

SUNIL KUMAR

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI Department of History Curriculum Vitae July 2013

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M-36 Saket,
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Office Address:

Department of History,
University of Delhi,
India,

I. Personal Data:

Born, March 20, 1956 (Jaunpur, U.P., India).
Married, two children.
Indian citizen.

II. Education:

1987-1992: Ph.D. History, Duke University, Durham, NC., U.S.A..
Dissertation title: *The Emergence of the Delhi Sultanate, 1190-1290.*
1978-1982: Graduate program, University of Chicago, Chicago, Il., U.S.A..
1976-1978: M.A. History, University of Bridgeport, Bridgeport, CT., U.S.A..
1972-1975: B.A. History, St. Stephens College, Delhi University, Delhi, India.

III. Employment history:

2005 – *Professor, Department of History, University of Delhi.*
Graduate Courses: i) A Social and Cultural History of Medieval Europe and the Central Islamic lands; ii) Sufism; iii) The Provincial Sultanates in Medieval South Asia (1350-1550); iv) The Delhi Sultanate (1192-1550); v) History of India (1540-1605); vi) Urban History of Medieval India.
M.Phil seminar course: i) The Historian's Craft; ii) Problems in the Historical Study of Society and Culture.

1994 - 2005 *Reader, Department of History, University of Delhi.*

1992 - 1994 *Senior Lecturer, Department of History, University of Delhi.*

1985 - 1992 *Lecturer, Department of History, University of Delhi.*

1984 -1985 *Lecturer, St. Stephens College, University of Delhi.*

Under-graduate Courses: i) History of India (750-1500); ii) History of India (1500-1750); iii) Modern Indian History (1750-1950); iv) History of Japan (1830-1945).

IV. Honours and Visiting positions:

- March 2010** *Visiting Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, March 26 – April 9*
- 2008--2010** *Reader, Department of History, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.*
Undergraduate Courses: i) The Making of Medieval India; ii) Structures of Authority: Islam, the Delhi Sultans and the Mughals.
Graduate Course: i) Islam in South Asia
 ii) Third year Post Graduate Writing Workshop in History
- February 2008** *Townsend Scholar in Residence, Townsend Center, University of California at Berkeley.*
- March 2007** *Presidential Address, Medieval India Section, Punjab History Congress, Patiala, March 16.*
 “Balancing Autonomy with Service: Frontier Military Commanders and their Relations with the Delhi Sultans in the 13th and 14th centuries”.
- May - June 2006** *Visiting Professor, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Sorbonne, University of Paris, France.*
- March 2001** *Visiting Professor, CEIAS, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France*
- 1993 --** *Visiting Professor, Lewis and Clark College, Portland.*
 Summer Program: ‘Delhi – the Politics of the Past and the Present’.
- 1994** *Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Duke University.*
 Summer 1994, History 100E: Indian History and the Present.
- 1992, 1988** *Visiting Instructor, Department of History, Duke University.*
 i) Summer 1992, History 100E: Indian History and the Present.
 ii) Fall 1988, History 75: Third World and the West.

V. Editorial positions:

- 2010 --** *Editorial Advisor to the peer reviewed journal, South Asia Research, SOAS*
- 2001 –** *Managing Editor, of the peer reviewed journal, The Indian Economic and Social History Review*

1997 - 2001 *Associate Editor, of the peer reviewed journal, The Indian Economic and Social History Review.*

VI. Honorary positions:

2007- *Co-organiser of the IESHR Annual Lecture held every December at the Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre.*

2006 *Advisor, Textbook Development Committee, NCERT, Class VII textbook: "Our Pasts II".*

2006 *Co-Organiser of Conference: "Expanding Frontiers in South Asian and World History – Honouring John F. Richards", Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, Sept. 29-30.*

1995 - 96 *Research consultant, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH): Humayun Tomb project.*

1993 - 94 *Research consultant, Theatre in Education Company, National School of Drama, New Delhi.*
"Raziyya Sultana", directed by Maya Krishna Rao.

