

POULAMI ROYCHOWDHURY

McGill University
Department of Sociology
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023 -	Associate Professor of Sociology and International and Public Affairs, The Watson Institute, Brown University
2022 - 2023	Senior Fellow, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University
2022 - 2023	Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, McGill University
2014 - 2022	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, McGill University
2013 - 2014	Pre-doctoral Fellow, Consortium for Faculty Diversity, Smith College

EDUCATION

2014	Ph.D. Sociology, New York University
2010	M.A. Sociology, New York University
2003	B.A. Political Science and Economics (Honors), Swarthmore College

AWARDS

Book Awards

- American Sociological Association, Human Rights Section, Gordon Hirabayashi Book Award 2022
- Eastern Sociological Association, Mirra Komarovsky Distinguished Book Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Distinguished Scholarly Book Award, Honorable Mention 2022
- Law and Society Association, Herbert Jacob Book Prize, Honorable Mention 2022

Article Awards

- American Sociological Association, Political Sociology Section, Best Article Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Sociology of Law Section, Best Article Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Sociology of Human Rights Section, Best Article Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Crime Law and Deviance Section, James F. Short Jr. Distinguished Article Award, Honorable Mention 2022
- American Sociological Association, Development Section, Best Faculty Article Award, Honorable Mention 2022
- Society for the Study of Social Problems, Arlene Kaplan Daniels Paper Award, Honorable Mention 2022

BOOKS & EDITED VOLUMES

Books

2021. *Capable Women, Incapable States: Negotiating Violence and Rights in India*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Awards

- American Sociological Association, Human Rights Section, Gordon Hirabayashi Book Award 2022
- Eastern Sociological Association, Mirra Komarovsky Distinguished Book Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Distinguished Scholarly Book Award, Honorable Mention 2022
- Law and Society Association, Herbert Jacob Book Prize, Honorable Mention 2022

Author Meets Critic

- Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, 2021
- Annual Conference on South Asia, 2021
- UC Berkeley South Asia Reading Group, 2021

Book Reviews

- Sarah Khan. 2023. *Politics & Gender*.
- Joya Misra. 2022. *American Journal of Sociology*, 127(6): 1935-1937.
- Tugce Ellialte-Kose. 2022. *Feminist Legal Studies*, 30: 376-370.

Edited Volumes

Forthcoming 2023. *Pandemic Inequality: Citizens, States, and Covid 19 in India*, with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner (UVA). Under contract with Oxford University Press.

ARTICLES

2021. "Incorporation: Governing Gendered Violence in a State of Disempowerment." *American Journal of Sociology*, 124(4): 852-888.

Awards

- American Sociological Association, Political Sociology Section, Best Article Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Sociology of Law Section, Best Article Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Sociology of Human Rights Section, Best Article Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Crime Law and Deviance Section, James F. Short Jr. Distinguished Article Award, Honorable Mention 2022
- American Sociological Association, Development Section, Best Faculty Article Award, Honorable Mention 2022
- Society for the Study of Social Problems, Arlene Kaplan Daniels Paper Award, Honorable Mention 2022

2019. "Illicit Justice: Aspirational-Strategic Subjects and the Political Economy of Domestic Violence." *Law & Social Inquiry*, 44(1): 1-24.
2016. "Desire, Rights, Entitlements: Organizational Strategies in the War on Violence." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 41(4): 793-820.
2016. "Over the Law: Rape and the Seduction of Popular Politics." *Gender & Society*, 30(1): 80-94.
2015. "Victims to Saviors: Governmentality and the Re-gendering of Citizenship in India." *Gender & Society*, 29(6): 792-816.
2014. "Brothers and Others: Organizing Masculinity, Disorganizing Workers." *Social Problems*, 61(1): 22-41.
2013. "The Delhi Gang Rape: The Making of International Causes." *Feminist Studies*, 39(1): 282-292.

BOOK CHAPTERS & SPECIAL ISSUES

2022. "Between Women and the State: Rights Brokers and Capital Accumulation in West Bengal." *Toward a Sociology of South Asia: Rethinking Politics, Labor, and Culture*. Eds. Smitha Radhakrishnan and Gowri Vijayakumar. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

IN PROCESS

- Forthcoming 2024. "States and Social Movements: Sociological Lessons from India," with Rina Agarwala (Johns Hopkins). *Annual Review of Sociology*, vol. 51.

