

Name Ankur Datta
Current Address Dept. of Sociology, South Asian University,
 New Delhi 110068, India
Email Address ankurdatta@soc.sau.ac.in,

EDUCATION

London School of Economics, United Kingdom

PhD, Dept of Anthropology, PhD awarded on 31st March 2011
 Supervisors: Prof. J.P. Parry, FBA, and Prof. C.J. Fuller, FBA
 Dissertation Title: The Politics of Place, Community and Recognition among Kashmiri Pandit
 Forced Migrants in Jammu and Kashmir

School of Oriental and African Studies, London, United Kingdom

MA, Merit, in Social Anthropology, 2002

St.Xavier's College, University of Mumbai

BA, First Class, Economics, 2001

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, South Asian University (from June 2021-)

Currently teaching: Anthropology: Theory and Ethnography, Research Methods, and
 Violence and Suffering, Being in the World (MA courses).

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, South Asian University

August 2012 (Promoted to Senior Grade on August 2017)
 Previously taught: Research Methods, Ethnicity and Nationalism, Diasporas and
 Transnationalism (MA Course), Advanced Social Theory (Mphil/Phd) Course)

Visiting Associate Fellow, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi, India

August 2011- July 2012

Supervision

Successfully supervised 2 PhD student. Currently supervising 4 PhD students
 Successfully supervised 2 MPhil students

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

“*On Uncertain Ground: Displaced Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu and Kashmir*” (2017) New Delhi:
 Oxford University Press, ISBN-13:978-0-19-946677-1, ISBN-10: 0-19-94677-7

EDITED SPECIAL ISSUES & BOOKS

“Victimhood: A symposium of its politics in our times” (2020) *Seminar* #727, March Issue

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“The Limits of Recovery: coming of age, (im)mobility and making lives among displaced Pandits in
 Jammu” (Forthcoming), *South Asian History & Culture* (part of a special issue on youth aspirations)

“The Dull Pain of Simmering Anger: Affective and Emotional Experiences among Displaced
 Kashmiri Pandits, (2020) *HIMALAYA* 40(1):49-62

“ ‘That was natural. This is just artificial’!: Displacement, memory, worship, and connection at a
 Kashmiri Hindu shrine replica, (2019) *History and Anthropology* 30(3): 276-292

- “Mind the Gap?: Navigating the Quantitative and the Qualitative in Survey research”, (With Divya Vaid) (2018) *Studies in Indian Politics* 6(1):140-145
- “Teaching Political Violence: Experiences from a South Asian Classroom”, (2017), *Studies in Indian Politics* 5(2): 262-268
- “Uncertain Journeys: return migration, home and uncertainty among a displaced Kashmiri community” (2017) *Modern Asian Studies* 51 (4): 1099-1125
- “Rethinking spaces of exception: notes from a forced migrant camp in Jammu and Kashmir” (2016) *International Journal of Migration and Border Studies* 2(2): 162-175 (Special Issue on Forced Migration in South Asia)
- “Dealing with dislocation: Migration, place and home among displaced Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu and Kashmir.” (2016) *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 50(1): 52-79
- “Ethical Dilemmas of the Encounter: Ethnography, Fieldwork and Political Violence.” (2015) *Studies in Indian Politics* 3(2): 284-289

BOOK CHAPTERS

- “The Blank Space between Nationalisms: locating the Kashmiri Pandits in Liberal and Hindu nationalist politics in relation to Kashmir and India”, In Bhan, Mona, Haley Duschinski & Cabeiri deBergh Robinson (ed.) (2023) *The Palgrave Handbook of New Directions in Kashmir Studies*,
- “Remembering Home, Imagining the Future: Changing Meanings of Home Among Kashmiri Pandits” In Bhan, Mona, Haley Duschinski & Deepti Misri (ed.) (2022) *Routledge Handbook of Critical Kashmir Studies*, New York, Routledge
- “The Life of Labels: Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants.” (2022) In Rajan, S. Irudaya (ed.) *The Routledge Handbook of Refugees in India*, New York: Routledge
- “Dealing with dislocation: Migration, place and home among displaced Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu and Kashmir.” (2020) In Miller, Barbara (ed.) *Socio-Cultural Anthropology: Critical and Primary Sources Vo. 4*, London: Bloomsbury Press
- “Kashmiri Pandits: The ambiguous minority” (2020) in Fazal, Tanweer (ed.) *The Minority Conundrum: Living in Majoritarian Times*. New Delhi: Penguin
- “Caste and Contemporary Hindu Society: Community, Politics and Work”, (With Divya Vaid). (2019) *Modern Hinduism* edited by Torkel Brekke, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

