

AUDREY TRUSCHKE

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<http://audreytruschke.com>

EDUCATION

- 2012 Ph.D., Columbia University,
Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (with distinction)
- 2008 M.Phil., Columbia University, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies
- 2007 M.A., Columbia University, Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies
- 2004 B.A., University of Chicago, Religious Studies (general honors)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2015 – Rutgers University, Newark, Department of History
Assistant Professor of South Asian History
- 2013 – 2016 Stanford University, Department of Religious Studies
Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow
- 2012 – 2013 University of Cambridge, Gonville and Caius College
Research Fellow in History

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2019 NEH Fellowship
- 2017 John F. Richards Prize in South Asian History, American Historical Association
- 2014 NEH Fellowship for Summer Institute on Problems in the Study of Religion
- 2012 – 2013 Caius Fund Research Fellow
- 2012 Perso-Indica Visiting Fellowship at the University Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris III
- 2011 – 2012 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2009 – 2010 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship
- 2006 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship for Urdu
- 2004 Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2017 *Aurangzeb: The Life and Legacy of India's Most Controversial King*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. Indian edition by Penguin India and Pakistani edition by Oxford University Press - Karachi, both under the title *Aurangzeb: The Man and The Myth*.
- 2016 *Culture of Encounters: Sanskrit at the Mughal Court*. South Asia Across the Disciplines Series. New York: Columbia University Press. Indian edition by Penguin India. Winner of the 2017 AHA John F. Richards Prize, American Historical Association

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2018 "The Power of the Islamic Sword in Narrating the Death of Indian Buddhism." *History of Religions* 57.4: 406-435.
- 2018 "A Padshah like Manu: Political Advice for Akbar in the Persian Mahābhārata." *Philological Encounters* forthcoming in 2018.
- 2015 "Contested History: Brahmanical Memories of Relations with the Mughals." *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 58.4: 419-452.
- 2015 "Dangerous Debates: Jain Responses to Theological Challenges at the Mughal Court." *Modern Asian Studies* 49.5: 1311-1344. First published online 27 February 2015.
- 2012 "Defining the Other: An Intellectual History of Sanskrit Lexicons and Grammars of Persian." *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 40.6: 635-668.
- 2012 "Setting the Record Wrong: A Sanskrit Vision of Mughal Conquests." *South Asian History and Culture* 3.3: 373-396.
- 2011 "The Mughal Book of War: A Persian Translation of the Sanskrit Mahabharata." *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* 31.2: 506-520.

Peer Reviewed in Edited Volumes

- 2016 "Deceptive Familiarity: European Perceptions of Access at the Mughal Court." In *The Key to Power? The Culture of Access in Princely Courts, 1400-1750*, edited by Dries Raeymaekers and Sebastiaan Derks, 65-99. Leiden: Brill.
- 2015 "Reimagining the 'Idol Temple of Hindustan': Textual and Visual Translation of Sanskrit Texts in Mughal India," co-authored with Qamar Adamjee. In *Pearls on a String: Artists, Patrons, and Poets at the Great Islamic Courts*, edited by Amy Landau, 141-165. Baltimore: Walters Art Museum; Seattle: University of Washington Press.

Book Chapters

- 2015 “Regional Perceptions: Writing to the Mughal Court in Sanskrit.” In *Cosmopolitismes en Asie du Sud. Sources, itinéraires, langues (XVIe-XVIIIe siècle)*, edited by Corinne Lefèvre, Ines Županov, and Jorge Flores, 251-274. Paris: Editions de l’EHESS.

Short Articles and Translations

- 2019 “Mughal Literature” and “Mughal Religious Debates.” In *Empires of the Near East and India: Sources for the Study of the Safavid, Ottoman, and Mughal Societies*, edited by Hani Khafipour. Columbia University Press, forthcoming 2019.
- 2016 “Translating the Solar Cosmology of Sacred Kingship.” *Medieval History Journal* 19.1: 136-141.
- 2015 “Indo-Persian Translations: A Disruptive Past.” *Seminar* 671 (July 2015).

