

SOMA CHAUDHURI

CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of Sociology
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EMPLOYMENT

2017-Present: Associate Professor, Department of Sociology

2008-2017: Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, joint with School of Criminal Justice

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

Core Faculty Member at the following research centers across Michigan State University:

Asian Studies Center; Center for Gender in Global Context (GenCen); Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID); Research Consortium on Gender-Based Violence (RCGV); Muslim Studies Center

EDUCATION

- 2008 Ph.D. Sociology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
Dissertation title: *Tempest in a Tea Pot: An Analysis of Witch Hunts in the Tea Plantations of India (1980 – 2006)* (Chair: Gary F. Jensen)
- 2005 M.A. Sociology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- 2000 M.A. Sociology, Center for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. (Cum Laude)
- 1998 B.A. Sociology (Honors), Department of Sociology, Presidency College, Calcutta, India (Cum Laude)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Movements; Gender; Violence Against Women (Domestic Violence; Rape; Witch Hunts)

Methodological expertise: Qualitative Methods; Software expertise: NVivo

Regional expertise: South Asian immigrant communities; South Asia (India)

Languages: Bengali (native fluency); Gujarati (beginning); Hindi (native fluency);

PUBLICATIONS

Books (Peer Reviewed)

2013 Chaudhuri, Soma. *Witches, Tea Plantations, and Lives of Migrant Laborers in India: Tempest in a Teapot*. Lanham: **Lexington Books, A division of Rowman and Littlefield Publishers**. (Paperback edition July 2016)

South Asia reprint: *Witches, Tea Plantations, and Lives of Migrant Laborers in India*. **Cambridge University Press, India**. 2014.

(Reviewed in *American Journal of Sociology; Mobilization; Gender & Society; International Sociology Reviews; Contemporary Sociology; Contributions to Indian Sociology*)

Book Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/somachaudhuribooks/>

2009 Munshi, Surendra, Biju Paul Abraham, Soma Chaudhuri, *The Intelligent Person's Guide to Good Governance*. New Delhi: **Sage Publications, India**

Hindi reprint: *Sushashan*. Jaipur: **Rawat Publications India**, 2011

Articles (Peer Reviewed) Current or former graduate student co-author's names underlined

2017 Chaudhuri, Soma. *Witches, Activists, and Bureaucrats: Navigating Gatekeeping in Qualitative Research*. **International Journal of Sociology**. Vol. 47 (2): 131-145

2015 Birch Maginot, Kelly and Soma Chaudhuri. 'No Shaming This Slut': Strategic Frame Adaptation and North American SlutWalk Campaigns. **Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change**. Vol. 38:137-170

2015 Chaudhuri, Soma and Sarah Fitzgerald. *Rape Protests in India and the Birth of a New Repertoire*. **Social Movement Studies** Vol. 14 (5): 622-628

2014 Chaudhuri, Soma, Merry Morash and Julie Yingling. *Marriage Migration, Patriarchal Bargains and Wife Abuse: A Study of South Asian Women*. **Violence Against Women**. Vol. 20 (2):141-161 [Lead article; Nominated for best article award in the journal]

- 2012 Chaudhuri, Soma. *Women as Easy Scapegoats: Witchcraft Accusations and Women as Targets in Tea Plantations of India*. **Violence Against Women** Vol. 18(10):1213-1234
- 2012 Chakravarty, Anuradha and Soma Chaudhuri.* *Strategic Framing Work(s): How Micro-credit Loans facilitate Anti-Witch Hunt Movements*. **Mobilization an International Journal** Vol. 17 (2):175-194 (*Equal Authors)
- 2010 Chaudhuri, Soma. *The Fight for Property Rights: How Changes in Movement Actors and History Brought about the Changes in Frames in a Single Movement*. **Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East** Vol. 30 (3):633-643
- 2008 McCammon, Holly, Soma Chaudhuri, Lyndi Hewitt, Courtney Sanders Muse, Harmony D. Newman, Carrie Lee Smith, Teresa M. Terrell *Becoming Full Citizens: The U.S. Women's Jury Rights Campaigns, the Pace of Reform, and Strategic Adaptation*. **American Journal of Sociology**, Vol.113 (4):1104-1147 [Honorable mention for Collective Behavior Social Movement Outstanding Article Award, American Sociological Association, 2009]

