

History Department
208 College Hall
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6379
phone: 215-898-222-4277. fax: 215-573-2089.
davidludden@hotmail.com
<http://www.sas.upenn.edu/~dludden/>

Education

- 1978 Ph.D. History, University of Pennsylvania
1972 M.A./B.A. South Asia Regional Studies, University of Pennsylvania
1966-70 Yale University

Employment

- 2007-8 Visiting Professor, History Department, New York University
2005 Visiting Professor, Development Studies, BRAC University (Dhaka)
1999- Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania
1991-98 Chair, Graduate Group, South Asia Regional Studies, University of Pennsylvania
1992-95 Chair, Department of South Asia Regional Studies, University of Pennsylvania
1992-95 Director, National Resource Center for South Asia, University of Pennsylvania
1987-99 Associate Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania
1981-87 Assistant Professor of History, University of Pennsylvania
1979-80 Assistant Professor of History, University of Virginia

Monographs

2002. *India and South Asia: A Short History*. Oxford: OneWorld Publishers.
1999. *An Agrarian History of South Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (*The New Cambridge History of India*, IV. 4. General Editor: Gordon Johnson).
1985. *Peasant History in South India*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
1990. Paperback edition, Delhi: Oxford University Press. Reprinted 1993, 1995, 1997.
2005. Second paperback edition published as *Early Capitalism and Local History in South India* with new Preface and additional Bibliography. Oxford University Press, Delhi, 2005.
2006. ACLS History E-Book.

Edited Volumes

2004. *Capitalism in Asia*. Ann Arbor: Association for Asian Studies
2002. *Reading Subaltern Studies: Critical Histories, Contested Meanings, and the Globalisation of South Asia*. New Delhi: Permanent Black Publishers and London: Anthem Press.
1996/2005. *Contesting the Nation: Religion, Community, and the Politics of Democracy in India* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. Paperback edition, *Making India Hindu: Community, Conflict, and the Politics of Democracy*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1996. Second edition with new Preface and additional Bibliography. Oxford University Press, Delhi. 2005.
1995/2005. *Agricultural Production and Indian History*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press. Second paperback edition with new Preface and additional Bibliography published as *Agricultural Production and South Asian History*. Oxford University Press, Delhi, 2005.

Translation

1976. *The Kuruntokai: An Anthology of Classical Tamil Love Poetry in Translation* (with M. Shanmugam Pillai), Koodal Publishers, Madurai, 1976.

Articles (underlining indicates weblink to online edition)

- 2005 "A useable past for a post-national present: Governance and development in South Asia," *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh*, December
- "Development Regimes in South Asia: History and the Development Conundrum," *Economic and Political Weekly*, 40, 37, 10 Sept., 4042-51
- "Where is Assam?" *HIMALSouthAsia*, November 2005,
http://www.himalmag.com/2005/november/cover_story_3.html
- 2004 "The Formation of Modern Agrarian Economies in South India," for *The History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture, Volume VII, Economic History of India, 18th-20th Centuries*, edited by Binay Bhushan Chaudhuri. Oxford University Press, Delhi, pp.1-40. (Short online edition: ["Globalization and Territoriality in South Asia," Penn Economic History Workshop \(Apr 8, 2000\)](#) and [South Asia Seminar, University of Chicago \(Apr 14, 2000.\)](#)
- ["Environment and History in India,"](#) and ["Commercialization in India,"](#) two chapters in Indira Gandhi Open University Masters Syllabus in Economic History Textbook, edited by Neeladri Bhattacharya
- 2003 *Where is Assam? Using Geographical History to Locate Current Social Realities*. CENISEAS Papers, No.1. Series Editor: Sanjib Baruah, Centre of Northeast India and South and Southeast Asian Studies, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati, Assam.
- "The First Boundary of Bangladesh on Sylhet's Northern Frontiers," *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh*, 48, 1, June, 1-54. (Short online edition, ["Political Maps and Cultural Territories,"](#) in *HIMAL*, July)
- ["Maps in the Mind and the Mobility of Asia,"](#) Presidential Address for the Association of Asian Studies, *Journal of Asian Studies*, 62, 3, November, 1057-1078. (Short version, ["Nameless Asia and Territorial Angst,"](#) *HIMAL*, June, 2003.)
- ["Investing in nature around Sylhet: An Excursion into Geographical History,"](#) *Economic and Political Weekly*, 29 November; reprinted in *Financial Express*, Dhaka, 18 Dec.
- "Who First Declared the Independence of Bangladesh?" *Holiday* (Dhaka) 11 July; also published as ["Forgotten Heroes,"](#) in *Frontline*, 20, 15, July 19 - August 1)
- "Tributary State," Chapter Three of *Peasant History in South India* (1985), reprinted in *The Eighteenth Century In Indian History: Evolution or Revolution?* Edited by Peter J. Marshall, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 319-356.
- "Why Area Studies?" In *Localizing Knowledge in a Globalizing World: Recasting the Area Studies Debate*, edited by Ali Mirsepassi, Amrita Basu, and Frederick Weaver. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, pp. 131-7.
- 2002 "Modern Inequality and Early Modernity," (Comment on Articles by R. Bin Wong and Kenneth Pommeranz for *AHR* forum, "Asia and Europe in the World Economy"), *American Historical Review*, 107, 2, April: 470-480
- "Specters of Agrarian Territory in South India," *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 39, 2&3, April-September, 233-58