- Forthcoming 2023. "Methodological Impasses: Facing Interrogation and Silence While Gathering Data on Sexual Violence," with Aditi Malik (Holy Cross). Special Issue on Feminist Methods. *Political Science & Politics*.

PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

2022. "Why Police Sexual Harassment? Women's Rights and the Politics of Hindu Nationalism." *India in Transition*. Center for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania.
2022. "Governing Gendered Violence" [blog post]. *Law in Action*. American Sociological Association, Sociology of Law Section.
2022. "Capable Women, Incapable States" [podcast]. *The Great Gender Divide*.
2021. "Capable Women, Incapable States" [podcast]. *New Books Network*.
2021. "Absence in the Time of Covid 19" [blog post]. *Ethnographic Marginalia*.

2018. “McGill Profs Back Students Call for External Investigation” [radio broadcast]. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*.

2016. “A Call to Knowledge: Let’s Gather More Data Before Rushing to Action” [blog post]. *Gender & Society*.

2014. “Gender-based Violence: An Index of ‘Tradition’ or Social Change” [blog post]. *Gender & Society*.

2013. “Focus on Rape in India Ignores Global Problem” [online article]. *CNBC*.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

External

2016 - 2023 Fonds de Recherche du Québec, Établissement de Nouveaux Professeurs-Chercheurs

2016 - 2021 Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada, Insight Development Grant

2013 - 2014 Consortium for Faculty Diversity, Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Smith College

2010 - 2011 National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant

2010 - 2011 Fulbright-Nehru Dissertation Research Fellowship

2009 - 2010 American Institute for Indian Studies Junior Research Fellowship

2006 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, UC Berkeley

Internal

2020 - 2023 Social Sciences & Humanities Development Grant, McGill University

2015 - 2016 Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council Travel Grant, McGill University

2015 - 2017 Social Sciences & Humanities Development Grant, McGill University

2012 - 2013 Georgette Bennett Fellowship, New York University

2009 - 2010 Pre-doctoral Research Fellowship, New York University

2009 Collaborative Research Grant, with Professor Judith Stacey, New York University

2005 - 2010 Henry McCracken Fellowship, New York University

2001 - 2022 Swarthmore Foundation Grant, Swarthmore College

1999 - 2003 Presidential Scholarship, Swarthmore College

INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS

- 2024 “Why Police Sexual Harassment: Women’s Rights and Religious Nationalism”
Workshop: Political Violence and its Legacies Workshop, Yale University
- 2023 “Why Police Sexual Harassment?”
Workshop: Politics and Social Change Workshop, Harvard University
- 2023 “Capable Women, Incapable States”
Book Talk: Department of Sociology, Northwestern University
- 2023 “Irregular Rights: Abortion in the US and Domestic Violence in India”
Talk: Department of Sociology, London School of Economics
- 2023 “Encountering Rape: Sexual Violence, Deadly Force, and the Production of State Authority”
Workshop: Gender/Power/Theory Network, Princeton University
- 2022 “Capable Women, Incapable States”
Book Talk: Centre for Sustainable Development, Oxford University (virtual)
- 2022 “Capable Women, Incapable States”
Book Talk: Open Society University Network, Bard College Berlin (virtual)
- 2022 “Capable Women, Incapable States”
Book Talk: Feminist Theory and Practice Seminar, University of Toronto (virtual)
- 2021 “Capability and Incorporation: Pathways to Redress in the Aftermath of Violence”
Book Talk: Center for South Asia, Stanford University (virtual)
- 2021 “Capable Women, Incapable States”
Book Talk: South Asia Reading Group, University of California Berkeley (virtual)
- 2021 “Capable Women, Incapable States”
Book Talk: Gender/Power/Theory Network & NYU Sociology (virtual)
- 2021 “Capable Women, Incapable States”
Book Talk: IDInsight India (virtual)
- 2021 “Encountering Rape: Sexual Violence and Police Use of Deadly Force in India”
Workshop: Gender/Power/Theory Network (virtual)
- 2021 “Sexual Harassment and Enemies of the Nation in the era of Hindu Nationalism”
Workshop: Gender and Politics in South Asia, University of California, Berkeley (virtual)
- 2021 “Capable Women, Incapable States: Talking through Methods”
Book Talk: Brown University, Department of Sociology, Providence, RI
- 2020 “Capable Women, Incapable States”