Book Chapters (Peer Reviewed)

- 2014 Chaudhuri, Soma. Unusual Expressions of Social Protest: Witchcraft accusations in Jalpaiguri (pages 1-30). CAS Working paper series in the Center for Advanced Studies/Center for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University-CAS/WP/14-5)
- 2013 Chaudhuri, Soma. Extending the Logic of Functional Explanations: A theoretical model to explain the victimization process during an Indian witch hunt (pages 315-333). *Crime and Victimization in the Globalized Era*. Edited by K Jaishankar and Natti Ronel, CRC Press, Taylor and Francis

Non Peer Reviewed Publications:

- 2011 Chaudhuri, Soma. The Case of Witch Hunts in the Tea Plantations of Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. *Conference proceedings. First International Conference of Criminology and Victimology*. Edited by K. Jaishankar and Natti Ronel (230-232)
- 2010 Chaudhuri, Soma. Crime and Legal System in Tunisia. *Crime and Punishment Around the World. Volume 1: Africa and Middle East*. Edited by Mahesh K. Nalla. New York: Greenwood (374-377)

Book Reviews (Solicited; Non Peer Reviewed)

- 2015 Review of *Of Virgins and Martyrs. Women and Sexuality in Global Conflict*. By David Jacobson. **Contemporary Sociology**, Vol. 44 (6):813-815

- 2013 Joint review of *Dispossession and Resistance in India. The River and the Rage*. By Alf Gundvald Nilsen; and *Displaced by Development: Confronting Marginalization and Gender Injustice*. By Lyla Mehta **Contributions to Indian Sociology**, Vol. 47 (3): 464-467
- 2012 Review of *Anatomy of the Red Brigades. The Religious Mind-Set of Modern Terrorists*. By Alessandro Orsini. **Mobilization: An International Journal**, Vol.17 (2):226-227
- 2010 Review of *The Snake Dance of Asian American Activism: Community, Vision and Power*. By Michael Liu, Kim Geron and Tracy Lai. **Mobilization: An International Journal**, Vol.15 (4):537-538
- 2009 Review of *Textures of Struggle: The Emergence of Resistance Among Garment Workers in Thailand* by Piya Pangsapa. **Work Occupations: An International Sociological Journal**, Vol. 36 (4):432-433
- 2009 Review of *Erotic Journeys: Mexican Immigrants and Their Sex Lives* by Gloria Gonz`alez-L`opez. **Sociological Inquiry**, Vol. 29 (4):528-529
- 2008 Review of *The Path of the Devil. Early Modern Witch Hunts* by Gary Jensen. **Feminist Teacher**, Vol. 18 (3): 240-241

WORK IN PROGRESS

Jennifer Cobbina, **Soma Chaudhuri**, Michael Conteh and Victor Rios. “I will be out there everyday strong!” Impact of Protest Policing on Future Activism of Ferguson Protestors, [Revise and Resubmit, Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change]

Soma Chaudhuri, Preethi Krishnan, and Mangala Subramaniam. Mainstreaming Gender, Endangered, Ungendered? Analysis of Media Reports of the 2012 Case of Rape in India. [draft available]

Soma Chaudhuri and Merry Morash. Building Empowerment, Resisting Patriarchy: How grassroots women intervene against domestic violence in Gujarat, India [under review]

RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS

External Research Grants

- 2017-2019 “Building Agency, Resisting Patriarchy: Understanding empowered intervention against domestic violence among grassroots women in Gujarat, India.” **National Science Foundation**. (Chaudhuri PI). Amount Awarded: \$128, 381 [Award # 1658249; https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1658249]