- “A Brief History of Subalternity.” Introduction to *Reading Subaltern Studies: Critical History, Contested Meaning, and the Globalization of South Asia*, edited by David Ludden. Delhi: Permanent Black, pp.1-42.
- "A Deadline for the World Development Regime," *Frontline*, April 2002; *HIMAL*, April 2002.
- “Good Cops, Bad Cops, and The World Bank. *HIMAL*, 15/16 June 2002, 44-5.
- 2001 "Subalterns and Others in the Agrarian History of South Asia," In *Agrarian Studies: Synthetic Work at the Cutting Edge*. Edited by James C. Scott and Nina Bhatt. Yale University Press, 2001. pp.206-235
- "Development in South Asia." In *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Editors-in-Chief, Neil J Smelser and Paul B Baltes, Pergamon Press, Amsterdam
- "Area Studies in the Age of Globalization," *FRONTIERS: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad*, Winter 2000, 1-22
- 2000 "The South Asia Regional Literatures Project," in *International Scholarly Collaboration: Lessons from the Past*. A Report of the Social Science Research Council Inter-regional Working Group on International Scholarly Collaboration.
- “Agrarian History and Grassroots Development,” In *Agrarian Environments: Resources, Representations, and Rule in India*. Edited by Arun Agarwal and K.Sivaramakrishnan. Duke University Press.
- 1998 “India Before Colonialism: The International Impact of Indian Research Since 1947,” in *India’s Worlds and U.S.Scholars: 1947-1997*, edited by Joe Elder, Ainslee Embree, and Ed Dimock, published for the American Institute of Indian Studies by Manohar Publishers, Delhi, pp.265-82.
- 1996 “Ayodhya: A Window on the World,” In *Contesting the Nation: Religion, Community, and the Politics of Democracy in India*, Edited by David Ludden, pp.1-27.
- "Archaic Formations of Agricultural Knowledge in South India." In *Meanings of Agriculture in South Asia: Essays in South Asian History and Economics*. Edited by Peter Robb.*SOAS Studies on South Asia*. Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 35-70. (35pp)
- “Caste Society and Units of Production in Early Modern South India,” in *Institutions and Economic Change in South Asia: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*. Editors: Burton Stein and Sanjay Subrahmanyam. Oxford University Press, New Delhi, pp.105-133.
- “Tirunelveli in the Economic History of Early-Modern India,” in *History and Society: Essays in Honour of Professor S.Kadhirvel*, edited by K.A.Manikumar. Madras. 1966. pp.69-87
- “Water Management for Changing Times: New Perspectives in South Asia,” Policy Information Report from the Political Economy of Water in South Asia Conference, Madras Institute for Development Studies and Joint Committee on South Asia of the SSRC-ACLS. (1995) [translated into Tamil; adapted for text use in Nepali.]
- 1995 "Urbanism and Early Modernity in the Tirunelveli Region," *Bengal Past and Present*, 114, Parts 1-2, Nos.218-219, 9-40.
- "Patriarchy and History in South Asia: Three Interpretive Experiments," *Calcutta Historical Journal*, 17, 2, 1995, 1-18.
- 1994 "History Outside Civilization and the Mobility of Southern Asia," *South Asia* 17, 1, June 1994, 1-23.

