

NIKHIL MENON

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History
University of Notre Dame
219 O' Shaughnessy Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556
nikhilmenon@nd.edu

EMPLOYMENT

University of Notre Dame (USA)

Assistant Professor of History, beginning in July 2018.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History, 2017—2018.

EDUCATION

Princeton University (USA)

Ph.D., History, 2017

Dissertation: 'Planned Democracy: Development, Citizenship, and the Practices of Planning in Independent India, c.1947-1966'
Committee: Gyan Prakash, Jeremy Adelman, Bhavani Raman, Michael D. Gordin, Partha Chatterjee (Columbia University)

M.A., History, 2013

General Examination Fields:
Modern South Asia: c.1750 – c.1960
Legal and Intellectual History of Colonial South Asia
Global History of Development

Jawaharlal Nehru University (India)

M.Phil., Modern Indian History, 2011

St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi (India)

M.A., History, 2009

Ramjas College, University of Delhi (India)

B.A., History (Honors), 2007

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

“Fancy Calculating Machine’: Computers and Planning in Independent India,”

Modern Asian Studies (Published online, October 2017. Forthcoming in print).

“Battling the Bottle: Experiments in Regulating Drink in Late Colonial Madras,”
The Indian Economic and Social History Review, January – March 2015, 52 (1): pp. 29-51.

Edited Volumes (Refereed)

The Postcolonial Moment in South and Southeast Asia, co-edited with Gyan Prakash and Michael Laffan (Bloomsbury, forthcoming 2018).

Book Chapters (Refereed)

“Help the Plan—Help Yourself: Making India Plan-Conscious,” in Gyan Prakash, Michael Laffan, and Nikhil Menon eds. *The Postcolonial Moment in South and Southeast Asia*, (Bloomsbury, forthcoming 2018).

“Introduction,” co-authored with Gyan Prakash and Michael Laffan, in Gyan Prakash, Michael Laffan, and Nikhil Menon eds. *The Postcolonial Moment in South and Southeast Asia*, (Bloomsbury, forthcoming 2018).

Book Reviews

Review of Ross Bassett, *The Technological Indian* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2016), *Business History Review*, October 2016, Vol. 90, Issue 3, pp. 611-613.

Popular Media

“Chasing the Machine: The Cold War Story Behind India’s First Computers,” *The Caravan*, (forthcoming in February 2018).

“Out of Commission,” *The Indian Express*, July 15, 2014.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2016-17

Fellowship of the Society of Woodrow Wilson Scholars, Princeton University, 2015-16

Summer Research Grant, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, 2015

Teagle Teaching Seminar Fellow, Teagle Foundation—McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, 2014-15

Rockefeller Archive Center Grant-in-Aid, 2014-15

Dissertation Research Grant, Princeton University Department of History, 2013-14

The History Project Research Grant (Harvard University and University of Cambridge), 2013

Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, Department of History, Princeton University, 2013 (*declined*)

Language Study Grant (to study Tamil), Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, 2012

Professor Amba Prasad Memorial Gold Medal (awarded to the best undergraduate student), Ramjas College, University of Delhi, 2007

TEACHING

As Instructor of Record

Gandhi, Fall 2017, University of Notre Dame

As Teaching Assistant

“Europe and the World: Monarchies, Nations, Empires—1776 to the Present,” Spring 2015, Princeton University.

Curriculum development and redesign for “A History of the World Since 1300,” Fall 2016. Course offered by Jeremy Adelman at Princeton University, online as “Global History Lab” on EdX platform, and at refugee camps in Kenya and Jordan in a UNHCR affiliated outreach program.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Nehru, the USSR, and Indian Planning,” paper invited for presentation at ‘Global Elite Knowledge Networks and Anglo-American Power: Think Tanks, Foundations, Universities, and the New World Order, 1940-90,’ London School of Economics and University College London, November 4-5, 2016.

