ANIKET DE

Department of History, Harvard University
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EDUCATION

2016- **HARVARD UNIVERSITY, USA**
Ph.D. Candidate in History
Advisor: Sugata Bose, Gardiner Professor of Oceanic History and Affairs.
Focus: South Asia and the British Empire, 18th-20th century.

2012-'16 **TUFTS UNIVERSITY, USA**
B.A., *summa cum laude*, 2016. Majors: History and Anthropology.
GPA*:* **3.97**/4.00. Major (both): **4.00.** Phi Beta Kappa ('15).
Thesis: "Disguises of Shiva: Nationalism and Folk Culture in the Bengal Borderland since 1905," a historical-ethnographic account of a folk performance called Gambhira. *Highest honors; awarded the Vida Allen Prize for the best history thesis.*
Committee: Ayesha Jalal (Chair), Kris Manjapra, Sarah Pinto.

2014-'15 **UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, UK**
Visiting Student in History, Pembroke College. Grade: **75.2 (First Class).**

2012 **DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWTOWN, KOLKATA, INDIA**
Indian School Certificate Examinations. Aggregate: **98**%, ranked 5th nationally.

ACADEMIC HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2016 **Russell E. Miller History Prize** for exceptional ability in history, Tufts University.
Class of 1942 Prize for students likely to be outstanding university teachers, Tufts.
Senior Alumni Award for outstanding students in the graduating class, Tufts.
2015 **Class of 1898 Prize** for university-wide best scholarly ability, Tufts.
2012 **Leslie and Bruce Male University Scholarship**, endowed merit funding, Tufts.
Tufts International Scholarship, covering all expenses at Tufts.
Angier B. Duke Memorial Scholarship Finalist, Duke University (declined).
Governor's Award for National ISC Toppers, West Bengal, India.

RESEARCH PRIZES

2016 **Vida H. Allen Prize** for the best senior thesis in history, Tufts University.
Tisch Library Research Award for best independent research for thesis, Tufts.
2015 **UK Higher Education Academy Prize**, **British Parliament**, British Conference for Undergraduate Research; nationally 2nd (UK) for poster on borderland performances.
http://www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/news/living-gods-borderlands-poster-award-aniket-de-2014.
2014 **William A. Wilson Prize** for the best undergraduate paper on folk belief and religious folklife, American Folklore Society, for the essay "Shiva and His Disguises."
Plenary Speaker Award, National Collegiate Research Conference, Harvard University.
Tisch Library Research Award for best undergraduate research paper.

MAJOR FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

2015 **International Relations Research Grant**, Tufts for research travel in Bangladesh.
TORCH Fellow, Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford, for curation and research in the exhibition *Bengal and Modernity.*
Gupta Dan Bursary, Oxford Center for Hindu Studies: archival work in North-east India.
Travel Grants, Pembroke College Oxford, for visiting libraries in England and Scotland.

2014 **John L. Kokulis Summer Scholar** with Professor Brian A. Hatcher, Tufts, for ethnographic-thesis research in the India-Bangladesh borderland regions. Affiliated with Presidency University, Kolkata and Dhaka University, Bangladesh.

2013 **Marianne J. H. Witherby Fellowship**, Department of Classics, Tufts, for archaeological excavations at Troy (Truva), Turkey, with University of Wisconsin-Madison, Universität Tübingen, and Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University.

PUBLICATIONS

2015 "Our Songs and Their Songs: Constructing Nation and Tradition in the Bengal Borderland." *St. Andrews Historical Journal* IV.3: 52-7.

2014 "'A Barbarous Practice': Hook-swinging in Colonial Bengal." *History Matters* 11: 24-43.

2014 "The Nation and the Sea: Identity, Ideology and Imagination in Colonial Bengal." Editorial. *Tufts Historical Review* 7.1: 105-13.

INVITED TALKS

2016 "The Many Lives of Folk Culture in Colonial Bengal." Presidency University Department of Sociology, August 12.
"Divided Songs, Altered Gods: Partition, Nationalism and Performance in the Bengal Borderland." *Celebrating Another Harmony, A Conference on South Asian Folklore.* Harvard University. April 9.

2015 "The Primitive Imagined: Art and Ethnography in Colonial Bengal". Solo Lecture in the exhibition *Bengal and Modernity*. Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford. May 14.
"Shiva and His Disguises: The Life of a Modern Tradition". Department of Sociology, Presidency University. September 1.

2014 "Reimagined Communities: Religion and Modernity in a Bengali Performing Art." Department of History, Presidency University, Kolkata, India. August 26.

CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

Major Presentations

2016 "'A Treasure Long Forgotten': The Quest for a Buddhist Folk Culture in Swadeshi Bengal," Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin in Madison, October 21.

2015 "Living Gods in Borderlands: Religion, Nationalism and Performance in the Indo-Bangladesh Border," British Parliament, London, 10 February.
"Our Songs and Their Songs: Constructing Nation and Tradition in the Bengal Borderland," Undergraduate History Conference, University of St. Andrews, Scotland, UK, 7 February.

2014 "'Crossing Borders': Islam, Nationalism and Gender Identity of the Hijras," Plenary Address, National Collegiate Research Conference, Harvard University, January 23.

"Birth of a 'Folk' Practice: A Case from Colonial Bengal," New England Historical Association Conference, Springfield College, MA, April 26.
"Living Gods in Modern Worlds: Notes on the Gambhīrā," 25th Anniversary Symposium, Centre for South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies, Tufts, September 27.

2013 "Reflexive Worlds: Language, Gender and Subalternity in Kālidāsa's *Abhijñānaśākuntalam,*" Miami Undergraduate Classics Conference, Miami University, OH, April 5.

Conference Organization

2016 Organizer, panel on "Borderland Buddhisms," Madison South Asia Conference, October 21.
Convener, "Old Stories, New Worlds: The Politics of Telling and Studying Folklore," conference in honor of Professor David M. Guss, Anthropology, Tufts. April 6.

2015 Project Associate, Vaishnavism in Bengal, Oxford Center for Hindu Studies.
Student organizer, Workshop on Vaishnavism in Modern Bengal, Oxford, March 28-29.

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

2014 Student Fellow, Royal Anthropological Institute, UK.
Student Member, American Anthropological Association
Student Member, Central States Anthropological Society, USA.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English, Bengali, Hindi, Sanskrit (Native/Bilingual Proficiency)
Persian, Assamese (Elementary Reading Skills, *currently learning*)
Middle Bengali, Old Hindi (Braj Bhasa) (Advanced Proficiency)
French, German (Elementary Reading Skills)