

SASHA SABHERWAL

curriculum vitae

Northeastern University
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s.sabherwal@northeastern.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2023– Assistant Professor of Cultural Anthropology and Global Asian Studies
Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Department of Cultures, Societies, & Global Studies
Affiliate Faculty in Women’s, Gender, Sexuality Studies, Northeastern University
- 2022 Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for the Humanities, Tufts University
- 2021 Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Asian American Studies, University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign

EDUCATION

- 2021 Ph.D., Department of American Studies, Graduate Certificate in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality
Studies, Yale University
- 2018 MPhil., and M.A., Department of American Studies, Yale University
- 2014 B.A., Department of Gender & Sexuality Studies; Department of Political Science; Department of
International Studies, University of California, Irvine

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscript (in progress)

Cartographies of Caste in the Sikh Diaspora of the Transnational Pacific Northwest

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2024 Sabherwal, Sasha. “The Elasticity of Caste in the Sikh Diaspora: ‘Jat Cool’ and Caste
Masculinities in the Pacific Northwest.” *Journal of Asian American Studies* 27 (1): 91-114.
▪ Recipient of the Association of Asian American Studies Social Science Caucus 2025
Outstanding Emerging Scholar Research Article Award (Honorable Mention)
- 2024 Sabherwal, Sasha. “Multicultural exceptionalism: Race and gender in the Sikh diaspora of the
transnational Pacific Northwest.” *Sikh Formations*, 20(1–2), 29–37.
- 2022 Grewal, Inderpal, Dipin Kaur, and Sasha Sabherwal. “The Security State and Securitizing
Patriarchies in Postcolonial India.” *Social Text* 40 (3 (152)): 83–104.
- 2020 Grewal, Inderpal, and Sasha Sabherwal. “Slow Violence in Post-1984 Punjab: Remembering,
Forgetting and Refusals.” *Sikh Formations*, 1–18.

Book Chapters

- 2022 Sabherwal, Sasha and Anita Lal. "Dalit Diversity: Contours of Caste in the Lower Mainland, British Columbia," in *Social History of South Asian Canadians in British Columbia* (Abbotsford: University of Fraser Valley Press).

Reviews

- 2025 Sabherwal, Sasha. 2025. "Beyond Narrow Definitions of the Political: The Repositioning of Religion and Gender in Natasha Behl's Gendered Citizenship: Understanding Gendered Violence in Democratic India: By Natasha Behl." *Sikh Formations*, September, 1–3.
- 2023 Sabherwal, Sasha. "Relation and Resistance: Racialized Women, Religion, and Diaspora (review)," *University of Toronto Quarterly* 92 (3): 294-296.
- 2020 Sabherwal, Sasha. "Faith, Gender, and Activism in the Punjab Conflict: The Wheat Fields Still Whisper by Mallika Kaur (review)," *Sikh Research Journal*, 5 (2).
- 2017 Sabherwal, Sasha. "Everyday Conversions: Islam, Domestic Work, and South Asian Migrant Women in Kuwait by Attiya Ahmad (review)," *Anthropological Quarterly* 90 (4).

PUBLIC-FACING EXPERIENCE

- 2025— Poetic Justice Foundation, British Columbia, Canada, Board Member
- 2024 OVERCASTE - Confront. Disrupt. Evolve., Curator and Researcher, Exhibit at Burnaby Village Museum, British Columbia, Canada
- 2023— Sikh American History Project, Researcher and Board Member
- 2019 Dalits and Jatts Dialogue, Organizers and Researcher, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada

AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2026 Career Enhancement Fellowship, Institute for Citizens and Scholars (\$35,000)
- 2025 "Solidarities" Innovation Lab Grant, Mills Institute, Northeastern University (\$8,000)
- 2025 "The Institutional Forms of Global Asias," Global Asias Summer Institute, Penn State University
- 2025 Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative (APARRI) Research Grant (\$21,000)
- 2025 Association of Asian American Studies Social Science Caucus 2025 Outstanding Emerging Scholar Research Article Award (Honorable Mention)
- 2024 Faculty Fellowship, Humanities Center, Northeastern University
- 2023 Mutual Mentoring Advancement Program (M2AP) Grant, Northeastern University
- 2023 Faculty of Color Working Group Symposium, Selected Participant, New England Humanities Consortium

