

Title: Colonial World, Imperial Mobilities: India and its inter-Asian Networks in the Nineteenth Century

Speaker: Devyani Gupta, Assistant Professor (History), Jindal School of International Affairs, JGU

Abstract:

This paper seeks to throw new light on the history of the nineteenth century by situating the emergence of the global British Empire in the context of India's intra-imperial networks and their expansive global political economy. This paper argues that colonial histories of mobility, focused on themes of cartography, shipping, mail movement, commodity trade, smuggling and migration, underscore the importance of formal and informal circulatory networks, which emerged out of the Indian subcontinent and linked-up the colonial world, stretching from parts of Africa and the Middle East to Southeast Asia and the larger Indian Ocean world, into one historical entity. The nineteenth century was witness to the emergence of a new imperial geography that took shape around the Indian subcontinent and the Indian Ocean littoral, and was enabled by developments in technologies of shipping, the entrenchment of an elaborate communication infrastructure, and the global movement of information, labour and commodities. In doing so, this paper will uncover both the massive breadth and invasive depth of infrastructural technologies in fashioning the global destinies of humanity and nation-states in the nineteenth century. The impact of these cataclysmic developments restructured the global fiscal regimes of not only the colonies but also much of the imperial metropole and prepared the groundwork for the emergence of contemporary geopolitical alignments. Biographies of networks of communication, knowledge-transmission and commodity-exchange are in fact integral to reframing the study of the nineteenth century, which must be reinvented as a period of interconnected world systems and early globalisation. Consequently, it becomes necessary to understand how massive structures of governance and administration were organised and managed beyond the realm of domestic political control. It is in this context that the history of colonial state formation becomes important and reveals the remarkable complexity of imperialist interconnectivities between India and Britain, and their colonial outposts across various regions across Asia.

Speaker Bio

Devyani Gupta is an Associate Professor in History at O. P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat, India. I'm also the Managing Editor of the *Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies*, and an Associate Member of the Centre for Global Knowledge Studies, University of Cambridge. I have a co-edited book, *Across Colonial Lines: Empires, Commodities, Movements*, forthcoming, with Bloomsbury Academic Publishing, in 2022. I completed my doctorate at the University of Cambridge in 2016. Earlier, I was Lecturer in History at the University of Delhi, India (2021), and the Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow at the University of Leeds, UK (2017-2021) and was also a Research Fellow at the University of Göttingen, Germany (2017).



O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL
Institution of Eminence Deemed to be
UNIVERSITY
A Private University Promoting Public Service

CENTRE *for* **WRITING
STUDIES**
O.P. Jindal Global University

In this month's

RESEARCH MAJLIS

on Thursday, 31st March 2022, 3:00 PM

Devyani Gupta (Associate Professor, JSIA, JGU)
presents her work on

COLONIAL WORLD, IMPERIAL MOBILITIES

**India and its inter-Asian networks in the
nineteenth century**

with

Denys Leighton (Dean, JSLL, JGU)
as discussant.

Join us at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85685280533>

Password: JGU

Title: A City of Bricks, Mortar, and Aspirations: Tales from the Licence Permit Raj
Speaker: Sushmita Pati, Assistant Professor, National Law School of India University, Bangalore.

Abstract:

This talk traces Delhi's urban villages and their residents since the 1950s till now, to show the various negotiations made by residents in order to make their space in a changing urban economy. The paper argues that rent, if understood not just as a political economic category, but rather a lived one can explain much more about these spaces. This chapter speaks of Jat villagers of Delhi who find themselves dabbling in different kinds of businesses between 1960s and 1990s. Once their land is acquired, they are left with the compensation money to invest in different businesses— at the peak of what we today know of as the license-permit raj. I look at how the Delhi Jat villagers begin to slowly occupy the lowest rung of entrepreneurship opportunities thrown up by this regime through licenses and permits. Through life histories of individual people, which are often non-linear and sometimes even counter-intuitive, I argue how they begin to coalesce around buying land, transport and starting small businesses that protected commodities like coal and cement under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. Together, they reveal how this community begins to participate in the making of Delhi's infrastructure in this period. I follow individual characters and their entrepreneurial trajectories, of successes and failures, and plot them against the changing nature of the city. I would discuss how this chapter developed over a period of time, from my PhD thesis into a chapter of my book and how I experimented with different forms of writing and organizing these stories.

Speaker Bio

Dr. Sushmita Pati is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore. Her first monograph, *'Properties of Rent: Community, Capital and Politics in Globalizing Delhi'* has recently been published from Cambridge University Press. She received her doctorate degree in political science from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi in 2017. Her research interest lies at the intersection of urban politics and urban political economy. She has previously taught at the School of Development and the School of Policy and Governance, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru, St. Stephen's College and Ramjas College in Delhi University. Some of her published works have appeared in journals like Economic and Political Weekly and Contributions to Indian Sociology.