- "Agricultural Production and Indian History." In *Agricultural Production and Indian History*. Edited by David Ludden, pp.1-35.
- 1993 "Orientalist Empiricism and Transformations of Colonial Knowledge." In *Orientalism and The Post-Colonial Predicament*. Edited by C.A. Breckenridge and Peter Van der Veer. University of Pennsylvania Press, 250-78. (A shortened version is to be reprinted in *Orientalism and History: A Reader*, edited by Edmund Burke III and David Prochaska.)
- 1992 "India's Development Regime." In *Colonialism and Culture*. Edited by Nicholas Dirks, Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, pp.247-87.
- "Anglo-Indian Empire." Chapter Four of *Peasant History in South India* (1985), reprinted in *The Making of Agrarian Policy in British India, 1770-1990*. Edited by Burton Stein. Oxford University Press, *Themes in Indian History*. New Delhi. pp.150-186.
- 1990 "World Economy and Village India, 1600-1900: Exploring the Agrarian History of Capitalism." In *South Asia and World Capitalism*. Edited by Sugata Bose. Oxford University Press, Delhi, pp.159-77.
- 1989 "Craft Production in an Agrarian Economy, India, 1750-1900." In *Making Things in South Asia*. Edited by Michael Meister. South Asia Regional Studies Department, University of Pennsylvania, pp.103-13.
- "Asiatic States and Agrarian Economies: Agrarian Commercialism in South India, 1700-1850," *Calcutta Historical Journal*, 13, 1-2, 112-137.
- 1988 "Agrarian Commercialism in Eighteenth Century South India: Evidence from the 1823 Tirunelveli Census," *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 25, 4, 493-519. Reprinted in *Merchants, Markets and the State in Early Modern India*. Edited by Sanjay Subrahmanyam, Oxford University Press, *Themes in Indian History*, Delhi, 1990, 215-241.
- "Irrigation," *Encyclopedia of Asian History*, Ainslee Embree, editor in chief. Published for the Asia Society. New York: Scribner, pp.158-60.
- 1987 "Agricultural Development and Social Change in Modern India: Some Considerations from Agrarian History." In *Power and Poverty: Development and Development Projects in the Third World*, edited by Donald W. Attwood, Thomas C. Bruneau, and John G. Galaty, Westview, Boulder, 1988, pp.105-119.
- 1986 "Historians and Nation States," *Perspectives*, The American Historical Association Newsletter, 24, 4, April, 12-14.
- 1985 "Colonialism and Public Technologies: Transportation and Irrigation in Tamil Nadu Under British Rule." In *Science and Technology in South Asia*. Edited by Peter Gaeffke and David Utz. Department of South Asia Regional Studies, University of Pennsylvania, pp.133-44.
- "The Terms of Ryotwari: Semantics and Disputes over Property Rights in Madras Presidency, 1800-1885." In *South Indian Studies: An Anthology of Critical Essays and Recent Scholarship*. Edited by R.E. Frykenberg and Pauline Kolenda. New Era Publishers, Madras. pp.151-170.
- "Toward Peasant History: Focus on South India," *Peasant Studies*, 12, 2, 129-37.
- 1984 "Productive Power in Agriculture: A Survey of Work on the Local History of British India." In *Agrarian Power and Agricultural Productivity in South Asia*. Edited by Meghnad Desai, Susanne H. Rudolph, and A. Rudra, University of California Press, Berkeley, pp.51-99.
- 1982 "Eras of Tamil Nadu Irrigation, 1500 to 1980." In *The History and Sociology of Technology*. Edited by Donald Hoak. Published by the Milwaukee Public Library, pp.202-220.

