

Dev Nath Pathak (Ph. D)
Founding Faculty and Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
South Asian University, New Delhi
(http://www.sau.int/faculty/faculty-profile.html?staff_id=25)
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Since 2011 I have been faculty in the Department of Sociology, South Asian University, New Delhi, and the chairperson (2023-ongoing) of the same. Along with teaching, I have performed administrative coordination of the academic programs that includes post-graduate and doctoral teaching and research. As a teacher, my job involves designing curriculum for courses in Sociology for post-graduate and doctoral students from the member countries of SAARC (South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation), teaching the same, supervising research and dissertations, and conducting academic activities. The course-curriculum which I have designed and taught are: Classical Sociological Theories (post grad.), Contemporary Sociological Theories (post grad.), Methodology of Social Sciences (post grad.), Sound and Sight of South Asia (Ph.D), Culture and Personality in South Asia (Ph.D), Introduction to South Asia (post grad.), Psychoanalysis in South Asia (post grad.), Performance (post grad.). In addition to teaching and researching I have curated theater workshops, musical and theatrical performances, Yoga camp, in addition to academic events such as interactions with distinguished scholars and public intellectuals. As the administrative coordinator of the teaching and research programs, my job involved ensuring the functioning of the department and its activities.

Additionally, I am an editor with *Society and Culture in South Asia* (A Journal of South Asian University, published by Sage India).

A few of the research projects that I have directed and participated are:

- A writing project on Sociology of Childhood, supported by Child Rights and You (2023).
- A project on Oral History of Nizamuddin, supported by Agha Khan Cultural Trust, Delhi, 2022.
- A winter school project on Cultural Precarities: Reading Independent Art Collectives and Cultural Networks in Asia (funded and in collaboration with LaSalle College of the Arts, Singapore & IIAS, University of Leiden), 2020-2021
- A Research on oral history of the Bahurupiyas and the status of their performance (project grant from Indian Council for Social Science Research under Impress), 2019-2021
- A collaborative research and publication on neighborhoods in urban India & South Asia (in collaboration with Tezpur Central University, Asaam, and Center for social studies, Surat)

- A Research project on *The Challenges for Modern Theater in Bangladesh*, funded by South Asian University, completed in 2016
- As a Charles Wallace Fellow I conducted and completed a research on Cultural Politics in Performance of Circus in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in 2015.
- A Research project on *The Modern Thoughts in South Asia, funded by Indian Council for Social Science Research*, completed in 2015
- Completed a research new media in South Asia, supported by South Asian University in 2014
- A Research project on *The Idea of Living and Dying, funded by University Grant Commission and Indian Institute of Advance Studies, Simla*, completed in 2014
- A Research project on *The Map of the Buddhist goddess Ugratara in South Asia*, funded by South Asian University, completed in 2014
- A Research project on the Idea of South Asia, funded by South Asian University, completed in 2013
- A Research project on the trends in cinemas of South Asia, funded by South Asian University, completed in 2013

Qualification

Doctoral Degree: The Doctoral thesis, titled *Worldview in Maithili Folklore: An Interpretative Analysis*, submitted and defended at Center for the study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (India), was awarded doctorate in 2011.

The key thrust of the thesis, which subsumed fieldwork in the Maithili speaking villages of North-East of Bihar in northern India, was to develop an interpretative understanding of the performance of songs, folk worldview, folk philosophy, continuity in mythology and history by the dint of oral media and thereof imagination/experience of living and dying. The work dealt with the folk as a category beyond the binaries of little and great tradition, and beyond that of tradition and modernity.

M. Phil Dissertation: The dissertation titled *The Ideas of Motherhood in Maithili Folklore* was awarded grade A (7.5 CGPA), at Center for the study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University in 2005.

The dissertation focused on the performative function of oral media in disseminating notions of motherhood, the connection with the archetypal motives belonging to mythology, and continuity of the tradition in modern times without degenerating into any post modern notion of cultural schizophrenia. The research had psychoanalytical approach and feminism in perspective.