“Knowing Through Numbers: Planning and the Rise of National Statistics in India,” paper invited for presentation at ‘Midnight's Institutions: Rethinking Political Imaginations and Institutional Change after India's Independence (1947-1960),’ Yale University, April 22, 2016.

“Making the Plan Popular: ‘Economic Democracy’ and ‘Democratic Planning’ in Postcolonial India,” paper presented at ‘The Postcolonial Moment,’ Princeton University, November 13, 2015.

“Planning and the International Hunt for Computers,” paper invited for presentation at ‘The Business History of India and South Asia: Recent Trends in Research,’ Harvard Business School, October 30, 2015.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Numbers for a Nation: Statistics and India’s Five Year Plans,” paper presented at “The New Economic History of India,” Cambridge University, May 11-12, 2017.

“The Professor and the Plan: National Statistics and Economic Planning in Independent India,” paper presented in a panel on ‘Shifting Configurations of State Science in India, 1950-1990: Statistics, Hydraulics, Remote Sensing and Biotechnology’ at the 45th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 24, 2016.

“Numbers and the National Economy: Planning and the Rise of Statistical Indicators,” paper presented at ‘Historicizing the Economy’ workshop, Harvard University, September 24, 2016.

“A Plan Conscious Nation: ‘Democratic Planning’ in Nehruvian India,” paper presented in a panel on ‘The Postcolonial Moment: Political Economy and the Projects of Indian Nationhood,’ 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 24, 2015.

“Automating Indian Development: Planning and the Transnational Pursuit of Computers during the Economic Cold War in South Asia”, paper presented at the Humboldt-Princeton Global History Project Workshop, Humboldt University (Berlin), May 29, 2015.

“Computing India: Statistics, Computers, and India’s Planned Future,” paper presented at the Yale Modern South Asia Workshop, Yale University, April 11-12, 2015.

“Computing in Calcutta: Computers and Economic Planning in Independent India,” paper presented at the ‘Economic History Workshop’ organized by the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) - Young Scholar’s Initiative, New York City, January 25, 2015.

“Battling the Bottle: Experiments in Regulating Drink in Late Colonial Madras,” paper presented at ‘South Asia by the Bay’ Graduate Student Conference at Stanford University, May 10, 2012.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & ACADEMIC SERVICE

Conference co-organized (with Gyan Prakash and Michael Laffan), 'The Postcolonial Moment in South and Southeast Asia' at Princeton University, November 13-14, 2015.

Panel co-organized (with Gyan Prakash), “The Postcolonial Moment: Political Economy and the Projects of Indian Nationhood,” 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 24 October, 2015.

Conference co-organized (with Joppan George), 'Technologies and Traditions', Princeton Early Career South Asia Conference, April 17-18, 2015.

Search Committee Graduate Liaison, Early Modern South Asian Historian, Department of History, Princeton University, Fall 2014.

Workshop co-organized, Colonialism and Imperialism Workshop, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, Princeton University, 2014-15.

Conference co-organized, 'Sourcing the Story: The Archive Anew, And Archives New', Early Career South Asia Conference at Jawaharlal Nehru University, October 4 - 6, 2010, New Delhi.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Historical Association

LANGUAGES

Hindi (Advanced—reading, writing and spoken)

Tamil (intermediary—reading and spoken)

Malayalam (elementary—spoken)

REFERENCES

Gyan Prakash
Dayton-Stockton Professor of History
Department of History, Princeton University
129 Dickinson Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544-1017
prakash@princeton.edu

Jeremy I. Adelman
Henry Charles Lea Professor of History
Department of History, Princeton University
129 Dickinson Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544-1017
adelman@princeton.edu

Bhavani Raman
Associate Professor of History
Department of Historical and Cultural Studies, University of Toronto
1265 Military Trail, Room HW527, Toronto,
Ontario, M1C 1A4, Canada
bhavani.raman@utoronto.ca

Michael D. Gordin
Rosengarten Professor of Modern and Contemporary History
Department of History, Princeton University

129 Dickinson Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544-1017
mgordin@princeton.edu