

# Shikha Nehra

✉ [shikhan@stanford.edu](mailto:shikhan@stanford.edu)

Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology  
Stanford University

---

## Education

- 2019–Present **Ph.D. in Anthropology**  
Stanford University
- 2017–2019 **Master of Arts in Anthropology**  
Brandeis University
- 2012–2014 **Master of Arts in Development Studies**  
Ambedkar University, Delhi
- 2012–2013 **Diploma in Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding**  
Lady Sri Ram College, University of Delhi
- 2009–2012 **B.A. (Hons.) in Journalism**  
Kalindi College, University of Delhi

---

## Awards and Grants

- 2022 NSF CA-DDRIG: Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant  
*National Science Foundation*
- 2022 Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant  
*Wenner-Gren Foundation*
- 2022 Graduate Student Research Fellowship  
*Center for South Asia, Stanford University*
- 2020–2021 The Anthropology Prize (for service to the Anthropology Department)  
*Stanford University*
- 2018–2019 Brandeis-India Fellowship (awarded to only two students at Brandeis University)  
*Brandeis University*
- 2018 Digital Identities Research Initiative Fellowship  
*Indian School of Business*
- 2017–2018 Brandeis Graduate Schools of Arts and Science Fellowship (a full-tuition scholarship)  
*Brandeis University*
- 2015 Second Best Paper in Dr. Subrata Mandal Conference  
*Ambedkar University, Delhi*
- 2012–2014 Semester Merit Scholarship (thrice)  
*Ambedkar University, Delhi*

---

## Teaching Experience

- Winter 2024 Introduction to Cultural and Social Anthropology  
*Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University*
- Fall 2020 Urban Culture in Global Perspective  
*Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology, Stanford University*

- Spring 2019 Anthropology of Gender  
*Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University*
- Fall 2018 Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies  
*Teaching Assistant, Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University*

---

## Talks & Presentations

- 2024 Dwelling in Assam: Navigating the Imagined and Lived Nation-State  
*Guest Lecture, Introduction to Cultural and Social Anthropology  
Stanford University*
- 2021 Digitalization of Bureaucratic Practices in India  
*Paper Presentation, Technologies of Bureaucracy: Before and After the Digital Turn  
Stanford-Leuphana Winter Academy*
- 2018 Behind the Smoke Screen: Digitization of Bureaucratic Practices in India  
*Guest Lecture, Introduction to the Comparative Study of Human Societies  
Brandeis University*
- 2018 Understanding Imbrication of Aadhaar with MGNREGA  
*Poster Presentation, Digital Identities Research Initiative Conference  
Indian School of Business*
- 2016 Cash Transfers for Food in Chandigarh: Survey Findings  
*Presentation, National Review Meeting on National Food Security Act  
Right to Food Campaign*
- 2016 Engaging with Policy Analysis: National Food Security Act & Maternity Entitlements  
*Guest Talk, School of Development Studies  
Ambedkar University, Delhi*
- 2015 Maternity Benefits in India  
*Panel Presentation, National Consultation on Reproductive Rights  
Human Rights Law Network*

---

## Research Experience

- 2017 PayDash Project  
*Research Consultant, Evidence for Policy Design, Harvard University*
- 2016 'Rights' & 'Development': Social Policy Implementation in Delhi  
*Research Assistant, Ambedkar University, Delhi  
(with Dr. Nandini Nayak)*
- 2016 National Food Security Act Survey  
*Team Coordinator, Ranchi University, Jharkhand  
(with Dr. Jean Dreze & Dr. Reetika Khera)*
- 2014–2016 CES-Oxfam Implementation of National Food Security Act Project  
*Research Associate, Centre for Equity Studies, Delhi  
(with Dr. Dipa Sinha)*

---

## Publications & Conference Papers

- 2017 Accessing the 'Right to Food' in Delhi  
*Nandini Nayak and Shikha Nehra  
Economic & Political Weekly*

- 2016 Realising Universal Maternity Entitlements in India: Lessons from Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana  
*Dipa Sinha, Shikha Nehra, Sonal Matharu, Jasmeet Khanuja and Vanita Leah Falcao*  
*Economic & Political Weekly*
- 2015 Report on the Study of Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana  
*Vanita Leah Falcao, Jasmeet Khanuja, Sonal Matharu, Shikha Nehra and Dipa Sinha*  
*Centre for Equity Studies*
- 2015 Examining Participatory Citizenship: A Study of India's Maternity Entitlements Scheme – IGMSY – in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh  
*Shikha Nehra and Sonal Matharu*  
*Dr. Subrata Mandal Conference, Ambedkar University, Delhi*
- 2015 Shades of Citizenship: Experiences of Urban Poor in Accessing 'Right to Food'  
*Shikha Nehra*  
*Life in the Indian City – Graduate Students' Conference, IIT, Delhi*

---

## Positions of Responsibility

- 2020–2021 Graduate Student Representative  
*Department of Anthropology, Stanford University*
- 2015–2017 Researcher & Social Media Editor  
*Right to Food Campaign, India*

---

## Internships

- 2013–2014 Migration and Industrial Work: Changing Patterns, Worker Identities, and Livelihood Strategies in the City of Delhi  
*Research Intern, Ambedkar University Delhi*  
*(with Dr. Sumangala Damodaran)*
- 2013 Public Evaluation of Entitlement Programs (PEEP)  
*Research Intern, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Delhi*  
*(with Dr. Reetika Khera)*
- 2012–2013 IDRC Research Project & Initiative for Social Justice & Humanity (ISJH)  
*Intern, Centre for Equity Studies*  
*(with Prita Jha)*
- 2012 Indo-Asian News Service (IANS)  
*Reporting Intern, Delhi*
- 2011 The Hindu  
*Features Intern, Delhi*
- 2011 Hardnews Magazine  
*Editorial & Reporting Intern, Delhi*

---

## Languages

- English – Professional Proficiency  
Hindi – Native Proficiency  
Assamese – Advanced Proficiency