O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL
Institution of Eminence Deemed to be
UNIVERSITY
A Private University Promoting Public Service

CENTRE *for* **WRITING
STUDIES**
O.P. Jindal Global University

RESEARCH MAJLIS

A CITY OF BRICKS, MORTAR AND ASPIRATIONS

TALES FROM THE LICENSE
PERMIT RAJ

Sushmita Pati

Assistant Professor, NLSIU

Thursday, 28th April, 2022

3:00 PM

with

Sarbani Sharma

Assistant Professor, APU

as discussant.

Join us at: <https://bit.ly/3MpnnP3>

Password: JGU

Title: Do 'Images' Speak More Than the Text?- Tracing Visual Arguments in 'Health Communication'

Speaker: Jyoti, Assistant Professor, Centre for Writing Studies, JGU

Abstract:

While graphic images are considered to be capable of inciting universal emotions like fear and repulsion, local cultural practices still contribute to the making of the majority of visual health communication media. Nevertheless, 'Visual literacy' as a multidisciplinary field of investigating visual communication media still lacks evidence-based ethnographical accounts that elaborate upon the role of culture in the production and interpretation of visuals. This paper aims to fill this gap while drawing insights and data from my doctoral research that traced the production process of two health communication programs i.e., the National Tobacco Control Programme and the National Vector-borne Disease Control Programme in India. Apart from determining the importance of symbols and color, 'culture' here is seen in relation to the very construction of a 'visual argument', the narrative style, the importance of sequence, and the concept of 'social anchoring' suggesting a peculiar relationship between text and visuals in health communication.

Author bio note

Jyoti teaches as an Assistant Professor at the Centre for Writing Studies, JGU. She completed her Ph.D. in the year 2018 and taught Sociology at the University of Delhi before joining JGU. Her research interest lies in the study of visuals while engaging with the concepts of 'creativity', 'identity', 'culture', and 'power'.



O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL
Institution of Eminence Deemed to be
UNIVERSITY
A Private University Promoting Public Service

CENTRE *for* **WRITING
STUDIES**

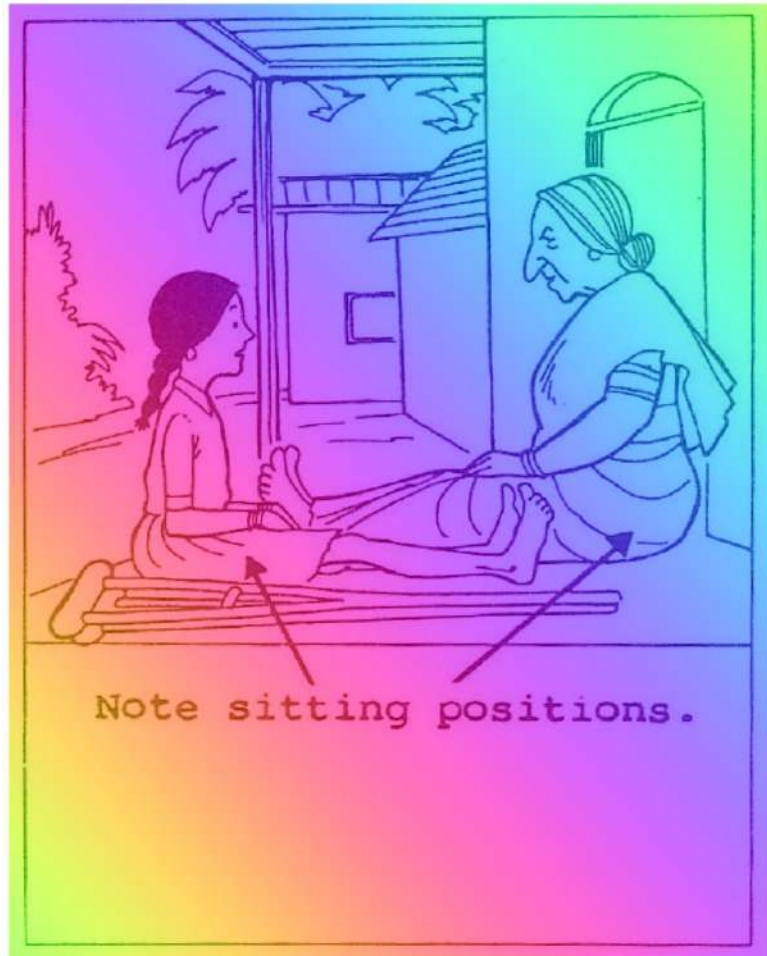
O.P. Jindal Global University

Research Majlis

**May 26 2022
3-5 p.m.**

Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81462382809>



Do 'Images' Speak More Than the Text? Tracing 'Visual Arguments' in Health Communication

Prof. (Dr.) Jyoti

Assitant Professor, CWS, JGU

with

Discussant: Prof. (Dr.) Mani Shekhar Singh

Professor, JGLS, JGU