1989 - 92 *Research consultant, Land Use and Vegetation changes in South Asia, 1800-1980.*
Principal Investigator: Professor John F. Richards, Duke University.

VII. Publications:

a) Authored Books

2010, 2007 *The Emergence of the Delhi Sultanate, 1192-1286, Delhi: Permanent Black.*
2010 Paperback Edition, Delhi: Permanent Black.

2010, 2002 *The Present in Delhi's Pasts, Delhi: Three Essays Collective. First Edition.*
2010, Second Edition, with an additional chapter.

Under preparation *Sites of Power and Resistance: A Study of Sultanate Monumental Architecture*

b) Edited Books

- 2013, 2009** ed. With Richard M. Eaton, Munis Faruqui, and David Gilmartin, *Expanding Frontiers in South Asian and World History: Essays in Honour of John F. Richards*, Delhi: Cambridge University Press.
2009 (January) Special Issue of *Modern Asian Studies*, vol. 43, no. 1.
- 2008** ed., *Demolishing Myths, or Mosques and Temples? Readings on History and Temple Desecration in Medieval India*, Delhi: Three Essays Press.
- 2007** ed. with Kunal Chakrabarti, *Our Pasts II: Social Science Text Book in History for Class VII*, Delhi: NCERT.

c) Articles:

- 2014 forthcoming** “Delhi Sultanate”; “Firuz Shah III Rukn al-Din”; “Fakhr al-Din Mubarakshah”, in *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, 3rd Edition. Leiden: E.J. Brill
- 2014 forthcoming** “Mooring the household: problems in writing a history of early Sultanate elites”, in Kumkum Roy and Nandita Sahai, eds., *Looking Within / Looking Without: Pre-colonial Households*.
- 2013 forthcoming** “An Inconvenient Heritage: the Central Asian background of the Delhi Sultans” in Upinder Singh and Parul P. Dhar, *Asian Encounters*, Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- 2013 forthcoming** “Trans-regional Contacts and Relationships: Turks, Mongols and the Delhi Sultanate in the thirteenth and fourteenth Centuries
Ed. Ismail K. Poonawala, *Turks and their Contribution to Islamic life and Culture in the pre-modern period: Proceedings of the 2009-10 Levi Della Vida Conference in honour of Professor Edmund Bosworth*, Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- 2013 forthcoming** “*Bandagī* and *Naugarī*: Studying transitions in Political Culture and Service under the North Indian Sultanates, 13-16th centuries” in Francesca Orsini and Samira Sheikh, eds., *After Timur Came*, Delhi: Oxford University Press.
- 2012** “Delhi”; “Delhi Sultanate” in *Encyclopaedia of Islamic Political Thought*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- 2011** “Courts, Capitals and Kingship: Delhi and its Sultans in the 13th and 14th centuries” in Jan-Peter Hartung and Albrecht Fuess, eds., *Court Cultures in the Muslim World*, London: SOAS/Routledge Studies on the Middle East, pp. 123-148.

