



**Global Racisms,  
Cold War Humanism,  
and the Imagination of Just Futures**

**Global Humanities Institute**  
Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes

**December 11–22, 2023**

**Centre for the Study of Developing Societies  
Delhi**

प्रभा



दून औऱ अदून ।

( वह दिन देश का, सौभाग्योदय का होगा जब दूत  
और अदूत कये से कंधा लगाकर खड़े होंगे )

The Touchable and The Untouchable.

(Fortunate will be the country that day,  
when the touchables and the untouchables rise together in embrace)

Source: *Prabha*, Year 5, Volume 2, Issue 1 (1924).

# Programme

December 11–22, 2023

## December 11, Monday CSDS Seminar Room

9—9.30 AM  
Tea/Coffee

9.30—10 AM  
Welcome Address: Prathama Banerjee and  
Anupama Rao

10 AM—1 PM  
Seminar 1: Race, Caste, and Ethnicity in South Asia  
Baidik Bhattacharya, Prathama Banerjee,  
Joy Pauchau

1—3 PM  
Lunch

3—5 PM  
Seminar 2: From Cybernetics to Spectacle  
Arvind Rajagopal

5—6 PM  
Tea/Coffee

6 PM  
A Conversation on Translating Modern Chinese  
Thought.  
Wang Hui, Lydia Liu

7 PM  
Welcome Dinner

## December 12, Tuesday CSDS Seminar Room

9.30—10 AM  
Tea/Coffee

10 AM—1 PM  
Seminar 1: Race, Caste, and Ethnicity in South Asia  
Baidik Bhattacharya, Prathama Banerjee,  
Joy Pauchau

1—3 PM  
Lunch

3—5 PM  
Seminar 2: From Cybernetics to Spectacle  
Arvind Rajagopal

## December 13, Wednesday CSDS Seminar Room

9.30—10 AM  
Tea/Coffee

10 AM—1 PM  
Seminar 1: Race, Caste, and Ethnicity in South Asia  
Baidik Bhattacharya, Prathama Banerjee,  
Joy Pauchau

1—3 PM  
Lunch

3—5 PM  
Seminar 2: From Cybernetics to Spectacle  
Arvind Rajagopal

## December 14, Thursday India International Centre Conference Room I

9.30—10 AM  
Tea/Coffee

10 AM—1 PM  
Seminar 3: Race and Caste  
Anupama Rao, Nahum Chandler

1—2 PM  
Lunch

2—5 PM  
Seminar 4: On the Difficulties (Impossibility) of Repair  
and Restoration in Postcolonial Societies  
Lwando Scott

5—6 PM  
Drive back to CSDS

6—7PM  
Sound Event by Studio.Camp (Shaina Anand and  
Ashok Sukumaran)  
CSDS

7 PM  
Dinner at CSDS

**December 15, Friday**  
**India Habitat Centre**  
**Casuarina Hall**

9.30—10 AM  
Tea/Coffee

10 AM—1 PM  
Seminar 3: Race and Caste  
Anupama Rao, Nahum Chandler

1—2 PM  
Lunch

2—5 PM  
Seminar 4: On the Difficulties (Impossibility) of Repair  
and Restoration in Postcolonial Societies  
Lwando Scott

6—7.30 PM  
Talk by Ranjani Mazumder on Caste and the Urban  
Sensorium in Bombay Cinema

**December 16, Saturday**

10AM—12 noon  
Urban History Walk led by Harini Narayanan

**December 17, Sunday**

Rest day

**December 18, Monday**  
**CSDS Seminar Room**

9.30—10 AM  
Tea/Coffee

10 AM—1 PM  
Seminar 3: Race and Caste  
Anupama Rao, Nahum Chandler

1—2 PM  
Lunch

2—5 PM  
Seminar 5: Politics of Difference and the Modern State  
Yonas Ashine Demisse

