

YASMEEN ARIF

MWK. Distinguished Fellow. 25-26

Current Position

January 2021 - Ongoing

Professor, Sociology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nader University (Institution of Eminence)

January 2021- January 2025.

Head of Department. Department of Sociology. School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nader University (Institution of Eminence)

Professional Experience (Past)

National

Dec 2009 - Dec 2020

Associate Professor, Dept. of Sociology, Center for Advanced Study, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India

April 2002 - April 2006

Research Fellow, Center for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi

International Positions

August 2007 – May 2009

Visiting Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change, University of Minnesota (Twin Cities Campus).

September 2007 – May 2008

Sawyer Seminar Fellow (Post – doctoral Fellowship, Humanitarianisms and World Orders, Mellon Postdoctoral Funding), Department of Political Science and Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Aug 1999 -Dec 1999

Visiting Research Scholar at the School of Public Policy and Social Science Research at University of California at Los Angeles

April 1997- April 1998

Visiting Research Associate at the Center for Behavioral Research, American University of Beirut for the duration of field research.

International Research Fellowships/Awards

November 2025- July 26

Distinguished Fellow. *Max Weber Kolleg. (Institute for Advanced Study)University of Erfurt. Germany.*

May2021-August 2021

Research Fellow. Department of Anthropology, *University of Bergen, Norway.*

April 2019- April 2020

Partnership Collaboration Award. *Univ. of Sydney-Delhi*. Research on Identity in Politics.

August 2013 - August 2014

Fulbright – Nehru Senior Research Fellow. Institute for Advanced Study and Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change, **University of Minnesota, (Twin Cities Campus)**.

February 2012 – July 2012

Global South Scholar-in-Residence. **Graduate Institute of Development and International Studies. Geneva.**

January 2009 – May 2009

Quadrant Fellow. (Mellon Funding) **Institute for Advanced Study, University of Minnesota, (Twin Cities Campus)**.

August 1997 – August 2000.

Doctoral Fellowship awarded by the **Sephis program** based in the **International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam.**

August 1997-August 1998

Doctoral Fellowship from the **Nehru Museum Memorial Library**, New Delhi. Inter-Asia Research. (*Declined*)

Academic Qualifications

2007-2008.

Post-Doctorate. (Sawyer Seminar Postdoctoral Mellon Fellowship). Humanitarianisms and World Orders, Department of Political Science and Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, (Twin Cities Campus).

1996-2004

PhD. Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics (DSE), University of Delhi, India. Dissertation entitled: *Categories of Social Space in an Urban Setting: Case Study of Neighborhoods in Beirut, Lebanon.*

1993-1995

M.Phil. Department of Sociology, DSE. Dissertation entitled: “The Text of Jihad in the Context of the Iranian Revolution.” Awarded First Class

1991-1993

M.A. In Sociology. Department of Sociology, DSE. Awarded First Class.

1985-1988

B.A. In Psychology. University of Delhi. (Indraprastha College for Women). Awarded First Class.

1983-85

Pre University in Arts. Cotton College. Guwahati University, Assam. Awarded First Division.

Outline of Research and Writing

My current research and writing focusses on bio-political critique of identity in the politics of life, which follows from my first book, *Life, Emergent: The Social in the Afterlives of Violence* (2016, University of Minnesota Press). *Life, Emergent* explores a politics of life across multiple global conditions of mass violence. The new book project is tentatively titled *Life, Per se : Critique of a Government of Identity* and explores neo-identities in contemporary democracies. Another area that I am now researching and writing on is the interface between the AI environment and planetary governmentalities. An upcoming volume (Fordham University Press) will be co-edited with Timothy Campbell (Cornell University) and Davide Tarizzo (University of Salerno) on the Biopolitics of Global Health after Covid 19. A constant parallel genre of research and writing has been a commitment to the geo-politics of knowledge production and equitable epistemologies in the contemporary. A large part of my research questions considers the urban and the city as a dominant foil. My field experiences have been in Beirut, Lebanon and Delhi, India.

Overall Research Directions

Biopolitics. Biophilosophies. Social Philosophy. Political Philosophy
Identity Studies
Planetary Governmentality, Artificial Intelligence, Data and Information Societies.
Urban Studies
Science and Technology Studies
Aesthetics
Politics of Life
Identity and Governmentality
International Law
Theory, Epistemology and Method
Violence
Humanitarianisms

Publications

Books

2016. *Life, Emergent. The Social in the Afterlives of Violence*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Edited Volumes

2024. *Event and Everyday : Epistemologies and Empiricisms*. New Delhi: Orient Blackswan.