- 1979 "Patronage and Irrigation in Tamil Nadu: A Long-Term View," *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 16, 3, 347-65.
- 1979 "Dimensions of Agrarian Political Economy: Focus on Tamil Nadu," *Peasant Studies*, 8, 4, Fall, 19-29.
- 1978 "Ecological Zones and the Cultural Economy of Irrigation in Southern Tamil Nadu," *South Asia*, I (NS), 1, 1-13.
- "Who Really Ruled Madras Presidency?" *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 15, 4, 517-21.
- 1973 "The Poems and Revolution of Bharathiyar." In *Imperialism and Revolution in South Asia*. Edited by Kathleen Gough and Hari Sharma. Monthly Review Press, New York, pp.267-90.

Recent Book Reviews

James L.A. Webb Jr., *Tropical Pioneers: Human Agency and Ecological Change in the Highlands of Sri Lanka, 1800-1900*, (*Economic and Political Weekly*)

Rural Labour Relations in India. Edited by T.J.Byres, Karin Kapadia, Jens Lerche. Frank Cass. London 1999 (*Journal of Asian and African Studies*).

Chetan Singh, *Natural Premises: Ecology and Peasant Life in the Western Himalaya, 1800-1950* (*Studies in History*).

Grants and Fellowships

- 2003 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fund
- 2002 American Council of Learned Societies
American Institute of Bangladesh Studies
- 1999 U of PA. Instructional Computing Development Fund
U of PA. Quantitative Skills Course Development
U of PA, Research Foundation
- 1998 U of PA Quantitative Skills Course Development
- 1997 U of PA Research Foundation
- 1996 University of Calcutta, History Department, Short Term Visiting Fellowship
- 1995 American Institute for Indian Studies, Research
- 1992 American Institute for Indian Studies, Short-Term Research
- 1992-5 Pew Memorial Trust, Curriculum Development: "Asian Civilizations"
- 1990 National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Faculty
- 1989 American Philosophical Society, Research
University of Pennsylvania, Computer Teaching
- 1988 NEH Travel to Collections
- 1987 University of Pennsylvania, Curriculum Development: "World Food Crisis"
American Institute for Indian Studies, Short-Term Research
- 1986 Social Science Research Council
U of PA Research Foundation
- 1985 Social Science Research Council
- 1984 Fulbright-Hays
- 1983 U of PA Research Foundation
- 1982 U of PA, Summer Research
- 1978-81 National Endowment for the Humanities, Translation
- 1974 Social Science Research Council, Dissertation Research
- 1971-74 National Defense Foreign Language Fellowships, Tamil studies

1966 Yale-Carnegie Five-Year B.A. Program, Public Health Internship in India

Professional Service

2004, 2006 Dissertation Workshop Faculty, Association of Asian Studies
 2002-3 President, AAS.
 2001-5 AAS Executive Board
 2001-5 AAS Publications Committee
 2000-1 AAS Committee on Digital Archives.
 1998-2000 American Historical Association, James Henry Brasted Prize Committee
 1997-2000 Chair, Social Science Research Council, Regional Advisory Panel, South Asia
 1997-2000 SSRC Interdisciplinary Panel on International Collaboration
 1997 SSRC Advisory Group on Area Studies
 1996-2001 Fulbright Senior Scholars Program, Executive Board member (for SSRC)
 Chair, Fulbright Senior Scholars Program South Asia Selection Committee
 1997-2001 Trustee, American Institute for Bangladesh Studies (for Penn)
 1994-7 AAS South Asia Council
 1994-5 National Coalition of National Resource Center Directors, Co-Chair
 1992 AAS, South Asia Microfilm Project
 1992 SSRC-ACLS Central Selection Committee, Joint Fellowship Programs
 1992 National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship Selection Committee
 1991-6 SSRC-ACLS, Joint Committee on South Asia
 1990 Fulbright-Hays Joint Projects Selection Committee
 1983 AAS Committee on South Asia Libraries and Documentation
 1982-4 Associate Editor, *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*

Grant application evaluations regularly for American Council of Learned Societies, Woodrow Wilson Institute, National Science Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, Fulbright-Hays, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.

Manuscript Evaluator: Duke University Press, University of Chicago Press, Cambridge University Press, University of California Press, University of Minnesota Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Journal of Asian History*, *Journal of Developing Areas*, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, *Quantitative Sociology*.