PUBLIC OUTREACH PUBLICATIONS

- “Pandemic times in Metropolitan India”, (2021) *The Lighthouse # 7*: 80-83, April
- Interviews on Victimhood with Michael Rothberg, Sanjay Srivastava and Sanjay Kak (2020) *Seminar #727*
- “Mobility, Diaspora and Victimhood” (with Divya Vaid) (2020) *Seminar#727*, March issue
- “The Problem: Introduction (to the special issue)” (2020) *Seminar #727*, March Issue
- “Seeking Sanctuary, Remembering Jammu: Cosmopolitan Ethics Outside the Metropolis” (2019), *The India Forum*, Dec 6, <https://www.theindiaforum.in/article/seeking-sanctuary-remembering-jammu>
- “Four Moves: Relating to each other in times of difference” (2019) *Mashaemit Gharrih: The forgotten homes*, <https://mashaemitgarrih.wixsite.com/forgotten-homes/ankur-dutta>
- “Culture Summary: Kashmir” (2019) New Haven, CT.: Human Relations Area Files

- “Remaking Life in Neo-Liberal Times: normalcy, conflict and displacement in Jammu and Kashmir”, (2017) *E-Symposium*, International Sociological Association 7(3), <https://www.isaportal.org/resources/resource/remaking-life-in-neo-liberal-times/>
- “D for Dirty, W for War- Indian Army Chief’s Alphabet Lesson” (2017) *Raiot*, June 9, <https://raiot.in/d-for-dirty-w-for-war-indian-army-chiefs-alphabet-lesson/>
- “In search of a contemporary narrative for Kashmir” (2017) *South Asia @LSE*, 19 May, <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2017/05/19/in-a-search-of-a-contemporary-narrative-for-kashmir/>
- “Raging Bulls: The emergence of Bovine Politics” (2017) *The Indian Economist*, 18 April
- “To be a Refugee in one’s own country” (2016) *OUPBlog*: Oxford University Press's Academic Insights for the Thinking World, 2nd December, <https://blog.oup.com/2016/12/refugee-kashmiri-pandits-displaced/>
- “Far Away, So Close.” (2015) *IIAS Newsletter* 71: 26-27 (Special Issue on Militarised Border Lands)
- “Unequal Dislocations.” (2015) *Seminar* #672: 69-73
- “Intangible Pressures in Jammu and Kashmir: History, inheritance and uncertainty affect the experience of being male, young and displaced in Jammu and Kashmir.” (2012). *Forced Migration Review* 40: 18-19
- “D for Dirty, W for War- Indian Army Chief’s Alphabet Lesson” (2017) *Raiot*, June 9
- “In search of a contemporary narrative for Kashmir” (2017) *South Asia @LSE*, 19 May
- “Raging Bulls: The emergence of Bovine Politics” (2017) *The Indian Economist*, 18 April
- “To be a Refugee in one’s own country” (2016) *OUPBlog*: Oxford University Press’s Academic Insights for the Thinking World, 2nd December