Awards & Fellowships

Scholar at Brown International Advance Research Institutes, Brown University, Providence, USA (2013)

Research Associate fellow at Indian Institute of Advance Studies, Shimla (2014)

Charles Wallace Fellow at Queen's University, Belfast (2015)

Scholar in Residence at Indian Institute of Management (2019)

Publications

Books

1. *In Defence of the Ordinary: Everyday Awakenings* (Bloomsbury, 2021)
2. *Living and Dying: Meanings in Maithili Folklore* (Primus, 2019)
3. *Neighbourhoods & Neighbourliness in Urban South Asia* (coedited, Routledge, 2022)
4. *Seeing South Asia: Visuals Beyond Borders* (coedited, Routledge, 2022)
5. *Humour and the Performance of Power in South Asia: Anxiety, Laughter and Politics in Unstable Times* (coedited, Routledge, 2022)
6. *Neighbourhoods in Urban India* (coedited, Bloomsbury, 2021)
7. *Investigating Developmentalism* (coedited, Palgrave, 2019)
8. *Decoding Visual Worlds: Intersections of Art, Anthropology and Art History* (coedited, Palgrave Macmillan, 2019)
9. *Another South Asia* (Primus, 2018)
10. *Culture and Politics in South Asia: Performative Communication* (coedited, Routledge, London, 2017).

Research Papers

Being and Becoming (of/with) Burawoy: An Anxious Appreciation of Public Sociology in South Asia, *International Sociology Reviews* (2022).

Hari Mohan Jha's Khattar Kaka: Humorous Subversion of Hinduism in Mithila, *South Asian Review* (Taylor and Francies, 2022)

Idea of Research- Writing in Sociology: Polemics on the Loss of a Transformative Practice, *Sociological Bulletin* (Sage), 2021.

Idea of Pandemic- Pedagogy: Reflexive Ruminaton on Teaching and Learning Practices, *Higher Education for Future* (Sage), 2021

Clicking and Politicking: Notions of Mediated Politics in South Asia, Dev Pathak and Ratan Kumar Roy, in Sahana Udupa and Steve McDowell edited *Media as Politics in South Asia*, Routledge, London, 2017

Angry Youth In South Asia and Politics Implications: A Soliloquy in Dark Times, Artha: *A Journal of Social Sciences*, 15(1): 1-25, 2016

In Quest of Alternatives: A Conversation with Ruth Manorama, *Indian Journal of Women and Social Change*, 1(2): 1-9, 2016.

In Pursuit of the Spectacles of Success, History and Sociology in South Asia, 9(2): 26-40, 2015

Cultural Imagination of Human Development?: Framing Questions in a Preliminary Quest, *International Critical Thought*, 2014, Vol. 4, No. 4, pages: 433–447

Through Purdah: Social Criticism in Women's folksongs from Mithila, *SAARC Culture*, Vol. 4, 2013, page: 19-39.

Cinematic Imagination of Multiple Gandhi, *Gandhi Marg*, Vol. 35, No. 2, 2013, page: 231-245

Local-to-Local Dynamics of Regional Popular Culture: (Re)imagining South Asia, *International Journal on Humanistic Ideology*, Vol. V, No. 2, 2012, page: 43-66

Singing in the Veil: Redefinition and Reconciliation in the songs of Mithila, in Bismoy Pati and Lata Singh edited, *Colonial and Contemporary Bihar and Jharkhand*, Delhi: Primus Books, 2013, page: 157-180

Popular Articles

1. As Covid-19 social distancing distorts social bonds, revisiting Durkheim's theory of suicide, The Scroll, <https://scroll.in/article/964945/as-covid-19-social-distancing-distorts-social-bonds-revisiting-durkheims-theory-of-suicide>
2. Pandemic a Golden Opportunity to Bring Compassion to Education, The Quint, <https://www.thequint.com/news/education/pandemic-a-golden-opportunity-to-switch-to-compassionate-pedagogy-e-learning-coronavirus>
3. *Performative Drumming in South Asia*, <http://www.indiana.edu/~jfr/review.php?id=1820>, 2017
4. *In Quest of Another History Through Theater*, *Bangladesh Observer*, <http://www.observerbd.com/details.php?id=73332>, 2017
5. *Why A Sri Lankan Artist's Redrawn Maps Are Attracting Indians*, *Scroll*, <https://scroll.in/magazine/836055/why-a-sri-lankan-artists-redrawn-maps-are-gaining-ardent-admirers-in-india>, 2017

