

PARAS ARORA

Doctoral Candidate, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University
Visiting Doctoral Fellow, Centre de Sciences Humaines, New Delhi
Dissertation Innovation Fellow, Mellon Foundation & American Council of Learned Societies

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Medical & Psychological Anthropology, Multimodal Ethnography, Care, Disability, Queerness, Gender, Kinship, & South Asia

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Anthropology: Stanford University, U.S.A. Sep 2021-present

Thesis: *'Not a Care in the World? Neurodiverse Adults, Caring Communities, & Uncertain Futures in India'*

Co-supervisors: Prof. Tanya Marie Luhmann & Prof. Angela Garcia

M.A. Anthropology: Stanford University, U.S.A. Sep 2021-Jun 2023

Thesis: *'An Invitation to Ethnographic Drawing: Improvisation, Immersion, & Impression in Fieldwork'*

Supervisor: Prof. Angela Garcia

CGPA-4.127/4.00

M.A. Anthropology & Sociology: The Graduate Institute of International & Development Studies, Switzerland Aug 2018-Sep 2020

Thesis: *'Caring for a Child Who Never Grows Up? Towards an Ethnography of Care Work for Autistic Adults in Delhi'*

Co-supervisors: Prof. Aditya Bharadwaj & Prof. Patricia Spyer

Rank 1 in the university | CGPA- 5.85/6.00 | MA thesis grade point- 6.00/6.00

B.A. (Honors) Political Science: Hindu College, University of Delhi, India Jun 2015-Jul 2018

Top 1% position in the department | CGPA- 7.689/10 or 73 % | High first division

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2024-25 Dissertation Innovation Fellowship, Mellon Foundation & American Council of Learned Societies, U.S.A. (50,000 USD)
- 2024-25 Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, U.S.A. (20,220 USD)
- 2024-25 Research Data Grant, Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, Stanford University, U.S.A. (1,500 USD)
- 2023-24 Robert Bayard Textor Award for Outstanding Creativity in Anthropology, Stanford University, U.S.A. (500 USD)
- 2023-24 Chappell Lougee Mentorship, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Stanford University, U.S.A. (500 USD)
- 2023-24 Arts & Justice Grant, Stanford Arts Institute & Institute for Diversity in the Arts, Stanford University, U.S.A. (650 USD)
- 2022-23 Anthropology Prize for Service to the Department, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, U.S.A. (500 USD)
- 2022-23 Centennial Teaching Assistant Award, School of Humanities & Sciences, Stanford University, U.S.A. (750 USD)
- 2022-23 King Center on Global Development Graduate Research Funding, Stanford University, U.S.A. (7,000 USD)
- 2022-23 Linda Randall Meier Research Workshop Graduate Co-Chairship, Stanford Humanities Center, U.S.A. (2,000 USD)
- 2022-23 South Asia Working Group Fellowship, Center for South Asia, Stanford University, U.S.A. (4,000 USD)
- 2022-23 Robert Lemelson Foundation Fellowship, Society for Psychological Anthropology, U.S.A. (6,000 USD)
- 2021-26 Doctoral Fellowship Award, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University, U.S.A. (1,21,000 USD p.a.)
- 2021-24 Smuts International Doctoral Scholarship Award, University of Cambridge, U.K. (1,70,000 USD)-Declined
- 2021-21 Women in Asia Conference Postgraduate Bursary Award, Asian Studies Association, Australia (100 USD)
- 2020-21 Project Aladdin Youth Award, European Commission & UNESCO, France

- 2019-20 Hans Wilsdorf Foundation Scholarship Award, IHEID, Switzerland (22,000 USD)
- 2019-20 Graduate Institute Full Tuition Scholarship Award, IHEID, Switzerland (8,000 USD)
- 2018-19 Fondation pour l'Étude des Relations Internationales en Suisse Award, IHEID, Switzerland (22,000 USD)
- 2018-19 Graduate Institute Full Tuition Scholarship Award, IHEID, Switzerland (8,000 USD)
- 2018-19 Inclusive Research Award, Asian Undergraduate Summit, NUS, Singapore
- 2017-18 Best Research Paper Award, Hindu College, DU, India

