

Anastasia Piliavsky is a social anthropologist working on Indian politics, crime, corruption, patronage, and democracy, with a focus on hierarchy as a moral logic. She teaches anthropology and politics at [King's College London](#) and leads [India's Politics in its Vernaculars](#), a major ERC-funded study of India's political languages. She is editor of Patronage as *Politics in South Asia* (Cambridge UP 204) and author of *Nobody's People* (Stanford UP 2020), co-founder of the [Ukrainian Cosmopolis](#), an intellectual collective based in Odessa (Ukraine), and regular contributor and editor of a standing column on Indian politics for [The Times of India](#). She writes frequently for major British publications, such as *The Economist* and *The Spectator*. is currently completing a book on India's hierarchical democracy and another, *Endarkenment*, on the transformation of the American political left.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

From 2022	Reader in Anthropology and Politics at the India Institute, King's College London
2020-2027	Principal Investigator of the European Research Council-funded project on "India's Politics in Its Vernaculars," based at King's College London
2018-2022	Senior Lecturer in Anthropology and Politics at the India Institute, King's College London
2016-2018	Newton - Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at the Cambridge Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences & Humanities
2018	Visiting Fellow, Department of South Asian Studies and Centre for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania
2014-2018	Fellow and Director of Studies in Social Anthropology at Girton College, Cambridge
2015-2017	Director of Studies in Social Anthropology at Newnham College, Cambridge
2012-2016	Co-Investigator of an ERC & ESRC-funded collaborative study of Democratic Cultures and Political Criminalisation in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh (£2 million)
2011-2018	Affiliated Lecturer at the Cambridge Division of Social Anthropology
2010-2014	Junior Research Fellow at King's College, Cambridge
2009-2010	Visiting Lecturer at the University of Bristol

EDUCATION

DPhil	2011 University of Oxford, Social Anthropology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thesis: Theft, patronage and society in northern India • Supervised by David Gellner and Paul Dresch • Rhodes Scholar • Wenner-Gren Grantee
MSc	2006 University of Oxford, Social Anthropology (distinction) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissertation: A secret in the Oxford sense: Thieves and the rhetoric of mystification in northern India

- Supervised by Paul Dresch
 - Studied as Rhodes Scholar
- BA 2004 Boston University, Social & Cultural Anthropology (distinction, *Summa Cum Laude*)
Dissertation: Giving shape to shadows: Spirit possession and landlords among Rajasthan's Sahariya *adivasis*
- BA 2004 Boston University, Religion (*Summa Cum Laude*, concentration in South Asia)

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS & EDITED COLLECTIONS

- 2020** *NOBODY'S PEOPLE: HIERARCHY AS HOPE IN A SOCIETY OF THIEVES*. Stanford: University Press.
- 2014** *PATRONAGE AS POLITICS IN SOUTH ASIA* (ed). Cambridge: University Press.
- Reviewed in *Foreign Affairs*, *The Hindu*, *The Statesman*, *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, *Political Studies Review*, *Studies in Indian Politics*, *South Asia Review*, and *Politics in Spires*, among other places.
- In prep** *ENDARKENMENT: HOW THE LEFT WENT EVANGELICAL*. Scheduled for completion in June 2026. Working with a literary agent.
- In prep** *INDIA'S HIERARCHICAL DEMOCRACY*. Scheduled for completion in December 2026. Working with a literary agent.

CHAPTERS, ARTICLES, REVIEWS

- 2024** Hierarchy as a democratic value in India (forum article). *Current Anthropology*, 64/5.
- 2024** Hierarchy as a value in Indian democracy – a rejoinder. *Current Anthropology*, 64/5.
- 2022** *Elementary words of political life*, a special section of *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, ed. with Judith Scheele, 12/3.
- 2022** Towards a critical ethnography of political concepts: Introduction", with Judith Scheele, *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, 12/3: 686-700.
- 2022** India's little political tradition, *Political Theology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1462317X.2022.2101828>
- 2019** Crooked jurisdictions, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, a conversation with Gregory Feldman, Pál Nyíri, and Jatin Dua.
<https://sites.lsa.umich.edu/cssh/2019/07/02/in-the-gray-zone/>
- 2019** Secrecy and continuity in Rajasthan, in *THE SCANDAL OF CONTINUITY IN MIDDLE EAST ANTHROPOLOGY: FORM, DURATION, DIFFERENCE*, ed. by Judith Scheele and Andrew Shryock. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 119-39.
- 2019** Inequality or death. *Anthropology of This Century*, 24.
- 2018** Egalitarian fantasy and politics in the real world. *Anthropology of This Century*, 21.