5—6PM  
Tea/Coffee

6 PM  
Talk by Ruchi Chaturvedi on the Violence of  
Democracy

**December 19, Tuesday**  
**CSDS Seminar Room**

9.30—10 AM  
Tea/Coffee

10 AM—1 PM  
Seminar 6: Legacies of Internationalism and Socialist  
Imaginarities: Alliances, Affinities and Solidarities of the  
Global Cold War  
Masha Salazkina

1—2 PM  
Lunch

2—5 PM  
Seminar 7: Religion, Race, (Colonial) Modernity  
Gil Hochberg

5—6PM  
Tea/Coffee

6 PM  
Panel Discussion on The Archives of the Minor  
Ravikant, Rahi Soren, Lwando Scott

**December 20, Wednesday**  
**CSDS Seminar Room**

9.30—10 AM  
Tea/Coffee

10 AM—1 PM  
Seminar 6: Legacies of Internationalism and Socialist  
Imaginarities: Alliances, Affinities and Solidarities of the  
Global Cold War  
Masha Salazkina

1—2 PM  
Lunch

Seminar 7: Religion, Race, (Colonial) Modernity  
Gil Hochberg

5—6PM  
Tea/Coffee

6 PM  
Presentation by Shaunak Sen on The More-Than-  
Human City in Cinema

**December 21, Thursday**  
**CSDS Seminar Room**

9.30—10 AM  
Tea/Coffee

10 AM—1 PM

Seminar 6: Legacies of Internationalism and Socialist Imaginaries: Alliances, Affinities and Solidarities of the Global Cold War  
Masha Salazkina

1—2 PM  
Lunch

2—5 PM

Seminar 7: Religion, Race, (Colonial) Modernity  
Gil Hochberg

5—6 PM  
Tea/Coffee

6 PM

Talk by Simona Sawhney on Ambedkar: The Memory of Enmity

7.30 PM  
Dinner

**December 22, Friday**  
**CSDS Seminar Room**

9.30—10 AM  
Tea/Coffee

10 AM—1 PM

Seminar 8: The Politics of Colonial and Postcolonial Difference  
Suren Pillay

1—2 PM  
Lunch

2—4

Open Discussion  
Moderator: Baidik Bhattacharya



*The picture you had long been  
eagerly waiting for!*

RANJIT MOVITONES'

# ACHHUT

Presenting the incomparable star combination of  
Gohar, Motilal, Vasanti, Mazhar,  
Rajkumari, Trilok Kapoor, Charlie,  
Sitara.

**OPPENING FRIDAY, 5th JULY**

A.T.

## EMPIRE

4, Chowringhee Place. Ph. : Cal. 5372  
(Opposite Bengal Stores)

Advertisement for the movie *Achhut* (1940) which focused on the practice of untouchability.

Source: *Dipali*, June 28, 1940.

## Seminar Leaders



**Anupama Rao** is Professor of History (Barnard) and MESAAS (Columbia). She is the Director of the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society at Columbia University, and long time Senior Editor of *Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*. She is completing a monograph entitled *Ambedkar in America*, and editing the forthcoming volume, the *Cambridge Companion to Ambedkar*. She has recently introduced and edited *Memoirs of a Dalit Communist: The Many Worlds of R. B. More* (2019); edited the 2018 reader *Gender, Caste, and the Imagination of Equality* (2018); and is the author of *The Caste Question*, a work of social and intellectual history, which has received critical acclaim for transforming the field's understanding of the relationship between caste and democracy, and for its contributions to political thought and history more broadly. She directs the *Ambedkar Initiative*, which aims to locate Ambedkar in his global and specifically Anglo-American context through engaged pedagogy and public outreach.



**Arvind Rajagopal** is Professor of Media Studies at New York University and is an affiliated faculty in the Departments of Sociology and Social and Cultural Analysis. He is the author of *Politics After Television: Hindu Nationalism and the Reshaping of the Public in India* (Cambridge, 2001), which won the Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy Prize from the Association of Asian Studies and the Daniel Griffiths Prize at NYU, and has edited *The Indian Public Sphere: Readings in Media History* (Oxford, 2009). He has won awards from the MacArthur and Rockefeller Foundations and has been a Member in the School of Social Sciences at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey, and at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington DC.



