SAGNIK DUTTA

EMAIL: sagnik.dutta@fau.de

APPOINTMENTS

Current Position
Researcher, Cluster of Excellence, Transforming Human Rights
Frederic Alexander University, Erlangen-Nuremberg

Previous Positions

Researcher, Tilburg University,
1st September, 2024 – 2026
Address: Department of Culture Studies
Tilburg University
PO Box 90153
5000 LE Tilburg
The Netherlands

OP Jindal Global University, Jindal Global Law School – Associate Professor
18th January 2021 – 23rd August 2024
Address: OP JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY • JINDAL GLOBAL LAW SCHOOL •
Sonipat, Narela Road Near Jagdishpur Village
Sonipat, Haryana – 131 001, India

School of Oriental and African Studies, Department of Politics and International Studies
1st September 2020 – 31st December 2020 – Senior Teaching Fellow
Address: 10 Thornhaugh St, London WC1H 0XG, UK

University College London, Department of Geography
1st September 2020 – 31st December 2020 – Postgraduate teaching assistant
Address: Gower St, London WC1E 6BT, UK

EDUCATION

University of Cambridge, Corpus Christi College
PhD Politics and International Studies, 2020.
Dissertation Title: Bounds of righteous agency: the gendered subject of minority rights in contemporary India
Dissertation Committee: Iza Hussin (supervisor), Leigh Denault (advisor) Examiners – Anne Phillips (LSE), Manali Desai (University of Cambridge)

School of Oriental and African Studies
MA South Asian Area Studies, with distinction, 2011 (Courses: Dissertation in Political Studies, Government and Politics of Modern South Asia, Law and Society in South Asia, Culture and Society in South Asia)

University of Delhi, St Stephen's College
MA English, 2010

University of Calcutta
BA English (Hons), History, and Philosophy, with first class, 2007

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Monograph
In the shadow of minority rights: decolonising gender, liberalism, and the politics of difference. (Cambridge University Press, 2025)

Edited Volume

Counterterrorism in a global context: A decolonial approach (edited volume with Tahir Abbas, and Sylvia I Bergh) (Manchester University Press, February 2025)

Articles in peer-reviewed journals
Dutta, Sagnik and Saif Shahin 'Regulating the Metaverse: How to approach a'user-centred approach' to digital policymaking' (Forthcoming in ***Internet Policy Review***)

Dutta, Sagnik, Suruchi Mazumdar, and Kerry McInerney. "Introduction: Rethinking data colonialism: Local negotiations with data, postcoloniality, and power." ***Big Data & Society*** 13, no. 3 (2026): 20539517261455429.
Dutta, Sagnik, and Suruchi Mazumdar. "Our data, ourselves: Participation, justice, and alternative futures of data sovereignty in India." ***Big Data & Society*** 12, no. 3 (2025): 20539517251365235.
Dutta, Sagnik, and Tahir Abbas. "Protecting the people: populism and masculine security in India and Hungary." ***Journal of Political Ideologies*** (2024): 1-23.
Finden, Alice & Dutta, Sagnik (2024) Counterterrorism, political anxiety and legitimacy in postcolonial India and Egypt, ***Critical Studies on Terrorism***, DOI:10.1080/17539153.2024.2304908
Dutta, Sagnik. "Polygamy and the porous state: reconstituting gender in the everyday life of Muslim law." ***Legal Pluralism and Critical Social Analysis*** (2023): 1-21.

Dutta, Sagnik. "Competing Allies: Legal Pluralism, and Gendered Agency in Mumbai's Sharia Courts." ***Law & Social Inquiry*** 47, no. 2 (2022): 514-34. doi:10.1017/lsi.2021.39.

Dutta, Sagnik. "Becoming Equals: The Meaning and Practice of Gender Equality in an Islamic Feminist Movement in India." ***Feminist Theory***, (June 2021). https://doi.org/10.1177/14647001211023641.

Dutta, Sagnik. "Divorce, Kinship, and Errant Wives: Islamic Feminism in India, and the Everyday Life of Divorce and Maintenance." ***Ethnicities*** 21, no. 3 (June 2021): 454–76. https://doi.org/10.1177/1468796821999904.

Dutta, Sagnik. "From Accommodation to Substantive Equality: Muslim Personal Law, Secular Law, and the Indian Constitution 1985–2015." ***Asian Journal of Law and Society*** 4, no. 1 (2017): 191-227. doi:10.1017/als.2016.54.

Works in Progress

Dutta, Sagnik, Saif Shahin, and Sara Pabian 'Collective responses to online safety' (Manuscript in preparation)
Special Issue on 'Public Debates, injustice, and AI in the majority world' (***Digital Society***)

AREAS OF INTEREST –Minority Rights, Law and Society, Feminist Theory, Political and Legal Anthropology, Political Geography, Digital Justice, AI and the law, Data justice

Book reviews

The Political Biography of an Earthquake: Aftermath and Amnesia in Gujarat. By Edward Simpson. New Delhi. Oxford University Press. 302 pp. Rs 950 *Frontline*, May 1, 2015
Indians in Singapore 1819 – 1945 Diaspora in the Colonial Port City. By Rajesh Rai. New Delhi. Oxford University Press. 325 pp Rs 995. *Frontline,* January 9, 2015

The Lowland. By Jhumpa Lahiri. Random House India. 340 pp. Rs 499. *Frontline*, January 10, 2014

The House with a Thousand Stories. By Aruni Kashyap. New Delhi. Viking. 224 pp. Rs 402. *Frontline,* December 27, 2013

Indian Diaspora in the Caribbean (ed) By Ratan Lal Hangloo. New Delhi. Primus Books. 174pp. Rs 795. *Frontline*, May 2013