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- 01/2024 *"Care, Kinship & Cognitive Disability in India"*, [podcast](#) for *SASSpod*, Center for South Asia, Stanford
- 06/2023 *"Seeing Intensely, Understanding Gradually"*, [graphic essay](#) for *Anthropology Newsletter*, Stanford
- 07/2022 *"Sustaining Normality, Engulfing Misgendering"*, [artwork](#) for *Anthropology Newsletter*, Stanford
- 09/2021 *"Pride through the Eyes of Queer Muslim Migrants"*, [podcast](#) for *Material Girls*, Empower her Voice
- 06/2020 *"Caring in the Times of Corona: How the Virus Entered an Autism Household"*, [article](#) for *Medical Anthropology*, UCL
- 06/2020 *"The Day that Daadu Died: Mourning with the Virus"*, [article](#) for *The Graduate Press*, IHEID
- 03/2020 *"It's the picture that got big! An Introduction to Visual Anthropology"*, [podcast](#) for *Geneva International*, IHEID

INVITED TALKS

- 06/2024 *"Drawn (to) Care"*, Medical Humanities Arts Showcase, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford
- 04/2024 *"Ghar Tob Sanjhona Hai: Notes on Familial Ethnography"*, Lunch Talk Series, Department of Anthropology, Stanford
- 03/2023 *"Femme in the Field: Conducting Field Research Alongside the Fissures in Gender Normativity"*, Hindu College Queer Collective, Delhi
- 12/2023 *"Drawn (to) Others: Ethnographic Drawing Between Familial & Field Relations"*, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore
- 11/2023 *"Communities of Fate, Commitments of Care: Reconfiguring Kinship as a Site of Ethical Navigation"*, University of Houston, Houston
- 08/2023 *"Drawn into Ethnography: Redrawing the Contours of the Ethnographic Method"*, Thapar School of Liberal Arts & Sciences, Patiala
- 05/2023 *"An Invitation to Ethnographic Drawing"*, South Asia Working Group & Center for South Asia, Stanford
- 07/2022 *"From Families We Choose to Families We Sustain"*, Social Lab, Department of Sociology, Hindu College, Delhi
- 04/2021 *"Queering Integration: Listening to Queer Muslim Migrants in Europe"*, Maurice Chalumeau Centre for Sexual Sciences, Geneva
- 02/2018 *"Conflicts & Canvases: Motherhood, Nationalism, & the Visual Arts in India"*, Dr. Lalita Subhu Memorial Seminar Series, Delhi

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 02/2024 *"Loving Research & Researching Love: Neurodiversity & Caring Communities in India"*, Love Data Fair, Stanford
- 12/2023 *"Beyond the Acknowledgements Section: Claiming Familial Ethnography"*, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle
- 11/2023 *"Disabled Joy as a Shared Aspiration"*, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Toronto
- 10/2023 *"South Asia as Home/Field: Reflections on Fieldwork in South Asia"*, Annual Conference on South Asia, Wisconsin-Madison
- 04/2023 *"Experiments in Ethnography: Drawing Across Differences in Disability Worlds"*, Chicago Ethnography Conference, Chicago
- 04/2023 *"Drawing the Pain of Others: Ethnographic Drawing as Critical Empathy"*, Psychological Anthropology Conference, San Diego
- 09/2022 *"Reading the Care Manifesto in Careless Kinships: Ethics, Endurance, Experiments"*, Next-Generation Global Workshop, Kyoto
- 06/2022 *"Aren't We Disabled, too? Motherhood, Adult Autism, & Kinship Care in Delhi"*, European Feminist Research Conference, Milan
- 11/2021 *"How Does Queerness Makes Kinship & Academia Possible?"*, American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore
- 11/2021 *"Stitching Together Relations: Autism, Motherhood, & Relational Care in Delhi"*, Women in Asia Conference, Melbourne
- 09/2020 *"Caring for a Child Who Never Grows Up? Towards an Ethnography of Care & Autism"*, IHEID Thesis Colloquium, Geneva
- 11/2019 *"Ethical Questions in Disability-Care Ethnographic Research"*, Annual Conference of Swiss Anthropological Association, Geneva
- 07/2019 *"Queering Integration: Queer Muslim Experiences of Migration & Integration in Europe"*, Project Aladdin & UNESCO, Istanbul
- 07/2019 *"We Won't Mother India: Nationalist Motherhood & the Politics of Feminist Mobilization"*, ECPG, University of Amsterdam
- 06/2019 *"Mothering the Nation: Motherhood, Nationalism, & Visual Culture in India"*, Gender History Workshop, University of Cambridge
- 07/2018 *"Towards Inclusion: Creating Gender & Sexuality Sensitization Cells Across Educational Spaces"*, National University of Singapore