**Baidik Bhattacharya** is Associate Professor of Literary Studies at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi and works at the crossroads of literary studies, social sciences, and philosophy. He is the author of *Postcolonial Writing in the Era of World Literature: Texts, Territories, Globalizations* (Routledge, 2018) and *Colonialism, World Literature, and the Making of the Modern Culture of Letters* (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming, 2024). He has also co-edited two volumes: *Novel Formations: The Indian Beginnings of a European Genre* (Permanent Black, 2018) and *The Postcolonial Gramsci* (Routledge, 2012). He has held visiting scholarships at the University of Virginia and the University of Western Cape and serves on the editorial board of the journal *Postcolonial Studies*.



**Gil Hochberg** is Ransford Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature, and Middle East Studies at Columbia University and Chair of MESAAS. Her research focuses on the intersections of psychoanalysis, postcolonial theory, nationalism, gender and sexuality. Her books include *In Spite of Partition: Jews, Arabs, and the Limits of Separatist Imagination* (Princeton University Press, 2007); *Visual Occupations: Vision and Visibility in a Conflict Zone* (Duke University Press, 2015), and *Becoming Palestine: Toward an Archival Imagination of the Future* (Duke University Press, 2021).



**Joy Pachuau** is a professor at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her research interest includes the social history of Mizoram and Christianity in India, she has also worked on the Portuguese presence on the west coast of India in the 16th and 17th centuries. She is the author of *Being Mizo: Identity and Belonging in Northeast India* (Oxford University Press 2014). She has also co-authored with Willem van Schendel the two volumes: *The Camera as Witness: A Social History of Mizoram, Northeast India* (Cambridge University Press, 2014) and *Entangled Lives: Human-Animal-Plant Histories of the Eastern Himalayan Triangle* (Cambridge University Press, 2022).



**Lwando Scott** is a Next Generation Scholar at the Centre for Humanities Research (CHR) at the University of the Western Cape. Lwando's research focus is on what he loosely terms "queering the postcolony" and thus incorporate, engage, challenge, and stretch concepts such as decolonisation, sexuality (queerness), gender, culture, and futurities within the post-colonial South African context. His work is a continuation of Queer African Studies that interrogates narrow definitions of "Africanness", definitions that seek to position African queer people as existing outside "Africanness" as such.



**Masha Salazkina** is a Professor of Film Studies and Research Chair in Transnational Media Arts and Cultures institute at Concordia University. Her work incorporates transnational approaches to film theory and cultural history with a focus on the historical relationship between the Socialist bloc and countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. She is currently working on the reception of Latin American popular media in the Soviet bloc in the 1970s-1980s, and the shared history of the circulation of popular music across the Global South and the Socialist bloc. Her books include *In Excess: Sergei Eisenstein's Mexico* (University of Chicago Press, 2009) and *World Socialist Cinema: Alliances, Affinities and Solidarities in the Global Cold War* (California University Press, 2023).



**Nahum Dimitri Chandler** is Professor in the School of Humanities at the University of California, Irvine. He works broadly in the field of philosophical problematics, especially as they concern the history of the human sciences, as well as the concepts of historicity and historical memory in general. He is the author of *Annotations: On the Early Thought of W. E. B. Bois* (Duke University Press, 2023); *"Beyond This Narrow Now": Or, delimitations, of W. E. B. Du Bois* (Duke University Press, 2021) and *X: The Problem of the Negro as a Problem for Thought* (Fordham University Press, 2014).



**Prathama Banerjee** is a historian at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi. She is interested in the complex career of political ideas and concepts as they emerge in the cusp of philosophy, religion, history, and literature and circulate across historical periods and geo-historical regions. She is also interested in the emergent futures of democracy in the digital cum viral age. She is the author of *The Politics of Time: 'Primitives' and History-writing in a Colonial Society* (Oxford University Press, 2006) and *The Elementary Aspects of the Political: Histories from the Global South* (Duke University Press, 2020). She is a member of the Board of the Consortium of Humanities Centres and Institutes (CHCI) and of the editorial collectives of the journals, *Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*, *Modern Intellectual History* and *Political Theory*.





