

MEGHNA CHANDRA

517 S 42nd St, Unit 5
Philadelphia, PA 19104
megcha@upenn.edu

EDUCATION

Fall 2017-present **University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA
Ph.D. Candidate in Social Welfare, School of Social Policy and Practice

Monsoon 2013-
Spring 2015 **Jawaharlal Nehru University**, New Delhi, India
MA in Modern Indian History

Fall 2009-Spring
2013 **University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**
BA in Urban Studies, Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

- Ghose, T., Chandra, M., & Kroehle, K. (2019). HIV/AIDS in South and Southeast Asia. In *The Global Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer History* (1st ed.). Farmington Hills, MI.

Popular Publications

- Chandra, M. (2019). Gandhi and the African American Interpreters of Nonviolence. *Gandhi Marg*, V41(1). New Delhi: Gandhi Peace Foundation.
- Chandra, M., & Raju, A. (2018, October 6). COMCASA and the Historic Fight For Peace. *Mainstream Weekly*, LVI(42).
- Chandra, M., & Raju, A. (2019, March 2). <https://thewire.in/history/reviving-the-legacy-of-african-american-intellectual-du-bois>. *The Wire.In*. Retrieved from <https://thewire.in/history/reviving-the-legacy-of-african-american-intellectual-du-bois>
- Chandra, M. (2016). Daughter of Mine. In *Good Girls Marry Doctors*. San Francisco, CA: Aunt Lute.

SELECTED GRANTS

May 2020 **Summer Research Fellowship School of Social Policy and Practice** for \$6100

Nov 2019 **Porter Family Student Research Fund** for \$2500

June 2012 **Penn Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism Grant** for \$2500

June 2012 **Greater Philadelphia Latin American Association Undergraduate Grant** for \$1000

June 2012 **Leo S. Rowe Gran** for \$1000

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

MAY-JUNE 2019 **Teaching Assistant, Postcolonial Social Work Practice: International Social Welfare in India**, University of Pennsylvania
Assisted instructor in global social welfare course in Calcutta, India that examined how the global social welfare system relates to marginalized communities in India using the lens of postcolonial theory, discussed readings with students, provided intellectual and academic support, coordinated field placements with sex worker organization Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee, helped students acclimate

JULY 2013
JULY 2015 **Grace Lee Boggs Teaching Fellow, Social Justice Research Academy**, University of Pennsylvania
Taught and assisted teaching a diverse group of eighty high school students about issues of social inequality and social justice using critical pedagogical methods, designed and implemented curriculum for utopia science fiction reading club

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

MAY 2013 **Inducted into Sphinx Senior Honor Society**
Oldest senior society at Penn that recognizes contribution to the university community based on character, involvement, leadership, and vision

MAY 2013 **Urban Studies Award for Commitment to Social Justice in the City**
Awarded to graduating Urban Studies senior who exemplifies commitment to social justice in the city

AUG 2009-
MAY 2013 **University of Pennsylvania Civic Scholar**
Selected for program that emphasized the interconnection between civic engagement and scholarship, completed public service internship, proseminar on health and education, and completed capstone project on urban policing and university-community relations

JULY 2011

PBS Student Freedom Rider

Retraced the 1961 Freedom Rides with 39 other college students along with some of the original freedom riders to reflect on legacy of Civil Rights Movement and student activism for our times

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

FEB 2016-

SEPT 2016

Institute of Sex Worker Research and Action, School of Social Policy and Practice, Philadelphia, PA

Organized monthly talks between sex worker movement in Philadelphia and Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee and developed leadership of street-based Kensington sex workers, compiled literature review on sex work and social movements, and managed website and Facebook page

SEPT 2016-

JULY 2017

Community Organizer, 215 People's Alliance, Philadelphia, PA

Engaged everyday people in organizing and direct advocacy, organizing and neighborhood-based community building, including campaign to elect Larry Krasner and campaign to abolish the School Reform Commission.

PRESENTATIONS

Nonacademic Presentations

SPRING 2018

The Dark Princess: Du Bois, Gandhi, and Civilization

Presented to undergraduate classes at Grinnell College, Rutgers University (Camden), and University of Pennsylvania on the intellectual and political history of the concept "the unity of Pan Africa and Pan Asia" drawing upon Du Bois's *The Dark Princess* and *The World and Africa* in conversation with Gandhi's *Hind Swaraj*.

JUNE 2016

Understanding Social Change: Issues of Race and Gender

Presented at the Penn SP2 lecture on Understanding Social Change about participating in social movements for universal liberation while engaging dialectically with difference.

FEB 2016

India in Crisis: Nationalism, Universities, and Dissent

Presented at Grinnell University about the student movement at Jawaharlal Nehru University for freedom to dissent in the midst of crackdowns on freedom of speech. Specifically, presentation analyzed the significance of JNU as a radical feminist bastion of dissent and a threat to Hindu Nationalist politics.

JAN 2016

A New Stage in Student and Youth Organizing

Presented at the Black Radical Tradition in Our Times Conference on transnational organizing as related to the Black Radical Tradition and social movements among marginalized groups in India