



Miranda House

UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

Name: Dr Shweta Sachdeva Jha

Department: English

Current Designation: Associate Professor

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Academic Qualifications (reverse chronological order): MPhil (University of Delhi)

Research Degree(s) (reverse chronological order): PhD (University of London)

Field of Specialization under the Subject/Discipline: Women's History, Genre Fiction, Literary Theory, Gender Studies, Crime Fiction Studies, Popular Literature, Children's Literature

Total Teaching Experience: 19 years

Teaching at Miranda House since: December 2008

List of Publications:

'The Garden, the Court, the Kotha and the Recording Studio: The Many Performing Spaces of the Tawa'if' in Katherine Schofield and Margaret E Walker eds. *Hindustani Music Between Empires: Relational Histories*, forthcoming 2025.

'The Tawa'if in Colonial India: Changing Livelihoods and Emerging Technologies (1790s-1920s)' in Anna Morcom and Neelam Raina eds. *Creative Economies of Culture in South Asia: Performers and Craftspeople* (Routledge), 2024. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781351031028>

Bathing Women: Desire, Wonder, and Water in Versions of a Persian Tale, Editorial Feature, 2024 <https://www.curationist.org/editorial-features/article/bathing-women:-desire-wonder-and-water-in-versions-of-a-persian-tale> (Commissioned Essay/Curationist Mhz Foundation Fellowship)

'Songbook to the Postcard: Courtesans and Their Forgotten Cultural Legacy' in Seema Bhalla ed. *Ganika: In the Visual Culture of the 19th to 20th Century India* (Art & Deal, 2024), 92-108. (Commissioned Chapter/Crafts Museum, Delhi)



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'The Women of Miranda House: Building Archival Collections, Digital Humanities and Feminist Digital History', *South Asian Popular Culture* 2023, 21:3, 279-289

doi: [10.1080/14746689.2023.2271273](https://doi.org/10.1080/14746689.2023.2271273)

'Significance of Narrating Island-ness: Andaman and Nicobar Islands in Contemporary Indian Writing', *Sambhasan*, Vol. 3, Issue 4, (October - December 2022), 25-40.

https://mu.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/25-40-Significance-of-Narrating-Island-ness_Andaman-and-Nicobar-Islands-inContemporary-Indian-Writing.pdf

'*Sadā*: Her-story and 'Echoes of Nationhood'', *Writing Initiatives*, Serendipityarts.org (06 October 2022). https://serendipityarts.org/writing_initiatives/sounds-nationhood. (Commissioned Essay/Serendipity Writing Grants)

'From *Ayyar* to the Detective/Secret Agent Who Loved Chewing Gum: Ibn-e-Safi's Fiction in Mid-twentieth Century South Asia' in Shraddha A Singh ed. *Speculation and Detection: Explorations in Genre Fiction* (Worldview Publications, 2022), 109-125.

Looking back at Bapu: Gandhi and Children's Picture Books in Contemporary India', in Satishchandra Kumar, Kanchana Mahadevan, Meher Bhoot and Rajesh Kharat eds. *Gandhi Then and Now: Autobiographies and Conversations* (Speaking Tiger Books, 2022), 128-148

'Situating the *Tawaif* as a Poet: Nostalgia, Urdu Literary Cultures and Vernacular Modernity' in Ira Bhaskar and Richard Allen eds. *The Bollywood Islamicate: Idioms, Histories and Imaginaries* (Intellect Books, Orient Blackswan, 2022), 106-131.

'Locating Romance and Women Writers in Urdu Literature: Hijab Imtiaz Ali's Genre Fiction', in Haris Qadeer, Yasser Arafath eds. *Sultana's Sisters: Gender, Genres, and Genealogy in South Asian Muslim Women's Fiction* (Routledge, 2021), 47-64. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003002062>

'Tracing Terror and the Uncanny in the Gothic Urdu Fiction of Hijab Imtiaz Ali' in Katarzyna Ancuta and Deimantas Valančiūnas eds. *South Asian Gothic: Haunted Cultures, Histories and Media* (University of Wales Press 2021), 81-96.