2018. (Co- Edited.) *Critical Themes in Indian Sociology* (50th Year of Contributions to Indian Sociology)
New Delhi: Sage Publications.

2012. *Journal of the World Anthropologies Network* (Edited). Special Issue Theme: Transforming the Terms of Conversation: Plural Anthropologies and De-centered Knowledges.

Curated Symposia in Journals

2025. Compassion and The City. Curated for “Interventions” in the *International Journal for Regional and Urban Research* (IJURR). Includes five essays with my introduction and a n independent essay.

Peer Reviewed Essays in Journals/ Edited Volumes

2026. (With Timothy Campbell). Introduction to Symposia: The Biopolitics of Global Health – COVID19. Available at [Somatosphere](#).

2025. “Economies of Empathy”. Essay in symposia “Interventions” titled, Compassion and The City. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. IJURR. Vol 49(4): 1000-1006

_____ “Compassion and the City – Introduction”. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. IJURR. Vol 49(4): 967-974

2025. “Enduring Exile and Lasting Loss: The Widows of the 1984 Delhi Sikh Carnage”. Invited Essay for volume “*Re- reading Trauma and Violence: Writings on the 1984 Anti-Sikh Pogrom*”. Edited by Ishmeet Kaur. Orient Blackswan, New-Delhi.

2024. The Emergent Sacred. *Philosophy, Politics, and Critique*. 1:1, 8-12. Available at [Edinburgh University Press](#)

2024. Comparing the situations of anthropologists around the world as to publication and evaluation criteria. *Report of the WCAA Task Force “Making Anthropology Global”*. With Gordon Mathews, Gonzalo Díaz Crovetto, Thomas Hylland Eriksen, P.-j. Ezeh, Shannon Morreira, Chen Gang, Takami Kuwayam. *American Anthropologist* 2024 :1-12.

2022.(Oct). India in World Anthropology: Empire. Colony, Nation. Invited essay for a Wenner Gen Forum curated by Gustavo Lins Rebeiro titled *Pathways to Anthropological Futures*. <https://wennergren.org/online-forums/>

2022(July). Beyond the Postcolonial: Speculations for an Indian Contemporary. In Gita Chadha and Renny Thomas (eds), *Mapping Scientific Method: Disciplinary Narrations*. Routledge India. <https://www.routledge.com/Mapping-Scientific-Method-Disciplinary-Narrations/Chadha-Thomas/p/book/9781032273525>

2022. “Visceral Publics and Social Power: Crowd Politics in the Time of a Pandemic”. In “*The Viral Politics of Covid-19: Nature, Home, and Planetary Health*”. Miguel Vatter and Vanessa Lems (eds). Palgrave Macmillan. Series : BioLegalities. Pp:129-144.

2021. December. Urban Anthropology: India. *International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*. Available at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/9781118924396.wbiea2472>

2021. "The Reluctant Native: Decolonizing Ontologies and Epistemic Disobedience". Invited essay for *HAAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*. Vol 11(1):256-263.
2021. April. "Crisis: A Note for the Humanitarian Encyclopedia"
<https://humanitarianencyclopedia.org/expertise-note/crisis-a-note-for-the-humanitarian-encyclopedia>
2021. "Calling a Pandemic by its Name." *Society and Culture in South Asia*. Vol 7(1): 97-104.
2020. April. "Life and the Interim". Essay on the Covid-19 situation from a bio-political perspective. *Diacritics, Journal of Critical Theory*. Available at <https://www.diacriticsjournal.com/life-and-the-interim/>
2020. "We Don't need Another Hero." In Special Section, "Trial by Fire". *Commoning Ethnography* Vol (3):117-122.
2016. "Anthropologizing the World and Worlding the Anthropologist." *American Anthropologist* Vol. 118(4): 848-851. DOI: 10.1111/aman.12697
2015. "The Audacity of Method" *Economic and Political Weekly* (Special Article) Vol. L (1): 53-61
2015. "Communitas and Recovered Life". In Roma Chatterji (ed.) *Worlding the World: Veena Das and the Scenes of Inheritance*. New York: Fordham University Press. (54 -71).
2013. "Conversation with Marilyn Strathern." (With Janaki Abraham) *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 47(3):423- 438. DOI:10.1177/0069966713496307.
2013. "The Pious City : Comments on the Unusual Urban". In Jochen Becker, Katrin Klingan, Stephan Lanz, Kathrin Wildner(eds.), *Global Prayers. Contemporary Manifestations of the Religious in the City*, Zurich: Lars Muller Publishers. Pp. 566-573
2012. "Emergent Encounters: Towards a Politics of Epistemology". In *Journal of the World Anthropologies Network*, Volume 6 : 23-42
2012. "Foreword". In *Journal of the World Anthropologies Network*, Volume 6:3-6
2011. "Aid, Affect and Afterlife: Reconstituting Life after Catastrophe". *Occasional paper series, Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India*.
2009. "The Landscape of Recovery: The Polysemy of Spaces/Places in Downtown Beirut." In Martina Reiker and Kamran Asdar Ali (eds.), *Spaces of Urbanism: Comparative Citiscapes in the Middle East and South Asia*. Oxford University Press, Karachi.
2008. "Religion and Rehabilitation: Humanitarian Bio-politics, City Spaces and Acts of Religion. *The International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. 32(3): 671- 89. DOI:10.1111/j.1468-2427.2008.00804.x
 (2010. Translated into German. "Religion, humanitäre Biopolitik undurbane Räume. Eine Reise von Beirut nach Delhi. In: metroZones (Ed) *Urban Prayers*. Berlin: Assoziationen A: 131-153.)