- 2023 Teaching and Learning Workshop for Early Career Faculty of Asian Diaspora, Participant, Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion
- 2021 American Association of University Women (AAUW) American Dissertation Fellowship, *declined*
- 2021 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, *declined*
- 2020 Junior Research Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS), *declined due to pandemic*
- 2020 Public Humanities Summer Research Award, Yale University
- 2019 Summer Research Grant, South Asia Studies Council, Yale University
- 2019 Research Award, Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration, Yale University
- 2019 MacMillan International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Yale University
- 2018 Summer Research Grant, South Asia Studies Council, Yale University
- 2017 Theodore F. Myers and Margaret G. Myers Scholarship, Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Yale University
- 2016 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, Syracuse University
- 2015 Richard J Franke Merit Fellowship, Yale University (2015-2017)
- 2015 MacMillan Dissertation Field Research Recruitment Fellowship, Yale University
- 2014 Lauds and Laurels Outstanding Undergraduate Award, University of California, Irvine
- 2014 Commencement Student Speaker, University of California, Irvine
- 2014 Chancellor's Award of Distinction, University of California, Irvine
- 2014 Social Sciences Alumni Academic Excellence Award, University of California, Irvine
- 2014 Alumni Association Distinguished Anteater Award, University of California, Irvine
- 2014 Order of Merit "Top 2%" Award, School of Social Sciences, University of California, Irvine
- 2013 Undergraduate Award in Women's Studies, University of California, Irvine

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Colloquia

- 2026 "Cartographies of Caste," Casteless Caucus, Harvard Kennedy School
- 2026 South Asian American History (1880-Present), "Myths, Misconceptions and Omissions in the American Narrative: Using Library of Congress Resources to Compose a more Inclusive American Story," University of Delaware

- 2026 Intercultural Symposium, Center for Intercultural Engagement, Panel Moderator, “Youth and Digital Culture” Northeastern University
- 2026 “OverCaste: Art and Liberation in the South Asian Diaspora,” Panel Moderator, Mills Institute, Northeastern University
- 2025 “Demystifying Asian American Silence,” Asian American Center, Northeastern University
- 2025 “On Political Silence,” Facilitator, NUGoal, Asian American Center, Northeastern University
- 2024 *The Glassmaker* screening, conversation with produce Mariam Riaz Paracha, Moderator, ArtsEmerson and Boston Asian American Film Festival
- 2024 “Asian American Activism,” Facilitator, Asian American Students in Action, Northeastern University
- 2024 “Elasticity of Caste in the Diaspora,” International and Global Studies Public Forum, UC Irvine
Caste in Sikhism, Introduction to Sikh Studies Course, Stanford University
- 2023 Caste Abolition Movements in South Asia, Panel at Tufts University sponsored by the South Asian Regional Committee
- 2023 “Collective Fictions of Caste: Unsettling Caste, Gender, and Religion in the Sikh Diaspora of the Transnational PNW,” Religions of the World, Augustana University
- 2023 Caste in the Sikh Community, Panel, Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)
- 2022 ‘Jat Cool’: Unsetting Jat Masculinities in the Punjabi Sikh Diaspora of the Pacific Northwest, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign
- 2021 South Asian American Studies, Panel, South Asian Youth Initiative (SAYI) Conference
- 2019 Caste in Canada, Panel, Centre for India and South Asia Research, University of British Columbia
- 2019 “Contesting Caste in the Punjabi North American Diaspora,” Invited Lecture for ‘Sikh and Sikh Formations’ Course, University of British Columbia
- 2019 “Reflections on Dr. Ambedkar,” Keynote Speech at the Indian Consulate, Vancouver, B.C.
- 2017 “Positioning the U.S. in International Studies: Transnationalism, Exceptionalism, and American Empire” International Studies Public Forum, University of California, Irvine