Small Travel Grants

- 2015 Koo Endowment Travel Award, Asian Studies Center, Michigan State University (awarded \$1000 towards SWS meetings)
- 2013 Travel Award to attend the 3rd Annual Conference on Sociology of Development, University of Utah, “Future of Development.”
- 2011 Travel Award to attend the Rethinking Development Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca
- 2010 Special Travel Award for paper presentation at the Moral Panics Conference. London, by International Studies and Program, Michigan State University (\$808)

Internal Research Grants

- 2014 “Empowerment and its implications on grassroots women and their intervention against domestic violence in Gujarat India.” Koo Endowment research award, Asian Studies Center, Michigan State University (awarded \$8000 towards Gujarat project)
- 2013 “Grassroots Women Leaders, Activism against Domestic Violence, and Strategies of Intervention.” *Center for Gender in Global Context*, Michigan State University, Strategic Partnership Grant (awarded \$7700 for pilot study in Gujarat project)
- 2012 “Women’s actions to improve quality of life: The connections between marital abuse and economic empowerment. Laying the Groundwork for Research in Ahmedabad Gujarat, India.” *Asian Studies Center*, Michigan State University, (Strategic Partnership Grant, awarded \$6000 towards Gujarat project)
- 2011 “Women’s Actions to Improve Quality of Life within Patriarchal and Other Hierarchies. Laying the Groundwork for Research in Gujarat, India.” (Chaudhuri PI; Merry Morash CO-PI). Funded by the following centers at MSU: *The Center for Advanced Study of International Development Grant*, (awarded \$3600); *Asian Studies Center*, (Strategic Partnership Grant, awarded \$3600); *Center for Gender in Global Context*, (Strategic Partnership Grant, awarded \$3620).

“How women establish agency in the household in patriarchal societies: SEWA, Marriage Migration and Domestic Violence.” *The Center for Advanced Study of International Development Grant*, Michigan State University, (International Development Grant Program; awarded: \$7500)
- 2009 “(De) mobilizing violence: Social capital, group-based violence and prospects for

social reconstruction.” *The Center for Advanced Study of International Development Grant*, Michigan State University, with Anuradha Chakravarty, University of South Carolina Columbia (awarded \$4000)

- 2007 *Dissertation Enhancement Grant*. Graduate School, Vanderbilt University (awarded \$2000)
- 2006 *College of Arts and Sciences Graduate School Summer Research Award*. Vanderbilt University (awarded \$4000)
- 2005 *College of Arts and Sciences Graduate School Summer Research Award* Vanderbilt University (awarded \$4000)

SELECTED AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2016 John K. Hudzik Emerging Leader in Advancing International Studies and Programs (award includes \$1000 towards research)
- 2015 ‘Excellence-in-Graduate Teaching Award,’ Department of Sociology, Michigan State University [Graduate teaching award]
- Nominated for best article for the journal *Violence Against Women*. Article title, *Marriage Migration, Patriarchal Bargains and Wife Abuse: A Study of South Asian Women*. (with Merry Morash and Julie Yingling)
- 2013 ‘Outstanding Integrative Studies in Social Science Faculty Award’ for 2011-2012, College of Social Science, Michigan State University (award includes \$1000 towards research) [Undergraduate teaching award]
- 2011 Plenary session presenter for South Asian Society of Criminology and Victimology, Jaipur, India. Paper title: “*The Role of rumor and conspiracy against women scapegoats: The case of witch hunts in Indian tea plantations.*”
- 2009 Honorable mention for *Collective Behavior Social Movement Outstanding Article Award*, American Sociological Association. Article title: *Becoming Full Citizens: The U.S. Women's Jury Rights Campaigns, the Pace of Reform, and Strategic Adaptation*. (with McCammon et al)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED PRESENTATIONS 2010 ONWARDS)

- 2017 American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, Montreal
Building Empowerment, Resisting Patriarchy: Understanding empowered intervention against domestic violence, with Merry Morash (Regular session on Development and Gender)
- 2016 American Society of Criminology, New Orleans
Empowerment programs and success of intervention efforts: cases from India, with Merry Morash

