

Arjun Shankar, Ph.D.
Curriculum Vitae

4 Woodlawn Place
Clinton, NY 13323
925-519-0347
arjunishankar@gmail.com
www.arjunshankar.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Department of Anthropology and Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 2015

Dissertation: *Development, Value, and Education in India's Digital Age*

Committee: John L. Jackson, Jr. (chair), Lisa Mitchell, Ritty Lukose, Indira Vijayasimha

M.S.T. Department of Education, Pace University, New York City, 2009

B.A. Department of Political Science (with Honors), Columbia University, New York City, 2006

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2017-present Lecturer, Anthropology Department, Hamilton College

2015-present Postdoctoral Research Fellow, School of Social Policy and Practice, University of Pennsylvania

PUBLICATIONS

Books

In-progress *How Development Feels: Regimes of Value in India's Global-Digital Age.*
University of Chicago, Letter of Intent to Publish

In-preparation *Psychic Chasms (or Diasporic Paranoia): An Ethno-fiction.*

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

Forthcoming Re-Valuing Folk Stories: Photography, Participation, and Anthropological Inventions.
HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory

2016 A Critique of the Photovoice: Case Study from Karnataka, India. *Visual Anthropology Review*, 32:2, 157–166

2016 The Curious Case of the Curiosity Center. *Anthropology and Humanism*, 41:2, 233–242

2014 Towards a Critical Visual Pedagogy: A response to the End of Poverty narrative. *Visual Communication Journal*, 13:3, 341-356

Edited Volumes

Forthcoming *Curiosity Studies: A Field of Inquiry*. Eds. Perry Zurn and Arjun Shankar. University of Minnesota Press

Book Chapters

Forthcoming Towards an Anthropology of Curiosity. *Curiosity: Studies: A Field of Inquiry*, eds. Perry Zurn and Arjun Shankar. University of Minnesota Press

Book Reviews

2017 Masculinity, Toxicity, Value, and Film. *Visual Anthropology Review*, 33:1, 89–92

2015 Digital Parallax and Entanglements of Filmmaking. *American Anthropologist*, 117:1, 162-167

2011 Education, Autonomy, and Critical Thinking by Christopher Winch. *Theory and Research on Education*, 9:3, 302-304

2010 Political Correctness and Higher Education: British and American Perspectives by John Lea. *American Journal of Education*, 117:1, 143-145

Academic Op-Ed Articles

2016 (w/ Gabriel Dattatreyan) Multimodal Ethnography and the Possibilities for Engaged Anthropology. *Anthropology News*, 57:10, e76-e80

2016 (w/ Lauren Kelly, Neha Raheel, Juliet Shen) Anthropology, Film, Pedagogy, and Social Change. *American Anthropologist*, 119:1, 147-153

2016 (w/ Priya Shankar) Hidden in Plain Sight: Mental Health in India. *The Lancet*, 3, 207-208

In Submission

Global Hauntologies: Capitalism and the Mediatization of Farmers' Suicide. *Public Culture*

Urban-Rural Linkage, Urban-Rural Divide: Constructing Bangalore from the Village. *American Ethnologist*

In Preparation

The Brown-Savior Industrial Complex. For Submission to *Transforming Anthropology*

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2016 Provost's Year of Media Grant, University of Pennsylvania
- 2016 World House Partnership Grant Fund, Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania
- 2015 Academically-Based Community Service Course Grant, Netter Center for Community Partnerships, University of Pennsylvania
- 2015 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Curiosity: A Transdisciplinary Approach, University of Pennsylvania
- 2015 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Mellon Digital Humanities and Community Engagement, Lehigh University (declined)
- 2015 Graduate Fellow, Visual Anthropology Section, American Anthropologist (Academic Year 2014-2015)
- 2014 Flaherty Film Fellowship, Wyncote Foundation, 2014 Flaherty Film Seminar, Colgate University, New York
- 2014 Zwicker Award, Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania
- 2013 SASGov and Dean's Award for Research and New Media, University of Pennsylvania
- 2013 Global Initiative Fund: "Bad Friday Goes to South Africa", Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013 Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Grant, Fulbright-Hays
- 2012 Fellowship to attend Conference: "The city and the village: separations, linkages and conflicts over social space in modern India." University of Göttingen, The Center for Modern Indian Studies
- 2011 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, South Asia Center
- 2011 Course Development Grant, University of Pennsylvania, South Asia Center
- 2010 Travel Grant, University of Pennsylvania, Center for the Advanced Study of India
- 2010 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, South Asia Center
- 2009 Dean's Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, Graduate School of Education

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2017 *Racializing Development and Humanitarianism*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington D.C., Nov. 29-Dec. 3
- 2017 *Writing with Light: Re-Imagining the Anthropological Photo Essay*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington D.C., Nov. 29-Dec. 3
- 2016 *Towards an Anthropology of (Theoretical and Transformational) Storytelling*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Minneapolis, MN, Nov. 16-20

