

J. Shelby House
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EDUCATION

MA, Sociocultural Anthropology, University of Washington June 2025
Committee members: María Elena García, Jenna Grant, Radhika Govindrajan

MA, South Asia Studies, University of Washington June 2021
Committee members: Radhika Govindrajan, Sunila Kalé, Christian Lee Novetzke, Priti Ramamurthy

BA (cum laude), Political Science and South Asian Studies, Vanderbilt University June 2017
Adviser: Vereen M. Bell Jr.

Visiting Student, Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Edinburgh Aug–Dec 2015

Urdu Fellow, American Institute of Indian Studies, Lucknow, India Jan–Apr 2017, Jan–Apr 2019

Urdu Fellow, Berkeley-AIPS Urdu Language Program in Pakistan (BULPIP), Lahore, Pakistan Aug–Dec 2017

Urdu Fellow, South Asia Summer Language Institute, University of Wisconsin–Madison Jun–Aug 2016

Urdu Fellow, Hindi-Urdu STARTALK, University of Pennsylvania June 2015

Research Interests

American and British imperialism in modern South Asia; global environmental history & climate change; science and technology; historical ethnography; multispecies ethnography; cultural studies & archival methods; Pakistan.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Chapters

- 2024. “‘The end of nature’: pedagogies of grief and more-than-human relations.” Co-authored with Tess Beschel, María Elena García, Nastasia Paul-Gera, and Rachel Ann Rothenberg. In *Lost Kingdom: Animal Death in the Anthropocene*, eds. Arianne Conty & Wendy Wiseman. Vernon Press.

Review Essays

- 2020. *Anthropological Quarterly*, 93(4): 767–778. “Viral Ethnographies: Humans, Animals, and One Health Governance in a Zoonotic Age.” Review Essay of *Rabies in the Streets: Interspecies Camaraderie in Urban India* by Deborah Nadal and *Viral Economies: Bird Flu Experiments in Vietnam* by Natalie Porter.

Book Reviews

- 2023. *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*. Review of *Crooked Cats: Beastly Encounters in the Anthropocene* by Nayanika Mathur. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2022.2107848>
- 2022. *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*. Review of *Animal Enthusiasms: Life Beyond Cage and Leash in Rural Pakistan* by Muhammad Kavesh, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2022.2040814>
- 2021. *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*. Review of *Uncivil City: Ecology, Equity, and the Commons in Delhi* by Amita Baviskar, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2021.1970876>

FELLOWSHIPS

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- James Endowed Fellowship, Department of Anthropology, University of Washington (UW), AY 2024–2025
 - Barclay Simpson Scholars in Public Fellowship, UW Simpson Center for the Humanities, SUM 2023
 - Graduate Fellowship, UW Center for Environmental Politics, AY 2022–2023
 - Foreign Language & Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship in Hindi, UW South Asia Center, AY 2021–2022
 - FLAS Fellowship in Persian, UW Middle East Center, AY 2021–2022 [Declined]
 - FLAS Fellowship in Hindi, UW South Asia Center, AY 2020–2021
 - FLAS Fellowship in Urdu, UW South Asia Center, SUM 2020
 - American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) Urdu Language Fellowship, virtual, SUM 2020
 - Chester Fritz International Research & Study Fellowship, UW Graduate School, SUM 2020 [Declined]
 - Top Scholar Fellowship, UW South Asia Center, AY 2019–2020
 - BULPIP Fellowship. Jointly administered by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies & University of California, Berkeley, hosted at Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore, Punjab, Pakistan, AUT 2017
 - AIIS Urdu Language Fellowship, AIIS-Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India, SPR 2017
 - Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) in Urdu. SUM 2017 [Declined]
 - Gilman International Scholarship & Critical Need Language Award in Urdu, SPR 2017
 - FLAS Fellowship in Urdu, SASLI/University of Wisconsin, Madison, SUM 2016
 - Urdu Fellowship, Hindi-Urdu STARTALK/University of Pennsylvania, SUM 2015

HONORS

- Latin Honors, Vanderbilt University, 2017.
- National Honors in Political Science, Pi Sigma Alpha, 2017.

GRANTS

- Graduate Research Cluster Grant, *More-than-Human Worlds*, UW Humanities Center, AY 2025-2026.
- Pre-Dissertation Fieldwork Grant, UW Anthropology, SPR 2024.
- South Asia Studies Teaching Materials Grant, UW South Asia Center, WIN 2024.
- Pacific Northwest Microgrant, Association for Washington Archaeology, AUT 2023.
- U District Arts Recovery Grant, The U District Partnership, Seattle, SUM 2023.
- John & Eleanor Toews Conference Travel Award, UW Comparative History of Ideas, WIN 2023.
- Graduate Student Conference Presentation Grant, UW Graduate School, WIN 2023.
- South Asia Studies Research Materials Grant, UW South Asia Center, WIN 2022.
- Graduate Research Cluster Grant, *More-than-Human Worlds*, UW Simpson Center for the Humanities. AY 2024-2025
- Capstone Research Funding, American Institute of Indian Studies, SUM 2020. [Program suspended]
- South Asia Studies Research Materials Grant, UW South Asia Center, WIN 2020.
- Conference Travel Award, American Institute of Pakistan Studies, WIN 2020.
- South Asia Studies Conference Travel Grant, UW South Asia Center, WIN 2020.
- Nichols Humanitarian Fund Award, Vanderbilt University, SUM 2014.