- 2010** “The Pir’s *barakat* and the Servitor’s Ardour: the contrasting history of two Sufi shrines in Delhi” in Pami Singh ed., *Celebrating Delhi*, Delhi: Penguin and Ravi Dayal, pp. 47-75.
- 2010** “Reflections on the Past and Present of two Sufi Shrines in Delhi” in Sunil Kumar, *The Present in Delhi’s Pasts*, Delhi: Three Essays Collective, 2nd edition, pp. 103-138.
- 2009** “The Ignored Elites: Turks, Mongols and a Persian Secretarial Class in the early Delhi Sultanate”, *Modern Asian Studies*, vol. 43, pp. 45-77.
- 2008** “Politics, the Muslim Community and Hindu-Muslim Relations Reconsidered: North India in the early Thirteenth century”, in Rajat Datta ed. *Rethinking a Millennium: Perspectives on Indian History from the Eighth to the Eighteenth century: Essays for Harbans Mukhia*, Delhi: Aakar Books, pp. 139-167.
- 2007** “Balancing Autonomy with Service: Frontier Military Commanders and their Relations with the Delhi Sultans in the 13th and 14th centuries”, Presidential Address, Medieval History Section, *Proceedings of the Punjab History Congress, Patiala*, vol. 39, pp. 86-100.
- 2007** “Raziyya, Sultan” in *Encyclopaedia of Women in World History*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 585-86.
- 2006** “Service, Status and Military Slavery in the Delhi Sultanate of the thirteenth and early fourteenth centuries”, in Richard Eaton and Indrani Chatterjee, eds., *Slavery in Indian History*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 83-114.
- 2006** “Mongols and Nomadic Empires, 13th-14th Centuries” in Narayani Gupta, ed., *NCERT Class XI, Text-book on World History*, Delhi: NCERT.
- 2005** “La Communauté Musulmane et les Relations Hindous-Musulmans dans l’Inde du Nord au début du XIII^e siècle: une Réévaluation Politique”, *Annales Histoire, Sciences, Sociales*, vol. 60, pp. 239-64.
- 2001** “Qutb and Modern Memory” in *Partitions of Memory*, ed. Suvir Kaul, Delhi: Permanent Black, pp. 140-182.
Reprinted in Barry Flood, ed., *Politics and Piety*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, Themes in Indian History Series, 2008, pp. 150-178.
- 2000** “Assertions of Authority: a Study of the Discursive Statements of Two Sultans of Delhi—‘Ala al-Din Khalaji and Nizam al-Din Auliya’”, in *The Making of Indo-Persian Culture: Indian and French Studies*, ed. Muzaffar Alam, Françoise ‘Nalini’ Delvoeye, and Marc Gaborieau, Delhi: Manohar, pp. 37-65.

- 1999** “Perceiving ‘your’ Landscape: Neighbourhood Settlements and the Hauz-i Rānī”, in *Perceiving Landscape*, ed. R. Layton and P. Ucko, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, pp. 159-74.
- 1994** “When Slaves were nobles: The Shamsi bandagan in the early Delhi Sultanate”, *Studies in History*, vol. 10, pp. 23-52.
- 1994** “A Medieval Tank and Modern Urban Planning: Local Society and the Hauz-i Rānī”, *Germinal: Fascism and Culture*, vol. 1, pp.157-66.
- 1993** “Making Sacred History or Everyone his own Historian: a study of the village of Saidlajab”, *The India Magazine of her People and Culture*, vol. 13, pp. 46-55.
- 1985** “The value of the *Ādāb al-Mulūk wa Kifāyat al-Mamlūk* as a historical source; an insight into the ideals and expectations of Islamic society in the Middle period (945-1500)”, *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, vol. 22, pp, 307-27.
- VIII Selected Papers presented at Seminars and Conferences – 2000 onwards:**
- 2013** “Deep Structures: the many Sultanate Capital Cities in the Delhi riverine plain”
Nehru Memorial and Museum Library, Seminar Series, 23rd April 2013.
- 2012** “Deep Structures: the many Sultanate Capital Cities in the Delhi riverine plain”
For the Maharaja Umaid Singh Ji Lecture Series, organized by Maharaja Man Singh Pustak Prakash, Research Centre, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, 24th November 2012.
- 2012** "The Riverine Plain and the Capitals of the Delhi Sultans"
at the Department of History Seminar, Ambedkar University, Delhi, October 19.
- 2012** “Reading thirteenth century Sultanate sources on urban settlements and their habitats -- problematising the binarism in contestation and accommodation”
For the Workshop on ‘Environmental Issues in India’ to be held at Institute of Life Long Learning (ILL), University of Delhi, March 16-17.