6. *Artists of South Asia Tell A Tale of Two Cities*, Colombo Telegraph, <https://www.colombotelegraph.com/index.php/artists-of-south-asia-tell-a-tale-of-two-cities/>, 2017
7. *The India Art Fair Promised to Champion South Asian Art, but did it?*, Scroll, <https://scroll.in/magazine/828527/the-india-art-fair-promised-to-champion-south-asian-art-but-did-it-really>, 2017
8. *The Story of A Sri Lankan Woorcarver who Became a Prisoner and Political Artist*, Scroll, <https://scroll.in/magazine/820459/the-story-of-a-sri-lankan-woodcarver-who-became-a-prisoner-and-a-political-artist>, 2017
9. *The Unbecoming of Bollywood*, The Hindu, <http://www.thehindu.com/opinion/The-unbecoming-of-Bollywood/article16955139.ece>, 2016
10. *Writing History Artistically*, The Hindu, <http://www.thehindu.com/features/friday-review/art/writing-history-artistically/article4507994.ece>
11. *Marxological Notes on the Perforated Sheet of Marxism*, The Book Review, vol. XXXVII, no. 9, September 2013, page: 8-11
12. *Ambivalence of Global Youth: A case study of Orkut*, Kerala Sociologist, 10(2), 2011.
13. Book Review, *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, Vol.13 No.1 (2006), 118-120
14. Book Review, *Indian Anthropologist*, Vol. 38 No.2 (2008), 93-95
15. Book Review, *Journal of South Asian Studies*, Volume 34, Issue 3, December 2011, pages 507-512
16. *Timepass: Youth, Class, and the Politics of Waiting in India* (a review article), *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews* September 2011 40: 597-599
17. *Experiment with Possibilities: A new genre in Teaching*, *Contemporary Education Dialogue*, vol.4 No.2 (2007), 285-288
18. *Bringing up the imaginative and emancipated learner*, *Mainstream*, xlv:49 (Nov. 25, 2006), 21-22
19. *Where to kill is the byword for growth*, *Mainstream*, xlv: 19 (August 28, 2007), 3-4
20. *Implications of unimaginative politics*, *Mainstream*, xlv: 27 (June 23, 2007), 10-12
21. *Politics of Protest in the global Context*, *Mainstream*, xlvi:19 (April 26, 2008), 28-29
22. *Quotidian Consequences of Terror strikes*, *Mainstream*, xlvi:43 (Oct 11, 2008)
23. *The Dog, The Slum and The Millionaire: Categories of Bourgeois myth in Global Cinema*, *Mainstream*, xlvii: 34 (Aug. 8, 2009), 25-26
24. *Honor and Prejudice*, *Mainstream*, Vol XLVIII, No 30, July 17, 2010
25. *Obscured Nachiketas: Violation of Children's Human Rights*, *MERI journal of Education*, 11: 1 (2007), 107-113
26. *Building a peaceful citizenry*, *Teacher Plus*, vol 1 no. 6 (Nov. 2007), 18-21
27. *Anti-thesis to a socio-moral thesis: Legacy of Arjuna and implications of social science*, *Politics inter alia: the B A society journal of St. Stephen's College* (2009)

28. *Satyam's lies and capitalist politics, Siyasat: Political science department journal, Hindu College (2009)*
29. (In Hindi) *Bhojpuri par haawi Nirhua sanskriti*, Samkaleen Janmat, March 2010, 26-27
30. Articles in JNU News, the University magazine of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi (India).
31. Articles in *The Hindu*, the national daily:
 - Writing History artistically, <http://www.thehindu.com/features/friday-review/art/writing-history-artistically/article4507994.ece>
Millionaire academic' and successful teachers,
 - <http://www.hindu.com/op/2006/03/05/stories/2006030502461400.htm>
 - Poverty of idealism and professional integrity,
<http://www.hindu.com/op/2005/10/09/stories/2005100901201400.htm>
32. Editorials in Hindi <https://www.prabhatkhabar.com/opinion/article-by-dr-dev-nath-pathak-on-prabhat-khabar-editorial-about-childrens-day-2021-srn>
33. Editorials in Hindi <https://sablog.in/author/dev/>

