakrab@uchicago.edu](mailto:dchakrab@uchicago.edu)

Gary Hamburg  
Otho M. Behr Professor of the History of Ideas  
Claremont McKenna College  
[gary.hamburg@cmc.edu](mailto:gary.hamburg@cmc.edu)

Heather Ferguson  
Associate Professor of History  
Claremont McKenna College  
[hferguson@cmc.edu](mailto:hferguson@cmc.edu)

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  
[don8@uchicago.edu](mailto:don8@uchicago.edu)