2008. "Impossible Cosmopolis': Locations and Relocations in Delhi and Beirut". In Shail Mayaram (ed.) *The Other Global City*. Routledge, New York. Pp:101-130

2007. "The Delhi Carnage of 1984: Afterlives of Loss and Grief". *Domains, The International Journal for Ethnic Studies. Special Issue 'Riots Discourses'*. 3: 17- 40.

2006. "Anthropologies of Difference: The Making of New Encounters". *Journal of the World Anthropologies Network*, 1(2): 41-57.

2004. "Passage out of India". *Economic and Political Weekly*. January 17th – 24th, pp 301-303.

2002. "Past Places/Future Spaces: Recovering Downtown Beirut" In *The Sarai Reader 02: The Cities of Everyday Life*. Delhi: SARAI, Center for the Study of Developing Societies. Also available on the SEPHIS website.

Book Reviews

- 2020. Haley Duchinski, Mona Bhan, Ather Zia and Cynthia Mahmood, 2018 *Resisting Occupation in Kashmir*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. In *Contributions to Indian Sociology*. Vol 50(3): 469-471.
- 2010. Maitrayee Chaudhuri and Manish Thakur, eds. 2018. *Doing Theory: Locations, Hierarchies and Disjunctions*. Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan. In *Contributions to Indian Sociology*. Vol 53(3):449-451.
- 2006. Emma Tarlo. Unsettling Memories: Narratives of India's Emergency. In *Indian Economic and Social History Review*. 43(1): 128-130.
- 2005. Indra Chandra Sekhar and Peter c Seel (Eds.). *Body.City: Siting Contemporary Culture in India*. In *Indian Economic and Social History Review*. 42(4): 558 – 60.
- 1997. T.N. Madan (Ed.). Muslim Communities in South Asia. *Contributions to Indian Sociology*. 31: 159-160.

Presentations (Invited only: National and International)

16th April 26. *Lexicography of the Social at the Time of the Pandemic*. CMP Conversations. Department of Global Health & Social Medicine. **King's College London**.

17th April 26. *Violence, Medicine and the Work of Institutions in Protests*, Roundtable at Department of Global Health & Social Medicine. **King's College London**.

20th April 26. *What language do Machines Speak? LLMs and the Simulated Social*. Keynote Lecture. Kings College Anthropology Network. **King's College London**.

5th -7th May 25. The Great Transformation? AI and Governmentality. **Cornell University, USA**. For workshop related to the Workshop: "Biopolitics and Global health after Covid19".

24th -26th February 25. *What data makes the city: Digitized maps, juridical evidence, and heritage affect in Delhi, India*. ICAS_MP Workshop. Urban Futures. India Habitat Center, Delhi.

11th February 2025. *Transactions in Identity: Norms, Law and the Economy*. Centre for Justice, Law and Society (CJLS), Jindal Global Law School. CJLS Lecture and Conversation Series: Epistemic Echoes: Unveiling ‘Minor Knowledges’

3rd -5th September 24. *What data makes the city: Digitized maps, juridical evidence, and heritage affect in a very old neighborhood in Delhi, India*. Urban Enclaving Futures. Workshop at Dakar Senegal. University of Bergen.