Media Appearances

- 2025 “Multicultural Exceptionalism: Race and Gender in the Sikh Diaspora of the Transnational Pacific Northwest” Podcast Interview with *Sikh Formations*
- 2025 A Conversation on Caste in the Sikh Diaspora, Podcast Interview with Rethinking Desi
- 2024 [Conversational Ruptures: Demystifying Asian American Studies at NU](#); Interview with Illume Magazine

- 2023 AP News, "[What California's Ravidassia community believes and why they want caste bias outlawed](#)," interviewed in article by Deepa Bharath
- 2021 "Slow Violence in Punjab," Podcast Interview with *Sikb Formations*
- 2019 "Casteism in Canada," Radio conversation on RedFM, Vancouver, British Columbia

Conference Presentations

- 2025 "Emerging Sikh Solidarities in Early Twenty-first Century Canada," Panel, Canadian Society for the Study of Religion, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
- 2025 New Histories of the Post-1965 South Asian American Diaspora, Chair, Association of Asian American Studies Conference, Boston, MA
- 2025 Global Asian Studies Curriculum Roundtable, Association of Asian American Studies Conference, Boston, MA
- 2024 "Renovations and Rebuilding in the Ravidassia Community and Sikh Diaspora of the Lower Mainland British Columbia, Canada," Association of Asian American Studies, Seattle, WA
- 2023 "In Chardi Kala (Relentless Optimism): Race, Religion, and Resilience for Sikhs in the U.S.," Workshop Organizer, Asian American Center, Northeastern University
- 2023 "Solidarity and Fracture: Punjabi Sikh Diasporic Contestations around Caste and Gender in the Indian Farmers' Protest," American Studies Association, Montreal, Canada
- 2023 "Multicultural Exceptionalism and the Limits of Racial Inclusion: Race and Gender in the Sikh Diaspora of the Transnational Pacific Northwest," Sikh Studies Conference, Riverside, CA
- 2022 "'Jat Cool': Unsettling Jat Masculinities in the Punjabi Sikh Diaspora of the Pacific Northwest," *Kabo Kahaniyan – Stories of Punjab, Stories from Punjab*, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2022 "Racializing Religion: Myths of Multiculturalism in the Sikh Diaspora of the Transnational Pacific Northwest," Association of Asian American Studies, Denver, CO
- 2021 "Configuring Caste: *Ravidassias* in the Pacific Northwest," Association of Asian Studies, Special Topics Issue addressing Racial Injustice, Violence, and Oppression, virtual
- 2020 "Mobile Masculinities: *Jats* and Religious Authority in the Sikh Diaspora of the Pacific Northwest" South Asian Conference of the Pacific Northwest, Simon Fraser University, B.C.
- 2019 "Engendering Gender Studies: Women's Studies Programs at University of California," Canadian Sociological Association, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.
- 2019 "From Warrior Masculinity to Securitized Patriarchy in Postcolonial India" Workshop on Religion, Gender and the Politics of Security, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2019 "Changing Masculinities and Patriarchies in Punjab post-1984" Gender In and Out of Punjab Conference, Yale University, New Haven, CT

- 2018 “Contesting Caste: Deras, Dalits, and Punjabi Religious Reform Movements in the U.S.,” South Asian Brown Bag Series, Yale University
- 2018 “Gendered Migration & Emergency: Punjabis in the California Diaspora” American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA
- 2018 “Transnational Pieties: Race, Gender, and Religion in the U.S. Punjabi Diaspora” Association of Asian Studies in Asia, New Delhi, India
- 2017 “Slow Violence & Changing Patriarchies in Punjab post-1984” Religion, Gender, and the Politics of State Security, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2017 “The State of Public Humanities at Yale,” Critical Encounters Speaker Series, Yale University
- 2017 “Unruly Sexualities: Sunny Leone, Pornography, and Resisting Bollywood’s Pedagogical Domains” American Studies Association, Chicago, IL
- 2017 “Slow Violence in a Post Conflict Zone: Sikh Gender and Memory in post-1984 Punjab” Sikh Studies Conference, University of California, Riverside, CA
- 2016 *Under the Turban*, A Panel Discussion on Sikh Studies, Panelist, Yale University
- 2016 *Meet the Patels*, Invited Moderator for Film Discussion, Yale University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality, Boston