**Suren Pillay** is the A C Jordan Chair and Director of the Centre for African Studies at the University of Cape Town. Earlier he was a professor at the University of Western Cape. His research focusses on political violence, citizenship, and justice claims; and the politics of knowledge production, and intellectual history. He is the principal investigator of the Mellon-funded project *Other Universals: Thinking About Politics and Aesthetics from Postcolonial Locations*. His books include the edited volumes *On the Subject of Citizenship, Late Colonialism in the World Today* (Bloomsbury Press: New York 2023) and *Truth vs Justice? The Dilemmas of Transitional Justice in Africa* (London: James Currey and Natal: UKZN Press 2011).



**Yonas Ashine Demisse** is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Addis Ababa University. His research interest includes political theory and historical and comparative politics of state-society relations in and from Africa. He is the author of *Slaves of State and Intellectuals of Development: A Genealogy of Development in Ethiopia* (Makerere Institute of Social Research, 2022), and co-author of "Implications of Protest and Reform for Domestic Governance in Ethiopia", *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 2021, 56(5): 988-1006.



## Emerging Scholars



**A. Véronique Charles** is a postdoctoral fellow at the Society of Fellows in the Humanities at Columbia University where she is also a lecturer in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies. Charles holds a PhD in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory from the University of Pennsylvania. Charles is at work on a book manuscript that examines Atlantic slavery and its abolition from a continental African perspective through a study of novelistic and autobiographic narratives, nineteenth-century archives of the French colonial and metropolitan administration, and early twentieth-century European school of anthropology.



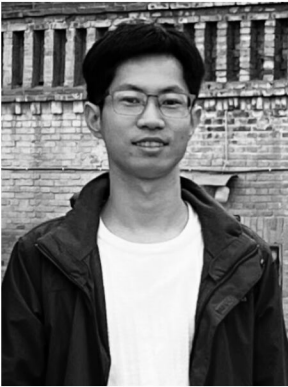
**David Xu Borgonjon** is a PhD candidate in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University. His dissertation examines the Chinese-language literature of Indonesia, 1945–1965, focusing on the relation between racialization, accumulation, and mediation in the context of decolonization. He is specifically interested in the postcolonial problem of the so-called "middleman minorities" during the Cold War. He is also interested in modern and contemporary art and translation/language learning.



**Dickens Leonard** is Assistant Professor of Literature in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. His PhD is on the writings of the nineteenth century Tamil intellectual Iyothee Thassar and Tamil Buddhism. He earlier taught at University of Hyderabad and the Centre for Study of Social Sciences Calcutta in India. He has published on anti-caste thought and Tamil films in renowned journals and edited volumes.



**Haydée Bangerezako** is an assistant professor and researcher in the history department at the University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar (UCAD), Senegal. She holds an interdisciplinary PhD in Social Studies from the Makerere Institute of Social Studies at Makerere University, where she was a postdoctoral fellow, and holds an MA degree in Anthropology from the University of Witwatersrand. Her research interest is in a feminist critique of the conceptual aspects of historical narratives, as well as its decolonization focusing on institutions and oral archives. She is currently researching female priestesses and their shrines to study the relationship between mediumship, the political and history writing.



**Hongyun Lyu** is a PhD candidate in history at the University of Toronto. His research focuses on the history of technology and environmental history in late imperial and modern China. His dissertation, "Powering the Countryside: Electrification and Rural Transformation in North China," examines energy transitions in rural China and how people in the countryside experienced technological and environmental changes brought by electricity.