16th November 2023. American Anthropological Association and the Canadian ASA Annual Conference. Panelist in Round Table on “*The Political Event in Anthropology*”, with Frances Cody, Veena Das, Lisa Mitchell and others.

27th July 2023. Panelist. WAU- World Anthropological Union Webinar Findings from the Making Anthropology Global” Task Force: *Comparing the Situations of Anthropologists Around the World*. Hosted by WAU, IUAES (International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences) and WCAA (World Council of Anthropological Associations)

20th April 2023. Book Launch at SNU for Monica Juneja’s book titled: “*Can Art History be made Global*”. Invited comment and discussion as SHSS, Shiv Nadar University.

8th June 2022. University of Bergen Summer School for Doctoral Students (International). Lecture titled: **The Government of Identity**. Theme: **Understanding and addressing inequality: Sustainability, social justice and hope**. Bergen, 7-17 June 2022. Available at:<https://www.uib.no/en/rs/bsrs>

13th June 2022. Panel Discussion on Keith Hart’s book: *Self in the World-Connecting Life’s Extremes*. South Asian University, Department of Sociology Seminar Series.

28th June 2022. Invited Key-Note Speaker for Joint Digital Lecture Series: *Making Sense of the Post-Covid World - Continuities and Changes*. Organized by Humboldt Foundation, Frie Univesitat, Berlin and others. *The Space between Us, Biophilosophies of Identities in Pandemic Spaces*. Available at: <https://youtu.be/p-Gj21Dsdol>

November 4th, 2021. As invited speaker in live webinar on *Beyond Extractivism: Toward New Collaborative Futures in Anthropology*. *Wenner-Gren Symposium organized in the Series on : “Toward a Radically Humanist Anthropology,”* in collaboration with the Association of Black Anthropologists, Anthropology Southern Africa, and the Center for Experimental Ethnography.

August 27th, 2021. “*Visceral publics and social power : Crowd Politics in the time of a Pandemic*” at ‘Viral Politics’ - a *virtual symposium on Viral Politics hosted by the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalisation, Deakin University, Australia*.

May 27th, 2021. *The Government of Identity*. Round Table Title: Sexuality, Political Economy, and the Law: New and Old Materialisms . *Law and Society Association Virtual Conference/May 26-30 (anchored in Chicago)*

Feb 10th, 2021. *Body.Space.Social*. Plenary Speaker. Globalization and New Terrains of Consciousness. **Jamia Milia Islamia, MHRD and the University of Wurzburg.**

Jan 15th, 2021. Keynote Address. *Life per se*. Graduate Students Conference. **Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.**

Nov 1st, 2019. *Humanity, Identity, Biopolitics* Symposium. School of Social Sciences. **University of Sydney.**

July 23-24th. 2019. *Cosmopolitics*. Invited workshop. *Shiv Nader University*, UP, India

Sept 19th - 21st, 2018. *The Hierarchies of Knowing Life: The Event of a Suicide Note*. Egalitarianism, Hierarchy and Global Intellectual Labour beyond the West Workshop. **University of Bergen, Norway - NIAS. Bengaluru.**

May 3 - 4, 2018. *For an Aesthetics of Identity, Or, Against the Fetish of Difference*. **Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Gottingen, Germany.**

November 16, 2016. *Life, Emergent: The Social in the Afterlives of Violence*. Panel discussion on book. **University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, USA.**

October 12, 2016. *Culture of Money*. **The University of Sydney Business School, Discipline of Business Law.**

October 13, 2016. *Emotional Cities: The Urban as the Frontier of Crises and Compassion*. **Dept. of Sociology and Social Theory. University of Sydney.**

November 2015. *Thinking World Anthropologies with Derrida*. Invited Executive Roundtable titled “Between World Anthropologies and World Anthropology: towards a reflexive critique of the mediation processes” organized by the **Transnational Relations and Collaborations Sub-Committee of the AAA. (WCAA). Denver, USA.**

April 2015. *Crime and Punishment in International Law: Humanity as the Final Sovereign*. **South Asian University. Delhi, India.**

February 2015. *Cinema and the Undoing of History: Proposing Universal Memory as a Politics of Life*. Opening lecture, Workshop on “Memory, Violence and Cinema”. **Graduate Institute of International Studies. Geneva, Switzerland.**

March 2014. *Law, Life and Humanity: Recovering the Social after Damage*. Public Lecture. **Institute for Advanced Study, University of Minnesota (Twin Cities Campus)**

February 2014. **The Audacity of Method**. Institute for Advanced Study, University of Minnesota.