- 2012** "The Riverine Plain and the Capitals of the Delhi Sultans"
at the **India International Centre, *Frontiers in History Series*, 23rd February.**
- 2011** "The many Sultanate Capital Cities in the Delhi riverine plain"
at the **Seminar: "*Architecture and Artisans in India: the History of Design, Technology and Labour*", organised by the Aligarh Historians Society, at the Indian History Congress, Patiala, December 11-12**
- 2011** "Deep Structures: the many Sultanate Capital Cities in the Delhi riverine plain"
at the **Seminar: "*Delhi: a heritage city (Ancient and Medieval Period)*", organised by INTACH, November 10**
- 2011** "An Inconvenient Heritage: the Central Asian background of the Delhi Sultans"
at the **Conference: "*Asian Encounters*", at the University of Delhi, November 1-4**
- 2011** "Making Friends and talking about them: an insight into Sultanate polity and society"
at the **Conference: "*The History and Cultures of Friendship in South Asia*", at the University of Pennsylvania, May 2-4**
- 2011** "Mooring the household: problems in writing a history of early Sultanate elites"
at the **Conference: "*Looking Within/ Looking Without: Pre-colonial Households*" at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, February 24-26.**
- 2010** "A preliminary prosopographical review of early *tazkirat* literature in the 14th-16th centuries"
at the **Conference: "*From the medieval to the 'early modern' in South Asia: Sources, methodologies and problems*", St. Anthony's College, Oxford University, June 11.**
- 2010** "Trans-regional Contacts and Relationships: Turks, Mongols and the Delhi Sultanate in the thirteenth and fourteenth Centuries"
at the **2009-10 *Levi Della Vida Medal for Excellence in Islamic Studies Conference in honour of Professor Edmund Bosworth*, University of California at Los Angeles, May 18-19.**
- 2010** 1) "The Woman and the *hisab* of Men: Sultana Raziyya and Early Sultanate Society".
2) "Courts, Capitals and Kingship: Delhi and its Sultans in the 13th and 14th centuries"

3) “History and the Politics of Medieval India”
**as Visiting Professor, Centre for historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru
 University, Delhi, March 26 – April 9**

- 2010** “Courts, Capitals and Kingship: Delhi and its Sultans in the 13th and 14th centuries”
at the Oxford South Asia History Seminar, January 19th
- 2009** “The
 Woman and the *hisab* of Men: Sultan Raziyya and Early Sultanate
 Society”.
**at the “*Making of Medieval Societies Workshop*”, Indraprastha
 College, December 11**
- 2009** “The
 Woman and the *hisab* of Men: Sultan Raziyya and Early Sultanate
 Society”.
**at the South Asian History seminar at the Centre of South Asian
 Studies, Cambridge University, November 11**
- 2009** “Courts, Capitals and Kingship: Delhi and its Sultans in the 13th and 14th
 centuries”
at the History Society, St. Stephens College, Delhi University, August 9
- 2009** “Recent Trends in the Writing of Medieval History”
**at the Refreshers Course, History Department, Jamia Millia
 University, July 25**
- 2009** “Zia al-Din Barani”
at the Refreshers Course, Political Science Department, July 9
- 2009** “The Nature of Mughal Hegemony”
**at the Conference, *Tributary Empires – Comparative Histories*, the
 Danish Academy, Rome 23-26 April.**
- 2009** “The Woman and the *hisab* of Men: Sultan Raziyya and Early Sultanate
 Society”.
**at the South Asia History Seminar, School of Oriental and African
 Studies, January 6.**
- 2008** “The
 Decline Literature: The discussion (or not) of the twilight of the Delhi
 Sultans in Sultanate and Mughal historiography”
**at the Conference, *The Theme of Imperial Decline and Resistance*,
 COST A36: Tributary Empires Compared, Vienna, April 11-13.**

