

TATHAGATA DUTTA

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EMPLOYMENT

March 2025-Present **AUBURN UNIVERSITY AT MONTGOMERY, USA**
7400 East Drive| P.O. Box 244023|Montgomery, AL 36124-4023

Lecturer
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

International Student Success and Retention Coordinator
Office of Global Initiatives

October 2024-February 2025 **AUBURN UNIVERSITY AT MONTGOMERY, USA**
7400 East Drive| P.O. Box 244023|Montgomery, AL 36124-4023

International Student Success and Retention Coordinator
Office of Global Initiatives

EDUCATION

2017-2024 **TUFTS UNIVERSITY, USA**
Ph.D. in History
Advisor(s): Ayesha Jalal, Mary Richardson Professor of History, Tufts University.

Focus: Modern South/Southeast Asia, and Frontier Governance, 18th -20th century

2016-'17 **St. Edmund's College, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, UK**
M.Phil. World History
Advisor: Timothy Norman Harper, Professor of the History of Southeast Asia,
University of Cambridge, U.K.

2013-2016 **St. Stephen's College, DELHI UNIVERSITY, INDIA**
B.A. (Honors) History, First Class.

2025 **The Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, HARVARD UNIVERSITY**
Higher Education Teaching Certificate

ACADEMIC HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2020 **History Department, Tufts University**, Language Training Fund for Burmese.
- 2016 **TGP Spear Scholarship** for the Best Student of Third Year History (Hons.), St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, India.
- 2016 **Savitri Prasad Memorial Prize** for Best Tutorial Work, St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, India.
- 2016 **Shri Manohar Singh Prize** for Exemplary Behavior, St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, India.
- 2015 **Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Scholarship**, for academic performance, St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, India.

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2022 **The Richard Bonney Literary Fund**, for doctoral research (UK) (external)
- 2022 **Graduate Dissertation Fellowship (2022-2023)**
Center for the Humanities at Tufts, Tufts University, USA.
- 2022 **History Department Graduate Research Award** for Doctoral Research Tufts University, USA.
- 2021 **Fung E.M. Humanities Summer Fellowship**, for summer dissertation/thesis research, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Tufts University, USA.
- 2021 **Taraknath Das Foundation Fellowship**, South Asia Institute, Columbia University, USA [now administered by the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS)] for PhD Dissertation support (external).
- 2021 Placed on the **Alternates List** for the **Junior Fellowship of the American Institute of Indian Studies**. [Not awarded]
- 2020 **Tisch Library Graduate Student Research Fellowships in the Arts and Humanities**, for summer thesis/dissertation research, Tufts University, USA.
- 2019 **History Department Graduate Research Award** for Doctoral Research Tufts University, USA.
- 2018 **Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Research Competition Award**, for Doctoral Research, Tufts University, USA.

- 2018 **Provost Fellow Award** for doctoral research, Tufts University, USA.
- 2017 **Provost Fellow Award** for doctoral research, Tufts University, USA.
- 2015 **Goutham Krishna Research Fellowship**, for undertaking original research, St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, India.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- 2026 "Making the Margins Viable: The Colonial Economy of Waste Lands in Bengal, Assam, and Burma, 1820s-1920s." *Forum, Journal of Asian Studies*, 85, 2. [Accepted and Scheduled for Publication in May 2026]
- 2020 "Amitav Ghosh and the 'Pizza-Effect': Re-discovering Shared Littoral Literature and Heritage" (Co-authored) *HyperCultura*, vol. 9. <http://litere.hyperion.ro/hypercultura/hypercultura-vol-9-2020/>
- 2016 "Writing a Rohingya History: Colonial Discourse, Vernacular Literature, and Geography." *Summerhill IIAS Review*, Winter Issue, Vol. XXII, No. 2, pp. 30-38. <http://ias.ac.in/ojs/index.php/summerhill/issue/view/85>
- 2016 "Grading State Government Efficiency Using Returned Mail." (joint author) *Vilakshan: XIMB Journal of Management*, Vol. 13, No. 2, September, pp. 67-78. ISSN 0973-1954 <https://ximb.edu.in/vilakshan/Vilakshan-Issue/>
- 2016 "Postal variables as proxy for economic growth in the colonial period." (joint-author) *Journal of Economic and Public Policy*, NMIMS, Vol. I, No. 2, pp. 58-66. www.nmims.edu
- 2016 "Blacks: A Case of Social Banditry." *Tarikh, The History Society Journal*, St. Stephen's College, April Issue, pp. 39-46.
- 2015 "Anti-Apartheid Movement: Boycott and Gandhi." *Satya, The Gandhi Study Circle Journal*, St. Stephen's College, May Issue, pp. 11-24.