- South Asia Conference at University of Wisconsin, Madison.
Empowerment programs, collective mobilization and success of intervention efforts against domestic violence in Gujarat, with Merry Morash
- International Conference on Development in Question, Cornell University
Empowerment, development, and the impact against domestic violence, with Merry Morash
- American Sociological Association Annual Meetings. Seattle.
"I will be out there everyday strong!" Impact of Protest Policing on Future Activism of Ferguson Protestors, with Jennifer Cobbina, Michael Conteh and Victor Rios (Regular session panel on Human Rights) Scheduled
- North Central Sociological Association Meetings, Chicago
Building Empowerment, Resisting Patriarchy: How Grassroots Women Intervene Against Domestic Violence in India, with Merry Morash
- 2015 American Society of Criminology, Washington, DC
Protest policing and impact on collective action: Understanding the Experiences of Radical, Intermediary, and Tourist Protesters in Ferguson, Missouri, with Jennifer Cobbina, Michael Conteh and Victor Rios.
- American Sociological Association Annual Meetings. Chicago.
Mainstreaming Gender, Endangered, Ungendered? Analysis of Media Reports of 2012 Case of Rape in India., with Mangala Subramaniam and Preethi Krishnan**(Session on Race, Gender, and Class)
- Sociologists for Women in Society, Annual Meetings, Washington DC
Women's Empowerment and Domestic Violence Intervention. [supported by a Koo Foundation, Asian Studies Center, MSU, Travel grant]
- 4th Annual Conference on Development Sociology, Brown University
Effects of Empowerment on Domestic Violence Intervention Among Grassroots Women: The case of Gujarat, India.
- 2014 American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA
Domestic Violence Intervention among Grassroots women
- American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, San Francisco, CA
"There is No Shaming This Slut": Frames and the SlutWalk Protests, with Kelly Birch Maginot**
- 2013 American Sociological Association Annual Meetings. New York, NY.

Gendered Gatekeeping and Complexities of Trust Building: A feminist journey in collecting sensitive research data (Session on Feminist Research Methods)

3rd Annual Conference on Sociology of Development, University of Utah, “Future of Development.”

Women’s empowerment through civil societies and its relevance to development: The case of Gujarat, India.

2012 American Sociological Association Annual Meetings. Denver, CO.

Spirits of resistance: Analyzing the effects of development through witch hunts in tea plantations in India.

2011 1st Annual Conference Cornell Conference on “Rethinking Development.”

Development’s malcontent: Witchcraft accusations, tea plantation economy, and lives of migrant laborers.

Collective Behavior Social Movement Workshop, Thematic Session, Las Vegas,
Collaborating and successfully pursuing disparate goals by two or more social movement organizations

South Asian Society of Criminology and Victimology, Jaipur, India

The Role of rumor and conspiracy against women scapegoats: The case of witch hunts in Indian tea plantations

*Paper selected for plenary session for the section on Crime of Culture.

2010 Moral Panics in the Contemporary World, Brunel University, London.

Why women make good witches? Moral entrepreneurs, Credible Scapegoats, and Moral Panics

American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA

De(mobilizing) Violence: Social capital, group-based violence and prospects for social reconstruction with Anuradha Chakravarty

Making, negotiating and breaking the patriarchal bargain: South Asian women, marriage migration and domestic violence, with Merry Morash and Julie Yingling

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC

*Social capital, group-based violence and prospects for social reconstruction with Anuradha Chakravarty***

Southern Sociological Society Annual Meetings, Atlanta, GA

Microcredits and anti-witch hunts campaigns, with Anuradha Chakravarty

**Presented by co-author

INVITED COLLOQUIUMS (SELECTED PRESENTATIONS 2010 ONWARDS)

