

# Sarah Carson

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Dartmouth College, Department of History / 205 Carson Hall, HB 6107

## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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| <b>Lecturer, Dartmouth College</b> , Department of History  | 2022—     |
| <b>Visiting Assistant Professor, Northwestern University</b> , Department of History  | 2021-2022 |
| <b>Director of Undergraduate Studies, Northwestern University</b> , Science in Human Culture Program  | 2021-2022 |
| <b>Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Northwestern University</b><br>Fellow in the Science in Human Culture Program, affiliated with the Department of History | 2019-2021 |

## EDUCATION

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| <b>Ph.D. Princeton University</b> , History   | September 2019 |
| Dissertation: “Ungovernable Winds: The Weather Sciences in South Asia, 1864-1945”<br>Committee Members: Gyan Prakash, Erika Lorraine Milam, Jeremy Adelman, and Projit Bihari Mukharji (University of Pennsylvania) |                |
| <b>M.A. Princeton University</b> , History  | 2015           |
| Oral examination passed with distinction<br>Examination Fields: Modern South Asia (Gyan Prakash); Modern Science (Erika Lorraine Milam); Global History, 1800 to the present (Stephen Kotkin)                       |                |
| <b>B.A. Dartmouth College</b> , Senior Fellow in Environmental History  | 2010           |
| <i>Summa cum Laude</i> , thesis on “British Empire Forestry in Africa” awarded High Honors  |                |

## PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN DEVELOPMENT

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### Monograph:

Provisional title: *Weather Reasons: Prediction, Nature, and Political Power in Modern India*, book proposal tailored for the University of Chicago Press

### Peer-Reviewed Articles:

“Anticipating the Monsoon: The Necessity and Impossibility of the Seasonal Weather Forecast for South Asia, 1886-1950,” *The British Journal for the History of Science* 54, no. 3 (2021): 305-325, <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0007087421000194>

“Atmospheric Happening and Weather Reasoning: Climate History in South Asia,” *History Compass* 18, no. 12 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1111/hic3.12640>

### In Development:

“Rhyme or Reason? Three Uses of Proverbs in Postcolonial India,” for a special issue proposal I am co-organizing on “Astrology and the Anthropocene” for *Modern Asian Studies* (drafted)

### Book Reviews:

Review of *Medieval Meteorology: Forecasting the Weather from Aristotle to the Almanac* by Anne Lawrence-Mathers, *Isis: A Journal of the History of Science Society* 112, no. 2, June 2021

Review of *First Woman: Joanne Simpson and the Tropical Atmosphere* by James Rodger Fleming *Isis: A Journal of the History of Science Society* 112, no. 4, December 2021

## TEACHING AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE

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- Northwestern University, Department of History**, Evanston, IL 2019—  
Instructor, first-year writing seminar “Climate and Weather in History,” Winter 2022 and Winter 2021 (remote)  
Instructor, survey course “The History of Modern Science and Medicine,” Winter 2022 and Spring 2020 (remote)  
Instructor, advanced undergraduate seminar “The History of Predicting the Future,” Fall 2021 and Winter 2020  
Instructor, survey course “Global Environments and World History,” Fall 2021  
Instructor, survey course “Science in the Global South,” Spring 2021 (remote)
- Northwestern University, Science in Human Culture Program, Evanston, IL** 2021—  
Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies, academic advisor for program major and minor
- Princeton University, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning**, Princeton, NJ 2018–2019  
Graduate Teaching Fellow and New Teacher Trainer
- Princeton Prison Teaching Initiative, Albert C. Wagner Correctional Facility**, Bordentown, NJ  
Co-instructor, survey lecture course accredited through Raritan Valley Community College, “World Civilization II, 1500—present” 2018
- Princeton University, Department of History**, Princeton, NJ 2017  
Assistant Instructor, “What is the Scientific Revolution?” Fall 2017  
(Primary Faculty: Dr. Jennifer Rampling)
- Princeton University, McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning**, Princeton, NJ 2017  
Participant, “Scholarly Approaches to Learning,” 12-week seminar on higher ed. pedagogy
- The Fulbright Program, United States India Education Foundation**, Kolkata, India 2011–2012  
Fulbright-Nehru English Teaching Assistant, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Cossipore
- Education Opportunity Fund**, Bronx, NY 2010–2014  
Mentor for 2010 cohort of five first-generation college students

## HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

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- National Science Foundation Travel Grant, History of Science Society Conference 2018, 2019
- Porter Ogden Jacobus Honorific Fellowship, Princeton University Graduate School 2018–2019  
*top academic honor awarded to one graduate student in the social sciences*
- PIIRS Graduate Fellowship, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies (declined) 2018
- Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Fellowship, The Fulbright Program, United States India Educational Foundation 2016–2017
- Dissertation Research Grant, Princeton University, Department of History 2016
- Critical Language Scholarship for Hindi language study, U.S. Department of State, American Institute of Indian Studies, Jaipur 2014
- John R. Irwin Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University 2013–2014
- Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education, for study at South Asian Summer Language Institute in Madison, WI, Hindi 2014
- Language Enhancement award, The Fulbright Program, Kolkata, Bengali 2011–2012
- Senior Fellowship, Dartmouth College  
*awarded to four seniors to pursue independent projects in lieu of coursework* 2009–2010

## SELECTED CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, AND INVITED LECTURES

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### Panels Organized

- “Astrology and the Anthropocene,” Round Table, Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, Oct. 2022
- “Ordering Development: Bureaucracy in the Improvement of Landscapes and Populations in South Asia,” Association for Asian Studies, AAS-in-Asia, Hong Kong, Jul. 2020 (accepted, canceled)
- “Techno-logics of Space and Power in India,” Association for Asian Studies, AAS-in-Asia, New Delhi, India, Jul. 2018

