

SADAN JHA

Professional Status

Associate Professor, Centre for the Social Studies, Surat. The Centre is a multi disciplinary social science research institute affiliated to Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR, Government of India) and Government of Gujarat.

Education

Ph.D. (Department of History, University of Delhi) on "Visualizing the Nation: Gender and the Symbolic Constitution of the Nationhood in late Nineteenth and Twentieth Century North India", 2010.

Research Interests:

History of Visuality, History of colours, History of symbols (Indian National Flag, Spinning Wheel and 'Bharat Mata'/ Mother India), Gendered Visuality, Partition violence, Contemporary urban experiences in Surat, Hindi Literature, Media cultures, Politics of Archive.

Publications (A Select List)

Book

Reverence, Resistance and Politics of Seeing the Indian National Flag, Cambridge University Press, 2016.

Papers in Refereed Journals

- (along with NishprihaThakur), "Ethnography of Trust and History as Circulating Commodities in Chauta Bazaar, Surat", *Journal of History and Sociology of South Asia*, July 2016.
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- "From Sacred to Commodity and Beyond: History of Colours in India", *Journal of Human Values*, IIMC-Kolkata and Sage, 22(1):1-13, 2016.
- 'Challenges in the History of Colours: A Case of Saffron', *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, Sage, June 2014.
- 'Dak Vachan: Proverbial wisdom from Mithila, Bihar', *Journal of History and Sociology of South Asia*, Sage, January 2014.
- "Dekhane Ki Rajniti: Bharat ka Jhanda aur Ashtha ki Nazar"(The Politics of Seeing: Indian national Flag and the Believing Eye), *प्रतिमान*, (*Pratiman*, समाज-विज्ञान और मानविकी की पूर्वसमीक्षित पत्रिका, प्रवेशांक(Inaugural Issue; vol. I, no.1), CSDS, Delhi, Jan.—June 2013:234-53.
- "Visualising a Region: Phaniswarnath Renu and the archive of Regional Rural in the 1950s", *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, vol. 49, no.1, January-March 2012, pp:1-35.
- "Indian National Flag as A Site of Daily Plebiscite", *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. XLIII, no.43, October 25, 2008, pp: 102-111.

- "Charkha, 'Dear Forgotten Friend' of Widows: Reading the Erasures of a Symbol", *Economic and Political Weekly*, vol. XXXIX, No.28, July 10, 2004, pp: 3113-3120.

Book Chapters / Occasional Papers/ Encyclopedia Entries (Refereed)

- "Ek Nayi Bhasha ka Uday: Devnagari Jagat me Dekhna aur Dikhana" (Emergence of a New language: Seeing and Showing in the World of Devnagari), *Samaj aur Itihaas*, Occasional Papers, NMML, Delhi, 2014.
- "Purnea: Landscape of Cul de Sac", in Pushpendra Kumar Singh and Manish Kumar Jha eds., *Traversing Bihar: The Politics of Social Justice and Development*, Orient Blackswan (2014).
- "The Mythic (Non)Presence of the Other in the Text of Indian Nation-ness", in Anna Branach- Kallas and Katarzyna Wieckowska (eds.), *The Nation of the Other : Construction of Nation in Contemporary Cultural and Literary Discourses*, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Mikolaja Kopernika, Torun (Poland), 2004.
- "Surat", "Gujarat", "Patna", "Bihar", in Arnold P. Kaminsky and Roger D. Langeds., *India Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Republic* Vol. II, California: ABC-CLIO, 2011, pp:669-676; pp:290-293; pp:547-548; pp: 93-97.
- "Mahatma Gandhi's Speech to the All India Congress Committee" (in 1942) in *Milestone Documents in World History* (4vols.) edited by Brian Bonhomme, Texas: Schlager, 2010: 1406-1423.
- "Lahore Resolution" of 1940, *Milestone Documents in World History* (4vols.) edited by Brian Bonhomme, Texas: Schlager, 2010:1380-1389.
- "The Constitution of India" in *Milestone Documents in World History* (4vols.) edited by Brian Bonhomme, Texas: Schlager, 2010:1545-1560.

