

CURRICULUM VITAE

Manisha Sethi

Centre for Jawaharlal Nehru Studies
Jamia Millia Islamia
Noam Chomsky Building, Opp. the Kabristan
msethi@jmi.ac.in

UGC Fellow (July 2016- July 2018)

Assistant Professor (2005- February 2017)
Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilizations
Jamia Millia Islamia
New Delhi

Fellow
Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi (January 2013- January 2015)

Academic Qualifications

- **Ph.D.** 2009, Centre for the Study of Social Systems,
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
"Asceticism among Jaina Women: Power, Sexuality and Social Control in Selected
Districts of North India".
Supervisor: Prof. Dipankar Gupta.
- **M.Phil.** 1999, Centre for the Study of Social Systems,
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
"Women's Identity and Agency within Hindu 'Nationalism'".
Supervisor: Prof. R.K. Jain.
- **M.A.** 1995-97, Centre for the Study of Social Systems,
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- **B.A. (Hons.)** Sociology, 1992-95.
Maitreyi College, University of Delhi, New Delhi.
- **Certificate in multidisciplinary Women's Studies**, Institute of Women's
Studies, Lahore, Pakistan. January – April 2000.
- **Post-graduate programme of studies specialising in Gender and
Migration**, International Women's University (IFU), Hannover, Germany, July-
October 2000.

Select Publications

Books:

1. *Escaping the World: Women Renouncers among Jains* (Routledge, UK and India, 2012)

Some reviews can be seen here:

<https://www.google.co.uk/#q=Escaping+the+world%2C+Manisha+sethi> ;
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00856401.2012.732516>;
<http://biblio-india.org/newuser.asp?mp=JA16&fromwhere=http://biblio-india.org/archives/12/MA12/tocMA12.asp?mp=MA12>).

2. *Kafkaland: Prejudice, Law and Counter-Terrorism in India* (Three Essays, 2014)

Select reviews can be seen here:

<http://www.epw.in/journal/2014/51/book-reviews/securing-nation-state-terrorist.html>
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09584935.2016.1153393>
<http://www.outlookindia.com/article/The-Kafkaland-Of-India/293158>
<http://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/books/guilty-until-proven-innocent-2/99/>

Interviews here:

http://www.bbc.com/hindi/multimedia/2015/01/150111_manisha_sethi_sunday_dinbhar_sdp
<http://www.rediff.com/news/interview/the-manufacturing-of-terrorists/20141205.htm>
<http://www.firstpost.com/living/the-pathology-of-prejudice-true-lies-of-counterterrorism-in-india-1828281.html>
<http://www.newsland.com/2014/11/19/bias-at-the-heart-of-counter-terrorism-in-india/>

Translated into Malayam (*Kafkanadu*, Pratheekhsa Books, Kozikode, 2016)

Translated into Telugu (Malapu Publications, 2017)

Research Papers in Journals:

1. "Caught in the Wheel: Women and Salvation in Indian Religions" *Manushi*, Issue 119, July-August 2000.
2. "Avenging Angels and Nurturing Mothers: Women in Hindu Nationalism" *Economic and Political Weekly*, Volume 37, Number 16, April 20 - 26, 2002.
3. "Chastity and Desire: Representing Women in Jainism", *South Asian History and Culture*, Vol. 1. No. 1, 2010.

4. "Between Inclusivism and Exclusivism: Jains as Minority", *Contemporary Perspectives: History and Sociology of South Asia*, Vol. 3, No. 1, Jan – June 2009.
5. "Minority Claims and Majoritarian Anxieties: The Jain Question", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 51, Number 49, 03 December 2016.
6. "Tenuous Legality: Tensions within Anti-Terrorism Law in India", *Socio-Legal Review* (Journal of the National Law School of India University), 13 (2), 2018.

In Edited Volumes:

1. "The Proof of Custom: Negotiating Jain Widow's Inheritance Rights" In Peter Flugel (Ed.) *Jain Law and Community*, Routledge, UK (In Press).
2. "Stated Ideals, Lived Realities: The Case of Jain Women", In Anjali Gandhi (Ed.) *Women's Work, Health and Empowerment*, Aakar Books, 2006.