Encyclopedia Articles

- 2018 “Jains and Muslims,” *Brill Encyclopedia of Jainism*, edited by Knut A. Jacobsen, John Cort, Paul Dundas, and, Kristi Wiley.
- 2012 “Jainism and Islam” articles, *Jainpedia.org*. Four articles on: Jainism and Islam, Jains and the Delhi Sultanate, Jains and the Mughals, Jains and Muslim Iconoclasm.
<http://www.jainpedia.org/themes/places/jainism-and-islam.html>.

Book Reviews

- 2018 Review of Sunil Sharma, *Mughal Arcadia: Persian Literature in an Indian Court*. The Wire, <https://thewire.in/214948/paradise-found-nearly-forgotten-universe-mughal-persian-poetry/>
- 2017 Review of Cynthia Talbot, *The Last Hindu Emperor: Prithviraj Chauhan and the Indian Past, 1200-2000*. H-Asia, <https://networks.h-net.org/node/22055/reviews/167599/truschke-talbot-last-hindu-emperor-prithviraj-chauhan-and-indian-past>.
- 2016 Review of Deven M. Patel, *Text to Tradition: The Naiṣadhīyacarita and Literary Community in South Asia*. *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 20.1: 120-122.
- 2014 Review of A. Azfar Moin, *The Millennial Sovereign: Sacred Kingship and Sainthood in Islam*. *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 46.4: 809-811.
- 2013 Review of Munis D. Faruqi, *The Princes of the Mughal Empire, 1504-1719*. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* 76.3: 543-545.

Other Publications

- 2018 “The Many Criticisms of Rama and the ‘Anger’ of the Hindu Right.” *The Wire*. April 25, 2018. <https://thewire.in/religion/the-many-criticisms-of-rama-and-the-anger-of-the-hindu-right>
- 2018 “Pakistan’s Indian History.” *Newsweek Pakistan*. March 12, 2018. <http://newsweekpakistan.com/pakistans-indian-history/>
- 2018 “Monumental Debate: The Taj Mahal.” *BBC World Histories Magazine*. February/March 2018: 8-9.
- 2017 “Why Aurangzeb’s Name should not be used as an Insult by Modi and Hindu Nationalists.” *DailyO*. December 7, 2017. <https://www.dailyo.in/politics/aurangzeb-colonialism-narendra-modi-rahul-gandhi-taj-mahal-mughal-rulers/story/1/20991.html>
- 2017 “Taj and Bigotry.” *The Indian Express*. October 24, 2017. <http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/taj-mahal-controversy-sangeet-som-blot-remark-bjp-yogi-adityanath-mughal-empire-4903344/>
- 2017 “India at 70: Why Hindu Nationalists are Afraid of Mughals.” *DailyO*. August 14, 2017. <http://www.dailyo.in/politics/mughal-history-mughalsarai-hindu-right-rss-hindutva/story/1/18955.html>
- 2017 “Censoring Indian History.” *History Today*. 67.8 (August 2017): 14-17.
- 2017 “Modern Politics in Premodern History: How national narratives have obscured the history of India’s most controversial king.” Stanford University Press Blog. May 24, 2017. <http://stanfordpress.typepad.com/blog/2017/05/modern-politics-in-premodern-history.html>. Republished on [TheWire.in](http://thewire.in) and [Scroll.in](http://scroll.in).
- 2017 “A Much-Maligned Mughal,” *Aeon*. April 5, 2017. <https://aeon.co/essays/the-great-aurangzeb-is-everybodys-least-favourite-mughal>
- 2016 “The Right’s Problem with History,” *DNA India*. October 26, 2016. <http://www.dnaindia.com/analysis/column-the-right-s-problem-with-history-2267464>
- 2016 “Imaginative Outsiders: Empowering Undergraduates to Analyze Religion,” in “Forum: Insiders, Outsiders, and Disclosure in the Undergraduate Classroom.” *Teaching Theology & Religion* 19.3: 282-286.

