

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Purnima Dhavan

Associate Professor, Department of History  
Box 353560  
University of Washington, Seattle  
Seattle WA 98195-3560

### Educational History

PhD, South Asian History: University of Virginia, Charlottesville, January 2003

- Dissertation Title—The Warriors' Way: The Making of the Eighteenth-Century Sikh  
*Khalsa Panth*

MA, South Asian History: University of Virginia, Charlottesville, 1998

BA, History: University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 1996.

### Academic Appointments

- Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Washington, Seattle, 2012-current.
  - Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, UW, Seattle, 2005-2012.
- Assistant Professor, Dept. of History, College of St. Benedict/St. John's University, 2003-2005
- Instructor, Dept. of History, Bowdoin College Academic year 2002-2003

### Selected Publications

"Persian Scholarly Networks in Mughal Punjab," *Frontiers of Persian*, ed. Nile Green. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, under contract and submitted.

"Warriors and peasants in Mughal-era Punjab," *The Oxford Handbook of Mughal Studies*, ed. Ramya Sreenivasan and Richard Eaton, Oxford University Press, in press.

"Sikh Darbars" for *Brill Encyclopedia of Sikhism, Vol. 1: History, Religion Society Beyond Punjab* ed. Gurrinder Singh Mann, Knutt A Jacobsen, Eleanor Nesbitt, Krystina Myrvold. Leiden, Brill 2017.

"Sikhism in the Eighteenth Century," in *Oxford Handbook of Sikh Studies*. ed. by Pashaura Singh and Louis F. Fenech. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

*When Sparrows Became Hawks: The Making of Khalsa Martial Tradition*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011

"On the Possibilities of Ideographic Analysis: Gu Yanwu's *Disquisition* Applied to Mughal History," *Fragments: Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Study of Ancient and Medieval Pasts*, Vol. 1, issue 1, (May 2011).

"Tracing Gender in the Myths and Practices of the Eighteenth-Century Khalsa" in *Sikhism and Women: History, Text and Experience*, ed. Doris Jakobsh. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2010

“Reading the Texture of History and Memory in Early Nineteenth-Century Punjab,” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*, Vol. 29, Issue 3, (2009).

“Ram Sukh Rao’s *Jassa Singh Binod*: A Novel Approach to Writing a Sikh History,” in *Patronage and Popularisation, Pilgrimage and Procession: Channels of Transcultural Translation and Transmission in Early Modern South Asia*, edited by Heidi Pauwels (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 2009)

“Redemptive Pasts and Imperiled Futures: The Writing of a Sikh History,” *Sikh Formations: Religion, Culture, Theory*, Vol. 3, Issue 2 (2007): 111-124. (Reprinted in edited volume *Time, History, and the Religious Imaginary in South Asia*, ed. Anne Murphy. London: Routledge, 2011.

#### **Co-Authored:**

Purnima Dhavan and Heidi Pauwels, “Controversies surrounding the reception of Valī “Dakhani” (1665?-1707?) in Early Tazkirahs of Urdu Poets,” *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, 25 (4) (2015): 625-646.

#### **Research/Publications in Progress:**

*The Lords of the Pen Write Back: Self-fashioning and Literary Culture in Mughal India* (Book Manuscript, formerly titled *Brave New Worlds*)

*Welcoming Vali: The Reception of Vali Dakhani in Early Urdu Literary Culture* (book collaboration with Prof. Heidi Pauwels, Asian Languages and Literature, UW)

“Method in the Margins: Azad Bilgrami and Changes in Eighteenth Century Tazkirahs,” journal article

Co-authored with Heidi Pauwels, “*Crafting the Language of the ‘Pleasure Seekers’: Mirza Hatim, Vali Dakhani, and Emergence of Literary Urdu*,” journal article, under review at JAS

