

Curriculum Vitae: Amber Abbas
Associate Professor of History, Saint Joseph's University

Employment

2026- present Professor of History, Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA
2023- 2026 Director, The Nealis Program in Asian Studies
2019- 2026 Associate Professor of History, Saint Joseph's University
2012- 2019 Assistant Professor of History, Saint Joseph's University

Education

2012 Doctor of Philosophy: Department of History, The University of Texas at Austin
2006 Master of Arts: Department of History, UT Austin
1999 Bachelor of Arts: Comparative Area Studies, Duke University

Monograph

Partition's First Generation: Space, Place and Identity in Muslim South Asia, (London: I.B. Tauris, 2021).

Peer-Reviewed Publications

"Experiencing the Past: Oral History as World History," *World History Connected*, Vol. 19, No. 3 (2022): 1-31. <https://doi.org/10.13021/whc.v19i3>
"Death, Distance, and the Digital World," in *The Deathbed*, Nursing Clio, July 16, 2020. <https://nursingclio.org/2020/07/16/death-distance-and-the-digital-world/>
"A Living Legacy: Sir Sayyid Today," in *The Cambridge Companion to Sir Sayyid Ahmed Khan*, ed. Yasmin Saikia and M. Raisur Rahman (New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2018), 255-272.
"A Good Death," in *Tides Magazine*, South Asian American Digital Archive, August 18, 2018. <https://www.saada.org/tides/article/a-good-death>
"Disruption and Belonging: Aligarh University and the Changing Meaning of Place Since Partition," *The Oral History Review* Vol. 44, No. 2 (Sept. 2017): 301-321.
"Sifting Through History," in *Tides Magazine*, South Asian American Digital Archive, May 28, 2015. <https://www.saada.org/tides/article/20150528-4168>
"The Solidarity Agenda: Aligarh Students and the Demand for Pakistan," *South Asian History and Culture Special Issue: Defying the Perpetual Exception: Culture and Power in South Asian Islam*, Vol. 5, No. 2 (2014): 147-162.
"For the Sound of Her Voice," *The Appendix: Out Loud*, Vol. 1 No. 3. July 2013.
"Listening in on South Asian America," in *Tides Magazine*, South Asian American Digital Archive, December 5, 2011. <https://www.saada.org/tides/article/20111205-514>
"Thinking Through Partition." *SAGAR* 17 (2007): 1-10.

Editorially Reviewed Publications

"Meeting the Moment: How 'Listening to Learn' Opened Discussion on Gaza," *Conversations on Jesuit Higher Education*, May 10, 2025. Co-authored with Susan Liebell. <https://conversationsmagazine.org/meeting-the-moment-how-listening-to-learn-opened-discussion-on-gaza-e3677864ec12>

- “His Cycle as Pradip Was Done’: Losing a Father in Philadelphia,” in *Our Stories: An Introduction to South Asian America*, eds. Various (Philadelphia: The South Asian American Digital Archive, 2021), 396-400.
- “Foreword,” *Our Stories: An Introduction to South Asian America* (Philadelphia: The South Asian American Digital Archive, 2021), xxi-xxii.
- “Introduction to Chapter 10: Family,” *Our Stories: An Introduction to South Asian America* (Philadelphia: The South Asian American Digital Archive, 2021) 359-363. Co-authored with Amy Bhatt.
- “Masculinity and the Muslim University in the 1940s,” in *Oxford of the East: Aligarh Muslim University 1920-2020 Centenary Commemorative Volume*, eds. Juhi Gupta and Abdur Raheem Kidwai (New Delhi: Viva Books Pvt., Ltd.: 2020), 1-19.
- “Belonging and the Beginning of the Past in Pakistan,” in *Hidden Histories: Religion and Reform in South Asia*, eds. Syed Akbar Hyder and Manu Bhagavan. (Delhi: Primus Books, 2018), 27-47.
- “The Pedagogy of the Archive: South Asian America in the University Classroom,” *The Journal of American Ethnic History*, Vol. 33, No. 4 (Summer 2014): 61-66.