**Kamna Singh** is a PhD research scholar in the Department of English at the University of Delhi. Her current research project, "Travelogue of Caste: Reading Contemporary Life Writings by Dalit Women in English," delves into the life writings of Dalit authors who have ventured outside India, exploring the impact of global movements on their writings. Her MPhil dissertation, "Twice Unborn: Reading Dalit Women's Autobiographies," contributes to the discourse on narratives of Dalit women. In addition to her research pursuits, Kamna has taught as an assistant professor at Delhi University. She has also worked as a sensitivity reader for Dutch author Ms Aletta Andre's debut novel titled *Het meisjedat door India fietste* (The Girl Who Cycled Through India) and in *Bloomberg* and *Al Jazeera*.



**Kelvin Ng** is a PhD candidate at the Department of History at Yale University. He is also pursuing a graduate certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and a graduate certificate in Translation Studies. His dissertation, "Vernacular Equality: Migration and Resistance in the Indian Ocean," brings together the social history of migration and the intellectual history of internationalism in four linked Indian Ocean spaces: British India, Republican China, British Malaya, and the Dutch East Indies. His research interests more broadly include political economy, intellectual history, and histories of migration.



**Kesha Marvada** is an Assistant Professor at the Department of English, Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad and PhD research scholar at Department of English, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara. His research interest areas are Folklore Studies, Critical Caste and Race studies, Bhakti literature, Kachchh and Western India. His doctoral thesis explores imagined region in folklore and manifestation of caste and class. He is also interested in global humanities in context of caste, race and inequalities.



**Kumari Vibhuti Nayak** is an Assistant Professor at Center for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta. Her research interest examines public health, education, intersectionality, gender-based violence and contemporary issues of indigenous communities. She secured WHO-SEARO region research fellowship, which was coordinated by PHFI Bangalore and UNU-IGH Malaysia and worked on perception of indigenous youth on GBV. Currently, she is researching socio-psychological analysis of indigenous youth in communication, hesitation, and participation in extra-curricular activities which examines how indigenous students experience communication problems in formal education system. Also, she is focusing on ethnographic study of caste in Jharkhand.



**Linda Luu** is a PhD candidate in American Studies at New York University. Their dissertation, "Affective Empire: Race, Psychological Trauma, and the Vietnam War," focuses on the development of theories and technologies of psychological trauma in the U.S. during the Vietnam War era. Their research traces how Cold War imperial and racial regimes shaped the psychological sciences and contemporary understandings of interiority, injury, and healing. Linda's research and teaching interests lie broadly in 20th century histories and cultures of U.S. race and militarism; biopolitics; and critical approaches to science, health, and medicine. Their work appears in the *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* and *Society and Space*.



**Manju Edachira** is a cultural theorist with a special interest in Indian Cinema, aesthetics and affect. She is currently an ICAS:MP fellow and works on the project 'Touching the Contemporary: Anti-Caste Films and their Affective Dimensions in India' through a comparative framework. Her project explores the emancipatory potential of aesthetics in the filmic medium and how films work as archives against dominant historiographies and aesthetics of caste, race, and patriarchy. She recently completed her post-doctoral fellowship at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Delhi. Her PhD (University of Hyderabad) titled "Affective Archives" studied contemporary Malayalam cinema, caste problematic and anti-caste aesthetics. She has received Kerala State Chalachitra Academy Fellowship (2020–21) and the Erasmus Visiting PhD Fellowship (2016, Freie University, Berlin).



**Netasanet Gebremichael** earned her PhD in Interdisciplinary Social Studies from Makerere Institute of Social Research, Makerere University Uganda in 2019. She currently works as an Assistant Professor and researcher at Addis Ababa University's Institute of Ethiopian Studies. Between October 2021–October 2023, she was a Fatima Mernissi Post-Doctoral Fellow at The Africa Institute in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Her research interest focuses on memory, archival studies, historical and cultural documentation practices, particularly through oral history projects. Recently, she completed the first phase of documentation on oral recollections of the 1977 Famine in Ethiopia as experienced by women. She also compiled a monograph based on an oral history study of inter-generational perspectives on Emperor Haileselassie's era. She has published several academic articles and is currently working on a book manuscript titled *Tizita's Path to Reckoning: Reminiscing Asmara from Ethiopia 1998–2018*.