MULTIMODAL WORK

- “day 67 of 75 days of Partition: The Resonance of Partition Narratives in modern South Asia ”, 1947 Partition Archive, August 8, 2022, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTmKioEuzdE&t=10s>
- “The unknown targets in Kashmir”, Second Speaker on the Times of India Podcast, June 9, 2022, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/podcasts/the-times-of-india-podcast/the-unknown-target/videoshow/92090830.cms?from=mdr>
- Panelist on ‘Psychological Trauma: A scarring aftermath of force migration.’ (Series on Forced Migration) Tell Me your Story Review, Online Panel, 22 November 2021, <https://fb.watch/bOsnWE8M7k/>
- “A Conversation with Dr. Ankur Datta (with Camila Marinelli): Displacement among Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu and Kashmir”, Centre for Minorities Research Podcast (Podcast #1), University of St. Andrews, May 5, 2021, <https://anchor.fm/cmrr-podcast/episodes/A-conversation-with-Dr-Ankur-Datta-Displacement-among-Kashmiri-Pandits-in-Jammu-and-Kashmiri-e100ag5>
- “Memories and Nostalgia: An ethnography of Displaced Kashmiri People in Camps with Dr. Ankur Datta”, Doing Sociology Blog, Youtube Video Cast, October 25, 2020, <https://doingsociology.org/2020/10/25/memories-and-nostalgia-an-ethnography-of-displaced-kashmiri-people-in-camps-with-dr-ankur-datta/>

BOOK REVIEWS

“Baas, Michiel, *Muscular India: Masculinity, Mobility and the New Middle Class*” (2021) *The Book Review*, 45(5): 34-35

“Nicola Frost and Tom Selwyn, eds., *Travelling Towards Home: Mobilities and Homemaking*” (2020) *Transfers: Interdisciplinary Journal of Mobility Studies*, 10 (2-3): 121-122

“Shamshad, Rizwana, *Bangladeshi Migrants in India: Foreigners, Refugees or Infiltrators*” (2020) *Biblio*, March <https://biblio-india.org/tocJM20.asp?mp=SO02>

“Srinivas, Tulsi, *The Cow in the Elevator: an anthropology of wonder*”, (2020) *The Book Review*, April <https://www.thebookreviewindia.org/ritual-enmeshed-in-global-modernity/>

“Duschinski, Haley, Mona Bhan, Ather Zia and Cynthia Mahmood (eds.) *Resisting Occupation in Kashmir*” (2019) *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics* 57(3): 390-392

“Sudeep Basu, *In Diasporic Lands: Tibetan Refugees and their transformation since the exodus.*” (2019) *The Book Review*, March <http://thebookreviewindia.org/towards-the-refugee-diaspora/>

“Chitrallekha Zutshi (ed.) *Kashmir: History, Politics and Representation.*” (2018) *The Book Review*, September, <http://thebookreviewindia.org/across-different-fields-2/>

“Abhijit Dasgupta. *Displacement and Exile: The State-Refugee Relations in India.*” (2017) *Contributions to Indian Sociology* 51(3): 411-414

“Cabeiri DeBergh Robinson. *Body of Victim, Body of Warrior: Refugee Families and the Making of Kashmiri Jihadists.*” (2015) *Journal of South Asian Development* 10(2):250-253

“Greg Dalziel (ed.). *Rumour and Communication in Asia in the internet age*” (2014) *Indian Anthropologist* 44(1): 98-100

CURRENT WRITING PROJECTS

‘Ethnographic Inheritances: connections in the Ethnography of Kashmiri Pandits across time’, submitted to *Anthropology & Humanism* (Article has been revised & resubmitted)

‘Between the Exceptional and the Ordinary: The local turn and the camp in South Asia’, Chapter for Book project on *Camps and the Local Turn*, (ed.) Lemaire, Lea and Lucas Oesch (eds.)

GRANTS & RESEARCH PROJECTS

Recipient of TATA Trusts Partition Archive Research Grant for the Period 15 July-15 August 2021. (Grant Value: INRs. 50,000.00)

Project Title: Mapping the language of Victimhood, Violence and Suffering in the 1947 Partition Archive

Project involves accessing the 1947 Partition Archive.