Non Refereed Articles/ Chapters

- "Life and Times of Bharat Mata", *Manusi*, no.124, August 2004, pp:34-38.
- समय के बदले जगह, राष्ट्र के बदले प्रान्त: रेणु साहित्य और आंचलिक आधुनिकता In Abhay Kumar Dubey ed., *हिंदीकीआधुनिकता: एकपुनर्विचार*, IIAS, Shimla and VaniPrakashan, Delhi, 2014.
- "On Listening to Violence: Reflections of a Researcher of The Partition of India", *Sarai Reader 06: Turbulence*, Sarai, CSDS, Delhi, 2006.
- "शहरकीदेहपरअक्षराघात (Shaharkideh Par Aksharaghat)", in Piyush Daiya ed., *कलाभारती(Kala Bharati)*, vol.2, Delhi: Lalit Kala Akademy, 2010: 319-326.
- "सड़ककीआँखें, शहरकीकहानी (Sadak ki Ankhe, Shahar ki Kahani)", *Deewan -i- Sarai02: Shaharnama*, Sarai, CSDS and Vaani Prakashan, Delhi, 2004.

- "संतोषरेडियोनेगढेइंसानीरिश्ते (Santosh Radio ne Gadhe Insaanirishte)", *Media Nagar 02*, Sarai, CSDS and VaaniPrakashan, Delhi, 2004.
- "भीड़(Bheer)", GirishMishra ed., दीपभव(Deep Bhav) (Special Annual Number), *LokmatSamachar*, 2011:227-231.
- A long Interview with Prof. AshisNandy, a renowned political scientist in *Bahuvachan*(VII), a journal of Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, 2002.
- A long Interview with Prof. SumitSarkar, an eminent historian, published in *Deshkal*.
- Many Deaths of Gandhism, in *VoxPopuli*, A magazine of St. Stephens College.
- *Hawaon main Hindi, Hansa*, January, 2003.
- Articles and book reviews in various Hindi magazines and journals.

Book Reviews(English only)

- TabassumRuhi Khan, *Beyond Hybridity and Fundamentalism: Emerging Muslim Identity in Globalized India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2015, reviewed in *Journal of History and Sociology of South Asia*, 10(2), July 2016:1-4.
- *Famines, Philanthropy and Colonial state: North India in the early Nineteenth Century* by Sanjay Sharma, Delhi: Oxford University Press, Published in *Social Scientist*, vol.38, nos. 5-6, May-June 2010, pp: 83-88.
- *The Insurrection of Little selves: The Crisis of Secular-Nationalism in India* by Aditya Nigam. Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2006, *Seminar*, 561, 2006.
- *Colonial India and the Making of Empire Cinema: Image, Ideology and Identity* by Prem Chowdhry. Vistaar Publications, New Delhi, 2000, *Seminar*, 525, 2003.

Academic Qualification

B.A (Hons)	History	Hansraj College (Delhi University)	1995	60.88% (third position in the University)
M.A.	History	Delhi University	1997	55.62%
M.Phil	History	Delhi University	2000	63.33%
Ph.D.	History	Delhi University	Thesis Submitted in 2008	Awarded in 2010
NET	History	UGC	1997	***

Research Projects (Ongoing)

Perceptions of Education among Tribes of South Gujarat: A Study of Chaudhari, Dhodia, Gamit, Vasava and Halpati/Dubla Communities (with Dinesh Chaudhari)

The study aims to understand aspirations, community perceptions and consumption practices pertaining to education among selected tribal communities of south Gujarat region. By looking into social and cultural dimensions which shape meanings and perceptions of education circulating

among community members, this study attempts to locate education in the field of cultural production. Moving away from the dominant trends of social science research pertaining to education in India, this study aims to explore how tribal communities from South Gujarat region perceive, aspire and approach the issue of education. Sponsor: ICSSR. Initiated: 2016.

Capital, Labour and the City: Unorganised Sector and the Social Fabric of Surat (along with Kiran Desai, Biswaroop Das, Akash Acharya and Vimal Trivedi)

This collaborative project looks at the inter-relation of capital, labour and the social relationship in the changing milieu of Surat, Gujarat. Located within this larger context, my component explores shifting contours of neighbourhoods, communities and market places of Surat to understand the linkages between the city and its social. In its core, this segment of the research aims to explore spatial dynamics of capital and labour, an aspect that has been often ignored in social science research in India. Sponsor: ICSSR. Expected time of completion: 2016.