Book Reviews

- 2023 Dutta, Tathagata, "Kings, Spirits and Memory in Central India: Enchanting the State New by Aditya Pratap Deo (London, York: Routledge, South Asia Edition, 2022) (review)," *Left History: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Historical Inquiry and Debate*, Vol. 25, No.2, pp. 112-115. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25071/1913-9632.39675>

- 2023 Dutta, Tathagata, "Tea Environments and Plantation Culture: Imperial Disarray in Eastern India by Arnab Dey (Cambridge University Press, 2018) (review)," *South Asian History and Culture Journal*. DOI: 10.1080/19472498.2023.2164987 Permanent link: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19472498.2023.2164987>.
- 2022 Dutta, Tathagata, "In the Name of the Nation: India and its Northeast by Sanjib Baruah (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2020) (review)," *New Zealand Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol.24, Issue 2 (December), pp. 71-73.
- 2021 Dutta, Tathagata, "The Coolie's War: Indian Labour in a Global Conflict 1914-1921 by Radhika Singha (Noida: Harper Collins Publishers, 2020) (review)," *Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences: Journal of the Inter-University Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences*. Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, Vol. XVIII, No. 1.
- 2014 Dutta, Tathagata, "Revolution Highway by Dilip Simeon (Delhi: Penguin Books India, 2010) (review)," *The Stephanian, St. Stephen's College*, Vol. CXXII, October Issue, pp. 34-36.

Interviews

- 2023 Decoding South Asia on the 75th Anniversary of Independence and Partition: An Interview with Ayesha Jalal and Sugata Bose. Toynbee Prize Foundation, 22 February.
<https://toynbeeprize.org/posts/decoding-south-asia-on-the-75th-anniversary-of-independence-and-partition-an-interview-with-ayesha-jalal-and-sugata-bose/>

Popular Articles

- 2022 "A Forgotten Partition: Myanmar's Long Separation from South Asia." *The Daily Star*, 30 September (e-paper), 1 October (print).
<https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/forgotten-partition-myanmars-long-separation-south-asia-3132021>
<https://epaper.thedailystar.net/Home/ArticleView?eid=1&edate=01/10/2022&pgid=155545>
- 2022 "The Death of a Monarch and the Long Shadow of Empire." *The Tufts Daily*, 12 September.
<https://tuftsdaily.com/opinion/2022/09/12/op-ed-the-death-of-a-monarch-and-the-long-shadow-of-empire/>

- 2019 “The Rohingya Crisis is Another Colonial Legacy.”
The Wire.in, September 16.
<https://thewire.in/south-asia/rohingya-crisis-colonoialsm-second-world-war>
- 2019 “Bhabher Ghore Churir Phal Pholeche.” (co-authored in Bengali)
Ananda Bazaar Patrika, 28 May.
https://www.anandabazar.com/editorial/how-much-value-do-bengali-people-give-to-other-above-their-group-interests-1.997853?fbclid=IwAR25PCHE6DiNq7qkLIKg3fBaiYt-eyUirv_DL4YBUO7jXGk8aQ7zXaFXITM
- 2018 “Travelogue: A Bengali at large in Old and New Burma.”
The Quint, October 4.
<https://www.thequint.com/lifestyle/travel/travelogue-bengali-in-burma-colonial-modern>

Fiction

- 2021 “An Ordinary Day.” *Muse India*, Issue 96, Spring (March-April),
ISSN: 0975-1815
<https://museindia.com/Home/ViewContentData?arttype=fiction&issid=96&menuid=9392>

CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

Major Presentations

- 2024 “1937 Separation of Burma and the Arakan Question.” Paper presented as part of panel, ‘South Asia’s Forgotten Partition: Rethinking the Separation of Burma and India in 1937,’ Annual Conference, Association of Asian Studies, Seattle, March 17.
- 2023 “Travel as Strategy, Travel as Sensation: Assembling the Frontiers, 1760s-1890s.” History Department Graduate Round Table, Tufts University, May 2.
- 2023 “Strategic Reserves of the Modern State: Frontier Governance in South Asia and the British Empire, c.1760s-c.1950s.” Center for the Humanities, Tufts University, April 5.
- 2023 “The Economy of Wastelands: Bengal, Burma, and Northeast India (1870s-1930s)” Paper Presented as part of panel, ‘Reforging an Arena: Bengal, Burma, and Northeast India at the Margin of Empire,’ Annual Conference, Association of Asian Studies, Boston (Virtual), February 17.
- 2022 “Forging Trans-national Humanistic Relations: Evaluating Twentieth Century Bengali Travelogues.” Paper presented as part of panel, ‘Human Coexistence,’

Third South Asia Research Center (SARC) International Conference on ‘The New Human Family in South Asia–Global and Local,’ Soka University (Tokyo, Japan) November 27 (Virtual).