**Peter Yuanxi Chen** is a PhD candidate at Columbia University in East Asian Languages and Cultures, affiliated with the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society. His dissertation, tentatively entitled "Otherwise than Empire: Anarchist Philology in Late Qing China," examines the political and ethical space between philosophy and philology and the possibility of literature therein. Before Columbia, he received his BA in Religious Studies from Pomona College and his MA from the University of Chicago Divinity School in Philosophy of Religions. He spent a year after college in Hangzhou at the China Academy of Art on a Fulbright, conducting a research project on aesthetics and ethics in the work of the twentieth-century artist Feng Zikai.



**Preeti** is a final year PhD candidate at the School of Education Studies, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi. Her dissertation, "Identity, Agency & Activism: A Narrative Inquiry Of Dalit Women Activists' Experiences in Higher Education", brings together the narratives of Dalit Women activists' experiences in higher education, which have been least explored in scholarly literature. Apart from this, her research interests more broadly include issues related to intersectionality, caste, gender, education and higher education in the everyday lives of Dalits.



**Rijuta Mehta** is an assistant professor in the Department of English at the University of Toronto. Her research interests are postcolonial theory, media studies, and feminist archival practices. She is currently completing a monograph on forms of anticolonialism. Her work has appeared in *JCMS: Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*, *differences*, *Cultural Critique*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Hyperallergic*, and *Studies in South Asian Film and Media*.



**Safia Ally Msami** is a PhD student at the University of California, Irvine. Her research interests concern African Black geographies, Black African and African diaspora feminist thought, and infrastructure. In her research, she explores the coupling of in/formal market spaces and urban/rural spaces in Tanzania by tracing the dynamic roles of women across the pre/colonial, socialist, and post-socialist periods. She examines the hauntological hieroglyphics that have come to represent women in Tanzania by attending to the circulation of artwork and sartorial materials. Safia enjoys painting, crocheting, and arranging bouquets in her free time.



**Sagar Naik** is pursuing PhD from the Department of History, Savitribai Phule Pune University. He is interested in exploring the anti-caste discourse in Maharashtra of the 1960s and 70s, focusing on how this discourse emphasized caste, class, and gender dimensions of oppression. He is also interested in decolonial theory and the history of De-Notified (erstwhile 'Criminal') tribes of Maharashtra and documenting, archiving, and writing on the Satyashodhak thought and its synthesis with global intellectual traditions. He wants to study this intellectual tradition as 'philosophy of praxis' and 'new radical' in anti-caste thought.



**Saila Sri Kambhatla** is a PhD student in the Department of Religion at Columbia University. Her research explorations weave into questions of critical religious studies in South Asia, with an interest in understanding the modern histories and religious articulations around village goddess traditions in South India. She works to understand the varied narratives, mythologies and expressions for the human-spirit-deity entities through their relational subjectivities shaped by caste and gender, with a specific interest in the ecological and laboring conditions of life and livelihood. Saila is also a Graduate Fellow for our Global Humanities Institute.



**Samuel Hellmann** is a PhD candidate in Chinese media and cinema at Columbia University. He is affiliated with the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society and the Center for Comparative Media. His dissertation, tentatively titled "International Form / Socialist Content" looks at the work of central state architects in the early years of the Chinese Revolution alongside their Soviet counterparts, turning to both their design work and their theoretical output to reconstruct the parameters of socialist internationalism as it materialized in the physical spaces of urban and rural China. Before coming to Columbia, he earned a BA in history from McGill University and an MA in political theory from the CUNY Graduate Center.



**Shabana M** is a research scholar in the Department of Cultural Studies at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. She has just submitted her PhD thesis titled "Negotiating Agency: Muslim Women and the Public Domain in Contemporary Kerala" and is waiting for her open defence. Her research is broadly in the area of contemporary Muslim womanhood and its politics in Kerala in which she tried to bring out the everyday lives and voices of Muslim women from various strata of the community. She studies Muslim women's politics, religious engagements and eruptions in the public sphere, in order to understand how they regulate their own language of freedom, activism, and gendered religion.