Research Project (Recently Completed)

Social Science Research Infrastructure in Research Institutions of India

This study focuses on a crucial yet hitherto ignored and largely untouched aspect of the research infrastructure in social science research in the country. As a component of a larger study undertaken by ICSSR on the status of social science research in India, the study looked at the segment of social science research organisations working in different parts of the country and evaluated the condition of research infrastructure in these organisations. This has been probably the first such exercise completely focussed on social science research organisations and the issue of research infrastructure in India. Sponsor: ICSSR. 2016.

Experiences of City Life: Contemporary Surat and the Question of Belongingness.

The research was to document the everyday life of Surat by focusing on the changing dynamics of localities and social composition. Looking at the changing landscape of the city and its social fabric in the last thirty years, the scope of the proposed study is further narrowed down by focusing on the narratives of belongingness in an urban context of Surat. The broader question is how to approach this amorphous and less explored, but a heterogeneous field of urban experiences. ICSSR is providing financial support for the two years. Sponsor: ICSSR. 2013.

Contested Symbols: Genealogy of Indian National Flag and Spinning Wheel

A small research grant to cover archival and library forays towards my long term study on the politics that go into the making of various discourses and ways of looking at two symbols, The Indian National Flag and the Spinning Wheel. These two symbols do not merely act as an entry point to unearth meanings of political cultural practices but at moments of production of its various narratives they also become sites where claims on number of themes i.e. nationhood and citizenship are made and contested. A number of such events and processes are explored and analysed in a framework creatively using both macro as well as micro-historical perspectives. ICHR has provided small grant to cover archival research within India. Sponsor: ICHR. 2011

Research Experience

Associate Professor in Centre for Social Studies, Surat (since March 2013)

Assistant Professor in Centre for Social Studies, Surat (since September 2007)

Worked in **Sarai-CSDS** as a **Project Associate** from April 2002 to August 2007. The work responsibilities included coordinating Student Stipend Programme and archive building.

Worked as a Research Fellow on a project, *Reconstructing Lives* at the **Centre for the Study of Developing Societies**, Delhi. Focused on the partition of India, this project was on multiple dimensions of mass violence. My work was to conduct long semi-structured interviews with witnesses, victims and perpetrators of the violence caused by the partition of Indian Subcontinent in 1947. Areas of my eight months field work included, Delhi, Ajmer, Jaipur and the neighboring villages of Jammu. The chief investigator of the project was Prof. Ashis Nandy. August 2001-April 2002.

Conceptualised and conducted a joint research-documentation project, "Shaher ke Nishan: Politics of the Visual Symbolic Spaces of the City: A Case Study of Delhi" under the **Independent Research Fellowship scheme of Sarai** in **2002**. The project was about documenting and analyzing the politics that go into the making of vast and scattered field of ordinary visual representations (i.e graffiti, signboards, wall writings etc) in Delhi. The project was re-awarded with the fellowship second time in **2003**.

Worked as a Research Scholar in **Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group**, Delhi. The work included doing ethnography, co-ordinating research projects and proposals, and report writing. During the period, I worked on three small projects:

i). "Upgrading Environmental Quality of Delhi: A study of the Informal Sector of Solid Waste Management." The project involved extensive field work and the focus of the study was on the socio-economic dynamics of the Informal sector of solid waste in Circle III of NDMC and Central Zone of MCD. The exploitation along gender line, the micro politics of this sector and the health problems of ragpickers were specially highlighted in the study.

ii). "Effects of Toxic Chemicals on Biodiversity." A sub-thematic literature survey, this project was sponsored by NBSAP of Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. A wide range of secondary literature was surveyed and people were approached in the course of this project. The sub theme of the project was the effects of toxic chemicals on Indian Wildlife.

iii). "A Manual of Municipal Solid Waste Rules 2000". This project was sponsored by CPCB, Government of India. This manual intended to help in the dissemination of rules regarding the management of solid waste at different levels.

Panel Organised / Chaired in Conference

Convened and chaired a Panel, "Practices of Governance in South Asia" in *Future of South Asia*, Annual Conference of British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS), SOAS, London, 12 April 2012.

Papers Presented (Selected)

- 'The Flag as a Post-Colonial Symbol', Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, 9 September 2016.
- '*Bhartiya Itihas me Rang*' (Colours in Indian History), *Bhartiya Bhasha Karyakram*, CSDS, Delhi, 16 August 2016.

