

IPSITA SAHU, PhD

Cinema and television historian | South Asian media | Gender, institutions, and public culture

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RESEARCH PROFILE

Media and cinema scholar specialising in the history of Indian television before colour broadcasting. Research connects television studies, media historiography, state institutions, intermediality, gender, infrastructure, public culture, production history, and urban memory. Uses archival, qualitative, historical, and interpretive methods. Published in *Women's History Review*, *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television*, *Critical Studies in Television*, and *BioScope*.

RESEARCH AREAS

Television studies; media historiography; South Asian film and media; global and transnational media; broadcasting institutions and policy; gender and media; media infrastructure and governmentality; film exhibition and urban memory; archival and visual research.

EDUCATION

PhD in Cinema Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 2025 Dissertation: *Television before Colour: Intermedial Networks and Imaginations in India, 1959–82* Supervisor: Professor Ranjani Mazumdar Traced the development of Indian television before colour broadcasting through its intermedial form, state-run institutional structure, educational programming, and cultural impact.

MPhil in Cinema Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 2011 Thesis: *From the Ruins of Chanakya: Film Exhibition and Urban Memory* Examined Delhi's pre-globalisation urban history, the disappearance of a single-screen theatre, and the relationship between exhibition, urban space, and collective memory.

MA in Cinema, Visual Arts and Performance Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 2008

BA (Honours) in Philosophy, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, 2006

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles

- "Television grew with us and we grew with television: Women Producers and Cultural Programming in Early Indian Television (1970s–80s)." *Women's History Review* (2026), 1–23. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09612025.2026.2660395>
- "Women's Broadcasting Histories and the Archive: National, Transnational and Transmedial Entanglements." Multi-authored article. *Critical Studies in Television: The International Journal of Television Studies* 20 (2025).
- "Revisiting the Women's Movement in India (1970s–80s) through the *Women's Programme*." *Historical Journal of Film, Radio and Television* 44, no. 4 (2024). Recipient of a 2025 BAFTSS article award; official award wording to be confirmed before submission.
- "From the Ruins of Chanakya: Exhibition History and Urban Memory." *BioScope: South Asian Screen Studies* 9, no. 1 (2018).

Online publication

- "Chromatic Intermedialities and Anachronistic Modernities: Indian Television in the Age of Colour (1970s–80s)." In Kirsty Sinclair Dootson, Ranjani Mazumdar, and Poorvi Gaur, eds., *Bombay Film Colour* website (2025).

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

- **Charles Wallace India Trust Short-Term Research Grant**, 2026. Project: "BBC's Complex Legacy in the Inception of Indian Television."
- **Visible Evidence Best Unpublished Essay Award by a Doctoral Candidate**, 2025. Essay: "Landscape, Conservation and Nationhood in Television Documentary *Perspective*," on the biopolitical mapping of television documentaries during India's National Emergency, 1975–77.

- **British Association of Film, Television and Screen Studies article award**, 2025, for “Revisiting the Women’s Movement in India (1970s–80s) through the *Women’s Programme*.” Official award wording to be confirmed before submission.
- **James Beveridge Media Research Fellow**, Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, 2008–2011. Project: “Film Exhibition and Urban Memory.”
- **Research Fellow**, Sarai, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, 2007–2008. Project: “The Changing Landscape of Cinema: A Case Study of the Ghaziabad Multiplex-Mall.”

TEACHING AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Guest Lecturer, Film Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi, 2016

- Designed and delivered two lectures on cinema and exhibition for the core curriculum *Cinema and the City*.
- Introduced undergraduate students to spatial theory, urban theory, and the sociology of film exhibition through visual archives and local exhibition histories.

Guest Lecturer, Sri Aurobindo Centre for Arts and Creativity, New Delhi, 2017

- Delivered four lectures on film and genre, neorealist cinema, and film and melodrama.

Module design Designed modules in Television and New Media, Cinema and the City, South Asian Film and Television, and Indian Cinema.

Potential teaching contributions Television History; Global Television; South Asian Film and Media; Cinema and the City; Gender and Broadcasting; Media Historiography; Archival Methods; Television, Infrastructure, and Public Culture.

These are proposed contributions. The verified source CV records six guest lectures and module design, not leadership of a full semester course.

EDITORIAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Assistant Editor, *Critical Studies in Television*, Sage Journals, 2025

- Conduct initial manuscript evaluations and assess suitability for peer review.
- Coordinate reviewer assignments and communication among authors, reviewers, and senior editorial board members.

Researcher, OH! Open House, Singapore, 2020–2021

- Researched and documented Singapore’s urban transformation through contemporary visual art.
- Conducted Q&A programmes with artists including Eugene Tan, Alan Oei, Randy Chan, and Ezzam Rahman.

Festival Programmer and Content Editor, Singapore South Asian International Film Festival, 2017–2019

- Curated film selections and developed editorial content for the website, press releases, and festival brochure.

Project Coordinator and Videographer, Sahapedia, New Delhi, 2016–2017

- Led ethnographic documentation of Odisha’s ikat textile traditions.
- Produced a short film featuring weavers at work and wrote and edited articles on textile-making processes.

Head of Film Programmes, DAG Modern, New Delhi, 2014–2016

- Managed a visual-documentation team and film-screening events.
- Directed and conducted interviews for short films featuring artists and curators including Amrita Sher-Gil, Jehangir Sabavala, S. H. Raza, Krishen Khanna, Ranbir Kaleka, and Ranjit Hoskote.
- Contributed to gallery publications including *The Art of Santiniketan*, *Indian Abstracts*, *Indian Portraits*, *Manifestations*, and *Group 1980: India’s Indigenous Modernism*.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

2025

- “Doing Television Histories in the Global South,” *Critical Studies in Television*, Edge Hill University.

2023

- “Television's Arrival in India in the 1970s,” BAFTSS Postgraduate Research Poster Showcase, second place.
- “From Voice of God to Voice of Nation,” Sustainable Futures, BAFTSS Annual Conference, University of Lincoln.
- Roundtable, “Where Are Women in Television Archives?,” Doing Women's Film & Television History Conference, University of Sussex.
- “Melville DeMello and Television Documentaries, *Perspective and Now*,” Screen Studies Conference, University of Glasgow.
- “Educational Television and South Asian Media Historiography,” IAMHIST Masterclass on Media and History.

2022

- “Nostalgia and Digital Spectrality in *Phool Khile Hain*,” Screen Studies Conference, University of Glasgow.
- “Conservation and Development in 1970s Indian Television Documentaries,” Visible Evidence XXVIII, University of Gdańsk.
- “Film-Television Transactions in 1970s India,” BAFTSS Conference, University of St Andrews.
- “Remediating *Phool Khile Hain*,” Console-ing Passions, University of Central Florida, Orlando.

2021

- “Film Stardom and the Television Talk Show,” *Critical Studies in Television*, Edge Hill University.
- “Women Producers and Early Indian Television,” Doing Women's Film and Television History Conference, Maynooth University.
- “Star Discourse in 1970s Bombay Cinema,” Contemporary Cinema, Televisual and Digital Cultures Conference, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

2020

- “Narratives of Conflict: Film Culture and Censorship,” Screening Censorship Conference, University of Ghent and University of British Columbia.
- “Arrival of Television in India: Governmentality and Infrastructure,” Asia at the Crossroads, Association for Asian Studies, Kobe.

INVITED TALKS AND PUBLIC EVENTS

- National University of Singapore, South Asian Studies Programme, 2025.
- Guest Speaker, Film Studies Department, Ambedkar University, 2023.
- Moderator, Wes Anderson Film Festival, American Centre, New Delhi, 2019.

METHODS AND MEDIA PRACTICE

Archival research; media historiography; qualitative and interpretive analysis; visual archives; exhibition history; digital ethnography; interviewing; film programming; videography; digital filmmaking.

- Digital Ethnography Workshop, Sarai, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi, 2026.
- Digital Filmmaking, Objectifs, Singapore, 2025.
- Research Programme, Sarai, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, 2016. Project: “Researching on the Contemporary.”

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Ranjani Mazumdar PhD Supervisor and Professor of Cinema Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University
ranjani.mazumdar@gmail.com

Aswin Punathambekar Professor, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania aswinp@upenn.edu

Ravi Vasudevan Co-Director, Sarai, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies vasudevan.rs@gmail.com

Sarah Arnold Associate Professor and Head of Department, Department of Media Studies, Maynooth University
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