- 2017 Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata.
Understanding empowerment models in development programs.
- West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences, Kolkata.
Importance of drafting a state law against witch hunting in West Bengal
- 2016 The Muslim Studies Program, Michigan State University.
Transgressing Religious Boundaries in Women's Empowerment: Lessons from Gujarat.
- 2013 Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives, Michigan Traditional Arts Program (MSU Museum) and Labor Education Program (MSU School of Human Resources and Labor Relations).
Organizing in a precarious world of work: The Self Employed Women's Association in India
- International Neurologic and Psychiatric Epidemiology Program (INPEP), Michigan State University, Brownbag Series
Witchcraft accusations and the links to illness and epidemics
- 2011 Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, January. Invited colloquium
Microcredits and anti-witch hunts campaigns
- Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, January. Invited Speaker for Popular Lecture Series. *The problem of witch hunts among the tea plantation workers in North Bengal*
- 2010 Social Science History Association, November. Invited paper presentation on panel *Modernity and its others: Global and Comparative Perspectives*

TEACHING

<i>Graduate Courses</i>	Classical Sociological Theory; Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change; Social Movements; Gender and Power
<i>Undergraduate Courses</i>	Juvenile Justice; Social Movements; National Diversity and Social Change; Violence Against Women

NOTABLE MEDIA APPEARANCES AND CITATIONS (SELECTED REFERENCES 2012 ONWARDS)

- 2017 Interviews on the Voice of America Bangla on the linkages between travel ban and rise of hate crimes against South Asian immigrants post 2016 elections:

<http://www.voabangla.com/a/travel-ban-dr-soma-choudhuri-shegoftah-nasreen-queen-28feb17/3743626.html>

Interviewed by The First Post on witchcraft accusations in India:

<http://www.firstpost.com/living/amid-the-tea-plantations-of-jalpaiguri-west-bengal-what-drives-the-hunt-for-witches-3399248.html>

2016 Interviewed on the Irish National Radio for a feature on Indian witch hunts

Article on the neglect of witchcraft accusation related incidents by the media, published in WION India: <https://www.wionews.com/south-asia/witches-poor-communities-and-the-advocacy-in-india-6055>

2014 Book feature in Gender & Society blog. Link can be found here:

<http://gendersociety.wordpress.com/2014/07/01/witches-tea-plantations-and-lives-of-migrant-laborers-in-india/>

2013 Featured in the documentary “A curse in the family” on Indian witch hunts as an expert. Aired on Aljazeera English. Link to the documentary can be found here:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/101east/2013/01/2013121101834161718.html>

Article on witchcraft accusations among Adivasi in India, published in February issue of Aljazeera Digital Magazine. A brief summary of the article can be found here:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/101east/2013/01/2013121101834161718.html>

Cited in “The Witch Hunts of India.” Friday Magazine, September 4, 2013.

<http://fridaymagazine.ae/features/the-big-story/the-witch-hunts-of-india-1.1227329>

“This is War! Reflections on the Delhi Gang Rape” and other entries. The Feminist Wire, February 2, 2013

<http://thefeministwire.com/2013/02/9990/>

“Rape in India: Domestic and Global Politics.” The Feminist Wire, February 2, 2013

<http://thefeministwire.com/2013/02/rape-in-india-domestic-and-global-politics/>

“Can we End Violence Against Women and Girls?” The Feminist Wire, February 4, 2013

<http://thefeministwire.com/2013/02/ending-violence-against-women-and-girls/>

2012 Research on self help microcredit groups and anti witch hunt protest reported in MSU News, NBC News, Smithsonian, Futurity, Newstrack India, Science codex. among others. Link to MSU news can be found here:

<http://msutoday.msu.edu/news/2012/witch-hunts-targeted-by-grassroots-women/>

Interviewed by 1320 WILS Lansing for research on witchcraft accusations in India.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE (SELECTED)

PhD Dissertation Chair

Ongoing Praveena Laksmanan (Sociology)