- 'Believing Eye and the Politics of Seeing the National Flag', Centre for Media Studies, JNU, Delhi, 8 August 2016.
- Lecture on the book *Reverence, Resistance and Politics of seeing the Indian National Flag* for the UGC SAP DRS II Programme, Department of English, MS University, Baroda, Vadodara, 26 July, 2016.
- 'Spinning the Swaraj: Technology, Science and Experience in the History of the Spinning Wheel', *Debating Swaraj after Hundred Years of Gandhi's Return from South Africa*, Central University of Gujarat, 2015.
- "From Sacred to Commodity and Beyond: History of Colours in India", Seminar on *Exploring Values: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, 13 March 2015, MCHV: IIMC-Kolkata.
- "Words and Images: Problems and Perspectives in the History of Visuality in India", Centre for Gandhian Thought and Peace Studies, Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, 23 February 2015.
- "On listening to the pain and watching the Trauma: Witnessing the Partition", Paper presented in a national workshop on Revisiting Partition and Trauma, English Department, VNSGU, Surat, 11 February 2015.
- "Away from Written Archive: Visuality, Ways of Seeing and History writing in India", in an international seminar on 'Exploring Historical Traditions in India', History Department, Assam University, Silchar, 6th February, 2015.
- (along with Nishpriha Thakur) "*Ethnography of Trust and History as Circulating Commodities in Chauta Bazar, Surat (Surat)*" presented in a conference *Informal and Everyday Markets—Histories of Business and entrepreneurship in India since the 19th Century*, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, 17 May 2014.
- "Ek nayi Bhasha ka Uday: Devnagri Jagat me Dekhna aur Dikhana (1850 to 1920)" (emergence of a New language: seeing and Showing in the world of Devnagari(1850 to 1920), Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti, Delhi, 7 April, 2014.
- "Colonialism, Science and Experience in the Making of Rural-Oral in South Asia", *Rural South Asia: Imaging Heritage and Progress*, Department of History and Ancient Indian Culture, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, 5th Jan 2013.
- "Aspirational Sphere of Sanitized Social: Knowledge and Experiences in the Discourse on Sanitation", "Sociology of Sanitation: Environmental Sanitation, Public Health and Social Deprivation", Sulabh International, held on January 28-29, 2013, Delhi.
- "Purnea: Landscape of Cul de Sac", "Traversing Bihar: Politics of Social Justice and Development", TISS, Mumbai, 5-6 July, 2012.
- "Saffron: Towards a History of Colours", Paper presented in School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 18 April 2012.
- "Dissecting the Crowd: Historicizing the Future of Dissent in India", Annual Conference of British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS), SOAS, London, 13-04-2012.

- "Shrinking City: Contemporary Urban Transformations of Surat", *Gujarat Society After Five Decades: Retrospect and Prospects*, 19 January, 2012, CSS, Surat.
- "Splitting the Archive: Caricature, Cartoons and the 'Believing Eye' in Colonial and the Contemporary India", in *Power of the Image—Caricatures as Transcultural Media of Political and Social Propaganda in the Era of Imperialism and Colonialism*, A two days workshop organized by University of Heidelberg, Germany at Fayoum, Egypt, March 24-26, 2011.
- "Spinning Experiences and the Question of Information: Multi-verse of Gandhi's Charkha", in a two days international seminar on *Rethinking Gandhi: A Communicative Perspective*, Centre for Culture, Media and Governance, Jamia Millia Islamia, March 22-23, 2011.
- "Locality, Time and Nation: Purnea, Phaniswarnath Renu and 1950s", An International *Conference on Thinking Territory: Affect and Attachment Towards Land in South Asia*, Forum on Contemporary Theory Baroda, 16-19 December 2007, Goa.
- "समय के बदलेजगह, राष्ट्र के बदले प्रान्त : रेणु साहित्य और आंचलिक आधुनिकता", Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, 27 September 2009.
- "Spinning the *Swaraj*: Gendered History and the Mythic Body of a Gandhian Symbol", presented in *Social Development and the Human Civilization in the 21st Century*, An International Seminar on the Centenary of *HindSwaraj*, 12–14 February 2009, Delhi.
- *Listening in the Archive, Listening for the Archive: History, Memory and the Archive*, International Colloquium on Information, Society, History and Politics, *Sensor-Census-Censor: Investigating Regimes of Information, Registering Changes of State*, Sarai-CSDS, 30th November, 1 & 2 December, 2006.
- "*Visualizing the Nation: Gender and the Symbolic Construction of Nationhood in colonial and post-colonial north India*" Presented in an international workshop on "*Gender and Visuality*" organised by University of Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa, SEPHIS, University of Michigan, National Research Foundation and the Journal 'Gender and History'. The workshop was held in Cape Town, South Africa, 26-29 August 2004.
- "The Indian National Flag as a Site of Daily Plebiscite" presented in *Seventh Subaltern Studies Conference*, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi 6-10 January 2004.
- "*Likho Script Apna Apna (Write Your Own Script) : Aesthetics of Language and the Body of the City*" Presented in a workshop on *Language, Media and Urban Politics*, Sarai, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi 2-3 April 2004.
- "Bharat Mata as a Site of Invented Religious Traditions in Colonial and Post Colonial India", Presented in an International Conference on *Indic Religions* organized by Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and The International Association for the History of Religions. Delhi 18-22 December 2002.
- "Transforming Characters, Violent Landscapes and Representations of Mass Violence: A Case Study of 'Partition Films'," Presented in Film and History Workshop, Sarai, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, 11-13 December 2003.
- 'Listening Violence, Doing Research: Partition violence and ethnographies of memories', presented in Manan Library, Block S.527, Greater Kailash, New Delhi, 11 September 2003.