Service for the University of Pennsylvania

2005- History Department Undergraduate Education Committee
 2004- SAS Graduate Education Committee
 2004- South Asian Studies Advisory Committee
 2000-1 Chair, University Senate Committee on Students and Educational Policy
 2000-1 SAS South Asia Taskforce
 History Department, Graduate Admissions Committee
 1999 SAS South Asia Search Committee
 1998 Lauder Program, Student Advisor
 1997-9 Quantitative Skills Committee, School of Arts and Sciences
 1998-2000 SAS Inter-Area Council
 History Department-SAS Computer Services Faculty Liaison
 1990- SAS Freshman Advisor
 1997-8 History Department, Tenure Committee Chair for Sumathi Ramaswamy

- 1996-7 South Asia Regional Studies Executive Committee
USIA Grant Submitted for Affiliation with Quaid-i-Azam University, Pakistan (failed)
History Department Executive Committee
South Asia Regional Studies Executive Committee
Organizer, History Department World History Workshop
- 1993-4 Islamic Civilizations Search Committee
- 1992-3 Chair, South Asia Social Science Search Committee
History Department Graduate Executive Committee
Ford Grant for "Problematics of Identities and States" (with I Lustick and T.Callaghy)
- 1991-3 Chair, South Asia Regional Studies Fellowship Committee
Pew Grant for new course on Asian Civilizations (with Guy Welbon)
- 1991-2 Chair, History Department, Library Committee
- 1988-89 History Department Middle East Search Committee
- 1987-90 Undergraduate Chairman, South Asia Regional Studies
- 1986-7 University Libraries Faculty Advisory Committee
- 1985-6 History Department Executive Committee
University Council Study Abroad Committee
- 1983-4 University Undergraduate Education Committee
South Asia Regional Studies Undergraduate Committee
University Libraries Faculty Advisory Committee
- 1982-3 History Department Executive Committee

Academic Programs Developed

- 2001 Independent University, Bangladesh. Desgiend Development Studies Masters degree curriculum.
- 2006 BRAC University, Masters in Public Health, summer internship for American research students (funded by the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies).

Conferences, Workshops, and Seminars Organized

- 1999 "Governance in South Asia," an international conference sponsored by SSRC, SDPI, and IUCN in Islamabad, August 24-9, 1999, co-organized with Tariq Banuri for the South Asia Regional Advisory Panel of the SSRC.
- "Subaltern Studies and South Asian History," panel discussion for 50th Anniversary Celebration of the South Asia Regional Studies Department at the University of Pennsylvania, 2/6
- "Redefining the Borders of South Asia," South Asia Forum, U of PA. Oct.12-14
- "Hindutva Update," South Asia Forum, University of Pennsylvania, Nov. 10-12
- 1998-9 "Globalization, Power, and Culture." The Ethnohistory Workshop, University of Pennsylvania. In collaboration with Anne Norton and Julia Paley.
- 1997-8 "Power, Culture, and Civilization: The World Viewed from South Asia." South Asia Seminar. University of Pennsylvania.
- "Workshop on Area Studies," University of Pennsylvania, April 27, 1998
- "World History Worldshop," History Department, University of Pennsylvania, May, 1997.
- 1995 "The Political Economy of Water: Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, and Nepal," international conference

- organized with James Boyce and Pranab Bardhan for the Joint Committee on South Asia of the SSRC and ACLS, funded by the Ford Foundation, Delhi and SAREC. January 3-7, Madras.
- 1993-4 "Film in Societies and Cultures." The Ethnohistory Workshop Series. University of Pennsylvania
 "Problematics of Identities and States," Ford Foundation International Predissertation Fellowship Program Seminar. Organized with Ian Lustick and Tom Callaghy.
 "Exploring Communalism." The South Asia Regional Studies Seminar, 1993-4.
 "The Study of the Performing Arts." SSRC Workshop at the University of Pennsylvania, September 21-6. Organized with Regula Qureshi.
 "Workshop on South Asian Languages and the Curriculum," April 23-5, University of Pennsylvania
 "Workshop on Cultural Production in the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires," April 30-May 4, University of Pennsylvania. Organized with Cemal Kafadar.
- 1992 "Language, Literature, and Society," South Asia Regional Studies Seminar Series (organized with Peter Gaeffke and Franklin Southworth)
 "Cultural Production and Cultural Change." The Ethnohistory Workshop Series. University of Pennsylvania
- 1988 - 1992 "The Political Economy of Early-Modern Empires in South Asia and the Middle East." A Conference series organized annually with Tosun Aricanli and Ashraf Ghani.
- 1989-90 "Colonialism and Cultural Change." The Ethnohistory Workshop Series. University of Pennsylvania
- 1988-9 "Orientalism and Beyond: Perspectives from South Asia." The annual seminar of the South Asia Regional Studies Department, University of Pennsylvania (with C.A. Breckenridge and W. Halbfass)
- 1986 "South Asia and World Capitalism." Tufts University, December 12-14 (with Sugata Bose and Ravi Arvind Palat)

