

BRIAN T. CANNON
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Professional Experience

07/2022 – Present **University of Pennsylvania** – Philadelphia, PA
Lecturer, Critical Writing Program

Education

08/2015 – 12/2022 **University of Pennsylvania** – Philadelphia, PA
Ph.D., History and South Asia Studies (*joint degree*)
Dissertation: “Claiming Caste: Land, Water, and Hierarchy in North India, 1660-1950”

08/2012 – 08/2014 **University of Pennsylvania** – Philadelphia, PA
M.A. South Asia Studies
M.A. Thesis: “Bhats, Bards, and Beggars: The Making of a Modern Caste in Late Colonial Rajasthan”

08/2006 – 05/2010 **Cornell University** – Ithaca, NY
B.A. Economics
Minors: South Asian Studies, German Studies, and Music

Research Languages

Hindi:	Near-native proficiency (reading, writing, and speaking)
Marwari:	Advanced proficiency (reading handwritten and typewritten manuscripts)
Punjabi:	Intermediate proficiency (reading, writing, and speaking)
Urdu:	Intermediate proficiency (reading, writing, and speaking)
German:	Advanced proficiency (reading, writing, and speaking)

Publications

In Progress	“Towards a Macroeconomy of a Desert Indian State, 1885-1926” Part I: Making a Modern Treasury Part II: Institutional Elasticity during Routine Famines Pair of articles to be submitted to <i>The Journal of Economic History</i>
Forthcoming	Review of Claude Markovits, <i>India and the World: A History of Connections, c. 1750-2000</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2021) in forthcoming issue of <i>World History Bulletin</i> .
12/2023	James Tod, <i>The Annals and Antiquities of Rajast’han, or the Central and Western Rajpoot States of India</i> (3 vols.; bicentenary re-issue of this seminal colonial text with new, standalone critical companion volume featuring contextual essays, annotations, and archival content). Edited by Norbert Peabody, with contributions by Ramya Sreenivasan and Brian T. Cannon. Published by Yale University Press with the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

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- 03/2023 “An Enduring Prestige: Land Grants in a Princely State Census”
Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient (Brill).
<https://doi.org/10.1163/15685209-12341599>

Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

- 09/2024 **American Institute of Pakistan Studies Conference Grant**
 Awarded a grant to convene the workshop “Beyond the Border: Ecology, Economy, and Society in the Thar Desert” in collaboration with the University of Sindh, Jamshoro [\$10,000]
- 08/2021 – 05/2022 **University of Pennsylvania Dissertation Completion Fellowship**
 Competitive grant awarding full tuition and stipend by the Department of History to a limited number of doctoral students to complete dissertation writing. [\$42,000]
- 01/2021 – 05/2021 **Vishwabharati Award for Dissertation Completion**
 Awarded by the Department of South Asia Studies at the University of Pennsylvania to facilitate dissertation completion. [\$5,000; declined]
- 01/2020 – 05/2021 **University of Pennsylvania Dissertation Completion Fellowship**
 Competitive grant awarding full course tuition and living stipend by the Graduate Division of the School of Arts and Sciences to a limited number of doctoral students to complete dissertation writing. [\$62,500]
- 12/2019 **Nominated by students for the Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Graduate Student**, conferred by the Graduate Division of the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania.
- 07/2018 – 06/2019* **American Institute of Indian Studies Metcalf Fellowship in Indian History**
 Awarded an eleven-month named junior research fellowship to complete dissertation fieldwork in India. [\$15,500]
 *[n.b. I voluntarily elected to truncate this fellowship to a three-month award]
- 03/2018 – 03/2019 **Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship**
 Awarded a twelve-month research fellowship by the US Department of Education to complete dissertation fieldwork in India and the United Kingdom. [\$46,000]
- 08/2017 – 05/2018 **Penfield Dissertation Research Fellowship**
 Awarded by the Graduate Division of the School of Arts and Sciences of the University of Pennsylvania to complete dissertation fieldwork in India and the United Kingdom. [\$8,500]
- 08/2015 – 12/2019 **University of Pennsylvania Benjamin Franklin Fellowship**
 Awarded full course tuition and living stipend for three years to support the completion of the Doctor of Philosophy degree. The fellowship was funded in part by the Haney Foundation. [\$228,000]