FIELD RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2023 Ethnographic research on adult autism & assisted living care services for Ph.D. project in Delhi (3 months)
2022 Ethnographic research on adult autism & assisted living care services for Ph.D. project in Delhi (3 months)
2020 Ethnographic research on adult autism, motherhood, & kinship care for M.A. thesis in Delhi (4 months)
2019 Ethnographic research on religion, gender, & volunteerism for M.A. coursework in Geneva (3 months)
2017 Survey research on sexual, gender-based violence for an internship with Breakthrough India in Delhi (2 months)

MODERATED TALKS AS CHAIR/DISCUSSANT

- 03/2023 *“Doing Textual Research in/on South Asia”* by Kartik Maini, moderated for Stanford South Asia Working Group
02/2023 *“Dignity, Genealogy, & Virtue in Pakistan”* by Saad Lakhani, moderated for Stanford South Asia Working Group
01/2023 *“Systemic Vulnerability: Suffering & Nature in Bangladesh”* by Md. Shakil, moderated for Stanford South Asia Working Group
11/2023 *“Crafting Creative Worlds Within & Beyond Academia”* by Kaustubh Naik, moderated for Stanford South Asia Working Group
10/2023 *“South Asia as Home & Field: A Graduate Student Panel Discussion”*, moderated for Stanford South Asia Working Group
02/2022 *“Intellectual Disability & Special Education in India”* by Shruti Vaidya, moderated for Stanford Anthropology Brownbag
01/2022 *“Relationality as Analytic & Method”* by Dr. Christine Sargent, moderated for Stanford Anthropology Brownbag
01/2022 *“Same-Sex Intimacies & Queer Kinship in India”* by Dr. Jayaprakash Mishra, moderated for Stanford Anthropology Brownbag
01/2022 *“Cultivating Caring Communities in the Times of Covid-19”*, moderated for Stanford Anthropology Brownbag

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2022 *Teaching Assistant* for Anthro 82/Hum Bio 176A: Medical Anthropology by Prof. Angela Garcia, Stanford University
2022 *Curriculum Contributor* for Sosk 209: Introduction to Inequality Studies by Mandira Halder, University of Helsinki

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019 *Research Assistant*, Prison Diaries: Prof. Uma Chakravarti’s Research Project
2019 *Researcher, & Youth Ambassador for Peace & Intercultural Dialogue*, Project Aladdin & UNESCO
2018 *Project Manager*, Asian Undergraduate Summit: National University of Singapore & Hindu College, DU
2018 *President*, Gender & Sexuality Studies Cell: Hindu College, DU
2017 *Research & Advocacy Intern*, Breakthrough India: Indian Women’s Human Rights Organization
2016 *Research & Development Intern*, Kalyanmayee Project: Women’s Welfare Association
2016 *Intern & Classroom Teaching Assistant*, Teach for India

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2022 *Graduate Co-Chair*, The Medical Humanities, Linda Randall Meier Research Workshop, Stanford Humanities Center
2022 *Graduate Co-Coordinator*, South Asia Working Group, Stanford Center for South Asia
2022 *Graduate Convenor*, Conversations on Care Lecture Series, Stanford Anthropology
2020 *Student Representative*, UN@75 Youth Dialogue on Culture & Covid-19 with the UNESCO Director of Cultural Policies
2020 *Student Representative*, External Evaluation & Auditing Committee, Department of Anthropology & Sociology, IHEID
2019 *Student Representative*, Committee for the Appointment of Assistant Professor in Gender & Development, IHEID
2018 *Student Representative*, Gender Equity & Sensitization Committee, Hindu College, DU
2018 *Creative Editor*, Siyasat, Annual Magazine of the Department of Political Science, Hindu College, DU
2017 *Editor*, The Monthly Political, Monthly Newsletter of the Department of Political Science, Hindu College, DU
2016 *Editor*, Subah, Annual hand-written Magazine of the Gender & Sexuality Studies Cell, Hindu College, DU

LANGUAGES

English, Hindi, Punjabi (*Native Competency*) & American Sign Language (*Novice*)

MENTORS

Prof. Angela Garcia, Professor & Chair, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University

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Prof. Tanya Marie Lubrman, Albert Ray Lang Professor of Anthropology, Stanford University

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