Conference Panels Organized

- 2006 "US Empire and its Implications for History," American Historical Association Annual Meeting.
- 2003 "Expanding South Asia," Presidential Panel, Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting.
- 1997 "Patriarchy in Asia: Comparative and Theoretical Perspectives from South Asia," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 1986 "Ethnicity and Ethnic Conflict in South Asia." University of Pennsylvania President's Forum, "Colorlines: The Enduring Significance of Race"
- 1983 "Terminology as a Key to Cultural Change." Double panel at the South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin
 "Superpower Conflict and the Vast Majority." University of Pennsylvania Forum, "Toward Preventing Nuclear War"
- 1981 "Agricultural Technology in Modern India." Society for the History of Technology Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI

- 1980 "Themes in Modern South Indian History," Assoc. for Asian Studies Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, New Brunswick, NJ
- 1979 "Social Change in Rural South India," Association for Asian Studies Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, Washington, DC

Major Invited Lectures and Seminar/Conference Papers

- 2006 "History and the Inequality Predicament in South Asia," Wertheim Lecture, University of Amsterdam, 10 May
(earlier versions delivered at the Davis Center, Princeton University; South Asia conference, University of Chicago; and History Department, New York University) (also delivered at Carleton College, September 22)
- "The Reproduction of Imperial Forms in Early British India," Comparing Empires Conference, Warsaw, 13 October.
- 2005 "The State of US Area Studies," Workshop on The Future of Interdisciplinary Area Studies in the UK. Oxford, St. Antony's College, 6-7 December
- "Displacing the Nation: The World of Politics around Subaltern Studies,' For the conference on *Writing Social Histories: Asian Historiographies and Political Regimes*. Organised by Gadjah Mada University and the International Institute of Social History. 16-17 December. Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- "Directions in US Area Studies." For workshop on the Future of interdisciplinary area studies in the UK, Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies and St. Antony's College, Oxford, 6-7 December
- "Mapping The History of Empire in South Asia," Northern Arizona University, 29 October
- "Environment, Poverty, and Health," Public Health Program , BRAC University, 25 August
- 2004 "A New Geography for Asian Studies," Southeastern Conference of the Association for Asian Studies, 17 Jan
- 2003 "Where is Assam? Using Geographical History to Local Contemporary Social Realities," inaugural lecture for Centre of Northeast India and South and Southeast Asian Studies, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati, Assam, 4 November,
- "Investing in Nature's Geography: Territorial Resources in Bangladesh and Sylhet," research paper for SSRC Workshop on Resources: Conceptions and Contestations, Kathmandu, 3-12 January 2003.
- "On The Social Geography of Natural Resources," Public Lecture for the SSRC Conference on Resources: Conceptions and Contestations, Kathmandu, 3-12 January 2003
- "Maps in the Mind and the Mobility of Asia," Association for Asian Studies Presidential Address, delivered at annual AAS meeting (2003) and regional meetings (2002)
- 2002 "Ethnic Identity and Property Rights In South Asia," Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Jan 2.
- "The Transformation of Agrarian Environments in Southern Asia." History Department, University of California, Los Angeles, Nov.3.
- 2001 "The Invention of Traditional Economies: A History of Knowledge About India, 1770-1930," University of California, Irvine. Oct. 27.
- 2000 Globalization and Territoriality in South Asia," Penn Economic History Workshop (Apr 8) and South Asia Seminar, University of Chicago (Apr 14).