#### **Academic Honors, Fellowships, Awards**

- Howard and Francis Keller Endowed Chair in History, Dept. of History UW, 2014-18.
- Career Diversity Grant, AHA, to create internships and information about alternative career routes for History PhDs, 2015-2016. *Co-authored with Prof. Jordanna Bailikin, former DGS in History*
- NEH Funded AHS Sr. Fellowship, 2013-2014 for research on book project “Brave New Worlds? Reading Publics and Literary Associations in Early-Modern South Asia.”
- RRF Scholar, UW, Spring, 2012 for research on book project “Brave New Worlds? Reading Publics and Literary Associations in Early-Modern South Asia.”
- Simpson Center, UW, Cross-disciplinary Conversation Award, 2011-2012 (with Heidi Pauwels, Asian Languages and Literature), Project on Vali Dakhani and Early Urdu
- South Asia Center, UW, to organize speaker series, “Persian and Vernaculars” Spring, 2011
- Simpson Center, UW, to organize conference “Metropolis and Micropolitics: Conflicting Imaginaries and Politics in South Asia’s Sutured Cities, May 2009
- Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Funding, 2000-2001: University of Virginia
- American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Fellowship: 1999-2000

- DuPont Fellowship of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 1998-1999: University of Virginia
- Persian FLAS (U. S. Department of Education, Title VI Foreign Language Area Studies grants), 1998-1999: University of Virginia
- Punjabi FLAS, Summer, 1998: University of Virginia (For study at University of California, Berkeley)
- Persian FLAS, 1997-1998: University of Virginia
- Persian FLAS, 1996-1997: University of Virginia
- Angell Scholar, 1993-94, 1994-95: University of Michigan

### Scholarly Papers Presented at Conferences:

- “Environmental Histories of the Indus Basin,” *Connecting South Asian and Himalayan Communities Across Cascadia*, University of British Columbia, Nov, 2018.
- “Mapping Roots and Routes in Tazkirahs,” *Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting*, Toronto, March 2017.
- “Repopulating the Tavern: Decay, Ferment, and Experimentation in a Dakhani Poetic Cluster,” Annual South Asia Conference,” Madison, Wisconsin, October 2017.
- (with Heidi Pauwels) “*Crafting the Language of the ‘Pleasure Seekers:’ Mirza Hatim, Vali Dakhani, and Emergence of Literary Urdu*,” Association of Asian Studies Conference, March 2016.
- “A Memento for my Friends”: Urdu Circulation and the Literary Network of Abd-ul Vali ‘Uzlat,” at the *American Association of Asian Studies Conference*, March 2013.
- “Bureaucrats without States? Surviving Imperial Transitions in Eighteenth-Century Punjab,” at the *Center of South Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Madison, Wisconsin. October 2012.
- “Literary Self-Fashioning and the Adhyatmi Jains of Agra,” at the *Center of South Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Madison, Wisconsin. October 2011.
- “Brave New Worlds?” SACPAN, March 2011, UW, Seattle. March 2011
- “In Love and Service: Re-calibrating the Value of *Naukari* in Pre-colonial Punjab,” at the *Center of South Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Madison, Wisconsin. October 2010.
- “Vernacular Ambitions—Reimagining Courtly Lives in the Sikh Kingdoms,” at the *Center of South Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Madison, Wisconsin. October 2008.
- “Navigating the Shoals of Naukari and Sardari: Khalsa Sikhs and the Military Labor Market in 18<sup>th</sup> Century Punjab,” SACPAN, March 2008, UBC, Vancouver
- “Translating Narratives of the State: History and Memory in Early Nineteenth Century Punjab,” *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, January 2008, Washington D. C.
- “Practicing What Others Preached: Popular Religion in South Asia,” for *Teaching World Religions: A Workshop for Social Studies, Humanities, and Other Educators*, June 27-29, 2007, University of Washington, Seattle
- “Redemptive Pasts and Imperiled Futures: The Writing of a Sikh History,” at the *Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting*, Boston, March 2007.
- “Following the Guru’s Path: Masculinity and Honor in the Eighteenth-Century Sikh Warrior Community,” at the *American Historical Association Annual Meeting*, January 2006.
- “History, Prophecy, and Power: The Role of Gurbilas Literature in Shaping Khalsa Identity,” at the *Center of South Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Madison, Wisconsin. October 2005
- “Sanctioned Violence? Situating Honor and War in Khalsa History,” at the *Midwestern Conference on Asian Affairs*, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. October 2004