February 2014. *The Meaning of Life. Approaches from Devastation*. **Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of Global Change. University of Minnesota (Twin Cities Campus).**

March 2012. *Humanitarian Space and the Politics of Life*. Ethnologisches Seminar
Universitaet Zuerich (**University of Zurich, Switzerland**)

November 2011. *Communitas and Recovery*. Final Conference of the European Union Program,
Department of Sociology. Final Conference . **University of Delhi**

OCTOBER 2010. *Between us and Amongst Them: Towards Emergent Encounters and New Epistemologies*.
**IUAES (International Union for Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences) Conference in
Antalya, Turkey.**

September 2010. *The Affect Artifact: Emotive Experiences in Reclaiming Life*. **Department of Sociology,
Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.**

April 2010. Opening and Closing Panel Presentations. *Frames of Violence* Symposium, Consortium for
the Study of the Asias. **University of Minnesota (Twin Cities Campus)**

April 2010. Panel presentation on *Transnational Knowledge Production*. Interdisciplinary Center for the
Study of Global Change, **University of Minnesota (Twin Cities Campus)**. Conference on
“ICGC after Twenty Years”

February 2009. Catastrophe/Afterlife, Constituting Life at the Threshold. **Institute for Advanced
Study. University of Minnesota (Twin Cities Campus)**. Also available at
<http://ias.umn.edu/media/YasmeenArif.php>

November 2008. Emplacing Humanitarian Biopolitics: Religion and Space in Beirut, Delhi and
Ahmedabad. **Center for Middle Eastern Studies, University of California, Berkeley.**

October 2008. Panel presentation on the theme of The Bridge, The River, The City – Discussions
on the Minnesota Bridge Collapse. **Institute for Advanced Study, University of Minnesota
(Twin Cities Campus)**. Also available at
<http://ias.umn.edu/media/CityRiverBridgeArifHorrigan/php>.

September 2008 Towards a New Knowledge Cartography. Interdisciplinary Center for the Study of
Global Change, **University of Minnesota (Twin Cities Campus)**.

April 2008. Anthropologies of difference, the making of new encounters. Department of
Anthropology, **University of Minnesota (Twin Cities Campus)**

February 2008. Catastrophe/Afterlife, Constituting Life at the Threshold. *Public Lecture*. **Syracuse
University.**

March 2008. Architectures of Emptiness Symposium. Panel presentation. **University of
Minnesota (Twin Cities Campus)**.

June 2007. Alternate Globalities. *Public Lecture for the Critical Courses@Ottawa Symposium*. **Carlton
University, Ottawa, Canada.**

May 2007. Mughals, Mystics and Mandirs: A Legacy of Communal Harmony in Delhi. **Conference on Dialogue on Democracy and Pluralism in South Asia. IIC, Delhi.**

September 2006. Towards a New Anthropological Cartography. **EASA Biennial Conference. University of Bristol, UK.**

October 2005. Impossible Cosmopolis?: Locations and Relocations in Beirut and Delhi. Workshop on "Communities in Interaction". **Center for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi.** Also presented at the Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, December 2006.

November 2004. The New Past: Rebuilding Downtown Beirut. **Manchester Metropolitan University. Conference on the Politics of Cultural Memory, UK.**

September 2004. Anthropologies of Difference. Department of Sociology, **Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.**

September 2002. "Simulating Pasts in New Futures: Architectural Imaging in Reconstruction." Department of Sociology, **Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.**

October 2001. "Stories and Places: The Lived Experience of Recovery in Post Crisis Beirut." **Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.**

March 2000. "Squares Arranged according to the Laws of Chance: The craft of assembling Ethnography". For Workshop titled 'Beyond Boundaries: Self, Method and Representation.' **Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.**

March 1999. "Narratives and Neighborhoods: Case Study of Post War Beirut" **Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi.**

November 1999. "Places of Recovery: Spaces of Hybridity" **School of Public Policy and Social Science Research, University of California at Los Angeles.**

April 1998. "The Practice of Recovery in Post-Crisis Beirut" - Work in Progress **Center for Behavioral Research, American University of Beirut, Lebanon.**