

Shikha Nehra

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Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology, Stanford University

Education

- 2019–Present **Ph.D. in Anthropology**
Stanford University
Dissertation Title: Plural Political Imaginings – Contesting Citizenship, Identity, and Belonging in Assam, India
Committee: Thomas Blom Hansen (Advisor), Miyako Inoue, Kabir Tambar, Mudrit Trivedi
- 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

- 2024 Steven and Debi Wisch Fellowship
Center for South Asia, Stanford University
- 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
- 2012–2014 Semester Merit Scholarship (thrice)
Ambedkar University, Delhi

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*
- 2015 Maternity Benefits in India
*Panel Presentation, National Consultation on Reproductive Rights
Human Rights Law Network*

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

Publications

- 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*
- 2016 Ration to Cash, A Harsh Transition
*Shikha Nehra
India Together*
- 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 How the Centre-State Tussle Over Food Security is Penalising the Poor
*Shikha Nehra and Sonal Matharu
The Wire*

Positions of Responsibility

- 2024–2025 Fellow
South Asia Working Group, Stanford University
- 2020–2021 Graduate Student Representative
Department of Anthropology, Stanford University
- 2015–2017 Researcher & Social Media Editor
Right to Food Campaign, India

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)

Languages

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