Seminar/Conference Papers

- a. Presented a paper on Social History of Baba Nagarjuna: Ghummakadi Modern Mithila, in a symposium titled “Critical Contours of Maithili Studies” at the 50th Annual Conference on South Asia (ACSA), University of Wisconsin–Madison, on October 19, 2022
- b. A paper, Ricouer Meets Bahurupiya, on International Conference on Paul Ricoeur : Perspectives on Hermeneutics, Narrative and Memory, on February 24, 2023, New Delhi- India organized by Alliance Française of Delhi & O.P. Jindal Global University
- c. ***Introducing the Concept of the Conference on Visual South Asia***, at University of Dhaka, 10-12 May, 2017
- d. ***What is Folk Philosophy of Cosmic and Mundane***, an Introduction of the conference on *Folk Philosophy In South Asia: Exploring Cosmic and Mundane*, at Banasthali Vidyapeeth, Tonk, Rajsthan, 25-26 March, 2017
- e. ***Contemporariness of Folklore and the Imaginations of Living***, in a panel discussion on ***Contemporary Folklore***, at the conference on *Folk Philosophy In South Asia: Exploring Cosmic and Mundane*, at Banasthali Vidyapeeth, Tonk, Rajsthan, 25-26 March, 2017
- f. ***What is Not South Asia***, in a panel on *Modern Thinkers in South Asia*, in a conference on *Mapping Modern Thoughts in South Asia*, at University of Delhi, 6-8 January, 2017.
- g. ***On What Artists in South Asia Narrate in A Tale of Two Cities-Varanasi and Anuradhapura***, in a panel on the Art Project A Tale of Two Cities, at IGNCA, 20 March, 2017.
- h. ***Return of Angry Young Men: Mooting Possible Alternatives in understanding youth of South Asia***, in International Conference on Youth Policy, organized by Social Science Baha (Kathmandu) and South Asia Institute (Heidelberg University), at Kathmandu, February 2014

- i. ***Rehashing Local: mooting an antithesis to the thesis of hybridity***, at an international conference on Margins and Diversity, organized by University of Pune, 4 January 2014.
- j. ***Art of Dying: Folk Imagination in Maithili Folksongs***, South Asia Forum, Program in Women's and Gender Studies, MIT, Cambridge, MA, 22 June, 2013
- k. ***Cultural Conceptualization of Civil Society: In the history of modern theater in India***, Brown International Advance Research Institutes, Brown University, Providence, 7 June, 2013
- l. ***(Re)Imagining South Asia: Dynamics of Local in the art and cinema***, at international conference 'Connecting South Asia: Dynamics of Art and Culture in South Asia', at Colombo, Sri Lanka, organized by Theertha and Colombo Institute for Advanced Study of Society and Culture, on 29-30 September 2012
- m. ***Theory Versus Theory: Teaching Sociological Theories in the age of Plurality***, in a Seminar on Theory Question in Indian Sociology, Indian Institute of Advance Studies, Simla, on 13-14 July, 2012, at IIAS, Simla
- n. ***Folklore and Literature via Content Analysis in Qualitative Research***, In Workshop on Qualitative Research Methods in Education, by National Educational University of Planning and Administration Delhi, on 27 August 2012, at NEUPA, Delhi
- o. ***Cultural Forms as anchorage in teaching Media: Sound and Sight of South Asia***, in Workshop on Teaching Public Policy, Media and Law, by Cenetr for Culture Media and Governance (Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi) and Rajsthan Central University, on 1-2 November 2012, Rajsthan Central University, Kishangarh
- p. ***Reconstructing Normal: Representation of the disabled in Hindi Cinema***, In a national seminar on Exploring Disability Experiences in Social Science Research, at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, on 26-27 March, 2011
- q. ***Mapping the Hyper local: Media in Neighborhood***, at Zurich University, Switzerland, 19th April 2011
- r. ***Reading Gandhi with/in Popular Cinema: A Pedagogue's Perspective***, at an International Seminar on Rethinking Gandhi: A Communication Perspective, at Jamia Millia Islamia, on 23-24 March, 2011
- s. ***At a Moral Crossroad: Learners' experience of Pedagogical Anarchy***, at National Seminar on Pedagogy for Schools, at Regional Institute of Education, Mysore, 2-4 March, 2011
- t. ***Learners Morality: A critical review of educational Reforms and the consequences***, at National Conference on comparative Education and Globalization, at Jawaharlal Nehru University, 2010
- u. ***Janus Faced Art Erotica in Maithili Folksongs***, at an International Conference on Art Erotica, at School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, 2010