- Book Talk: Department of Gender and Women's Studies, London School of Economics
- 2020 "Capabilities Without Rights"
Workshop: Department of Sociology, University of Southern California
- 2019 "Incorporation: Governing Violence in a State of Disempowerment"
Workshop: Political Violence and its Legacies Workshop, Yale University
- 2019 "Capable Citizens: How India Outsources Justice for Gendered Violence," Workshop:
Oxford University Press Annual Conclave, New Delhi
- 2019 "Claiming Rights While Distrusting the State: State Failure and Democratic Practice"
Talk: Challenges Facing the World in the 21st Century, ISID, McGill University
- 2019 "Protection vs Incorporation: Why State Capacity Matters for Legal Redress"
Workshop: Department of Sociology, University of Chicago
- 2018 "Outsourced! Solutions to Law and Order in Weak Institutional Contexts."
Talk: Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University
- 2018 "A Sentimental Education: How NGOs Train Survivors to Want Rights"
Workshop: Department of Sociology, UMass Amherst
- 2018 "The Governmental Strategies of Incapacitated States"
Workshop: Department of Sociology, University of California Berkeley
- 2018 "Balancing Academia and Life"
Talk: Professional Development Seminar, McGill University
- 2017 "Violence and Incapacitated States"
Talk: Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University
- 2017 "Bureaucratic Manipulations: Outsourcing Criminal Justice to Women"
Workshop: Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University
- 2016 "Going Beyond Governance: New Research Directions on States and Citizens"
Workshop: Department of Sociology, Brown University
- 2016 "Moving the Criminal Justice System: When do Women Make Gains?"
Talk: Department of Sociology, University of Toronto
- 2016 "How Does State Capacity Influence Case Processing?"
Talk: Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University
- 2016 "Dealing with Difference: Sociological/Anthropological Perspectives on Field Work"
Talk: Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, McGill University

- 2015 “Over and Against the Law: The Politics of Sexual Violence in India”
Talk: School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University
- 2015 “Bureaucratic Incorporation: Violence and Neoliberal Government”
Workshop: Ethnography Workshop, New York University
- 2015 “The Extended Case Method in Practice: Reflections on Fieldwork”
Talk: Qualitative Research Methods Seminar, McGill University
- 2015 “Illicit Justice: Measurement Issues with Gendered Violence”
Talk: Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University
- 2014 “Dealing with Difference: Sociological/Anthropological Perspectives on Field Work”
Talk: Feminist Theories and Methods Seminar, McGill University
- 2013 “Power and Disempowerment: Exploring Cross-cultural Sources of Violence:”
Talk: CARE Gender Violence Panel, New York
- 2013 “Ambivalent Citizens and the Politics of Entitlement”
Talk: Department of Sociology, Smith College
- 2013 “The Legal Uses of Anger: Examining Recent Mobilizations against Sexual Violence”
Talk: Symposium on Gender Violence, Annual Conference on South Asia
- 2013 “Rape, Media, and Global Politics”
Talk: Visiting Speaker Series, Bard College
- 2012 “Illegality as Strategic Action in India’s Criminal Justice System”
Talk: Criminal Justice Colloquium, New York University School of Law
- 2012 “Abortion, Family Planning, and Women’s Health: What is Happening to the GOP?”
Talk: Graduate Student Conference, New York University
- 2012 “Has Breaking the Silence Gone Too Far? Feminism and Domestic Violence Reform”
Talk: Spring Conference, New York University
- 2011 “The Cultural Politics of Violence: Women’s Rights Campaigns in India”
Workshop: Center for Human Sciences, New Delhi
- 2011 “Entering and Exiting the Field: Reflections on Ethnographic Research”
Talk: Research Methods Seminar, New York University

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 “Revisiting Feminist State Theory”
Social Science History Association Conference, Washington, DC