**Shashikumar** is in his fifth year of PhD at the Department of English and Film Studies, University of Alberta. He is working on a 'Radical History of Dalit Literature and Dalit Movement in Karnataka.' In his professional career spanning over a decade prior to this, he had been associated with Oxford University Press India, the National Translation Mission (NTM) and the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL) in editorial capacities. Apart from his doctoral project, he is co-editing *Critical Discourse in Kannada* under Critical Discourses in South Asia series for Routledge India. He writes in Kannada and English in the popular media.





**Surbhi Vatsa** is a doctoral researcher of Modern Indian History at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. She works on transnational and local histories of feminist presses and publications as part of her doctoral thesis, and is interested in ethnographic work and in listening to women's lived experiences. Her interest areas also include urban histories and cultural studies.



**Thomas Crowley** is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Geography at Rutgers University. His current research focuses on political ecologies and geologies of caste, as well as processes of urbanization and industrialization in India. He is the author of *Fractured Forest, Quartzite City: A History of Delhi and its Ridge* (Yoda Press/SAGE Select, 2020).



**Tinashe Mushakavanhu** is a Junior Research Fellow in African & Comparative Literature at St Anne's College, University of Oxford. In 2023, he was also Visiting Assistant Professor in Comparative Literature at New York University and Paris Writer in Residence with the Paris School of Arts and Culture. His primary interests are in archival and literary research, African print cultures and digital humanities. His forthcoming book is *A Brief History of the Zimbabwe International Book Fair* (Cambridge University Press).



**Tony Scott** was born and raised in the badlands of Alberta, Canada. He has a PhD in Religious Studies and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Political Science, University of Toronto. In his current project, Tony deploys Cold War humanism to investigate how Buddhism acted as a vector for discourses and debates about de-imperialization leading up to and after independence in Burma. His broader research profile includes projects on the relationship between religious literature, political power, and meditation in South and Southeast Asia, the visual aesthetics and optical rhetoric of Buddhist saints in the twentieth century, and on deconstructing the settler-colonial metanarratives underlying the history of palaeontology and geology in his natal badlands. Tony has taught courses on Buddhism and Asian Studies at the undergraduate and graduate level, studied in India, Japan, and China, and is active in the intersection between academic research, labour, and decolonizing the classroom.



**Tushar Ghadage** is an interdisciplinary scholar – a law graduate, with Master’s in Social Work specializing in Criminology and Justice, and a trained researcher in anthropology. His doctoral research at the University of Hyderabad titled “*Caste, Religion, and Conversion: Marginalised Communities Contesting Caste through Buddhism in Maharashtra*” explores the religious conversions as an anti-caste movement in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra. He was a visiting research scholar at the National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu, Taiwan, under the Taiwan Experience Education Program (TEEP@India, 2018). His research has been published in academic journals such as *CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion* (Brandies University) and forthcoming in a special issue on *South Asia of Decolonial Subversion* (SOAS).



**Yohann C. Ripert** is the Jane Heman Assistant Professor of French and Francophone Studies and Director of the Honors Program at Stetson University. His innovative research integrates literary and postcolonial theory with foreign policy, critically examining the evolution of sovereignty amidst the re-evaluation of institutional frameworks. Ripert’s new book project, *Sustainable Independence: Forging Mindscales of Governance in the New Sovereignities of the Anthropocene*, investigates how linguistic and ideological construction shape political, transnational, and environmental realities. Ripert is also the author of *Senghor for the Ages* (forthcoming, Duke University Press), which includes first-time English translations of Léopold Sédar Senghor’s speeches and essays, re-evaluating the global impact of Négritude beyond the independence movement. Recognized for his teaching excellence, Ripert’s pedagogical approach merges academic with civic engagement, mirroring his multifaceted background as a Juilliard-trained concert pianist and his involvement with the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.



Liberating the Untouchables

Source: *Bhavishya*, Year 1, Volume 1, Issue 1 (1930).



C H C I



Centre for  
Humanities  
Research ■