- v. **Sociology in Everyday life: An approach to the Aesthetics of Knowledge**, at Department of Sociology, Jesus and Mary College, The University of Delhi, 2010.
- w. **Methodology of *Being*: A paradigm of interpretative analysis** in National Seminar On Social Science Research on North East India, at Jawaharlal Nehru University, 2010.
- x. **Singing in the Veil: Resistance and Reconciliation in the Maithili folk songs**, in Papiya Ghosh Memorial conference, Delhi, India, 2009.
- y. **Global Youth and Ambivalence of Identity: A Case study of Orkut** at the Young Sociologists' workshop at Jammu University, 2006.
- z. **Ideas of Marriage in Matrimonial Advertisement and Maithili Folklore** at the 31st National Sociological Conference (Organized by Indian Sociological Society) at Jammu, 2008.
- aa. **Motherhood in Maithili Folklore** at Annual colloquium of Scholars, CSSS/SSS, JNU, 2008.
- bb. **Civil Society: The contest and the quest, in an International Conference** organized by PRIA, Delhi, at Hyderabad University, Hyderabad, 2006.

Coordination of Academic Events

Convened and Curated an international conference on Cultures of Childhood in South Asia, in collaboration with CRY, Save the Children, ICSSR, and SIMEC (Dhaka), on 14-15 December 2023

Convened and Curated a panel on Emotions in South Asia, in 19th IUAES- WAU World Anthropology Congress 2023, on 14-20 October 2023

Convened and Curated an online international conference on Performative Traditions in South Asia, supported by ICSSR, on 15-16 April, 2021

Convened an International Conference on Visual South Asia: Anthropological Explorations of Mediated Images, at University of Dhaka, 10-12 May 2017

Convened an International Conference on *Folk Philosophy In South Asia: Exploring Cosmic and Mundane*, at Banasthali Vidyapeeth, Tonk, Rajasthan, 25-26 March, 2017

Convened an International conference on Mapping Modern Thoughts in South Asia, at University of Delhi, 6-8 January, 2017

Convened the Contributions to Contemporary Knowledge lecture, by Sugata Bose (Gardiner Professor, Harvard University), 20 August 2016.

Convened an International conference on Sociology and Social Anthropology in South Asia: Disciplinary History and Practices, at South Asian University, New Delhi, 6-8 January, 2016

Convened an International conference on Another South Asia: Exploration from Within and Without, in collaboration with Japan Foundation, Delhi, at South Asian University, New Delhi, 6-8 January, 2015

Convened the Contributions to Contemporary Knowledge lecture, by Gananath Obeyesekere (Emeritus Professor, Princeton University), 2 February 2013.

Convened an interactive workshop on Doing Ethnography Today, with Gananath Obeyesekere (Emeritus Professor, Princeton University), 3 February 2013.

Convened an interactive workshop on Debating Ancient and Present, with Romila Thapar (Emeritus Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University) and Rustom Bharucha (Professor, Performance Studies, JNU), 8 September 2013.

Coordinated an international seminar on Rethinking Gandhi: A Communication Perspective, at Center for Culture, Media and Governance, Jamia Millia Islamia, 8-10 November 2010.

Miscellaneous Achievements/Awards

- I was awarded a Charles Wallace Fellowship at Queen's University Belfast in 2015.
- I was a participant at Brown International Advance Research Institute, to participate in the institute on Theater and Civil Society, at Brown University, in June 2013.
- Award for the best paper-presenter, in 2010, by Center for the Study of Social Systems, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India.
- Junior Research Fellowship and a certification for teaching/research eligibility NET (National Eligibility Test), awarded by the University Grant Commission (India), in 2005.
- Award for the best Yoga performer, 2010, by JNU Yoga Center, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India.
- Theatre works at National School of Drama, Delhi, India.
- Theatre works at Bluebells School, Kailash, Delhi, India & Acting in plays, Certain Extremities (dir. Dilip Shankar at NSD, Delhi), Aakar for *Actor factor theatre company* at Sri Ram Center, Megapolis (dir. Prof. Amal Allana) at Kamani Auditorium, Delhi, India, Stage & Light Design for the show of *Kafan*, at Alliance Française, Delhi, India.
- Award for the best essay, by the UNESCO, 2002, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India.
- Award for the best essay, 2002, by The Literary Club, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India.

Curriculum vitae of Deo Nath Pathak

- Award for the best performance in Creative Entertainment, By Students for Harmony, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, India
- Edited, Habitus, The JNU Students' Magazine (2005- 2009)

Basic Information

Father's Name: Late Sri Rama Kant Pathak

Mother's Name: Late Srimati Ambika Devi

Sex: Male

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Martial Status: Married

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