09/2014 – 05/2015	American Institute of Indian Studies Academic-Year Language Grant Awarded full program tuition and living stipend by AIIS on behalf of the US Department of Education for intensive Hindi language training in India. [\$13,500]
08/2013 – 05/2014	Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Academic-Year Grant Awarded full course tuition and living stipend by the US Department of State and the University of Pennsylvania for study of Hindi and regional coursework on South Asia at the graduate level. [\$58,500]
05/2013 – 08/2013	University of Pennsylvania Summer Research Grant Awarded by the Department of South Asia Studies to conduct field research in India to aid the completion of the M.A. thesis. [\$2,500]
05/2013 – 08/2013	Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Summer Grant Awarded full program tuition and living stipend by the US Department of State and the University of Pennsylvania for intensive Hindi language training in India at AIIS, Jaipur. [\$5,500]
08/2012 – 05/2013	Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Academic-Year Grant Awarded full course tuition and living stipend by the US Department of State and the University of Pennsylvania for study of Hindi and regional coursework on South Asia at the graduate level. [\$58,500]
08/2006 – 05/2010	Cornell University Tradition Scholarship Awarded partial course tuition for high school scholarship, community service, and work experience during the high school and college years. [\$16,000]

Extra-Curricular Training

09/2021 – 10/2021	The Where of Why: GIS in the Humanities Classroom, at the National Humanities Center (virtual) – Research Triangle, North Carolina, US Comprehensive course in data application, map layering, and geographic information systems programming via ArcGIS software.
09/2021 – 10/2021	Workshop in Equitable and Inclusive Teaching – Philadelphia, PA Interactive workshop series conducted by the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Teaching and Learning instructing in practical approaches for building an accessible and inclusive classroom.
07/2020	Summer Residency on Digital Humanities, at the National Humanities Center – Research Triangle, North Carolina, US* Selected and funded by the Graduate Division of the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania to participate in the workshop entitled "Passionate Teaching in a Research Environment: How to Create Meaningful Online Experiences."

*[n.b. workshop conducted remotely due to the coronavirus pandemic]

09/2014 – 05/2015	Hindi Language – American Institute of Indian Studies – Jaipur, India Completed the Institute's academic-year program in advanced Hindi.
06/2013 – 08/2013	Hindi Language – American Institute of Indian Studies – Jaipur, India Completed the Institute's summer program in advanced Hindi.

Courses Taught (all at the University of Pennsylvania)

First-Year Writing Seminars

2025	Protest, Power, and Everyday Politics in Contemporary India
2024; 2023; 2022	What Data Can Tell Us about Modern India
2023; 2022	Citizenship and Rights in Pakistan and India
2025; 2024; 2023	The Hidden Influence of the World's Most Powerful Consulting Firm

Undergraduate Seminars and Lectures

2024	Economic Histories of Modern South Asia, 1600-Present
2021	Introduction to Modern Indian History, 1526-Present
2019	East & West: Connecting the Modern World through Commodities
2017; 2015	Performing Arts in South Asia (co-taught)
2016	Hindu Mythology (co-taught)
2013	East & West: Connecting the Modern World through Commodities (co-taught)
2013	South Asia and the City (co-taught)

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

02/2025	Beyond the Border: Ecology, Economy, & Society in the Thar Desert (University of Sindh, Jamshoro, Pakistan) Convened, in collaboration with the University of Sindh and with awarded funds from the American Institute of Pakistan Studies, this workshop of two dozen participants from across Pakistan.
02/2025	Foundation for Agrarian Studies (India-based virtual seminar series) (in collaboration with the University of Oxford) Selected to present revised PhD thesis research on caste and natural resource access in Jodhpur state, northwest India, c. 1660-1950.