Papers

- 2017 *The Brown Savior Industrial Complex*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington D.C., Nov. 29-Dec. 3
- 2017 *Racism as Science, Film as Scholarship*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington D.C., Nov. 29-Dec. 3
- 2017 *Writing with Light: Re-Imagining the Anthropological Photo-Essay, Session II: Objects and Experiments*. Discussant. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington D.C., Nov. 29-Dec. 3
- 2017 *Podcasts and Anthropology: Exploring Approaches to Multimodal Research and Communication*. Discussant. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Washington D.C., Nov. 29-Dec. 3
- 2017 *Media(tiz)ing Farmers' Suicide*. Postcolonial Mediations: Globalisation and Displacement. Amsterdam, Netherlands, Oct. 26-27
- 2017 *Studying/Working with an NGO: Navigating an Engaged Anthropology of Development*. Society for Applied Anthropology Annual Meeting. Santa Fe, NM, Mar. 28-Apr. 1
- 2017 *Digitizing Development: NGOs in the Indian Education Sector*. Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting. Toronto, Canada, Mar. 16-19
- 2017 *Opening the "Black Box" of Neoliberal Reform: A Multiscalar Negotiation of Self, School, Community, and State*. Screening Scholarship Media Festival. Philadelphia, PA. Mar. 17-18
- 2016 *Thinking with Suicide: Agricultural Decay, Death, and Aspiration in South India*. Crossroads in Cultural Studies Conference. University of Sydney. Sydney, Australia, Dec. 14-17
- 2016 *Evaluating Why It Works: From Visual to Multi-Modal Anthropology*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, Nov. 16-20

- 2016 *Urban-Rural Linkage / Divide: Constructing Bangalore from the Village*. “Negotiating the Future in Everyday Life in South Asia.” SASNet Modernity Conference. Lund University. Lund, Sweden, Sep. 20-22
- 2016 (w/ M. Durrani, T. Ziv, D. Vidali) *Collaborative Social Justice Moments: A Multimodal Ethnographic Call-and-Response*. Society of Cultural Anthropology Annual Meeting. Ithaca, NY, May 13-14
- 2015 *The Developmental Gaze and the Construction of the Rural Youth*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Denver, CO, Nov. 18-22
- 2015 Shankar, Arjun. (w/ G. Dattatreyan) *Multimodal Pedagogies: Experiments in Higher Education*. Screening Scholarship Media Festival, University of Pennsylvania. Mar. 27-28
- 2015 *Duplicating Development: Pedagogy and Value in an education NGO*. “Communication, Postcoloniality, and Social Justice: Decolonizing Imaginations.” Villanova University. Mar. 26-29
- 2014 *Developing A Critical Visual Pedagogy: Notes from A Participatory Film Project in rural Karnataka, India*. Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities, Cambridge University. Cambridge, UK, Apr. 4-5
- 2014 *Curious Photography*. First Annual Curiosity Conference, Azim Premji University. Bangalore, India, Feb. 28
- 2013 *Voices in the Visual Representation of South Asia*. Teaching South Asian History with Visual Research Methods, Azim Premji University. Bangalore, India, Nov. 17-18
- 2013 Shankar, Arjun. *A Road as Rural-Urban Object: The Case of the Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructural Corridor*. Urban Objects Conference, University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA, Feb. 22
- 2012 *The ‘Quality’ of Global Connection: NGO Interventions in Indian Rural Education*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA, Nov. 13-18
- 2012 (w/ Durrani, Mariam) *The Lahore Museum and its Gandhara Collection: A Timescale Analysis of Colonial Overdetermination*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA, Nov. 13-18
- 2012 (w/ Tarditi, Matt. Mathew, Leya) *Towards an Anthropology of Self: Film as Method*. Visual Research Conference, Nov. 12
- 2012 (w/ Dattatreyan, E. Gabriel Tarditi, Matthew J. Kaloustian, Talar. Ravitch, Sharon M. Jackson Jr., John L.) *Digital Narratives: Building Bridges Across Educational Contexts*. Penn Ethnography Forum. Philadelphia, PA, Feb. 24-25
- 2011 (w/ Dattatreyan, E. Gabriel) *Towards a Fidelity of Representation: Democratizing Research Practice Through Written and Visual Media*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada, Nov. 15-20

- 2011 (w/ Dattatreyan, E. Gabriel) *Diasporic Vulnerability: Capturing the Indian American Researcher In Narrative*. American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada, Nov. 15-20
- 2011 (w/ Dattatreyan, E. Gabriel) *Understanding global processes in action: Educational challenges and opportunities in India*. Conference of the Comparative and International Education Society; Penn Ethnography Forum. Philadelphia, PA, Feb. 24-25
- 2010 (w/ Dattatreyan E. Gabriel) *Discipline as Gatekeeper: (Re)forming identities in the Academy*. American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA, Nov. 16-20
- 2010 (w/ Dattatreyan, E. Gabriel) *Global Hype: Broadcasting the New South Asian Woman*. American Anthropology Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA, Nov. 16-20