Grant for 'Business for Peace', collaboration with Durham University, U.K. (March 2020-August 2021). Project Curtailed by Durham University
Amount Received: GBP£s 630

SELECT AWARDS RECEIVED

Radcliffe-Brown Trust Award, Royal Anthropological Institute, Awarded 2010

Leche Trust Academic Grant, Awarded 2010

Anthropology Research Studentship, London School of Economics and Political Science, 2004-05, 2005-2006, 2007-2008, 2008-2009

Newby Trust Education Grant, Awarded 2007-08

Central Research Fund, University of London, Awarded 2005

Charles Wallace India Trust Grant for Doctoral Studies, Awarded 2005

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Former member of General Editorial Board, *Society and Culture in South Asia*, Sage Publications

Reviewed articles for *Society and Culture in South Asia*, *GeoForum*, *European Journal of Cultural Sociology*, *Contemporary South Asia*, *Journal of Eurasian Studies*, *Sociological Forum*, *Seminar Magazine*, *HIMALAYA*, *South Asian Review*, *Memory Studies*

COURSES & TRAINING

Attended the Oral History Workshop on 'Starting your Oral History Project', the Oral History Association of India, 10-11 October 2020, New Delhi, India

Attended the Summer School on Martin Heidegger conducted by Simon Critchley, 14-21 June 2015, Institute of Critical Social Inquiry, New School for Social Research, New York City, USA

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS and LECTURES

"We are the worst sufferers!:Language & Ethical Claims in Migrant Kashmiri Pandit narratives", Reflections on Kashmir (A retreat showcasing Kashmir Scholarship), Organised by Teamlease and Chitrlekha Zutshi, College of William & Mary, Neev Academy, Bengaluru, 15-16 July 2023

"Who is a Victim?", Workshop on *New Questions in Anthropology*, Organised by the department of Anthropology, London, School of Economics, London, U.K., 3-4 July 2023

"Reading South Asian Societies and Cultures: Ethnographers and Ethnography in and of a region 18-19 June 2021", Online Workshop, Department of Sociology, SAU, 18-19 June 2021 (Workshop Organiser)

"Ethnographic Inheritances: connections in the Ethnography of Kashmiri Pandits across time", Presented Reading South Asian Societies and Cultures: Ethnographers and Ethnography in and of a region 18-19 June 2021", Online Workshop, Department of Sociology, SAU, 18-19 June 2021

"Internal Displacement and Conflict," Presented at the Winter School: Understanding Displacement, Department of Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Delhi, February 25, 2021

“ IITMadras-SAU Lecture Series on Digital Ethnography,” Part of *To Be Continued...* A IIT Madras-SAU initiative for research students. Three lectures presented online, September-November 2020.

“Coming of age and Stuck in place: Masculinity and (im)mobility among displaced Pandits in Jammu,” Presented at Urban Transformations, Youth Aspirations and Education in India, IIT Gandhinagar, February 20-21, 2020

“Indian Society”, Lecture presented at the International Summer School, Kautilya Council, New Delhi, 27 June 2019

“Qualitative Research and Ethnographic studies”, Lecture presented at Intensive Training Course on Research Methods for College Teachers from Bhutan, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University, New Delhi, 16 January 2018

“The Art of asking Questions”, Lecture given at Research Methodology Workshop” for Research Scholars and Young Faculty, Centre for Culture, Media and Governance, Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi, 13 December 2017

“Complicating the minority voice: The politics of victimhood and a Kashmiri community”, Presented at State, Civil Society and India’s Religious Margins, Organised by the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 7 &8 December 2017

“Coming of Age, But out of Place: senses of being, masculinity and the past among displaced Displaced Kashmiri Pandit Youth”, Presented at a Panel on Mobility, Generation and Temporality in the Himalayas, Himalayan Studies Conference, Boulder, Colorado, 1-4 September 2017

“Coming of Age, But out of Place: senses of being, masculinity and the past among displaced Displaced Kashmiri Pandit Youth”, Presented at Echoes and Resonances, Critical Challenges for Youth and Peace Building in Kashmir: A consultative Dialogues, organised by Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace and South Asian University, New Delhi, 23 March 2017

'Coming of Age, But Out of Place: Conversations with Displaced Kashmiri Hindu Men', at 'CSSS colloquium', organised by Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 3 November 2016.