- 2022 “Imperial Finance: Bank of Bengal and the Imperial Bank of India Across the Indian Ocean, c. 1860s-1960s.” Paper presented as part of panel, ‘Institutions,’ Conference in International History (CON-IH), Harvard University, April 16.
- 2022 “Indo-Burmese Financial Entanglements: The Bank of Bengal and the Imperial Bank of India in Burma, 1861-1963.” Paper presented as part of panel, ‘Leviathan at the Margins? Rethinking of the Colonial State and Plural Society in Burma,’ Annual Conference, Association of Asian Studies, Honolulu, Hawaii (Virtual), March 27.
- 2022 “Strategic Reserves of the Modern State: Frontier Governmentality in East Bengal, North-East India and Burma, c. 1800s-1970s.” *Joshua B. Stein Works in Progress Lecture Series*, Department of History and Cultural Studies, Roger Williams University, Rhode Island, USA, March 9.
- 2021 “Picturesque or Pestilential: Making of the Early Colonial Order Through Travel Writing and Surveys in Eastern India.” Workshop for the Early Modern Period, University of Cambridge, July 19.
- 2021 “Frontier and Intelligence: Colonial Travel Writing and Surveys in South Asia.” Paper presented as part of panel, ‘7A-Borders: Identity on the Move,’ British Association of South Asian Studies (BASAS) hosted online by the Centre for South Asian Studies (CSAS), the School of Social and Political Sciences, at the University of Edinburgh, April 22.
- 2020 “Space Making at the Edge of the Bay of Bengal.” Graduate Student Research Symposium, AS&E Graduate Student Council, Tufts University, March 6.
- 2019 “Reassessing the Indian Diaspora in Malaysia and Singapore, 1900-c.1947.” Paper presented as part of panel, ‘Strange Intimacies of Translation: Travelling East to Forge Asian Connections across the Bay of Bengal,’ Annual Conference, Association of Asian Studies, Denver, March 22.
- 2018 “The Art of Being in Exile: The Antecedents of Folk Literature of the Rohingyas in Arakan Court.” Paper presented as part of panel, ‘Rethinking Folk Culture in South Asia,’ 47th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, October 11.

Invited Talks

- 2025 “Governing the Margins: The Colonial Origins of the Rohingya Crisis,” History Department, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, 317 Thatch Hall (Bond Library), April 17.
- 2022 “The Sri Lankan Economic Crisis of 2022,” South Asian Regional

Committee (SARC), The Institute for Global Leadership, Tufts University, April 27.

- 2021 “Writing a Refugee History: Literature and Archives.” 48th Public lecture for the Calcutta Comparatists 1919, Virtual, January 9.

Conference/Workshop Organization

- 2023 Sole Organizer and Concept Note Writer, “Reforging an Arena: Bengal, Burma, and Northeast India at the Margin of Empire,” Annual Conference, Association of Asian Studies, Boston (Virtual), February 17.
- 2020 Organizer, Co-Facilitator, “Academic Social Responsibility in the Age of Extremes,” Workshop entitled “Raising Our Voices,” American Anthropological Association, Virtual, December 3.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Summer 2022 Instructor/Study Group Leader for ‘Colonialism and the Making of the Modern World,’ Tufts Lifelong Learning & Osher Institute, University College, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA (June-July 2022).
- Spring 2022 Instructor/Study Group Leader for ‘World’s Largest Democracy: The Indian Republic,’ Tufts Lifelong Learning & Osher Institute, University College, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA (March-May 2022).
- Fall 2021 Instructor/Study Group Leader for ‘Second World War Through the Writings of Sir Winston Churchill,’ Tufts Lifelong Learning & Osher Institute, University College, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA (November-December 2021).
- Fall 2021 Instructor/Study Group Leader for ‘End of Empires and the Rise of Asia,’ Tufts Lifelong Learning & Osher Institute, University College, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA (September-October 2021).
- Fall 2021 Instructor/Study Group Leader for ‘US Foreign Policy Since First World War,’ Tufts Lifelong Learning & Osher Institute, University College, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA (September-October 2021).