- "Warriors at the End of Time: Tracing Gender in the Myths and Practices of the Eighteenth-Century Khalsa," at the *Center of South Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Madison, Wisconsin. October 2003
- "Relocating the Sikh 'Marauder,'" at the *Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting*, in New York. March 2003.
- "From Rebels to Rulers: Ideology and Statecraft in Eighteenth-century Punjab," at the *Center for South Asian Studies Annual Conference*, Madison, Wisconsin. October 2001

### **Presentations By Invitation:**

- "The Persistence of Debate: Vernacular Intellectuals in Mughal Punjab," South Asia Seminar, Princeton University, October, 2018.
- "Networks and Fault Lines in the in Eighteenth-Century Deccani Literary Communities," *Professions in Motion: Culture, Power, and the Politics of Mobility in India's Long Eighteenth Century*, University of Oxford, June 2017.
- "Archive Making and Archival Silences in Mughal Punjab," *South Asia Across Disciplines*, Harvard University, April 2017.
- "Head in the Clouds, Feet on the Ground: Mughal Bureaucracy, Scholars, and Social Mobility in Late Mughal India," Classics, Medieval, and Early Modern Studies Group (CMEMS), November 2016.
- "Mapping the Topography of Persian in Mughal Punjab—Where were the Farsiguan?," *The Frontiers of Persian Learning: Testing the Limits of a Eurasian Lingua Franca, 1600-1900, Session 1: The Geographical Frontiers of Persian Learning*, UCLA Center for Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century Studies, Oct. 16, 2015
- "Method in the Margins: Debates about Plagiarism and Scholarship in Late Mughal India," at the *Polyvocal Hindustan: Literatures, Languages, and Publics*, at Stanford University, March 6-7, 2014.
- "Rogues and Robbers: The Dilemma of Religion and Ethics in late Mughal Punjab," The Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life, Columbia University, September, 2012.
- "Chelas, Premis, and Sikhs: Debates about Authenticity and Reform in Sikh Hagiographies," *Religion, Patronage, and Reform in Modern South Asia Workshop*, sponsored by the Department of South Asian Studies, University of Philadelphia, April 6-7, 2012
- "Devotion and its Discontent: Affective Communities in the Sikh Kingdoms," *Expanding Horizons: Sikh Studies at the Turn of the Twenty-first Century*, University of California, Santa Barbara, Nov. 14-15, 2009
- "Re-ordering Royal Authority: The Politics of Art Patronage in Patiala and Jodhpur," Symposium at Seattle Asian Art Museum for *Garden and Cosmos: The Royal Paintings of Jodhpur* Exhibition, March 26-27, 2009.
  - Also participated in Roundtable for exhibition, Feb. 19, 2009.
- "Heteroglossia and the Production of History in the Early Sikh States," Sikh Studies Program, University of California, Santa Barbara, April 14, 2008.
- "Rama Sukha Rao's *Jassa Singh Binod*: A Study of Possible Pasts," at the conference on *Patronage, Performance, Procession, and Pilgrimage: Channels of Religious Discourse in Early Modern India*, Seattle, May 17-18, 2007.

- “Authenticity and Corruption—Searching for Roots in Eighteenth-Century Sikh History” at the Identity and Belonging in South Asia Workshop organized by CISAR, University of British Columbia. October 2005.
- “The Khalsa Identity in Current Sikh Research,” at the *Sikh Studies Seminar* in Luther College, Decorah, IA. March 2004

**Service:**

University of Washington:

- UW, Bias Incident Advisory Committee, 2018-current
- Faculty Affairs Committee, 2016-19
- Royalty Research Fund Review Committee, 2014-2016: evaluate and award UW-wide funding.