- 2022 “Why Police Sexual Harassment?”
American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 “Incorporation and Capability: Theorizing States and Gendered Citizenship”
American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2021 “Policing Gendered Violence: Lessons from the Indian Case”
American Political Science Association Conference, Seattle, Washington
- 2021 “The Rights Market: Why Brokers Help Survivors of Violence”
Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI
- 2021 “Author meets Critics Session: Capable Women, Incapable States”
Social Science History Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA
- 2020 “Capabilities as a Model of Rights Acquisition”
Social Science History Association Conference, Washington, DC (canceled due to Covid-19 pandemic)
- 2020 “Protecting Women, Affirming Hindu Hegemony: Sexual Harassment and the BJP”
American Sociological Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA
- 2020 “Incorporation: Governing Violence in a State of Disempowerment”
Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Denver, CO (canceled due to Covid-19 pandemic)
- 2019 “Aspirational-Strategic Women: Citizenship Practices in Stalled States”
American Sociological Association Annual Conference, New York, NY
- 2019 “States of Disempowerment: Governing Gendered Violence in Limited States”
Research Committee on Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy, Mannheim University, Germany
- 2019 “Incorporation: Law Enforcement Strategies for Governing Gendered Violence”
Contemporary South Asia Miniconference, Eastern Sociological Association Conference, Boston, MA
- 2018 “Beyond State Control: Theorizing Crime and Punishment in Limited States”
Social Science History Association Conference, Phoenix, AZ
- 2017 “Political Parties and Gendered Violence in India”
Social Science History Association Conference, Montreal, QC
- 2016 “Gender Violence and Incapacitated States: The Case of India”
Social Science History Association Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2016 “Between Rights Discourse and Practice: The Significance of Institutional Capacity”
American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA

- 2016 “Reconciliation or Resistance: The Social and Political Basis of Redress”
Law and Society Association, New Orleans, LA
- 2015 “Rethinking Regimes: Rape and Popular Politics in India”
American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL
- 2015 “Might Makes Rights: Sexual Violence and Citizen Ambivalence in India”
Law and Society Association, Seattle, WA
- 2015 “Co-optive Politics: Sexual Violence, Social Change, and Governance in India”
Sociology of Development Conference, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2014 “Narrative Demands: The Institutionalized Incoherence of Legal Truths”
Legal Studies Pre-Conference, Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI
- 2014 “Victims to Saviors: Rights against Violence and the Re-gendering of Citizenship”
Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI
- 2013 “Narrative Disjunctures: Gender Violence and Conflicting Testimony”
American Sociological Association, New York, NY
- 2013 “Dangerous Desires, Wicked Women: Exclusionary Categories in Feminist Politics”
Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI
- 2012 “What is Domestic About Domestic Violence?”
Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI
- 2012 “Migrating Feminists: Mediation and Scale in Contemporary Rights Practice”
Feminist South Asia Pre-conference, Madison, WI
- 2012 “Might Makes Rights? Using Violence to End Violence Against Women”
Locating Solidarity, New School for Social Science Research, New York, NY
- 2012 “Narrating Abuse: Dilemmas of Feminist Legal Engagements”
Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University, New York, NY
- 2012 “Narrative Disjunctures: Feminism, Gender Violence, and the Law”
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference, New York, NY
- 2011 “Women’s Bodies as Political Resources: Negotiating Violence against Women”
Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI
- 2009 “Brothers and Others: Organizing Masculinities, Disorganizing Workers”
American Sociological Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial

- 2023 – 2026 Editorial Board, *American Journal of Sociology*
2023 - 2026 Editorial Board, *Law & Social Inquiry*
2021 - 2024 Editorial Board, *Sociological Theory*
2021 - 2024 Editorial Board, *Gender & Society*
2018 - 2022 Associate Editor, *Social Politics*

Council & Advisory

- 2023 - 2026 Council Member, ASA Global and Transnational Sociology Section
2023 - 2025 Committee Member, ASA Sections Committee
2019 - 2022 Advisory Board, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University
2017 - 2020 Council Member, ASA Development Section
2017 - 2019 Organizer, Law & Society Colloquium, McGill University
2015 - 2017 Advisory Board, Institute for Gender Sexuality and Feminist Studies, McGill University

Awards

- 2022 - 2023 Committee Member, ASA Political Sociology, Article Awards
2022 - 2023 Committee Chair, ASA Sociology of Law Section, Article Awards
2021 - 2022 Committee Member, ASA Sex & Gender Section, Article Awards
2021 - 2022 Committee Member, ASA Theory Section, Article Awards
2020 – 2021 Committee Chair, ASA Development Section, Article Awards
2019 - 2020 Committee Chair, ASA Development Section, Article Awards
2016 - 2017 Committee Member, ASA Political Sociology Section, Article Awards
2015 - 2016 Committee Member, ASA Development Section, Article Awards