- "Many Partitions: Toward a History of Territoriality in South Asia," Syracuse University and Cornell University South Asia Centers, Mar 2, 6
- 1999 "The Spatial History of Agrarian South India," Center for South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies, Tufts University, Dec 2, 1999
- "History Along the Coastal Zone of Southern Eurasia," Columbia South Asia Center, Oct 18
- "A Short History of Subalternity," Sharat Bose Memorial Lecture, Netaji Research Bureau, Calcutta, Aug 15
- "Subalternity and Governance," SSRC/SDPI Conference on Governance, Murree, Aug 24
- "Gendered Agents in Gendered Environments," discussion at AAS annual meeting, Mar 12
- "Everyday Struggles in the Ideological Milieu formed by the BJP Ascendancy," MIT South Asia Forum, Apr 9
- 1998 "Reading Subaltern Studies," History Department, University of Calcutta, December 21
- "Agricultural Expansion and Agrarian Political Culture," Madison South Asia Mtg, Oct 16-18.
- "South Asia and the Middle East," Discussion of papers for the Ford Workshop on "Rethinking Area Studies," NYU, April 24.
- "Conditions for the Invention of Nationality in South Asia," South Asia program lecture, Yale, April 3
- "Women as a Public Issue in Modern Bengal," Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, March 28
- 1997 "Local Nepal in a Comparative South Asian Perspective," paper for SSRC-NSF conference on "Property Rights in Land and Sustainable Development in Mountain Societies," Kathmandu, July 10-13.
- "Power and Legitimacy in Modern States: Reflections on the Rise of Hindu Nationalism," B.N.Pandey Memorial Lecture and Seminar, South Asia Centre, University of Toronto
- "The Creation of Modern Patriarchy in Agrarian South Asia," Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago
- 1996 "Economic History: A Troubled Intersection of Two Changing Disciplines," Economics College Teachers Refresher Course, Kurukshetra University.
- "The Discourse and Study of Communalism in Contemporary India," and "New Themes in Agrarian History," University of Calcutta.
- "Unpacking Patriarchy: Some Issues for South Asian History," Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta
- "The Agrarian Economy of Tirunelveli in Early Modern South Asia," Manonmanyan Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli
- "Recent Trends in Indian History," School of Historical Studies, Madurai Kamaraj University
- "Urban is as Urban Does: Economy and Urban Centers in Early Modern South India," Madras Institute for Development Studies, Silver Jubilee Conference.
- "Urbanism in Tamil History," International Institute of Tamil Studies, Madras
- 1994 "Subaltern Studies and Agrarian History," Barbara Stoler Miller Memorial Seminar, Columbia University.

- "Ivory Towers and Real Worlds: Making India Hindu," University of Chicago
- "Agrarian History and the Politics of Knowledge," and "Locating Agriculture in Social Theory: After Post-Structuralism," European Conference on South Asian Studies, Toulouse.
- 1993 "Social Differentiation and Development," Indian Institute of Science, Madras.
- "Agrarian Society and Subaltern Studies," Program in Agrarian Studies, Yale University.
- "Development Knowledge in Indian History," Conference on Historicizing Development, Emory University.
- 1992 "Agricultural Knowledge and Agrarian Society in Pre-Colonial India." Program in Atlantic History, Culture, and Society. The Johns Hopkins University.
- "Small Regions as Units of Production." School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.
- "Meanings of the Means of Production." School of Oriental and African Studies.
- "Agriculture and Indian History." Asian Studies Association of Australia, keynote address. Armidale.
- "Orientalism and Nationalism." University of Sydney.
- "India's Development Regime." Curtin University.
- "South Asian History in the U.S." Monash University.
- "Rural Institutions and Pre-Modern Empire." Conference on Mughal, Ottoman, and Safavid History. American Research Institute in Turkey. Istanbul.
- "Contradictions of Development." Berkeley Conference on Comparative History.
- "Colonial Inventions of the Peasantry in India." American Ethnological Association.
- 1991 "India's Development Regime: An Approach," Research Triangle South Asia Seminar. Durham, N.C.
- "Capitalism and India: Studies in Theory and Practice." South Asia Seminar. University of Virginia.
- "On the Reconstruction of Traditional India." University of Michigan, South Asian Studies Lecture Series.
- "Agrarian South India, 1750-1820." University of Calcutta, History Department.
- "The Determination of Ideological Practices in Agrarian Structures." Conference on "Peasant Culture and Consciousness," Rockefeller Conference Center, Bellagio.
- 1989 "Asiatic States and Agrarian Economies." Conference on "The Political Economies of the Ottoman, Safavid, and Mughal Empires," Harvard University.
- "Colonialism in the Interior: Orientalizing and Modernizing Village India." Conference on "Colonialism and Culture." University of Michigan.
- 1988 "Orientalist Empiricism." South Asia Seminar, University of Pennsylvania.
- 1987 "Archaic Formations of Agricultural Expertise in India." SSRC conference on Agricultural Terminology, Durham, NH
- 1986 "Productive Power in Agriculture and Capitalism in South India." Conference on South Asia and World Capitalism, Tufts University.

