

AJANTHA SUBRAMANIAN

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Anthropology • Harvard University •
21 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138 • subram@fas.harvard.edu

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2018- Chair, Department of Anthropology, Harvard University
2012- Professor, Anthropology and South Asian Studies, Harvard University
2010-2012 Associate Professor, Cultural Anthropology, Duke University
2010-2012 Morris Kahn Associate Professor, Anthropology and Social Studies, Harvard University (on leave)
2009-2010 Morris Kahn Associate Professor, Anthropology and Social Studies, Harvard University
2008-2009 Associate Professor, Anthropology and Social Studies, Harvard University
2003-2007 Assistant Professor, Anthropology and Social Studies, Harvard University
2001-2002 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Cornell University

RESEARCH/TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Economy, Political Ecology, Colonialism and Postcoloniality, Social Movements, Space, Caste, Citizenship; South Asia and the South Asian diaspora

PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Caste of Merit: Engineering Education in India (Harvard University Press, 2019).

Shorelines: Space and Rights in South India (Stanford University Press, 2009).

NAFTA at two years: the human and environmental toll (with John Cavanagh and Sarah Anderson), Washington, D.C.: Institute for Policy Studies, 1995.

Journal Articles

“Meritocracy and Democracy: Indian Reservations and the Politics of Caste,” *Public Culture*, special issue on “Interrogating ‘Diversity,’” Vol. 31, Issue 2, May 2019.

“Making Merit: The Indian Institutes of Technology and the Social Life of Caste,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 57, 2, April 2015.

“Political Anthropology.” *Oxford Bibliographies Online*, 2011.

“Community, Class, and Conservation: Development Politics on the Kanyakumari Coast.” *Conservation and Society*, Vol. 1, No. 2 (July-December), 2003, pp. 177-208.

“Modernity from Below: Local Citizenship on the South Indian Coast.” *International Social Science Journal*, No. 175, March 2003, pp. 135-144.

“Community, Place, and Citizenship.” *Seminar: Shades of Green*, a symposium on the changing contours of Indian environmentalism, No. 516, August 2002.

“Indians in North Carolina: Race, Class, and Culture in the Making of Immigrant Identity,” *Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*, Vol. XX, Nos. 1&2, 2000, pp.105-113.

“Is Development Just a Red Herring? Indian Fishworkers, Multinationals and the State,” *South Asia Bulletin*, Vol. XIV, No.2, 1994, pp. 108-114.

“Between the Devil and the Deep Sea: the Dilemma of Artisanal Fisherpeople” (with M. H. Kalavathy), *Frontline Magazine*, November 18, 1994.

“Routes of Tension: Shadow over a Festival.” *Frontline Magazine*, October 12-25, 1991.

Book chapters

“Caste and Merit,” in Surinder Jodhka and Jules Naudet eds. *Oxford Handbook of Caste in Contemporary/Modern Times*, Oxford University Press, 2019.

“The Meritocrats: The Indian Institutes of Technology and the Social Life of Caste,” in Surinder Jodhka, Jules Naudet, and Gilles Verniers eds. *Sociology of Indian Elites*, Oxford University Press, 2019.

“Merit and Caste in Contemporary India,” Alf Gunvald Nilsen, Kenneth Bo Nielsen, and Anand Vaidya eds. *Indian Democracy: Origins, Trajectories, Contestations*, Pluto Press, 2019.

“Recovering Caste Privilege: The Politics of Meritocracy at the Indian Institutes of Technology,” in Alf Gunvald Nilsen and Srila Roy eds. *New Subaltern Politics: Reconceptualizing Hegemony and Resistance in Contemporary India*, Oxford University Press, 2015.

“Indians in North Carolina: Race, Class, and Culture in the Making of Immigrant Identity” [Reprint] in Min Zhou and James Gatewood eds. *Contemporary Asian America: a Multidisciplinary Reader*, Second Edition, New York University Press, 2007, pp. 158-175.

“Community, Place, and Citizenship.” [Reprint] *Environmental Issues in India*, Pearson Longman, 2007, pp. 444-453.

“North Carolina’s Indians: Erasing Race to Make the Citizen.” In James Peacock and Harry Watson eds. The American South in a Global World, University of North Carolina Press, 2005, pp. 192-201.

“Mukkuvar Modernity: Development as a Cultural Identity.” Agrawal, Arun and K. Sivaramakrishnan eds. Regional Modernities: the cultural politics of development in India. Oxford and Stanford University Press, 2003, pp. 262-285.

Book reviews

“Nature, Culture, Polity: Showcasing Interactions.” Review of Mahesh Rangarajan and K. Sivaramakrishnan eds. India’s Environmental History, Vols. 1 and 2, *The Book Review*, Vol. XXXVI, February 2012.

“The Micropolitics of Nature.” Review of A. Agrawal and K. Sivaramakrishnan, eds. Agrarian Environments: Resources, Representation, and Rule in India, *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 30, No. 3, August 2003, pp. 454-455.

Journalistic essays

“For this aspiring Carl Sagan, merit wasn’t upper caste property,” *Times of India*, January 24, 2016.

“An anatomy of the caste culture at IIT Madras,” *Open Magazine*, June 11, 2015.

“When Students Struggle, They Win: Caste at the Heart of Indian Engineering,” *Counterpunch*, June 10, 2015.

AUDIOVISUAL PRODUCTIONS

2000 *Desi: South Asians in New York*
 (PBS/Glazen Creative Group)
 Associate Producer

1998 *Fishing in the Sea of Greed*
 (Director: Anand Patwardhan)
 Consultant/Interviewer

AWARDS

2015 Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Award

2015 Asia Center Senior Faculty Grant, Harvard University

2015-16 CUNY Graduate Center Distinguished Visiting Fellowship (declined)

2011-12	Fellowship, National Humanities Center, North Carolina
2008	Faculty Research Semester Leave Grant, Weatherhead Center, Harvard University
2008	Junior Faculty Development Grant, Weatherhead Center, Harvard University
2008	Center for the Environment Fellowship, Harvard University
2004-2007	South Asia Initiative Grant for Research Module on “Sites of Translation” (proposed with Professors Smita Lahiri and Engseng Ho)
2002-2003	Yale University Program in Agrarian Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship
2000-2001	Rockefeller Humanities Postdoctoral Fellowship in <i>Creating the Transnational South</i> , Center for International Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
1998-1999	Harry Frank Guggenheim Dissertation Fellowship
1997-1998	Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship in Transnationalism and Public Culture
1995-1997	Social Science Research Council - Macarthur International Peace and Security Fellowship
1995-1996	American Institute of Indian Studies Research Fellowship (declined)

COURSES TAUGHT

Space and Power
 Political Economy
 Politics of Nature
 Race and Caste
 Citizenship
 Development: History, Theory, Politics
 Empire, Nation, Diaspora: Asians in the United States
 Religion and Social Transformation in South Asia
 Comparative Liberation Theologies