'*Tawaif* as Poet and Patron: Rethinking Women's Self Representation' in Anshu Malhotra and Siobhan Lambert-Hurley eds. *Speaking of the Self: Gender, Performance and Autobiography in South Asia* (Duke University Press, 2015), 141-164.



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‘Frames of Cinematic History: The *Tawa’if* in *Umrao Jan* and *Pakeezah*’ in Manju Jain ed. *Narratives of Indian Cinema* (Primus Books, 2009), 167-192.

‘Eurasian Women as *Tawa’if* Singers and Recording Artists: Entertainment and Identity-making in Colonial India’ in *African and Asian Studies* 8.3, (2009), 268-287. <https://doi.org/10.1163/156921009X458118>

Educational Resource Material Developed (reverse chronological order): NA

Research Guidance (reverse chronological order): NA

Research Projects (reverse chronological order):

Delhi University Innovations Grant (2015-16) with Dr Mukul Priyadarshini, Ms Archana Kushwaha, Department of Elementary Education, Miranda House for Children’s Picture Books in India: Rethinking History, Storytelling and Pedagogy.

Max Planck India Fellowship (2010), Max Planck Institute for Human Development, Berlin. (Although a three year fellowship, I only pursued it for one year 2010 and went on a much needed Child Care Leave after that)

Membership Of Professional Bodies (reverse chronological order): European Association of Asian Studies, International Crime Fiction Association, Gothic in Asia Association

Administrative Responsibilities (reverse chronological order):

Staff Advisor, Foreign Student Society 2024-2025

Celluloid (2018-2024)

Teacher-in- Charge (2018-2020)

Convener, College Timetable Committee (2017-2018)



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Teacher Representative, Governing Body (2018-2019)

Invited talks/Session chair/Resource person (reverse chronological order):

"Tawa'if Performers and Trajectories of Travel and Music from the 1850s to 1930s in India", Presentation for Collaborative Research and Workshop at Keio University (Tokyo, Japan), 14-25 March, 2024. Fully funded invitation by Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) project.

"The Home with a View: Hijab Imtiaz Ali and her Uncanny Fiction" Paper presented at Experiencing Experiencing Home: Domestic Architecture in Urban Writing, An international conference by the Department of Liberal Arts, Indian Institute of Technology Bhilai in collaboration with the Association for Literary Urban Studies, 22 - 23 February 2024 (Full Travel and Accommodation support provided by IIT Bhilai)

Resource person for International Faculty Development Programme on New Frontiers in Literary Research, organised by the Department of English, Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India from 9-17 October, 2023. Presentation on Women in the Archives: Conversations on Gender, Genre and History (Online)

'Tracing Lives: Baghdadi Jews and the 1947 Partition of the Indian Subcontinent', Paper presented at Remaking the World in the Shadow of the Cold War: Migrants, Workers, Soldiers, Spies in Post-1945 Reconstruction Conference, Central European University, Vienna, 1-2 June, 2023 (Travel bursary and Accommodation Support provided by CEU)

"Terror and Mystery in Postcolonial Fiction in Urdu: Ibn-e Safi and Crime Fiction", Paper presented online at Captivating Criminality Conference organised by International Crime Fiction Association [ICFA], the Gothic in Asia Association [GAA] and the BALAC Programme of the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, 2-4 March, 2023.

Resource Person for a Two-Day International Conference on, "Recent Trends in Literature and Linguistics" organised by the Department of English, Sophia Girls' College (Autonomous), Ajmer, 10-11 March 2023.

Resource Person for an online session on "The Ambition Bird: Pursuing Research in Literary Studies", One Week National E-Workshop on "Research Methodology in Literary Studies" organised by Department of English, Central University of Kashmir, 5 November, 2020.

Invited to hold a workshop cum lecture on Communicating in English, 20-21 May, 2010 for the Women Scientists Scheme run by the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.



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‘Cracking the NIRF: Pinnacles of Success and Staying There’, Invited Lecture as part of the Faculty Development Programme on NIRF (National Institute Ranking Framework) organised by Sri Krishna Arts and Science College, Coimbatore, 26 July 2019.