“Interrogating Rehabilitation and Relief”, Presented at a Round Table Conference on Relief and Rehabilitation of Kashmiri Migrants, Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis, New Delhi, India, 20 September 2016

“Coming of Age, But out of Place: senses of being, masculinity and the past among Displaced Kashmiri Pandit Youth”, Presented at NEMO: Nepal on the Move, Kathmandu, Nepal, 16-17 March 2016

“Categories of Displacement and Dispossession: Thinking through development and conflict in contemporary India”, ICSSR sponsored National Seminar, Gender, Identity and Migration in India, August 7-8, 2015, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, India

“Locating Internal Displacement in Contemporary India: Notes from a Kashmiri Case study”, Sociology of Development Conference (SOC DEV), 14 March 2015, Brown University, U.S.A.

“ ‘That was *Natural*. This is just *artificial*’!: Connections to Place and memory at a Kashmiri Hindu Shrine Replica”. Presented at the School for Social Design, Ambedkar University, Delhi, 15 October 2014

“ ‘That was *Natural*. This is just *artificial*’!: Connections to Place and memory at a Kashmiri Hindu Shrine Replica” Presented at the Sociology Colloquium, Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, 26 September 2014

“Uncertain Nation, Uncertain Stories: anthropology, fiction and a displaced Kashmiri community”. Presented at Panel on Nationalism in Fiction and Poetry: South Asia in Conversation with the world, International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences, Chiba, Japan, 16 May 2014

“Seeking Normalcy in Neo-liberal Times: notes from two Kashmiri Communities”
Presented at a conference on Ethical Futures, International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo 29 May-1st June 2013

“Displacing Commemoration: Memory work and Performative Politics among Kashmiri Pandits in Jammu and Kashmir” Presented at the annual conference of the Association of Social Anthropology of the UK and Commonwealth, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 04 April 2012

“Uncertain Diasporas: questions of migration, place and home among Kashmiri Pandit Forced Migrants in Jammu and Kashmir” Presented at the Departmental Colloquium, Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, 17 March 2012

Presented two lectures to MA students in Political Sociology: ‘Locating the Political: Violence, Politics and Locality. Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics. 13-14 February 2012’

“Making a Claim on the Nation: The politics of Victimhood among a displaced community in Jammu and Kashmir” Presented at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi, 02 February 2012

“Living in a Place of exception: the politics of place and everyday life in a displaced person’s camp in Jammu and Kashmir” Presented at the Research Seminar on Anthropological Theory, Department of Anthropology, LSE, 30 April 2010

“Locating the Region: nationalism, territory and the politics of recognition in Jammu and Kashmir” Presented at the South Asian Anthropology Group (SAAG) Workshop, London 2009.

“Making a Claim on the Nation: Political claim making among Kashmiri Pandit Forced Migrants in Indian-Administered Jammu and Kashmir” Anthropology in London, University College London, 15 June 2009

“Living in a Place of Exception: the Kashmiri Pandit Forced Migrant Camp in Indian Administered Jammu and Kashmir” Ethnographies of Migration Workshop, London School of Economics and Political Science, 13-14 June 2009

“Living in a Place of Exception: The Kashmiri Pandit Migrant Camp”, Panel on ‘Ethnographic Perspectives on Sovereignty and Statehood in Kashmir’, 38th Annual South Asia Conference, Centre for South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison 17-19 October 2008

“Life in a Displaced person's camp: The case of displaced Kashmiri Hindus in Jammu and Kashmir.” Migration Studies Society, COMPAS, University of Oxford, 29 January 2008

“The Burden of Movement: migration and dislocation among Kashmiri Hindus in Jammu and Kashmir” at the Moving Anthropology Student Network Conference, Tübingen, 7-9 November 2007

“The crafting of Kashmiri Hindu narratives on the internet” at workshop on the ‘Politics of victimhood’ at Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, Cambridge on 7 May, 2005

“Cracks in the lens: A neophyte’s eye-view of social research” at Partners for Urban Knowledge Action and Research (PUKAR), Mumbai, 15 November, 2003