Book Reviews

- Review of *The Colonel Who Would Not Repent: The Bangladesh War and its Unquiet Legacy* by Salil Tripathi, *The Canadian Journal of History*, Vol. 54, No. 3 (Winter 2019): 457-459.
- Review of *A Free Man: A True Story of Life and Death in Delhi* by Aman Sethi. *Oral History Review*, Vol. 43, No. 2 (Summer/Fall 2016): 431-433.
- Review of *The Aga Khan Case: Religion and Identity in Colonial India* by Teena Purohit. *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*, Vol. 76, No. 3 (October 2013): 545-547.
- Review of *Dead Reckoning: Memories of the 1971 Bangladesh War* by Sarmila Bose. H-Memory, H-Net Reviews. 2011.
- Archive Review “Research in the Maulana Azad Library and other collections at Aligarh Muslim University.” *SAGAR Online*. <http://sagarjournal.wordpress.com/> 2011.
- Review of *The Long Partition and the Making of Modern South Asia: Refugees, Boundaries, Histories*, by Vazira Fazila-Yacoobali Zamindar, *E3W Review of Books*, Volume 8, Spring 2008.

Invited Talks and Papers

- “Personal Memories and Public Histories: Oral History and Possibility,” invited keynote for The Islamic World Oral History Project, University of Massachusetts-Boston, March 31, 2026.
- “Mistaken for ‘Muslim’: Identity and Belonging in South Asian America,” invited talk for Faculty Diversity Lecture Series, Office of the Associate Provost for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Saint Joseph’s University, November 10, 2021.
- “Aligarh Muslim University’s History and Transformative Role in Shaping Identity,” invited Research Conversation for The 1947 Partition Archive, Live, Virtual. September 12, 2021. https://youtu.be/dOk_sZ-PbxA (over 500 views on Youtube; 5,000 views and 92 comments on Facebook)

- “Hijrat: Muslims, Migration, and Belonging in South Asia,” invited paper for Penn Religious Studies Colloquium, The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 21, 2019.
- “Circles of Safety, Landscapes of Fear: Partition in Muslim North India,” invited paper for international workshop, “Locality, Genre and Muslim Belonging in South Asia,” at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, September 15-16, 2017.
- “The Many Voices of Partition: Oral History and Narrative in South Asia,” roundtable panelist for “A Historical Divide: The Partition of India at 70,” The Institute for Historical Studies, The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, April 4, 2017.
- “Partition Stories: Memory, History and Legacies of the 1947 Partition of India,” invited panelist for scholarly panel also featuring partition survivors, sponsored by the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., November 30, 2016.
- “Death and Dying in Pakistan and the Diaspora: Oral History and Meaning at the End of Life,” invited paper for “Trending Pakistan: A History Workshop” sponsored by the American Institute of Pakistan Studies and the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict at Arizona State University, Tucson, AZ, April 28-29, 2016.
- “Partition Stories: Myth, Memory and Politics in South Asia,” invited panelist for Albright College’s *Experience Events* Series, Reading, PA, April 11, 2016.
- “Place, Partition and Meaning: Remembering 1947,” invited paper presentation for the Princeton Hindi/ Urdu Conference, Princeton, NJ, December 4, 2015.
- “Fear and Belonging: The Spectre of Violence in Aligarh, 1947,” invited paper for the presentation of the S.S. Pirzada Dissertation Prize in Pakistan Studies, The University of California, Berkeley, April 25, 2015.
- “Isolation and Solidarity: Aligarh Students and the Demand for Pakistan,” research presentation for “Margins and Centers in South Asian Islam” Conference, The University of North Texas, Denton, Texas, March 11-12, 2011.
- “Sir Sayyid, Education and Nation: Reflections on Aligarh,” keynote speech delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Aligarh Old Boys’ Association, Dhaka, Bangladesh, February 26, 2010.

Research Presentations and Conferences

- “Asianist Life Writing—Part II: Family, Community, and the Diasporic Experience,” The Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH, March 13-16, 2025.
- “Pakistan and South Asian America: Keeping and Teaching Pakistan’s Stories in the US,” Research Presentation at the Pakistan History Workshop, Hosted by the University of Massachusetts- Boston and the Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan, December 18-20, 2024.
- “Oral History as Experiential Education, for All of Us” Research Presentation at the Oral History Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD, October 18-21, 2023.
- “‘I blew up the format’: Students and Faculty Reflect on an Oral History Seminar” Round-table Chair at the Oral History Association Annual Conference, Virtual, October 19-24, 2020.