Commentaries:

1. "Cine Patriotism", *SAMAR: South Asian Magazine for Action and Reflection*, 15, Summer/ Fall 2002. (1067-5183)
2. "The End of an Enchanted Universe", *Hard News* magazine, November 2008.
3. "Good Muslim, Bad Muslim": An essay on the representation of the Muslim in Bombay Cinema, *Mail Today* Newspaper, 12 December 2009.
4. "Tactile Terror, True Lies", *Hardnews* magazine, October 2011.
5. "The Muslim Minority at Risk", Special Issue of *Canada Watch* (York University) on India: The Most Fragile of Democracies, Winter 2012.
6. "A Deadly Canon has loaded more Fire power" (On the amendments to Unlawful Activities Prevention Act), Issue 6. Vol. 10, *Tehelka* magazine, 9th February 2013.
7. "Dr. Narco and Other Stories from Kafkaland", *Hardnews* magazine, April 2013.
8. "Architect of Conscience", *Economic and Political Weekly*, Web Exclusive, Vol. 49, Number 22, 31 May 2014.
9. "Confronting Certainties: Rethinking the New Sexual Offences Law and Feminist Strategies", *Hardnews*, July 2014.
10. "Not enough Your Honour" (On the Supreme Court ruling on Encounters), *Deccan Herald*, 5th October 2014.
11. "Brushing Aside the Conspiracy Angle", *Economic and Political Weekly*, 24 January 2015.
12. "A Song for the Scavenger", Review of the film *Court* (Dir. Chetan Tamhane), *Hindu Business Line*, 17 April 2015.
13. "Blind to Justice", *Indian Express*, 30 December 2015.
14. "The way to Redemption is through Listening" (On the impasse in Kashmir), *Deccan Herald*, 28th July 2016.
15. "Encounter or Stage Managed" (On the Bhopal Encounter killings), *Deccan Herald*, 31st January 2017.

16. "Its time the courts call out the wilful fabrication in terror cases", *Scroll* website, 12 January 2017.
17. 'Infantilising Hadiya', *Indian Express*, 16 September 2017.
18. "The Strange Pardon of David Headley", *Indian Express*, 01 December 2017.
19. "The Encounterables", *Indian Express*, 06 March 2018.

Review Articles:

1. 'The Personal is Political,' Review of Madhu Kishwar's *Off the Beaten Track: Rethinking Gender Justice for Women*, *Biblio: A Review of Books*, Vol. V, Nos. 1&2, 2000.
2. 'Good Clean Hindu Ethics', Review of RSS Pamphlets, *Hindutva: A View and a Way of Life, National Movement and the RSS Protection of Cow-Clan, Hindu Samskriti and Environment, Awakening among Women and RSS*, *Biblio: A Review of Books*, Vol. VI, Nos. 1&2, 2001.
3. 'Home-grown Homosexuality', Review of *Queering India: Same-Sex Love and Eroticism in Indian Culture and Society* edited by Ruth Vanita, *Biblio: A Review of Books*, Vol. VII, Nos. 9&10, 2002.
4. 'Boys to Men', Review of *From Violence to Supporting Practices: Family, Gender and Masculinities in India* edited by Radhika Chopra and Photo-essay by Sanjeev Saith, *Biblio: A Review of Books*, Vol. VII, Nos. 9&10, 2002.
5. *Gender in the Hindu Nation* by Paola Bacchetta, *Biblio: A Review of Books*, Vol. IX, Nos. 1&2, 2004.
6. 'In the Name of God', Review of *Fascinating Hindutva: Saffron Politics and Dalit Mobilisation* by Badri Narayan and *Violent Gods: Hindu Nationalism in India's Present, Narratives from Orissa* by Angana P. Chatterji, *Biblio: A Review of Books*, Vol. XIV, Nos. 5&6, 2009.
7. Review of *Marriage and Modernity: Family Values in Colonial Bengal* by Rochona Majumdar, In *South Asian History and Culture*, Vol. 1. No. 3, 2010 (Routledge, UK).
8. 'Clear and Present Danger', Review of *Evidence of Suspicion: A Writer's Report on the War on Terror* by Amitava Kumar and *Rounded Up* by Shamshad Ahmed; *Biblio: A Review of Books*, Vol. XV, Nos. 3&4, 2010.
9. 'Queering the Past', Review of *For the Record: On Sexuality and the Colonial Archive* by Anjali Arondekar, *Biblio: A Review of Books*, Vol. XVI, Nos. 1&2 2011.
10. Review of *Heterogeneities: Identity Formations in Modern India* by Pradip Kumar Datta, Vol. II, No. 2, 2011, *South Asian History and Culture*, (Routledge, UK).
11. "The Military-Industrial-Academic Complex", Review of *Indian Mujahideen: Computational Analysis and Public Policy* by V.S. Subramanian, Aaron Mannes, Animesh Roul and R.K Raghavan, *Biblio: A Review of Books*, Vol. XVIII, Nos. 1&2, 2013.
12. "The Banality of Brutality", Review of *Colors of the Cage: A Prison Memoir* by Arun Ferriera, *Biblio: A Review of Books*, Vol. XX, Nos. 1&2, 2015.
13. Review of *The Rani of Jhansi: Gender, History, and Fable* by Harleen Singh, *Biblio: A Review of Books*, p. 19, July Aug 2015, Vol. XX, Nos. 7-8.
14. Review of *Gita Press and the Making of Hindu India* by Akshaya Mukul, *Biblio: A Review of Books*, pp. 7-8, September-October 2015, Vol. XX Nos. 9-11.