The Political Economy of Transition in India and China. (eds) Amiya Kumar Bagchi and Anthony P D' Costa. New Delhi. Oxford University Press. Rs 895. *Frontline,* August 9, 2013

Media and General Public Writing

"Remembering Saba Mahmood, a Pioneer in Redefining Ideas of Rights and Freedom", *The Wire*, March 15, 2018

"Those Fighting for Muslim Women's Rights Must Stop Seeing Them as Hapless Victims", *The Wire*, January 2, 2018

"The Judiciary: System Failure", *Frontline,* October 17, 2014

"Ban Without Basis: the UAPA tribunal's ban of the Student's Islamic Movement of India", *Frontline,* May 24, 2014

"Rights and Wrongs: On the Supreme Court's judgment on Section 377 of the IPC", *Frontline,* January 10, 2014

"Sexual Harassment: The Judiciary – Above the Law?", *Frontline,* December 27, 2013

"Taking on Patriarchy: Muslim law personal law reform initiated by women" *Frontline,* September 6, 2013

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS
Seed grant (co-PI) University of Amsterdam, Research Priority Area AI and Politics, Project Title: Public debates, everyday injustice, and AI in the global South, 2025
Seed grant for cross-institutional project 'Counterterrorism in a Global Perspective' – Institute of Security and Global Affairs, Leiden University, and the Centre of Expertise on Global Governance, The Hague University of Applied Sciences, 2021
Travel grant to attend the American Political Science Association meeting, 2019
Gates Cambridge scholarship to pursue a PhD at the University of Cambridge, 2016 – 2020
Fieldwork grant, University of Cambridge, 2017 - 2018
Fieldwork and conference grant, Department of Politics and International Studies, University of Cambridge, 2017
Smuts Commonwealth fund award, 2017, 2018
Felix scholarship to pursue Masters in South Asian Area Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, 2010 - 2011

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Paper: 'Repertoires of AI activism', Inter-Asian Digitalities Conference, International Association for Media and Communication Research, Singapore
Paper: 'Queering Minority Rights: Notes from Muslim Women's Activism', The Transnational Association for Legal Scholars, University of Melbourne (November 2023)
Paper: 'Law and AI: an everyday democratic approach', Melbourne Law School Doctoral Forum, University of Melbourne (November 2023)
Paper: 'Queering Minority Rights: Notes from Muslim Women's Activism'. Critical Legal Conference, Durham University, (September 2023).
Book manuscript: In the Shadow of Minority Rights. Book Manuscript workshop. British and Ireland Association for Political Thought meeting, University of Oxford (January 2023)
Paper: States of terror: Colonial legacies of counterterror laws in India and Egypt, European Consortium of Political Research Conference, University of Innsbruck (August 2022)
Paper: 'Siting protests: minority rights, everyday state and the city in Mumbai', European Consortium of Political Research Conference, virtual conference.
Paper – 'Decolonising legal pluralism: women's claims and family law in *shariat* courts in Mumbai', Reimagining Justice and Ethnography, Strathclyde Postgraduate Law Conference, University of Strathclyde (April 2021)
Paper – 'Transgender rights and the conundrums of liberalism in South Asia', Law and Society Association, Chicago (April 2021)
Paper – 'Boundaries of the law: dispute resolution in women's sharia courts in Mumbai', Plural Ideas of Justice, Stories, Narratives, and Experiences from India, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai (April 2021)
Webinar: Panel on Muslim Dispute Resolution in India and Australia: Lessons from the Informal Sphere, Australia India Institute, University of Melbourne, Australia (October 2020)
Paper: 'Right to be righteous: Islamic feminism in India', South Asian Political Thought workshop, University of Oxford (October 2019)
Paper – 'Rights as ethical duty: the Quran, the Constitution, and the fragile family' in a panel on 'Itineraries of Liberalism in the Global South', American Political Science Association Meeting, Washington DC, USA (September 2019)
Paper– 'Liberalism as divine duty: A study of a *shariat* court in Mumbai', European Association of South Asian Studies conference, Paris, France, (July 2018)
Paper- 'A Legitimating Public Vocabulary for Religious Reason' in a panel on De-Legitimising Religion in the Public Sphere, Annual General Conference of the European Consortium of Political Research, Oslo, Norway, (September 2017)
Discussant, Panel on Public Imaginaries, Sharia in Motion workshop, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom, (July 2017)

TEACHING

OP Jindal Global University

- Foundations of Social Sciences I (Spring 2021 Fall 2021)
- Foundations of Social Sciences II (Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023)
- Postcolonial Democracy and the Law (Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023)

School of Oriental and African Studies

- Concepts in Political Theory (Term 1, 2020)

University College London

- Global Events (Term 1, 2020)

Other Appointments

- Special Correspondent with Frontline magazine, The Hindu group of publications in New Delhi. As a writer/ reporter with the fortnightly news and analysis magazine. Wrote long form articles combining reportage with analysis on the political economy, law and society, minority rights and development issues. I also reviewed a number of academic publications and literary fiction for the magazine. **(**April 2012 – January 2015)
- Sub-editor with The Indian Express newspaper in New Delhi. I wrote articles on contemporary social issues, law and society, politics and religion for the edit/ op-ed pages of the newspaper. (March 2008 – August 2010)

Languages

- Hindi (Advanced – Speaking, Reading, Writing)
- Urdu (Intermediate – Speaking, Reading, Writing)
- Bengali (Advanced – Speaking, Reading, Writing)
- Arabic (Basic)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Professional memberships

- American Political Science Association
- European Association for South Asian Studies
- London Comparative Political Theory group
- Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge
- Law and Society Association
- European Consortium for Political Research
- American Association of Geographers

Referee

Journal: *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*