- “That was our best period”: Aligarhians’ Reflections on Pakistan,” Research Presentation at India and Pakistan: The Formative Phase, 1947-1960 Conference, London, England, May 21-22, 2019.
- “Oral History Pedagogy in Under-Resourced Institutions: Challenges and Solutions,” Round-table Panelist at the Oral History Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada, October 10-14, 2018.
- “Aligarh, Bengal and Partition: New Oral Histories of 70-Year-Old Events,” Research Presentation at the 46th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 26-28, 2017.
- “What We’re Talking About When We’re Talking About Pakistan,” Introductory Lecture at “Pakistan at 70” Conference, Saint Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, PA, October 20-21, 2017.
- “Partition, Pakistan and Bangladesh,” Research Presentation at “Pakistan at 70” Conference, Saint Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, PA October 20-21, 2017.
- “Living through Partition: Continuity and Change in the Subcontinent,” Research Presentation for inter-regional panel “Lived Decolonizations: Local Experiences of Colonial Transition” at the American Historical Association Meeting, Denver, CO, January 5-8, 2017.
- “Space, Place and Experience: Muslim Voices and the Partitioning of India,” Research Presentation at the Oral History Association Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL. October 15-18, 2015.
- “Borders Near and Far: Aligarh, UP and the Partitioning of India,” Research Presentation for National History Center Sponsored Panel, “Regions and Geographies of Decolonization” at The American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York City, NY, January 2-5, 2015.
- “Placing Partition: Alternative Histories of 1947 in India,” Research Presentation for Society for Advancing the History of South Asia Sponsored Panel, “Atypical Archives: Rendering the Past, Commemoration and History in South and Central Asia” at The American Historical Association Annual Meeting, New York City, NY, January 2-5, 2015.
- “We saw dead bodies beside the tracks:’ Trains, Trauma and the Indian Partition” Research Presentation for the Oral History Association Annual Meeting, Madison, WI, October 8-12, 2014.
- “Using the Digital Archive in the Classroom” Workshop Organized for the Association for Asian Studies Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 27-30, 2014. With Dr. Fariha Khan (Penn), Dr. Amy Bhatt (UMBC), and Mr. Samip Mallick (SAADA).
- “Disruption and Belonging: The Impact of 1857 on Memories of 1947” Research Workshop for the Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, March 21-24, 2013.
- “Morning and Mourning in Narratives of India’s 1947 Partition” Research Presentation for The Oral History Association 2011 Annual Meeting, Denver, Colorado, October 12-16, 2011.
- “The Ex-centricity of Aligarh Muslim University.” Research Presentation at The Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 15-17, 2010.
- “Multiple Realities in Post-1947 South Asian Partition Narratives.” Research Presentation at the Institute for Historical Studies Independence and

- Decolonization Conference, The University of Texas at Austin, April 15-17, 2010.
- “Belonging and the Beginning of the Past.” Research Presentation at the Third Annual LUMS (Lahore University of Management Sciences) Social Sciences Conference, Lahore, Pakistan, December 14-16, 2007.
- “Re-evaluating Failure: The Punjab Boundary Force Outside the Archive.” Research Presentation at the 36th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin, October 12-14, 2007.
- “Thinking Through Partition.” Research Presentation at the University of Texas Asian Studies Conference, Austin, Texas, October 13-14, 2006.
- “Baron Henniker’s Notes: Translating Egypt.” Research Presentation at University of South Carolina Graduate Student Literature Conference: Negotiating 19th Century Spaces, Columbia, South Carolina, March 11-12, 2005.

Oral History Consulting, Teaching, Training

- 3-hr Oral History Workshop , University of Massachusetts- Boston, April 1, 2026.
- “Recording Family Histories Workshop,” Forman Arts Initiative, Philadelphia, PA April 30, 2025.
- Oral History Training, Archival Creators Fellowships, The South Asian American Digital Archive. 2019- 2026

Self-Organized Conferences

- “Pakistan at 70,” A conference exploring contemporary life in Pakistan 70 years after independence with a focus on politics, gender and the arts. Sponsored by the Nealis Program in Asian Studies with additional support from the South Asia Center at the University of Pennsylvania. Saint Joseph’s University Philadelphia, PA October 20-21, 2017.