University Service

- 2021 - 2022 Department Contact to the Administration on Equity & Diversity, McGill University
2020 - 2022 Equity Committee, McGill University, Sociology
2019 - 2020 Events Committee, McGill University, Sociology
2018 - 2021 Graduate Admissions Committee, McGill University, Sociology
2018 - 2019 Visiting Speakers Committee, McGill University, Sociology
2016 - 2017 Graduate Committee, McGill University, Sociology
2015 - 2017 Website Committee, McGill University, Sociology
2014 - 2016 Faculty Recruitment Committee, McGill University, Sociology
2014 - 2017 Consortium for Qualitative Research Methods (CQRM), McGill University, Sociology
2014 - 2022 Development and Social Change Exam Committee, McGill University, Sociology
2014 - 2022 Sex and Gender Exam Committee, McGill University, Sociology
2014 - 2015 Visiting Speaker's Committee, McGill University, Sociology
2014 - 2015 Spring Conference Organizer, McGill University, Sociology
2012 - 2013 Gender Workshop Organizer, New York University, Sociology
2007 - 2008 Graduate Student Association Representative, New York University, Sociology

Workshop & Panel Organizer

- 2018 Gender Power Theory Workshop (with Ann Orloff and Abigail Andrews), UC Berkeley
2018 Special Session: Rethorizing States (with Gowri Vijaykumar), American Sociological Association Conference

2018	Panel: Reconceptualizing Gendered States (with Ann Orloff), Social Science History Association Conference
2017	Panel: Movements and Counter-movements (with Ann Orloff), Social Science History Association Conference
2017	Regular Session: Culture and Narrative, American Sociological Association Conference
2016	Panel: States, Gender, Social Transformation, Social Science History Association Conference
2016	Panel: Redress and Recognition (with Michael Yarborough), Law and Society Conference
2015	Spring Conference, McGill University, Sociology
2015	Panel: Sovereigns Beyond the Law, Law and Society Conference
2014	Panel: The Age of Rights, Annual Conference on South Asia
2012	Panel: Legislating Conjuality, Annual Conference on South Asia
2012	Panel: Transnational Narratives, Eastern Sociological Society Conference
2011	Panel: Political Transformations in West Bengal, Annual Conference on South Asia

Book Discussant

2022	Paige Sweet, <i>The Politics of Surviving</i> , Social Science History Association Conference
2022	Zachary Levenson, <i>Delivery as Dispossession</i> , Knowing Africa Seminar, Carleton University
2022	Gowri Vijayakumar, <i>At Risk</i> , Annual Conference on South Asia
2021	Chaitanya Lakkimsetti, <i>Legalizing Sex</i> , Annual Conference on South Asia

Journal Reviewer

<i>American Ethnologist</i>	<i>Political and Legal Anthropology Review</i>
<i>American Journal of Sociology</i>	<i>Qualitative Sociology</i>
<i>American Political Science Review</i>	<i>Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society</i>
<i>Contexts</i>	<i>Social Problems</i>
<i>Gender & Society</i>	<i>Social Politics</i>
<i>Journal of Law & Society</i>	<i>Social Science Research</i>
<i>Mobilization</i>	<i>Sociological Theory</i>

Professional Memberships

American Sociological Association
Law & Society Association
Sociologists for the Study of Women in Society
Social Science History Association

TEACHING & SUPERVISION

Teaching

Brown University
States, Power, Politics

McGill University
Gender and the State
Gender and Development
Gender, Deviance, Social Control
Developing Societies
Qualitative Research Methods I

Qualitative Research Methods II

Student Supervision

Brown University

Dissertation Committee Member: Nabila Islam

McGill University

PhD Chair: Nandini Krishnan

MA Chair: Harmata Aboubakar; Aylish Cotter; Hilary Flowers; Nathaniel Lamont

MA Research Paper Reader: Natasha Comeau; Jessica Farivar

Dissertation Committee Member: Maike Isaac; Angela Kalyta; Candice Shaw

Oral Defense Committee Member: Cassandra Cotton

Undergraduate Research Supervisor: Natasha Comeau; Ariane Kent; Ximena Villanueva

Research Assistants

McGill University

PhD: Ina Filkobski, Maike Isaac; Nandini Krishnan

MA: Aylish Cotter; Nathaniel Lamont

Undergraduate: Ralph Haddad