15. "Against Forgetting", Review of *Do you Remember Kunan Poshopra* by Essar Batool et al., *Biblio: A Review of Books*, April –June 2017.

Conference Papers and Invited Lectures:

1. "The Proof of Custom: Jain Legal texts in Colonial Courts", 9th Jaina Studies Workshop, Centre for Jain Studies, SOAS, University of London, 22nd March 2007
2. "Nun on a Motorbike: The Limits of Hindutva Female Activism", Global Congress on World's Religions after 9/11: An Asian Perspective, Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilizations, Jamia Millia Islamia, 19th January 2009.
3. "Contesting Claims: The Jain Widow's Right to Adopt", National Seminar on Adoption Laws, Minorities and Current Challenges, Dr. K.R. Narayanan Centre for Dalit and Minority Studies, JMI, 9th February 2009.
4. 'Fractured Gender Discourses of Jain Asceticism: Hegemonies and Counter hegemonies', presented at National Conference on Divining Gender: Religion, Politics & Gender in India (16th – 17th November 2009), St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi.
5. 'Interrogating the Jain notion of Ahimsa', presented at International Seminar on Just Peace: A Common Universal Discourse, Iran Culture House, Indo-Iran Society and Islamic Peace Forum. 11th April 2010.
6. "Communalism and the Present Challenges", Peoples' Manifesto Workshop, Indian Social Institute and South Asian Peoples' Initiative, ISI, Delhi, 4th March 2009.
7. "Hindus by Law? The case of Jain Minority claims", presented at National Seminar on Minorities and the Margin: Colonial Encounter and Post-colonial Discourses, Programme for the Study of Discrimination and Exclusion, School of Social Sciences, JNU. 17th-18 February 2011.
8. "The Strange Stories of Suspicion", Lecture delivered at the National Workshop on The Perversity of National Security, The Centre for Penology, Criminal Justice and Police Studies and the Collaborative Research Programme on Law, Postcoloniality and Culture at the Jindal Global Law School (JGLS), Sonipat. 2nd April 2011.
9. "Violence that Heals: Bombay Films' Response to Terrorism", co-authored with Tanweer Fazal, Inter-disciplinary and International Conference, Revisioning Terrorism, College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University, USA, 8-10 September 2011.
10. "Understanding Discourses of the War on Terror in India", Conflict Resolution Association, Monterey Institute of International Studies, Monterey, USA, 22nd September 2011.
11. "Virulent Images and Female Subjects: Some Reflections on Jainism", National Symposium on Religion and Sexuality, Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad,
12. "Rethinking Minority: The Case of the Jains", National Seminar on Discourse on Social Exclusion from Interdisciplinary Perspective

organized by the Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy (CSSEIP), School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, 31st January, 2012