- "Visualising the Nation: Gender and the Symbolic Nationhood: Some Methodological Problems", Presented in Cultural Studies Workshop in CSCS, Bangalore, 11-12 July, 2003.
- "Many Worlds of *Dak Vachans*: The Folk, the Literature and the Ethnography of Weather Knowledge Systems". Presented in a seminar organised by the Centre for the Creative Writing and Publication, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India. January 6-8, 2003.
- "Reading Mithila Paintings" in a seminar on Art and Archaeology in Mithila, Darbhanga, Bihar. 1998.
- "Urbanization of Delhi: Role of Internal Forces," Presented in a seminar at St. Stephens College , Delhi University, Delhi, 1994 (undergraduate level seminar).
- "Women in the World of Manto," Presented in a seminar on "*Gender, History and Society*", at Indraprastha College, Delhi University, Delhi. 1995 (undergraduate level seminar).

Fellowship/ Awards

Charles Wallace India Trust Fellow for three months at Centre for South Asian Studies, **School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, London** to carry out a research on "Emergence of a New language: Seeing and Showing in Late Nineteenth Century North India"(February-May 2012).

Best Student Award 1994-95, History Department, Hansraj College, Delhi University.

Certificate of Merit for securing first position in the college and third position in Delhi University in B.A.(Hons.) History. 1995

All India Post Graduate Scholarship for the year 1995-96, University of Delhi.

Special Prize in the All India Essay Competition on "One Billion Indians: The Road Ahead Challenges and Opportunities", conducted by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Unnati Features. 2000.

Various prizes at school and college levels.

Freelance Assistance

Assisted noted historian Linda Colley, Shelby M. C. Davis 1958 Professor of History, Princeton University for her book project *The Ordeal of Elizabeth Marsh: A Woman in World History* (2007).

Teaching Experience

Taught *M.A Ahimsa (non-violence)* Course in Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, Wardha as a visiting Lecturer, 2003.

Taught as an *Ad-Hoc lecturer* in Motilal Nehru College, University of Delhi. Delhi, 1999.

Lectures in Courses/Training Programmes

Two lectures on Visual Culture (“A General background on Understanding Comics” and “Caricaturing the Political: The Cartoon in Pre-Independence Tamil Journalism”), Centre for Studies and Research in English, Central University, Gandhinagar, 23 April 2016.

Lectures in different ICSSR training, research methodology and capacity building courses for research scholars and college teachers (taken between 2007 and 2016). Themes of these lectures include “Internet as a Resource Tool: Problems and Perspectives”, “Social Science Research in the Age of Internet”, “Samaj Vigyan me Itihaas”, “Qualitative Research Method: Ethnography”, “Ethics and Politics of Research”.

Personal Detail

Father's Name: Late Dr. Ushakar Jha

Date of Birth: 14-04-1975.

Contact Addresses:

Centre for Social Studies,
Vir Narmad South Gujarat University Campus, Udhna Magdalla Road, Surat, Gujarat, India-
395007.

Mob: 9974556725

sadanjha at gmail.com

Residence: D-404, Nandini-3, VIP Road, Vesu, Surat.395007.