NIKHIL MENON

University of Notre Dame
434 Decio Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556
nikhilmenon@nd.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Notre Dame (USA)

Assistant Professor of History, 2018 - present.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of History, 2017- 2018.

AFFILIATIONS

Fellow, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame, 2018 - present.

Fellow, Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies, University of Notre Dame, 2018 - present.

EDUCATION

Princeton University (USA)
Ph.D., History, 2017

M.A., History, 2013

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 (Honours), 2007

PUBLICATIONS

Book Manuscript
> *Planning Democracy: Modern India's Quest for Development* (forthcoming with Cambridge University Press and Penguin Random House India)

<u>Journal Articles</u>

"Developing Histories of Indian Development," *History Compass*, (revise and resubmit)

"Gandhi's Spinning Wheel: The Charkha and its Regenerative Effects," *Journal of the History of Ideas*, Vol. 81, No. 4, October 2020, pp. 642-662.

"'Fancy Calculating Machine': Computers and Planning in Independent India," *Modern Asian Studies*, March 2018, Vol. 52, Issue 2, pp. 421-457.

"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.

<u>Edited Volumes</u>

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

<u>Book Chapters</u>

"'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*, (London: Bloomsbury, 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*, (London: Bloomsbury, 2018).

<u>Popular</u>

"A Short History of Data," *The Hindu*, March 21, 2019, p. 8.

"Jumbo Exports: India's History of Elephant Diplomacy," *The Caravan*, March 2019, pp. 8-10.

"Chasing the Machine: India's First Computers and the Cold War," *The Caravan*, April 2018, pp. 2-3.

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

<u>Book Reviews</u>

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.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

Joseph W. Elder Prize in the Indian Social Sciences (for the best unpublished book on an Indian subject), American Institute of Indian Studies, 2020

Mahoney Prize (for the best article on the history of computers and information technology), Society for the History of Technology, 2019

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

External

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2016-17

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

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

Internal

Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, Small Research Grant, University of Notre Dame, 2019.

Kellogg Faculty Travel Grant, University of Notre Dame, 2018

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

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

Language Study Grant, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, 2012

TEACHING

The Historian's Craft [Graduate Seminar]

Global History of Capitalism and Development [Graduate Seminar]

Modern India and Pakistan

Introduction to India and South Asia

Gandhi: A Global History of Non-Violence [Freshman Seminar]

INVITED TALKS

"Holy Men, Worldly Job: Hindu Ascetics and Five Year Plans in Nehruvian India," invited for presentation at 'Religion, Public Policy, and Development,' Notre Dame South Asia Conference, The Keough School in Washington D.C, May 14-15, 2019.

"Statistics as Development Infrastructure: Planning the Indian Republic," paper invited for presentation in the Development Seminar at the University of Toronto, April 5, 2019.

"How Calcutta Conquered Delhi: The Statistics that Planned Independent India," paper presented at the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, University of Notre Dame, March 21, 2018.

"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.

"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

"Measuring the Everyday: Sample Surveys and Household Industries in 1950s India" paper presented as part of a panel on 'Technology and the Everyday Across Post-War Asia' at the Association for Asian Studies Conference, originally in Boston and then moved online, March 26, 2021.

"Performing Development: Art and 'Democratic Planning' in India," paper presented as part of a panel on 'Art, Citizens, and the State in Nehruvian India,' at the 48th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 18, 2019.

"The Cold War Tightrope: Superpower Competition and India's Computers," paper presented at 'Technological Innovation and the Spread of Globalization in the Cold War,' University of Vienna, October 12-14, 2018.

"Calcutta to Delhi, via Moscow: The Soviet Union and Indian Planning," paper presented as part of a panel titled 'Asia Learns from the Soviet Union' at the Association of Asian Studies-in-Asia conference (hosted by Ashoka University), New Delhi, June 6, 2018.

"Planning Anxiety: The Intellectual Infrastructure of India's Five-Year Plans," paper presented at 'Anxiety and Authority in South Asia,' Princeton University, April 6, 2018.

"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.

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

"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', Stanford University, May 10, 2012.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer, Cambridge University Press (India)

Elected Member, Advisory Committee to Department Chair, Department of History, University of Notre Dame, 2020-21.

Undergraduate Program Committee, Department of History, University of Notre Dame, 2020-21.

Elected Member, Advisory Committee to Department Chair, Department of History, University of Notre Dame, 2020-21.

Panel discussant, 'The Forties: The Past and Future of India's International Engagements,' at the 48th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 18, 2019.

Panel organized, 'Art, Citizens, and the State in Nehruvian India,' at the 48th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, October 18, 2019.

Selection Committee, Kellogg International Scholars Program, University of Notre Dame, 2019-20.

Elected Member, Advisory Committee to Department Chair, Department of History, University of Notre Dame, 2019-20.

Selection Committee, DeSantis Prize for best graduate research paper, Department of History, University of Notre Dame, 2019-20.

Reviewer, *Journal of Historical Sociology*

Graduate Program Committee, Department of History, University of Notre Dame, 2018-19.

Co-organizer of Lecture Series (with Elisabeth Koll and Karrie Koesel) on "Legitimacy and Propaganda in Contemporary Asia," University of Notre Dame, 2018-19.

'Experiencing the World' Fellowship, Selection Committee, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame, 2018-19.

Founding Member and Co-Organizer of the 'South Asia Group', Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies, University of Notre Dame, 2017-present.

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