13. "Imagining an Alternative model?: The case of Jain women renouncers", International Conference on Religion and Gender: Identity, Conflict and Power, Centre for Conflict Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies, CA, USA. 9-10 November 2012.
14. "Gender, conflict and Religion", presentation at the Panel of Experts, International Conference on Religion and Gender: Identity, Conflict and Power, Centre for Conflict Studies, Monterey Institute of International Studies, CA, USA, 9-10 November 2012.
15. "Jain Widows and Legal texts in Colonial Courts", International Conference, Rethinking Religion in India IV: Secularism, Religion and Law, Sri Dharamasthala Manjunatheshwara (SDM) Law College (Mangalore, India), SDM Centre for Post Graduate Studies and Research in Law (Mangalore, India), the Research Centre Vergelijkende Cultuurwetenschap (Ghent University, Belgium), the Centre for the Study of Local Cultures and P.G Department of Law (Kuvempu University, India), the Department for the Study of Religions (University of Pardubice, Czech Republic) and the India Platform UGent (Ghent University, Belgium, 25th November 2012.
16. "Anatomy of Terror Trials", The Delhi Historical Materialism Conference, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. 5th April 2013.
17. "Ascetic Self and Feminine Identity", International Conference on The Making of Religious Identities: Historical and Contemporary Themes, Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilizations, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 14-15 March 2013.
18. "Jain Nuns: An Introduction", Special Lecture, 5th June 2013, International School of Jain Studies, Delhi.
19. "Femininity and Female Renunciation: The Case of Jains", Keynote lecture, International Conference on Women's Perspectives in the Dharma Traditions, Centre for Jain Studies, Clarmemont Lincoln University, USA, 23-24 August, 2013.
20. "Nuns, Tempresses: Asceticism and Desire", presentation at the special panel on Life *and* Liberation: Alternate Approaches to Gender and Eros, International Conference on Women's Perspectives in the Dharma Traditions, Centre for Jain Studies, Clarmemont Lincoln University, USA, 23-24 August, 2013.
21. "Virtue Ethics and Women's Power" Lessons from Jain Nuns", International Conference on Textual and Lived Religions: Precepts and Practices, Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 20-21 March 2014.
22. "Minority Claims and Majoritarian Anxieties: The Case of the Jains", NMML, 6th January 2015.
23. "Jains as a Minority", Panel Discussion [along with Prof. Rowena Robinson , Prof. Surinder Singh Jodhka , Dr. John Dayal] on Religious Minorities in

- India: Debates, Perspectives and Challenges, Department of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 8-9 September 2015.
24. "Visibility and Exclusion: Terror Discourses in Media", National Seminar on Media and Minorities: Text, Context and Discourse, CCMG, JMI, 13-14 October 2015.
 25. "Terror and Trial: Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in Courts", International Conference on Non-State Legal Practices in India, Manipal Centre for Philosophy and Humanities, Manipal University, Manipal, 5-7 December 2015.
 26. "Terror Threats as Electoral Strategy: The Crafting of the Hindutva Icon", National Seminar on National, State and Local Elections in India (2014-15): Analysis and Reflections, organized by EECURI [Explaining Electoral Change in Urban and Rural India] Network Conference, [Held at Sariska, Rajasthan], 18th -19th January 2016.
 27. "Minority Claims and Majoritarian anxieties: The Case of the Jains", International Workshop on Religion and Law: Colonial and Post Colonial Encounters, Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilizations, Jamia Millia Islamia, 9-11 March 2016.
 28. "Prejudice and Impunity: A Study of Terror Investigations" at National Seminar on Policing a Diverse India, organized by Himachal Pradesh Police, Centre for Public Affairs and Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, 17-18 April 2016.
 29. "Discourses on Terrorism: Beyond the Security Perspective", Plenary speaker at National Seminar on Human Rights and the Humanities, University of Calicut, 6-8 December 2016.
 30. "Religion and Security", International Conference on "Peace, Stability and Sustainable Development: The Role of Religion at NALSAR, Hyderabad (In association with the International Center for Law and Religion Studies of the J. Reuben Clark Law School at Brigham Young University, USA), 13-15 January 2017.
 31. "Ritual Death in a Secular State: The Jain Practice of Sallekhana", International Conference on State, Civil Society and India's Religious Margins, Organised by the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 7-8 December, 2017.
 32. "The Gender Question in Jainism", Extra Mural Lecture, Department of Sociology, Aligarh Muslim University, 26th February 2018.
 33. "Religious Education in India: Debates and Experiences", International Workshop on 'The Politics and Pedagogy of Religion Education: Policies, Syllabi and Future Prospects', Network for Religion Education in South Africa, Department of Religious Studies, University of Cape Town, 14-16 March 2018.

Others:

Convened an International Workshop on Religion and Law: Colonial and Post Colonial Encounters, Jamia Millia Islamia, 9-11 March 2016

Other Professional Affiliations:

Member, Academic Advisory Board, Bhagwan Mahavir Professorship of Jain Studies, Department of Religious Studies, Florida International University, USA. 2010 onwards.

Biblio: A Review of Books

Consulting Associate Editor

Journal of Religious and Political Practice (Taylor and Francis, UK)

Member, Editorial Board

Third Frame: Quarterly Journal of Jamia Millia Islamia.

Associate Editor (publication currently suspended)

South Asian History and Culture (Taylor and Francis, UK)

Book Reviews Editor (2009-2012)