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

- “Animals are New Yorkers, Too: Rethinking Pets, Pests, and Pandemics with HBO’s *Animals*.” Panel: *Interspecies homescapes: Reimagining domestic spaces through human-animal relations*. Annual Conference of the Association of Social Anthropologists, hosted by the School of Oriental & Asian Studies (SOAS), University of London, 12 April 2023.
- “*Loo ka Sitam*: The Tyranny of Heat in Modern South Asia.” Panel: *Contemporary Politics in South Asia: Gender, Hindutva, and Public Health*. Graduate Student Workshop, UW South Asia Center, 20 May 2022.
- “*Dhobi ka Kutta*: Rabies, Caste, and the Politics of Dog Culling in Karachi, Pakistan.” Graduate Student Colloquium, UW Asian Languages & Literature, 12 May 2020.
- “Taking Humor Seriously: Phone-Snatching, Comedy and Vulnerability on the Streets of Karachi.” South Asia Conference of the Pacific Northwest. Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC. 27 February 2020.

Invited Talks

- “Indian History, Culture, & Politics: A Crash Course.” UW Foster School of Business, 20 February 2024.

TEACHING - University of Washington

Instructor of Record

CHID 110: The Question of Human Nature – Comparative History of Ideas Department	SPR 2025
HINDI 101-103: Elementary Hindi – Asian Languages & Literature (AL&L) Department	AY 2023-2024

Co-Instructor (with Annie Dwyer, María Elena García, and Rich Watts)

HUM 498: More-than Human Worlds – Summer Research Institute in the Arts & Humanities	SUM 2024
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Teaching Assistant

<i>Anthropology</i>	ANTH 215: Introduction to Medical Anthropology – Marieke van Eijk	SPR 2026
	ANTH 377: Anthropology and International Health – James Pfeiffer	WIN 2025
	ANTH 269: The Anthropology of Love and Sex – Radhika Govindrajana	WIN 2024
	ANTH 210: Introduction to Environmental Anthropology – Denise Glover	WIN 2023
	ANTH 311: The Cultural Politics of Diet and Nutrition – Ann Anagnost	AUT 2023
<i>Law, Societies, and Justice</i>	LSJ 321*: Int'l Human Rights Law in Culture & Practice – Arzoo Osanloo	SPR 2023
	* Cross-listed as ANTH 323	
<i>Communication</i>	COM 220: Introduction to Public Speaking – Matt McGarrity	AUT 2022

Teaching Intern , URDU 201: Intermediate Urdu – Jameel Ahmad, AL&L	AUT 2022
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Volunteer Instructor , Urdu Summer Camp for High Schoolers, South Asia Center	SUM 2020, SUM 2021
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TEACHING - University of Wisconsin–Madison

Hindi-Urdu Language Partner, South Asia Summer Language Institute (SASLI)	SUM 2020
Faculty Assistant, ASIALANG 317-327: Elementary Urdu (with Gwendolyn Kirk), SASLI	SUM 2018

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- Co-Organizer, Graduate Research Cluster, "More-than-Human Worlds," 2024–2026
- Participant, Global Asias Working Group, Henry Luce Foundation, University of Washington, 2024
- Organizer, South Asia Conference of the Pacific Northwest, University of Washington, 2023

LANGUAGES

- **English** (fluent), **Urdu** (fluent), **Hindi** (fluent), **Persian** (intermediate), **Italian** (intermediate), **Spanish** (basic)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Communications & Events Specialist, UW Simpson Center for the Humanities, Oct 2025–Jan 2026
Culture Scenario Writer, Hindi/Urdu, Regional Flagship Languages Initiative, remote, Aug 2022–Jan 2023
Researcher-Editor, The Carter Center for Human Rights, remote, Feb–Jun 2022
Communications Coordinator, Building Movement Project/Third Sector New England, remote, Jan 2021–Dec 2021
Research & Writing Assistant, Deepa Iyer, remote, Jan 2018–Jan 2021
Program Assistant, UW South Asia Center, remote, Sept 2019–Dec 2021
Hindi-Urdu Language Partner, SASLI/University of Wisconsin-Madison, remote, June–Aug 2020
Field-Building Research Consultant, Proteus Fund, remote, Oct 2018–June 2019
WordPress Consultant, American Institute of Sri Lankan Studies (AISLS), remote, Oct 2019–Dec 2020
Communications Consultant, Arjun Singh Sethi, remote, Aug–Dec 2018
Copy Editor Intern, Periscope Creative Agency, remote, Jan–Dec 2018
Curriculum Development Coordinator, Thirty-Six Education, remote, Oct 2014–Dec 2016
Administrative Assistant, Owen Graduate School of Management, Vanderbilt University, Aug–Dec 2016
Peer Adviser, Global Education Office, Vanderbilt University, Jan–Dec 2016
Research Assistant, Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP), Vanderbilt University, May–Aug 2015
Proctor, Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth, Nashville, TN, June–Aug 2014