- 1986 "South Asia in A Global View." College of General Studies Continuing Education Series, University of Pennsylvania
"Craft Production in an Agrarian Economy, India, 1750-1900." South Asia Regional Studies Seminar, University of Pennsylvania
- 1985 "The World System and Early-Modern South Asia." Fernand Braudel Center, SUNY Binghamton, Binghamton, N.Y.
"Production Relations in Eighteenth Century India," Warwick University
- 1984 "Caste and Commerce." South Asia Studies Seminar, University of Pennsylvania
- 1983 "From Pangu to Pattah: A Semantic Shift in Peasant Property Disputation in South India, 1800-1885." South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison.
- 1982 "Colonialism and Cultural Change in Rural South India." Social Science History Association, Bloomington.
"Agricultural Development and Social Change: Lessons from Indian History." Centre for Development Studies, McGill University.
"Tenants and Land Law in Madras Presidency, 1800-1880." Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, Chicago.
- 1981 "Ethnohistorical Landscapes: A Comment," and "Land is to Farm: A Blindspot in Ethnology." Association for Asian Studies, Toronto.
"Agricultural Development and Social Change" and "Poverty in India." Foreign Service Institute, Washington, D.C.
"World Hunger: The Numbers Game," and "The Political Economy of a Square Meal." International Studies Symposium, Staunton, VA.
- 1980 "Investing in Agriculture in 19th Century South India." AAS Mid-Atlantic Conference, New Brunswick.
"Marx, Weber, and Indian Peasants." South Asia Seminars at the University of Virginia and Columbia University.
- 1979 "Caste as a Fluid Set of Categories." Association for Asian Studies Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, Washington, DC
- 1978 "Ecological Zones and South Indian Village Society." Association for Asian Studies.

Course Coverage

South Asian History, ancient to modern (History 86-88, 386, 486)

Hunger, Poverty, Health, and Development (History 387-9)

US Empire (History 206)

Capitalism in Asia (History 436)

Economic and Social History, Theory and Method (History 588)

History PhDs Supervised (place of employment)

Gyan Prakash (Princeton)

Douglas Haynes (Dartmouth)

E.James Heitzman (University of California, Davis)

E.Daniel Moore (US Government)

Andrew Lightman (private business)
Madhavi Kale (Bryn Mawr College)
Sanjay Joshi (Northern Arizona University)
Pratyoush Onta (Kathmandu NGO)
Robert Nichols (Stockton State University)
Vivek Bhandari (Hampshire College)
Savita Nair (Furman University)
Mytheli Sreenivas (Ohio State University)
Brian Caton (Luther College)
Shefali Chandra (University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana)
Abigail McGowan (University of Vermont)
Alison Shah (University of Colorado, Denver)
Ian Petrie (St. Joseph's University)
Lauren Nauta (North Carolina State University)
Rahul Nair (University of Denver)
Maneesha Lal (Trinity College) [degree in History and Sociology of Science]
Jude Fernando (Clark University) [degree in South Asia Regional Studies]
Dorris Kling (US Government) [degree in South Asia Regional Studies]
Michael Rosse (University of Pennsylvania Library) [degree in South Asia Regional Studies]

External Examiner for PhDs at the University of Madras, Madurai Kamaraj University, Mother Theresa Women's University, Andhra University, Manonmanian Sundaranar University, Tufts University.