Feminist and Queer Theory (Fall 2026)

Northeastern University

Undergraduate Courses

Introduction to Asian American Studies (ASNS 2245), Instructor (Fall 2023; Fall 2024)

South Asian Diasporas (ANTH 4220), Instructor (Spring 2024, Spring 2026)

Gender, Social Justice, and Transnational Activism (ANTH/WMNS 3100), Instructor (Fall 2023)

Introduction to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WMNS 1103), Instructor (Spring 2025)

Foundations of Anthropological Theory (ANTH 3421), Instructor (Spring 2024; Fall 2024, Spring 2026)

Undergraduate Directed Studies

Feminist Theories (Spring 2025)

South Asian Migrations (Spring 2025)

University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

Theories of Race, Gender, Sexuality (AAS 300), Instructor (Spring 2022)

Yale University

South Asians in America (SAST/ERM 385), Instructor (Fall 2020)

Asian American History (HIS 183), Teaching Fellow (Fall 2018)

Spiritual but not Religious (ERM 342), Teaching Fellow (Spring 2018)

Sex, Knowledge, Power (WGSS 299), Teaching Fellow (Fall 2017)

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

Northeastern University

2026 Women's, Gender, Sexuality Studies Symposium Committee Member

2025 "Border Zones of Global South Asia: Diaspora, Dispossession, and Decolonization," Symposium Organizer

2024 Northeastern Bhangra Team, Faculty advisor (2024—)

2024 Pacific New England Symposium, Organizing committee member

2023 "Remember! Asian Americans and the Archive," Organizing committee member

2023— Graduate committee, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

2023— Executive committee, Women's, Gender, Sexuality, Studies Program

Tufts University

2023 Religion and U.S. Empire Symposium, Panelist and Co-Organizer

2023 Tufts South Asian Political Action Community (SAPAC) Discussion on Integrating Caste in Anti-Discrimination Policy, Moderator

Yale University

2020 "Building Solidarity for Racial Justice: A Panel on the South Asian American Diaspora," South Asian Studies Council Colloquium, Moderator and Event Organizer

2019 "Feminists in the University: Thinking with Inderpal Grewal," Moderator for Inderpal's retirement celebration

2018 "Gender in and out of Punjab: Regional Heterogeneity and Specificity in Asian Studies," Conference Organizing Committee, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

2016 InterAsia “Alternative Asias: Currents, Crossings, Connections,” Anthropology Department, Conference Organizing Committee

Graduate Student Liaison for Incoming American Studies Graduate Student

2015 Public Humanities Graduate Assistant and Working Group Co-Coordinator (2015-2018)

2015 Graduate Affiliate, Timothy Dwight College (2015-2018)

2015 American Studies Graduate Student Advisory Committee (2015-2016)

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

2025— Co-Chair, Asian American Feminisms Section, Association of Asian American Studies

2023— Ad hoc reviewer for *Religions*, *Sikh Research Journal*, *Sikh Formations*

GRADUATE ADVISING

- Chetna Kuanr, PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, Dissertation Committee Member, Northeastern University (2023—)
- Vibhustuti Thapa, PhD Student, Department of Sociology, Dissertation Committee Member, Northeastern University (2025—)
- Morgan Lindenschmidt, PhD Student, Department of Sociology, Field Statement Committee Member, Northeastern University (2025)

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

- Kashish Gupta, Bachelor of Arts, Science Po, Paris, France (exchange student at Northeastern) (2023—)
- Eri Lee, Sociology Bachelor of Arts, Northeastern University (2023—)

LANGUAGES

- Native fluency in Punjabi and Hindi

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Studies Association
- Association for Asian American Studies
- Association for Asian Studies
- National Women’s Studies Association