Media

- Guest, “Uncovering our Past,” American Pakistan Foundation’s 2025 Heritage Week podcast with Daniel Waqar, August 2025.
<https://youtu.be/QLw23zOGvwc?si=QDntENiz0HkObxrM>
- “I Was Probably the First Member of my Family to Visit the Home Since 1947,” Contributor to “At Midnight, My Family Was Displaced,” *The New York Times*, Opinion Section, August 14, 2017.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/14/opinion/india-pakistan-partition.html>
- Guest, “Remembering the Great Divide.” *Al-Jazeera The Stream*. August 15, 2015.
<http://stream.aljazeera.com/story/201508121926-0024944>

Pedagogy

- 2022 Consultant, “South Asian America in the Classroom,” Lesson Plans, SAADA.
- “Linking Research and Teaching: International OH in the US Classroom,” Oral History Association Education Committee Blog, July 2016.
<http://www.oralhistory.org/2016/07/06/education-committee-blog-6/>
- “Oral History in the Digital Archive,” Mini-workshop Presentation at the Oral History Association Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL. October 15-18, 2015.
- 2013- 2019 Coordinator, “Forging Collaboration” Pedagogical Exchange, Department of History, Saint Joseph’s University.

Participant, Reacting to the Past Regional Conference at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, January 19-20, 2013.

“Statement of Teaching Philosophy,” in *Innovation Abstracts* Vol. XXXIV, No. 3, National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Newsletter, College of Education, The University of Texas at Austin, 2012.

“Partition in the Classroom: Teaching Migration through 1947 India.” Workshop at Annual National Council on Social Studies Conference, San Diego, California, November 30- December 2, 2007. With Dr. Rachel Meyer and Jamison Warren. (<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/insts/southasia/outreach/k-12/lesson-plans.php>)

Grants, Awards and Fellowships

2025 Faculty Merit Award for Service, Saint Joseph’s University

2022 Faculty Merit Award for Research, Saint Joseph’s University

2022 Co-author with Samip Mallick, Andrew W. Mellon Change Capital Grant for Digital Humanities (\$1 million), Awarded to the South Asian American Digital Archive.

2019 Fall Semester Sabbatical, Saint Joseph’s University

2018 Faculty Merit Award for Teaching, Saint Joseph’s University.

2015 S.S. Pirzada Dissertation Prize in Pakistan Studies. Institute for South Asia Studies, The University of California, Berkeley.

2014 International Seminar on Decolonization. National History Center funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Washington, DC.

2014 Affiliated Faculty Grant, South Asia Center, The University of Pennsylvania.

2013 Summer Research Grant, Saint Joseph’s University, Philadelphia.

2012 Departmental Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Department of History, UT Austin.

2011-2012 Churchill Fellowship, British Studies, UT Austin.

2010 Departmental Research Fellowship, Department of History, UT Austin

2009 American Institute of Bangladesh Studies Junior Research Fellowship

2008 American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Research Fellowship (declined)

2008 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship

2008 Departmental Research Fellowship, Department of History, UT Austin

2008 Critical Language Scholarship for Intensive Language Institutes (Urdu), National Security Language Initiative, United States Department of State.

2008 Summer FLAS Fellowship for language study in India (Urdu), South Asia Institute at the University of Texas at Austin. (declined)

2007 South Asia Institute Travel Grant, South Asia Institute at UT Austin.

2007 Jan Carleton Perry Prize for Best Master’s Thesis “Thinking Through Partition: Finishing the Narrative,” Department of History, UT Austin.

2007 Nominated: Outstanding Master's Thesis/Report Awards for 2006-2007, UT Austin.

2007 Churchill Fellowship, British Studies, UT Austin.

2004- 2006 Pre-Emptive Fellowship, Department of History, UT Austin.

1999-2000 Fulbright Full Grant in Pakistan, Institute of International Education, United States Department of State.