- 2016 “The Great Mughal Whitewash,” *India Today*. March 10, 2016. <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/the-great-mughal-whitewash-audrey-truschke-south-asian-history/1/616345.html>
- 2016 “It is High Time to Discard the Pernicious Myth of India’s Medieval Muslim ‘Villains,’” *The Wire*. January 9, 2016. <https://thewire.in/18919/high-time-discarded-pernicious-myth-indias-medieval-muslim-villains/>
- 2015 “What We Can Learn from India’s Medieval Past,” *The Wire*. September 20, 2015. <https://thewire.in/11106/what-we-can-learn-from-indias-medieval-past/>
- 2015 “Dissertation Embargoes and Publishing Fears” (a four-part series). *Dissertation Reviews*, April 2015. <http://dissertationreviews.org/archives/11842>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Rutgers University (2016 – present)

- 21:510:280: History of South Asia 1: Ancient – 1500 (Fall 2016, Fall 2017)
 21:510:281: History of South Asia 2: 1500 - present (Spring 2017)
 21:510:397: Religion, Identity and Power in Modern India (Spring 2017)

Stanford University (2013 – 2016)

- RELIGST 81: Exploring Indian Religions (Fall 2014)
 RELIGST 108/COMPLIT 148B: Indian Epics: Past and Present (Winter 2014; Fall 2015)
 RELIGST 111/HISTORY 195X: Islam in India: Conflict and Accommodation (Winter 2014)
 RELIGST 255/355 and HISTORY 297F: Religion and Power in the Making of Modern South Asia (Spring 2015; Spring 2016)

Columbia University (2008)

- AHUM V3399: Asian Humanities: Major Texts of India and the Middle East (Spring 2008, co-taught)

Language Courses (2008 – 2013)

Elementary Sanskrit

- University of Wisconsin-Madison (Summer 2011)
 University of Cambridge (Lent Term 2013)

Intermediate Sanskrit

- Columbia University (Fall 2008, Spring 2009)
 University of Cambridge (Lent Term 2013)

INVITED TALKS

- 2018 “Difference that Mattered: Defining the Ghurid threat in North India circa 1192 CE.” University Seminar on South Asia, Columbia University, New York, April 30, 2018.
- 2018 “Hated History: Islamic Rule in Early Modern India and the Politics of Rewriting the Past.” Lafayette College, Easton, PA, March 28, 2018.
- 2018 “Aurangzeb: A Conversation.” Lahore Literary Festival, Lahore, Pakistan, February 24-25, 2018.
- 2017 “Aurangzeb: Writing about the most hated man in Indian history and becoming hated myself.” University of Toronto, Toronto, September 15, 2017.
- 2017 “Culture of Encounters: Sanskrit at the Mughal Court.” Jaipur Literature Festival, Jaipur, India, January 20, 2017.
- 2016 “Exploring the Other, Inventing Oneself: Mughal Encounters with “Hindu” Thinkers, Texts, and Thought.” Princeton University, Princeton, March 1, 2016.
- 2015 “Forging an Indian Empire: Mughal Engagements with Sanskrit Texts, Thinkers, and Thought.” Indiana University, Bloomington, September 17, 2015.
- 2014 “A Persianate Empire? Sanskrit Literature and Literati at the Mughal court, 1560-1660.” Center for South Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, February 12, 2014.
- 2013 “Charting Frontiers: Sanskrit Literary and Intellectual Cultures at the Mughal Court.” School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, London, April 17, 23, and 26, 2013. Series of three talks with individual lecture titles:
Sanskrit Textual Production for the Mughal Elite
Rewriting the Social History of the Multicultural Mughal Court
Imperial Indo-Persian Treatments of Sanskrit Stories and Knowledge Systems
- 2012 “Revolutionary Knowledge: Abū al-Faḍl’s Persian Account of Sanskrit Knowledge Systems.” Mondes Iranien et Indien-UMR 7528. Paris, France, June 7, 2012.