- 2008 “The
 Woman and the *hisab* of Men: Sultan Raziyya and Early Sultanate
 Society”.
**at the University of California at Berkeley, February 7, and the
 University of Michigan, February 20.**
- 2008 “Kingship, courts and capitals: Sultanate Delhi in the thirteenth and
 fourteenth centuries”,
**at the University of California at Los Angeles; February 8;
 University of Chicago, February 21; University of California at
 Berkeley, February 26.**
- 2007 “T
 he Many Courts and Cities of the Delhi Sultans”
**at the Conference, *Court Culture in the Muslim World: Politics
 and Patronage (7th-19th Centuries)* at Schloss Friedenstein, Gotha,
 Germany, July 2-5.**
- 2007 “B
andagi and *Naukari*: Studying transitions in Political Culture and
 Service under the North Indian Sultanates, 13th-16th centuries”.
**at the Conference, *After Timur Came: Multiple Spaces of Cultural
 Production and Circulation in fifteenth century North India*,
 School of Oriental and African Studies, May 29-31.**
- 2007 “B
 alancing Autonomy with Service: Frontier Military Commanders and
 their Relations with the Delhi Sultans in the 13th and 14th centuries”.
**at the *Punjab History Congress, Patiala, March 16, Presidential
 Address, Medieval History Section.***
- 2006 “Fr
 ontier Feudatories and the Ignored Elites: Turks, Mongols and a
 Persian Secretarial Class in the early Delhi Sultanate”.
**at the Conference, *Expanding Frontiers in South Asian and
 World History – Honouring John F. Richards*, North Carolina
 Center for South Asia Studies, Duke University, September 29-
 30.**
- 2006 “R
 efections on the Past and Present of Sufi Shrines in Delhi”.
**at the India International Centre, September 5, *The Sir Sobha
 Singh Memorial Lectures on Delhi.***

- 2006** “The Ignored Elite: Turks, Mongols and a Persian Secretarial Class in the Delhi Sultanate of the 13th and 14th centuries”.
at Columbia University, March 9.
- 2005** “Remapping the north Indian world of thirteenth and early fourteenth century Persian literary production”.
at the Conference, *The Material and the Imaginary*, organized by Francesca Orsini, Italian Embassy Cultural Centre, March 14.
- 2004** “Religious and Political Dynamics of the arrival of Islam in India” and “Hindu-Muslim Relations: a history of antagonism or creative syncretism”.
at the National Endowment for the Humanities Workshop on *Religion and Politics in India: Culture, History and the Contemporary Experience*, at the East-West Center, University of Hawaii, June 15-18.
- 2004** “Politics, the Muslim Community and Hindu-Muslim Relations Reconsidered: North India in the early Thirteenth century”.
at the Conference, *Rethinking a Millennium: India from the Eight to the Eighteenth Centuries – a Seminar in honour of Prof. Harbans Mukhia*, at Nehru Memorial Library and Museum, New Delhi, February 2-4.
- 2003** “Politics in the Delhi Sultanate: Thirteenth century north India and the pre-history of Hindu-Muslim Relations”.
at the Conference, *Politics as the Site of the Modern*, at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, October 17-19.
- 2003** “The Woman and the *hisab* of Men: Sultan Raziyya and Early Sultanate Society”.
at Oxford University, May 19th, and at the University of Chicago, June 5.
- 2001** “Defining and Contesting Territory: the Delhi Masjid-i Jami‘ in the thirteenth century”.
at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 12.
- 2001** “The Ignored Elite: Turks and Mongols in the early Delhi Sultanate”.
at Oberlin College, Ohio, April 6.

- 2001** “The Virtuous Patrons: A Persian Secretarial Class and the Turkish Ruling Elite in the Delhi Sultanate”.
at the Conference, *Patronage in Indo-Persian Culture*, organised by the Centre National de la recherche Scientifique, the Sorbonne Nouvelle and Monde Iranien, Paris, March 21-23.
- 2001** “Village Histories and the National Capital: Modernity, Nationalism and its Uses of the Past”.
at the Symposium on *Nationalism and the Past: India*, at the Graduate Institute of International Studies, Geneva, March 16.
- 2000** “Historiographical problems in the study of Medieval Indian Political History”.
at St. Stephens College, Delhi University, August 11.
- 2000** “Muslim identities and the formation of a community consciousness in the Delhi Sultanate of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries”.
at the Conference, *Shifting Communities and Identity Formation in Early Modern Asia*, at the Netherlands Institute of Advanced Studies, Wassenaar, Netherlands, May 22-23.