Campus Talks

- 2017 *Doing Qualitative Research in Sound*. Harvard University. Cambridge, MA, May 10
- 2017 *When Museums Tackle Tough Topics: Race, Science, and the Penn Museum*. Penn Museum Public Classroom Series. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA, May 4
- 2016 *Towards an Anthropology of Curiosity*. First Annual Curiosity Symposium. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA, Dec. 9
- 2016 *How Development Feels: Thinking about Photography in the Field*. Haverford College. Haverford, PA, Mar. 20
- 2016 *Master of None Screening and Roundtable*. Philadelphia Asian Arts Initiative. Philadelphia, PA, Feb. 18
- 2016 *Urban-Rural Linkage, Urban-Rural Divide: Constructing Bangalore from the Village*. Urban Studies Colloquium. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA, Feb. 9

FILMS/MULTIMODAL CURATION

- 2017 *When Science Met Race: An Anthropological Interrogation*
- 2017 *Anthropological Airwaves: A Podcast*, American Anthropologist, Executive Producer, (<http://www.americananthropologist.org/anthropological-airwaves-podcast/>)
- 2016 *What's in the Room? An Embodied Collaborative Workshop*, Society of Cultural Anthropology, (<https://vimeo.com/165917118>)
- 2014 *Archives and Ephemera: camra curated section*, Ethnographic Terminalia, (<http://ethnographicterminalia.org/>)
- 2014 *Curated Section on India*, The Film Platform, (filmplatform.net)

- 2014 *Tindley Temple: The Life of a Congregation*. The Ward Project (<http://www.dubois-theward.org/>)
- 2013 *Beating as One: The Music of Ancient Vibrations* w/ Mariam Durrani, (<https://vimeo.com/78421875>)
- 2013 *Rights and Reparations: Bad Friday Tour 2013* w/ Mariam Durrani, (<https://vimeo.com/82676290>)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Hamilton College, Instructor of Record

Globalization and the City: An Anthropological Interrogation, Department of Anthropology (*Fall 2017*)

Curiosity: An Ethnographic Approach, Department of Anthropology and Education Studies (*Spring 2018*)

University of Pennsylvania, Instructor of Record

Social Change through Participatory Filmmaking, School of Social Policy and Practice (*Fall 2015*)

Globalization and the City, Urban Studies and Sociology Department (*Fall 2016, 2015, 2014*)

Urban Ethnography, Department of Anthropology and Annenberg School of Communication (*Summer 2015*)

University of Pennsylvania, Teaching Assistant

Visual Ethnography, Graduate School of Education and Department of Anthropology (*Spring 2013*)

Hitchhiker's Guide to the Modern World, South Asia Studies Department and Department of Anthropology (*Fall 2010 and Fall 2012*)

Azim Premji University, Bangalore, India, Instructor of Record

Sociology of Education, Department of Education (*Fall 2013 – Spring 2014*)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Board of Directors, Society of Visual Anthropology (June 2016-Present)

Refer to: <http://societyforvisualanthropology.org/about/elected-members/>

Editor, Photo Essay Section, *Cultural Anthropology* (May 2016-Present)

Refer to: https://culanth.org/photo_essays

Editorial Staff Member, Visual Anthropology Section, *American Anthropologist* (Fall 2014-Fall 2016)

Co-founder and former director, **camra**: a media pedagogy lab, University of Pennsylvania (Spring 2012-Present)

Refer to: www.camrapenn.org

Co-director, The Center for Curiosity (July 2013-August 2015)

Refer to: www.centerforcuriosity.com

Editor/Producer, Harvard University, Sensate Journal (Spring 2013-Fall 2014)

Refer to: sensatejournal.com

Editorial Board Member, University of Pennsylvania, Urban Education Journal (Fall 2010-Fall 2014)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Anthropology Association

American Educational Research Association

Comparative and International Education Society

Society for Anthropology of Consciousness

Society of Visual Anthropology

Cultural Studies Association

LANGUAGES

Tamil: Intermediate speaking, reading, writing

Hindi: Intermediate speaking, reading, writing

Kannada: Beginner speaking, reading, writing

Spanish: Beginner speaking, reading, writing

REFERENCES

John L. Jackson, Jr.
Richard Perry University Professor
Dean, School of Social Policy & Practice (SP2)
University of Pennsylvania
3701 Locust Walk – Caster Building
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6214
Phone: 215-898-5541
Email: jjackson@sp2.upenn.edu

Deborah A. Thomas
Professor of Anthropology and Africana Studies
Department of Anthropology
University Museum, Room 335

3260 South Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
Phone: 215-746-0435
Email: Deborah.Thomas@sas.upenn.edu

Lisa Mitchell
Associate Professor & Graduate Chair
The Department of South Asia Studies
University of Pennsylvania
820 Williams Hall
255 South 36th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6305
Phone: 215-898-6047 (Office)
Email: lmitch@sas.upenn.edu

Ritty Lukose
Associate Professor
Gallatin School of Individualized Study
New York University
1 Washington Place
New York, NY 10003
Phone: 212-998-7370
Email: ritty.lukose@nyu.edu

Craig Campbell
Associate Professor
Department of Anthropology
University of Texas-Austin
2201 Speedway Stop C3200
Austin, TX 78712
Phone: 512-232-4342
Email: craig.campbell@utexas.edu