CONFERENCES

- 2017 “Prithviraja’s Kingship on the Eve of Indo-Muslim Rule.” *Rāja-maṇḍala: In the Kings’ Circle — Court Society as Paradigm in India*. Paris, France, June 8-9, 2017.
- 2017 “Difference that Mattered: Defining the Ghurid threat to North India.” A History of Difference: Piety and Space in Early Modern West Asia. Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life at Columbia University. New York, May 4-5, 2017.

- 2017 “The Mongol Kshatriya: Mahimasahi’s devotion to Hammira in the *Hammiramahakavya*.” Annual Association for Asian Studies Conference. Toronto, March 16-19, 2017.
- 2016 “Translating Indian History: Mughal Genre Expectations of the Sanskrit Epics.” The Fourth Perso-Indica Conference. Translation and the languages of Islam: Indo-Persian tarjuma in a comparative perspective. Paris, France, December 8-9, 2016.
- 2016 “Lauding Prithviraja at the Dawn of Indo-Islamic rule.” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference. San Antonio, Texas, November 19-22, 2016.
- 2016 “Thinking About Indo-Islamic Rule in Sanskrit.” India’s Politics in Its Vernaculars. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, November 11-12, 2016.
- 2016 “Telling the Story: The Historiography of Jain Communities in Mughal India.” 45th Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, Wisconsin, October 20-23, 2016.
- 2016 “Tradition and the Other: Writing about Indo-Islamic Rule in the Prithvirajavijaya.” Patterns of Literary Composition in a Multilingual World, Preconference at 45th Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, Wisconsin, October 20, 2016.
- 2016 “Aurangzeb Alamgir’s Vision of Justice.” Annual Association for Asian Studies Conference. Seattle, March 31-April 1, 2016.
*Organized panel “Conflict and Civility: Theorizing Self and Other in Mughal India”
- 2016 “Arenas of Kingship: Sanskrit and Hindi in the Multilingual Mughal Court.” The Frontiers of Persian Learning: Testing the Limits of a Eurasian Lingua Franca, 1600-1900, Conference 2: The Social Frontiers of Persian Learning. University of California, Los Angeles, February 5, 2016.
- 2015 “The Power of the Sword in Narrating Muslim and Buddhist Interactions.” Buddhist and Muslim Encounters in Premodern South Asia. University of Lausanne, Switzerland, October 12-13, 2015.
- 2015 “History Enshrined: Venerating Kavindracharya’s Negotiations with the Mughals in Sanskrit Praise Poetry.” Annual Association for Asian Studies Conference. Chicago, March 26-29, 2015.
*Organized panel “Languages of Power, Idioms of Devotion: Intersections of the Political and the Religious in Early Modern India”
- 2014 “Serving the Faithful: Building Hindu and Jain Temples under Mughal Patronage.” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference. San Diego, November 22-25, 2014.
- 2014 “In the Eye of the Beholder: The Multiple Resonances of Akbar’s Sun Worship.” 43rd Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, Wisconsin, October 20-23, 2014.

*Organized panel “Multivalent Ideas, Texts, and Practices in Early Modern India”