PhD Dissertation Committee Member

Defended Jina Lee (Criminal Justice; 2017) Current position: Lecturer at Grand Valley State University
Rachel Johansen (Sociology; 2015)
Rebecca Stone (Criminal Justice; 2014) Current position: Lecturer, Criminology and Justice Studies, University of Massachusetts, Lowell
Breanne Grace (Sociology 2013) Current position: Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of South Carolina, Columbia
Tia Stevens (Criminal Justice, 2013) Current position: Assistant Professor, Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of South Carolina, Columbia
Julie Yingling (Criminal Justice 2013) Current Position: Assistant Professor, Sociology and Rural Studies, South Dakota State University
Mohammad V. Ali (Criminal Justice, 2012) Current position: Assistant Professor, School of Social Sciences & Humanities, University of Management and Technology, Pakistan.
Juyoung Song (Criminal Justice, 2012) Current position: Assistant Professor, Criminology, Penn State University, Schuylkill

Ongoing Kelly Birch Maginot (Sociology)
Michael Conteh (Criminal Justice)

Masters Thesis/Second Year Papers Committee Member

Sociology Kelly Birch Maginot (defended 2014)
Shannon Brenneman (defended 2014)
Paula Miller (defended 2011)
John Clements (defended 2010)
Eric Beasley (defended 2009)
Naomi Glogower (defended 2009)
Breanne Grace (defended 2009)

Criminal Justice

Trevariana Mason (defended 2017)
Marva Goodson (defended 2014)

Independent Studies with Graduate Students

Eric Beasley and Naomi Glogower- Deviant Behavior and Social Control- Spring 2009

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor and Mentor for Capstone Paper

- Fall 2010 Mark Baynai (Peace and Justice Studies)-*Cyber Bullying and Its Problems among School children in USA*
- Fall 2008 Shabana Lakdawala (Peace and Justice Studies) - *Dalit Social Movement in Tamil Nadu*

Service to the University (selected)

- 2014-2016 Advisory Council Member for South Asia, Asian Studies Center, College of Social Science representative (Elected for two year term 2014-2016)
- 2014-2015 Alternate for University Committee on Undergraduate Education, College of Social Science representative
- 2012-2016 GenCen Advisory Committee, Representative from College of Social Sciences (Elected for two year term 2012-2014; re-elected 2014-2016)
- 2011 Advisory Council Member for South Asia, Asian Studies Center, College of Social Science representative (Elected for two year term 2011-2013)
- Faculty Advisory Committee, Center for Integrative Studies, (Served: 2010-2012)

Service to the Profession

- 2016 Mentoring Committee (elected), Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section, ASA
- 2013- Editorial Board Member, *International Journal of Sociology*
- 2007-2008 Graduate Assistant, *Homicide Studies. An Interdisciplinary & International Journal.*
- 2004-2006 Assistant Editor, *Work and Occupations. An International Sociological Journal.*

Reviewer (2008-present)

Reviewer for the following Journals

American Journal of Sociology; American Sociological Review; Asian Journal of Criminology; Feminist Criminology; Gender & Society; Homicide Studies; Humanity and Society; International Journal of Comparative and Applied

Criminal Justice; International Journal of Sociology; Journal of Men Studies; Journal of Urban Affairs; Mobilization: An International Journal; Poetics: Journal of Empirical research on Culture, the Media and the Arts; Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change; Sociological Quarterly; Third World Thematics; Qualitative Sociology; Violence Against Women

Reviewer for the following press

Lexington Books; Oxford University Press

Reviewer for the following grant bodies

National Science Foundation: Panelist for Sociology and Geographic Sciences 2015

Social Science Research Council (SSRC) International Dissertation Research Fellowship competition 2012-2014

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) summer and annual fellowship, MSU, 2014

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Participant, Workshop on NVivo 9, May 2 to May 6, 2011

Participant, *Write Winning Grants*, MAES, January 6, 2011

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (Sectional member: *Sex and Gender; Collective behavior/social movements; Sociology of development; Human rights; Methodology*)
Sociologists for Women in Society