History Department:

- Korean History Search Committee, 2018
- Tenure Committee for Prof. Arbella Bet-Shlimon, 2018-19
- Graduate Studies, 2018-19
- Director of Graduate Studies, 2015-2018
- History of the Islamic World pre-1850, History Department, 2014-2015
- Mideast/Islamic World Cluster Search Hiring Committee, NELC and History (4 searches), 2012-2013
- Graduate Studies Committee, 2010-2011, 2011-2012
- Graduate Admissions, 2009-2010
- Undergraduate Committee, 2008-2009
- Outreach Committee, 2007-2008
- Organizer, Comparative Colonialisms Reading Group, 2006-2008
- Long Range Planning Committee, 2006-2007
- Undergraduate Committee, 2005-2006

Center of South Asian Studies:

- Coordinator, SACPAN Conference, 2018-19
- Coordinator, Himalayan Studies Working Group (Collaboration with UBC) 2018-19
- Executive Committee, 2015-18
- Admissions and Graduate Funding Committee, 2011-2012
- Curriculum Committee, 2011-2012
- Executive Committee, CSA, 2010-2011
- Curriculum Committee, 2010-2011
- South Asia Development Committee, 2009-2010
- Distinguished Visitor Committee, 2008
- Curriculum Committee 2005-2007
- Library Committee, 2006-2008
- Graduate Admissions, 2005-2006

Other Service

- South Asia Council, Association of Asian Studies, 2018-21 (three year elected term)
- Nominating Committee, AHA, 2016-19 (three year elected term)
- Program Committee, Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, 2018
- Career Diversity Grants Selection Committee, American Historical Association, 2016
- Selection Committee, American Institute of Indian Studies, 2015-2017
  - Chair, Selection Committee in 2017-2018
- Manuscript Reviewer for Harvard University Press, Oxford University Press, Yale University Press, Sage Books, *Modern Asian Studies*, *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, *South Asia*, *Sikh Formations*, *Visual Anthropology*
- Faculty Senator for History Department, 2009
- Executive Committee, South Asia Microfilm Project (SAMP) 2009-2011
  - *This is a project organized by the Center for Research Libraries to review and select archival material for preservation*

### Graduate Advising

Supervised MA projects for:

- Spencer Parrington, Exp. June 2019
- Shariq Khan, Jackson School, June, 2018
- Mariam Sabri, Jackson School, June 2017
- Krysta Ahluwalia, Jackson School, chair, June 2016
- Kelsey Utne, MA, Jackson School, chair, June 2015
- Jessica Bachman, MA, Jackson School, chair, June 2015
- Grant Gilford, MAIS, Jackson School, chair, June 2013
- Michael Skinner, Asian Languages and Literature, 2012
- Shruti Patel, History, 2010
- Tavleen Kaur, Architecture, 2010
- Amanda Minx, MAIS, Jackson School, June 2006
- Kelley McHenry, MAIS, Jackson School, Dec 2006
- Jacqueline Paquette, MAIS, Jackson School, June 2007
- Tracy Ann Buck, Museology, June 07

Phd Examination and Dissertation Committees

- Anandi Bandopadhyay, History
- Jessica Bachman, History
- Adrian Kane, History
- Rachel L. Taylor, History
- Katie Blank, History
- William Bamber, Interdisciplinary PhD
- Monica Kim Meadows, History, 2013, Co-chair
- Catherine Warner, History, 2014
- Shruti Patel History, Expected Defense, Summer 2017
- Stefan Kamola, History, 2013
- Eric Johnson, History, Expected Defense Spring 2017
- Michael Skinner, AL and L

- Dana Garvey, (GSR, Art History)
- Tabitha Hart (Communications, GSR, 2012)
- Srinivas Chokkakula, (Geography, GSR)
- Rowan Suzanne Ellis, (GSR, Geography, January 2010)

### **Languages**

Hindi/Urdu: Native speaker

Persian: Proficiency in reading, writing, and translating

Punjabi: Proficiency in reading, writing, and translating

Spanish: Proficiency in speaking, reading, writing, and translating

### **Major Fields of Specialization**

- Early Modern/Medieval South Asia—1200-1800 CE
- Modern South Asia—1800 CE-Present

### **Minor Fields of Specialization**

- History of Islam
- Environmental History
- World History

### **References**

Dr. Lynn Thomas,  
Department of History,  
University of Washington, Seattle,  
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Dr. Anand Yang,  
Chair, Department of History,  
University of Washington, Seattle,  
Box 353560  
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Dr. John Findlay,  
Department of History, University of  
Washington, Seattle,  
Box 353560  
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