- 2013 “Sounds of Empire: Hearing Sanskrit in Early Modern Indo-Persian Courts.” Conference on Inter-Asian Connections IV, The Sounds and Scripts of Languages in Motion Workshop. Istanbul, Turkey, October 2-5, 2013.
- 2013 “Lost in Translation: Colonial Attempts to Understand the Persian Mahabharata.” CHAM: Colonial (Mis)understandings: Portugal and Europe in Global Perspective, 1450-1900. Lisbon, Portugal, July 17-20, 2013.
*Organized panel “Text or Image?: Western Receptions of Indo-Persian Manuscripts”
- 2013 “Contested History: Brahmanical Memories of the Relations with the Mughals.” Oxford Early Modern South Asia Workshop: Discipline, sect, lineage and community: Scholar-intellectuals in India, c. 1500-1800. Oxford, United Kingdom, May 31-June 1, 2013.
- 2013 “Commemorating Cross-Cultural Relations in Sanskrit Praise Poetry.” British Association for South Asian Studies Annual Conference. Leeds, United Kingdom, April 3-5, 2013.
*Organized panel “Historical Silences: Reading Between the Lines in Early Modern India”
- 2012 “Negotiating Religious Difference in the Mughal World: Jain Defenses Against the Charge of Atheism.” American Academy of Religion Annual Conference. Chicago, November 17-20, 2012.
- 2012 “European Experiences and Interpretations of Access at Indian Courts.” The Key to Power? The Culture of Access in Early Modern Courts, 1400-1700. Antwerp, November 8-9, 2012.
- 2012 “Valuable Texts: A Case Study of Akbar’s Persian Ramayana.” Histories of Material Life in South Asia, 1500-1900. Cambridge, England, September 27, 2012.
- 2012 “Contested Translation in Akbar’s Persian Ramayana.” 1st Perso-Indica Conference: Translating and Writing Indic Learning in Persian. Paris, France, May 30-31, 2012.
- 2012 “Regional Perceptions: Writing to the Mughal Court in Sanskrit.” Cosmopolitanism in the Early Modern World: The Case of South Asia (16th-18th centuries). Paris, France, May 24-25, 2012.
- 2012 “The Power of Patronage: Mughal Relations with Sanskrit Intellectuals.” Annual Association for Asian Studies Conference. Toronto, Canada, March 15-18, 2012.
*Organized panel “Indo-Persian Power: Practice and Dynamics in the Mughal Empire”

- 2011 “Multicultural Mughals: Jain Experiences at Akbar’s Court.” 40th Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, Wisconsin, October 20-23, 2011.
*Organized panel “Outsider Perspectives on Mughal Power”
- 2011 “Mughal India: A Case Study in the Power of Empire.” Empires: Comparing the Semantics Behind Concept, Metaphor and Ideology, An Interdisciplinary Conference and Research Training Course, in connection with CONCEPTA. Central European University Budapest, October 13-15, 2011.
- 2011 “Islamic Translation? The Treatment of Religion in Persian Translations of the Indian Epics.” Middle East History and Theory Conference. University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, May 13-14, 2011.
- 2011 “Setting the Record Wrong: A Jain Vision of Mughal Conquests.” Association for Asian Studies and International Convention of Asian Scholars Joint Conference. Honolulu, HI, March 31-April 3, 2011.
*Organized panel “Old Voices, New Visions: Reinterpreting Jain Perspectives in Early Modern India”
- 2010 “Cosmopolitan Encounters.” International Winter School: Textual Practices Beyond Europe 1500-1900. American University, Cairo, Egypt, December 5-16, 2010.
- 2010 “A King like Manu: Political Advice to Akbar in the *Razmnamah*.” 39th Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, Wisconsin, October 14-17, 2010.
*Organized panel “Mughal Translations: Sanskrit and Persian Literary Encounters”
- 2010 “That Black Book: Translating the Ramayana in Akbar’s Court.” Third International Ramayana Conference. Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, September 18-19, 2010.
- 2010 “Praises and Petitions: Sanskrit Texts Written for the Mughal Court.” Through a Pre-Modern Prism: Intertextuality in Mughal Art, History and Literature Seminar. Jawaharlal Nehru University Institute of Advanced Study, Delhi, India, April 17, 2010.
- 2010 “The Mughal *Book of War*: A Persian Translation of the Sanskrit *Mahābhārata*.” National Seminar on Composite Culture: Reflections in Literature, Art and Architecture of Medieval India. Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, India, April 6-8, 2010.
- 2009 “Akbar as Shah or Raja? Reimaginings of Encounters with the Mughal Court in Jaina Sanskrit Literature.” 14th World Sanskrit Conference. Kyoto, Japan, September 1-5, 2009.