### Invited Lectures

- “Deep Time as History? As Fossil? As Climate?” Book Launch for Pratik Chakrabarti, *Inscriptions of Nature: Geology and the Naturalization of Antiquity*, University of Houston, TX, Oct. 2022
- “The Modern History of Ancient Weather Science,” Klopsteg Lecture Series, Science in Human Culture Program, Northwestern University, remote, Jan. 2021
- “Negotiating Tropical Difference: The Domestication of Meteorology in India, 1880-1960,” Klopsteg Lecture Series, Science in Human Culture Program, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, Jan. 2020
- “‘Stubborn, Wayward, and Uncertain’: The Problem of the Monsoon for the Bureaucratic Imperial State,” Indian Ocean World Centre, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, Oct. 2018
- “A Historian’s Perspective on Weather Forecasting in India,” Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, India, Jul. 2018

### Papers Presented

- “Meteorological Moralities: Explaining Bengal’s Weather in *Kobi Gaan* Reflections and *Panjika* Forecasts,” European Society for Environmental History annual conference, Bristol, UK, Jul. 2022
- “Atmospheric Happening and Weather Reasoning: Climate History in South Asia,” Temperatures and Temporalities workshop, Making Climate History, Cambridge University, UK, Jun. 2022
- “Rhyme or Reason? The Risks and Rewards of Proverbial Weather,” Annual Conference on South Asia, University of WI, Madison, Oct. 2021
- “Three Uses of Weather Proverbs in Postcolonial India,” International Conference of History of Science & Technology, remote, Jul. 2021
- “The Future of Climate History in South Asia,” ASEH Environmental History Week panel, remote, Apr. 2021
- “Rainfall Prediction in Postcolonial South Asia: The Connected Projects of Astrology, Folklore, and Meteorology, 1947-1966,” Timing Knowledge Conference, based at Leuphana University, Lüneburg, remote, Jun. 2020
- “Negotiating Tropical Difference: The Domestication of Meteorology in India, 1880-1960,” Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, working group “Under Tropical Skies,” remote, Mar. 2020
- “Meteorological Infrastructure in India, 1900-1952,” History of Science Society annual conference, Utrecht, the Netherlands, Jul. 2019
- “The Sky Interpreters: Tropical Storms and the Maritime Origins of Meteorology in British India,” History of Science Society annual conference, Seattle, WA, Nov. 2018

- “Imperial Weather Prophecies: The Elusive Seasonal Forecast for South Asia,” 17th International Conference of Historical Geographers, Warsaw, Poland, Jul. 2018
- “Infrastructure and Information in the India Meteorological Department, 1875-1900,” Association for Asian Studies, AAS-in-Asia, New Delhi, India, Jul. 2018
- “‘Stubborn, Wayward, and Uncertain’: Anticipating the South Asian Monsoon, 1886-1950,” versions presented at:  
 Yale University, Modern South Asia Graduate Workshop, Sonipat, India, Jul. 2018  
 Asian Extremes: Climate, Meteorology, and Disaster in History, National University of Singapore, Asia Research Institute, May 2018  
 New Perspectives in Environmental History, Yale University, New Haven, CT, Apr. 2018
- “Disciplining Disaster: The Establishment of State Meteorology in British India,” Junior Scholars Conference on Anxiety and Authority in South Asia, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, Apr. 2018
- “‘Prophets without Honour’: The Predicament of Seasonal Forecasters in South Asia,” Junior Scholars Conference on South Asia and the Limits of Humanistic Inquiry, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, Mar. 2018
- “Subduing the Tempest: Cyclone Science in British India,” Fulbright South and Central Asia Regional Conference, Delhi, India, Feb. 2017
- “Evading the Whirlwinds: Storm Warning Systems in the Bay of Bengal,” versions presented at:  
 South Asia: Past, Present, and Future, Presidency University, Kolkata, India, Feb. 2017  
 Global History Consortium Workshop, University of Tokyo, Japan, Jan. 2017
- “Classroom Management at Kendriya Vidyalaya Schools in Kolkata,” Fulbright South and Central Asia Regional Conference, Colombo, Sri Lanka, Dec. 2011

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICE**

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| Social Media Manager, International Commission on the History of Meteorology  | 2022—     |
| Participant and Contributor, “History of Science in Asia: Decolonizing the History of Science” working group, Consortium for the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine | 2019—     |
| Co-convenor, Princeton South Asia Graduate Workshop   | 2018–19   |
| Participant, Princeton Special Graduate Student Seminar for 2017-18, “American Higher Education: Its History, Culture and Context”  | 2017–2018 |
| Participant, Chemical Heritage Foundation, Oral History Workshop, Philadelphia, PA  | 2016      |
| Organizer, Princeton South Asia Graduate Conference<br>“The Natural Worlds of South Asia”   | 2016      |

## **TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Modern South Asia ♦ Global environmental history ♦ Earth and climate science ♦ Comparative histories of science ♦ Science in pre-colonial and post-colonial South Asia ♦ Global food studies  
 ♦ Ecology and environmentalism ♦ Astrology ♦ Risk and prediction

## **PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER MEMBERSHIPS**

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Association for Asian Studies ♦ History of Science Society ♦ American Historical Association ♦ European Society for Environmental History

## LANGUAGES

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Hindi, Bangla, French (advanced reading and listening, intermediate speaking)  
Urdu (beginner)

## REFERENCES

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Dr. Gyan Prakash  
Dayton-Stockton Professor of History  
217 Dickinson Hall  
Princeton University  
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Dr. Projit Bihari Mukharji  
Associate Professor in the History of Science  
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University of Pennsylvania  
(+1) 215-898-8697  
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Dr. Erika Lorraine Milam  
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Professor in the Humanities  
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