- Monsoon 2021 Teaching Fellow for 'Great Books,'
History Department, Ashoka University, Delhi, India
(August-December 2021)
(Principal Instructor: Prof Rudrangshu Mukherjee,
Chancellor)
- Spring 2021 Teaching Fellow for 'Reading History: Methodology Course,'
History Department, Ashoka University, Delhi, India (January-May 2021)
(Principal Instructor: Prof Aparna Vaidik).
- Fall 2020 Instructor/Study Group Leader for 'End of Empires and the Rise of Asia,'
Tufts Lifelong Learning & Osher Institute, University College, Tufts
University, Medford, MA, USA (September-October 2020).
- Fall 2019 Teaching Assistant for HIST-0046-10 *Modern South Asia*, History
Department, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA (Principal Instructor:
Prof Ayesha Jalal).
- Spring 2019 Teaching Assistant for HIST-0001-01 *Colonialism in Global Perspective*,
History Department, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA
(Principal Instructor: Prof Kris Manjapra).
- Fall 2018 Teaching Assistant for HIST-0046-10 *Modern South Asia*, History
Department, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA (Principal Instructor:
Prof Ayesha Jalal).

NON-TEACHING WORK EXPERIENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- Fall 2022- Summer 2024 Graduate Writing Consultant, Student Accessibility and Academic
Resources (StAAR) Center, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA.

NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

- Fall 2020 Tufts Technology Services AV Department Student Employee
- 2019-2020 Graduate Student Lounge Worker

COURSES COMPLETED SUCCESSFULLY

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| 2021 | Burmese Language, Pre-Intermediate Level, Burmese Language Academy of Yangon, Myanmar. (30-9-2020) to (30-4-2021). |
| 2017 | German Elementary, The Language Centre, Cambridge University, UK. |
| 2015 | German Language Certificate course, St. Stephen's College, Delhi University, India. |
| 2015 | 'Essence of Indian painting.' Short Term Course by Dr. Geeti Sen (Cultural Historian), National Museum, New Delhi, India. |

PROFESSIONAL AND TEACHING WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

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| 2025 | Out of the Box: Teaching and Learning workshop, Taylor Center, Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM), 14-15 May. |
| 2025 | Chancellor's Business Breakfast & Keynote, Taylor Center, Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM), Artificial Intelligence (AI) Workshop Series, 28 February: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "The Future of Business with ChatGPT: How AI is Transforming Decision-Making and Strategy" by Dr. Haya Ajjan, Associate Dean, School of Business, Elon University.• "Empowering Educators: Using Generative AI to Foster Student Engagement" by Dr. Haya Ajjan, Associate Dean, School of Business, Elon University• "Bridging AI and Education: Helping Students Succeed in an AI-Driven World" by Dr. Katia Maxwell, Associate Professor of Computer Science and QEP Director, Athens State University• "Creating an industry-relevant, student-focused program for AI careers" by Dr. Jeffrey Bohler, Associate Professor and Chair - Management |
| 2025 | The Exchange: Monthly Lunch and Learn Series, Auburn University at Montgomery, 19 February: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Student Uses of Artificial Intelligence (A.I.)" by Dr. Agnitra Roy Choudhury |
| 2015 | Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) Conservation Training Workshop, New Delhi, 8 th and 9 th October. |

ACADEMIC SERVICES RENDERED

Served as an occasional peer reviewer for the following journals:

The Columbia Journal of Asia

Nidan: International Journal for Indian Studies.

POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- 2022-2023 History Department Representative, Graduate Student Council, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA.
- 2022-2023 Member of Arts and Humanities Committee, Graduate Student Council, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA.
- 2022-
Present Editor-at-Large, Toynbee Prize Foundation, Massachusetts.
- 2015-2016 Editor, *Tarikh, The History Society Journal*, St Stephen's College, Delhi, India.
- 2015-2016 Editor, *Satya, The Gandhi Study Circle Journal*, St Stephen's College Delhi,
- 2015-2016 Editor, *Darpan, Bengali Literary Society Journal*, St. Stephen's College Delhi, India.
- 2015-2016 Member of Presidium, *The History Society*, St Stephen's College, Delhi, India.
- 2015-2016 Elected Class Representative, History Department, St. Stephen's College, Delhi, India.

SOCIAL WORK AND INTERNSHIP

- Dec' 2014-
Jan' 2015 Internship with Vice Chancellor of Delhi University: Worked as an intern in the the Office of the Vice Chancellor and contributed to the creation of Online Course- 'India in the 21st Century' for Delhi University.
- 2014 Internship at CHIP House, Kolkata: Rendered voluntary social service, interacted with students and adults from underprivileged background and rendered lessons on English, History, Political Science, and Culture.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English, Bengali, Hindi (Native/Bilingual Proficiency)

German (Elementary)

Burmese (Pre-Intermediate Level)

Rohingya (Communicative)

REFERENCES:

Available upon request