- 2009 “Mapping the Mughals in Sanskrit Literary Culture: Cross-Cosmopolitan Encounters in Siddhicandra’s *Bhanucandraganicarita*.” South Asia Graduate Student Conference. University of Chicago, Chicago, April 17-18, 2009.
- 2008 Panel Participant: “Medieval India” at Religion, Conflict and Accommodation Conference. Columbia University, New York, November 8, 2008.
- 2008 “Imperial Knowledge: Mughal Reflections on the translation of the *Mahābhārata*.” 37th Annual Conference on South Asia. Madison, Wisconsin, October 16-19, 2008.
- 2008 “The Power of Translation: Reflections on Akbar’s Sanskrit-Persian Translation Project.” Sanskrit-Persian Conference, part of the Seventh Biennial Conference on Iranian Studies. Toronto, Canada, July 31-August 3, 2008.
- 2008 “The Mughal Book of War: A Persian Translation of the Sanskrit Mahabharata.” Persian Literature in Multilingual India Conference. Cambridge, England, June 16-18, 2008.
- 2008 “Late 16th Century Sanskrit-Persian Translations: The *Mahābhārata* Becomes the Book of War.” 218th American Oriental Society Meeting. Chicago, IL, March 14-17, 2008.

HOME INSTITUTION TALKS

- 2015 “Invoking History to Confront Hindu-Muslim Tensions in India.” The Bechtel International Center, Stanford University, California, November 19, 2015
- 2014 “Beyond Conventions: Praising Cross-Cultural Interactions with the Mughals in Sanskrit.” Center for South Asia, Stanford University, California, May 20, 2014.
- 2013 “Redefining Islamic Knowledge: Abu al-Fazl’s Persian Account of Indian Learning.” Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies. Stanford University, California, November 21, 2013.
- 2012 “Dangerous Debates: Jain Responses to Mughal Theological Challenges.” South Asian Seminar, University of Cambridge. Cambridge, England, October 31, 2012.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- 2015 Sanskrit in Persianate India. Preconference at the 44th Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison, Wisconsin, <https://sanskritinpersianateindia.wordpress.com>. October 22, 2015.
- 2015 Polyvocal Hindustan: Literatures, Languages, and Publics. Stanford University, http://southasia.stanford.edu/Polyvocal_Hindustan. March 6-7, 2015.

ACADEMIC PROJECTS

- 2013 – 2014 External Collaborator for Sanskrit Manuscripts Project, Cambridge, UK,
<http://sanskrit.lib.cam.ac.uk/>
- 2010 – Sanskrit and Persian Literary Cultures Online,
<http://audreytruschke.com/sanskrit-and-persian-litera/>
- 2012 – Editor and Contributor for *Perso-Indica: A Critical Survey of Persian Works on Indian Learned Traditions*, <http://www.perso-indica.net/>

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Membership in Academic Organizations

American Historical Association
American Institute of Pakistan Studies
Association for Asian Studies

Select Academic Service

- 2017 - Advisory Board member for the Journal of South Asian Intellectual History
- 2017 Asian Studies Minor Advisor, Federated Department of History, Rutgers-Newark
- 2016 - 2017 Co-organizer for Federated Department of History Teach-Ins, Rutgers-Newark.
<http://www.facebook.com/HistoryTeachIns>
- 2015 – 2016 Organizer of speaker series, The Presence of the Past, Center for South Asia, Stanford University
- 2015 – 2016 Editor for Advisor series on Dissertation Reviews, www.dissertationreviews.org
- 2015 - Steering Committee Member for Jain Studies Group, American Academy of Religion, <https://papers.aarweb.org/content/jain-studies-group>
- 2012 – INDOLOGY Governing Committee Member, <http://indology.info/>
- 2008 – 2009 Founder and Coordinator, South Asia Graduate Student Forum, Columbia University

LANGUAGES

Sanskrit, reading fluency
Persian, reading fluency
Hindi, Urdu, and Braj Bhasha, reading competency