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| 05/2024 | Mapping Land and Environment in Historical Rajasthan
(South Asia Center, University of Pennsylvania)
Co-organized workshop to teach fundamental GIS methods to invited faculty from India. |
| 03/2022 | Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting (Honolulu, HI)
Selected to present paper entitled "Land Disputes and Local Bureaucracy in Eighteenth-Century Western Rajasthan" in the panel "Land, Environment, and Bureaucracy in Northwest India, 1675-1825." <i>Also served as panel convener.</i> |
| 01/2022 | American Historical Association Annual Meeting (New Orleans, LA)
Selected to present paper entitled "Fanning the 'Farce': Social Reform Councils in Late Colonial Northwest India" in the panel "Colonial Reform in South and Southeast Asia: Interrogating Meaning & Myth." <i>Also served as panel convener.</i> |
| 10/2021 | University of Wisconsin-Madison Annual Conference on South Asia
<i>(virtual)</i>
Selected to present paper entitled "Claiming Caste: Re-defining Lineage in Late Colonial Northwest India" in the panel "Ideals Enacted: Transitions to Socio-Political Modernity in South Asia, c. 1930-1970 C.E." <i>Also served as panel convener.</i> |
| 07/2021 | European Conference on South Asian Studies <i>(virtual)</i>
Selected to present paper entitled "Reconsidering Customary Law: Local Legalities in and beyond Colonial Rajasthan" in the panel "Crossing Boundaries of British India: New Perspectives on Connected Histories of Princely States." |
| 06/2021 | Young South Asia Scholars Meet <i>(virtual)</i>
Selected to present paper entitled "Land and the (Extra-)Colonial State: An Examination of a Princely State Census" in the panel "Bureaucratic Representations, Records, and the Everyday State." |
| 05/2021 | Yale University InterAsia Water(s) Workshop <i>(virtual)</i>
Selected to present paper entitled "The Pragmatics and Politics of Water in the Seventeenth-Century Indian Desert" in the panel "Institutions and their Discontents." |
| 01/2021 | Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy <i>(virtual)</i>
Selected to present paper entitled "Privileges of Inferiority? Caste, Community, and Socio-Political Mobilization in Twentieth Century India" at the Center's graduate workshop, housed at the University of Pennsylvania. |
| 12/2020 | Delaware Valley British Studies Seminar <i>(virtual)</i>
Invited by the greater Philadelphia area seminar organizers to present paper entitled "Beyond Brahmans: Courtly Land Gifts in Northwest India, c. 1660-1952." |

03/2020*	Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting (Boston, MA) Selected to present paper entitled “Claiming Caste: Re-defining Lineage in Late Colonial Northwest India” in the panel “Ideals Enacted: Transitions to Socio-Political Modernity in South Asia.” <i>Also served as panel convener.</i> <i>*[n.b. conference cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic]</i>
03/2017	Rajasthan State Archives (Bikaner, India) Invited to present paper entitled “Archiving the Bhats and Charans of Colonial Rajasthan” in the panel “Glimpses of State and Society through Archival Records.”

Professional Memberships

2024 – Present	Member, American Institute of Pakistan Studies
2021 – Present	Member, Japanese Association of South Asian Studies
2019 – Present	Member, European Association for South Asia Studies
2018 – Present	Member, American Historical Association
2018 – Present	Member, Association for Asian Studies

References

Ramya Sreenivasan	Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania <i>ramyas@sas.upenn.edu</i>
Richard Eaton	Professor, Department of History, University of Arizona <i>reaton@arizona.edu</i>
Norbert Peabody	President, Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland Affiliated Scholar, Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge Emeritus Editor, <i>Modern Asian Studies</i> <i>np208@cam.ac.uk</i>
Lisa Mitchell	Professor, Department of South Asia Studies, University of Pennsylvania <i>lmitch@sas.upenn.edu</i>