‘New Frontiers in Literature Research: Genre Fiction, Children's Literature and Digital Humanities’, Guest Lecture, Sri Krishna Arts and Science College, Coimbatore, 27 July 2019.

‘*Tawa’if* as Poet and Patron: Rethinking Women’s Self Representation’, Lecture by Invitation at Zakhir Husain Delhi College, 21 January, 2015.

‘*Tawa’if*, *Nautch* Girls and Photography in Colonial India (1870s – 1920s)’. Invited for a presentation on ‘Everyday Technology in Monsoon Asia c. 1880-1960’, International Conference at University of Warwick, 18-19 March, 2010.

‘Rethinking the History of the *Tawa’if* and Urdu Poetry’, November 5, 2009. Invited for a paper presentation on ‘Conflict, Belonging, Multiculturalism’, a two-day national conference organised by the Department of English, Sri Venkateshwara College, University of Delhi and the University Grants Commission.

‘Framing Cinematic History: The *Tawa’if* in Hindi Films: A Re-view’. Invited for an audio-visual presentation at the book launch of Manju Jain ed. *Narratives of Indian Cinema*, India Habitat Centre, Delhi, August 10, 2009.

Invited for a panel discussion on Gender and Performance in a one-day workshop on ‘Writing New Histories: Changing Perspectives and Challenges’ at the Academy of Third World Studies, Jamia Milia Islamia University, Delhi, July 29, 2009.

Invited for a Panel Discussion in ‘Non-metropolitan Modernisms: An Interdisciplinary Conference’ by the Department of English, University of Delhi, March 23-27, 2009.

‘*Tawa’if*, Poetry and the Writing of History’, October 22, 2008. Invited for a Lecture in Work-in-Progress Lecture Series, Department of English, Arts Faculty, University of Delhi.

Conferences Organised (reverse chronological order): NA



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Seminars/Workshops/Conferences attended (reverse chronological order):

Nautch Girls as Travellers Beyond South Asia: Histories of Transport and Performance”, Paper presenter and Co-convener, Panel 13: The Travelling Female Performer: Mobility and Agency in and beyond South Asia, c. 1760-1940 at the 27th European Conference of South Asian Studies (ECSAS Congress), Torino (Italy), 26 – 29 July, 2023.

“Unfulfilled Love, ‘Corpses’ and The Talented Mrs Hijab Imtiaz Ali (1908-1999). Online Presentation at Muslim Women’s Popular Fiction International Conference, Birmingham, 5-9 September 2023. Online Presentation.

‘The Uncanny and the Ashraf Home: Reading Hijab Imtiaz Ali’s Urdu Short Stories in the Early 20th Century’, Paper presented at Gothic Spaces Conference, organised by University of Tokyo, Komaba Campus, 19-20 October 2019.

‘Writing Histories of Childhood in India Through Children’s Picture Books (1950 – 2018)’, Paper presented at the National Conference on ‘Between History and Literature: Enquiries into Colonial Modernity’ organised by Department of English, University of Hyderabad and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata, 17-19 March 2019.

‘The *Tawa’if* as Patron and Performer: Interrogating Agency and Feminist Historiography’, Paper presented at Crossing Boundaries, Conference organised by Department of History, University of Delhi, 27-28 February 2017.

‘Urdu Literary History and the Poetry of the *Tawa’if*’, Paper presented at Intersections: Literature and History, UGC sponsored National Seminar hosted by Department of English, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce and the Department of English, University of Delhi, March 11-12, 2014.

Presenter and Co-convener for a panel on ‘Speaking of the Self? Women and Self-Representation in South Asia’, 21st European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, University of Bonn, July 26 -29, 2010. (Awarded the Travel Grant but did not avail it due to prior commitments)

Synergy (work with other organizations outside the college):

Organised Virtual Exchange Program on International Women’s Issues between Miranda House Students and Students of Dr Jessica Frazier, Associate Professor, Department of History, Department of Gender and Women's Studies, University of Rhode Island, February 2025-April 2025



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