Extra University Service

2024-present Member, Legacy Circle Advisory Board, The South Asian American Digital Archive
 2023-2024 Secretary, Board of Directors, The South Asian American Digital Archive
 2022-present Editorial Board, *Critical Pakistan Studies Journal*
 2021-2022 Member, Board of Directors, The South Asian American Digital Archive
 2019-2021 President, Board of Directors, The South Asian American Digital Archive
 2018-2024 At-Large Trustee, The American Institute of Pakistan Studies
 2015-2022 Member, Education Committee, Oral History Association
 2014-2017 Co-Chair, Academic Council, The South Asian American Digital Archive
 2014-2015 Program Committee, Oral History Association 2015 Conference
 2010-2011 Editorial Board, *SAGAR: The South Asian Graduate Student Journal*, The University of Texas at Austin
 2010 Volunteer, Texas Asia Conference, The University of Texas at Austin
 2006-2007 Officer, South Asia Institute Student Advisory Committee, UT Austin
 2006-2007 History Graduate Council Representative for Asia, Africa, and Middle East
 2006 Organizing Committee, University of Texas Asian Studies Conference

Oral History and Research Experience

2013 Archival Research in The British Library and The National Archives, London, United Kingdom.
 2011 Curator, South Asian Oral Histories of Texas in “South Asian Migration to the US”: The University of Texas at Austin.
 2010 Dissertation research (Oral History and Archival) in Pakistan: Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad.
 2010 Dissertation research (Oral History and Archival) in Bangladesh: Dhaka.
 2009 Dissertation research (Oral History and Archival) in India: Aligarh, Lucknow, New Delhi.
 2008-2009 Intellectual Organization, The Project in Interpreting the Texas Past, Diversity and Identity Oral History Project, Directed by Dr. Martha Norkunas, UT Austin.
 2008 Oral History interviews conducted in Aligarh and Lucknow, India.
 2007 Summer research trip to India Office Records at The British Library, London.
 2006 Summer research trip to Pakistan to conduct oral history interviews.
 2005 Summer research trip to Pakistan to conduct oral history interviews.
 2005 Researcher, The Project in Interpreting the Texas Past, African American History of Austin Oral History Project, Directed by Dr. Martha Norkunas, UT Austin.
 1999-2000 Fulbright Field research with street performers in Lahore, Pakistan.
 1997 Term paper research with theater actors and directors in Rajasthan, India.

Foreign Language

Urdu- competence in reading, writing and speaking
 2008 American Institute of Indian Studies Summer Language Institute (Urdu) in Lucknow, India.
 2004-2006 University of Texas at Austin Urdu Literature with Prof. Akbar Hyder
 1998-1999 North Carolina State University Urdu study with Prof. Afroz Taj

Hindi- competence in reading, writing and speaking
 1997 University of Virginia Semester-in-India Hindi study

1995-1998 Duke University Hindi Study with Gautami Shah

Outreach

December 17, 2016 Panelist, “Voices of Partition: A Dialogue,” sponsored by the 1947 Partition Archive, Bryn Mawr, PA.

May 9, 2013 Guest Teacher, “African and Asian Studies,” Harriton High School, Rosemount, PA.

2011-present Contributor to The South Asian American Digital Archive. Contributed oral history interviews, and an edited collection of undergraduate oral history interviews. www.saadigitalarchive.org.

2010-2011 Contributor to History Website NotEvenPast.org. Contributed book reviews and Oral History interview excerpts on experiences of the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. <http://www.notevenpast.org/listen/voices-indias-partition>

2010 “Masculinity in Transition” informal talk and paper presented to Pathways Project Feminist Reading Group at BRAC University, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Feb 23, 2010.

2010 “Researching Education in India” presentation examining my research experience, the experience of women in Indian universities, and teaching in India presented to Zeta Eta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Austin, TX.

2009 “Pakistan and *Three Cups of Tea*” Book club presentation exploring Pakistan and Afghanistan through photos and stories in response to Greg Mortenson’s *Three Cups of Tea*. With Jamison Warren.

2007-2010 Partition in the Classroom: Teaching Migration Through 1947 India, guest teaching visits to World Studies, World Geography and Asian Studies classes at Austin High School, Austin, Texas. With Dr. Rachel Meyer and Jamison Warren.

2007 Oral History Workshop, a practical workshop on conducting oral history interviews for undergraduates in the Departments of English and History, UT Austin.

2007 “What would you see if you were my guest in Pakistan?” 2 40-minute slide presentations at Diversity Day, McNeil High School, Round Rock, TX.

2004 “Presenting: Pakistan” 30-minute presentation to International Connections Club, Austin High School, Austin, TX.

Professional Memberships and Leadership

The South Asian American Digital Archive, Board of Directors (2019-2024), Board President (2019-2021), Board Secretary (2023-2024)

American Institute of Pakistan Studies, At-Large Trustee

Association for Asian Studies

American Historical Association

Oral History Association