- 2018** Disciplinary memory against ambient pietism. *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory*, 7/3: 13-17.
- 2017** The wrong kind of freedom? A Review of David Graeber's *The Utopia of Rules: On Technology, Stupidity and the Secret Joys of Bureaucracy*. *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF POLITICS, CULTURE, AND SOCIETY* 30: 107-111.
- 2016** The ethics of efficacy in north India's *goonda raj* (rule of toughs), *JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE* 22(2): 373-91 (with Tommaso Sbriccoli).
- 2015** The 'criminal tribe' in India before the British. *COMPARATIVE STUDIES IN SOCIETY & HISTORY* 57(2): 323-54.
- 2015** Patronage & community in a society of thieves. *CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIAN SOCIOLOGY* 49(2): 135-61.
- 2015** India's human democracy. *ANTHROPOLOGY TODAY* 31(4): 22-25. Russian translation appeared in the November issue of *ЭТНОГРАФИЧЕСКОЕ ОБОЗРЕНИЕ* (*ETHNOGRAPHIC REVIEW*, Moscow).
- 2015** Review of Jeffrey Witsoe's *Democracy against development*. *AMERICAN ETHNOLOGIST* 42(2): 787-88.
- 2014** Introduction to *PATRONAGE AS POLITICS IN SOUTH ASIA*, edited by Anastasia Piliavsky. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1-35.
- 2014** India's demotic democracy and its 'depravities' in the ethnographic *longue durée*. In *PATRONAGE AS POLITICS IN SOUTH ASIA*, edited by Anastasia Piliavsky. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 154-75.
- 2014** Against the public sphere: The morals of disclosure and the 'vernacular public sphere' in rural Rajasthan. In *DEMOCRATIC TRANSFORMATION AND THE VERNACULAR PUBLIC ARENA IN INDIA*, edited by Taberez Neyazi, Akio Tanabe *et al.* London: Routledge, 172-89.
- 2014** India's non-sovereign kings. Review of Aya Ikegame's *Princely India Re-imagined: A Historical Anthropology of Mysore from 1799 to the Present*. H-NET REVIEWS. (3,000 words)
- 2013** The Moghia menace, or the watch over watchmen in British India. *MODERN ASIAN STUDIES* 47(3): 751-79.
- 2013** Where is the public sphere? Political communication and the morality of disclosure in rural Rajasthan. *CAMBRIDGE ANTHROPOLOGY* 31(2): 104-22.
- 2013** Borders without borderlands: On the social reproduction of state demarcation in western India. *BORDERLAND LIVES IN NORTHERN SOUTH ASIA*, edited by David Gellner. Duke UP, 24-45.
- 2013** Edmund R. Leach. *THEORY IN SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY: AN ENCYCLOPEDIA*, edited by Jon McGee & Richard L. Warms (vol. 1). London: Sage, 465-68.

- 2012** Review of ‘Please don’t beat me, Sir!’, a film by Shashwati Talukdar and P. Kerim Friedman, dirs. 73 min, Woodstock, NY: Four Nine and a Half Pictures. 2011. *AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST* 114(2): 369-70.
- 2011** A secret in the Oxford sense: Thieves and the rhetoric of mystification in western India. *COMPARATIVE STUDIES IN SOCIETY & HISTORY* 53(2): 290-313.
- 2011** (ed.) Edmund R. Leach. Kingship & divinity (1982 Frazer Lecture). *HAU: JOURNAL OF ETHNOGRAPHIC THEORY* 1(1): 279-98.
- 2006** Secrets in the field: The antics of researching Rajasthan’s banditry. *EDINBURGH PAPERS IN SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES* 21(1): 1-21.

TEACHING

-
- From 2018 **King’s College London**
 Senior Lecturer in Anthropology and Politics
Contemporary India: state, society and economy since 1947 (2019/2020)
Violence/non-violence in contemporary India (2020/2021)
Methods for the MSc in Global Affairs: sessions on ethnographic fieldwork, work in historical archives, work in contemporary archives
- PhD students:**
Ankita Banerjee (first supervisor), defended in January 2021
 The Santiniketan Ashram: Rabindranath Tagore’s engagement with politics of twentieth century India
- Sagar Solanki (first supervisor), currently interrupted until September 2020
 Intellectual biography: Radhakrishnan Sarvepalli – A search for ethics
- Silvia Tieri (second supervisor)
 A comparative study of the cultural political economy of Punjabi language in India and Pakistan
- From 2014 **Girton College, Cambridge**
 Fellow and Director of Studies in Social Anthropology
 Organiser, supervisor and examiner of students’ coursework, participant in student recruitment and interviews for admission; judge in student prize, scholarship and writing competitions
- 2015-2017 **Newnham College, Cambridge**
 Director of Studies in Social Anthropology
 Organiser, supervisor and examiner of students’ coursework, participant in student recruitment and interviews for admission
- From 2011 **Cambridge Department of Social Anthropology**
 Associate Lecturer
Lecture
- Ethnographic Research Methods (PhD-level)
 - The Anthropology of Socialist and Post-Socialist Societies (advanced undergraduate)
 - The Anthropology of South Asia (advanced undergraduate)
- Supervise

- Social anthropology – the comparative perspective
- Theory, method and enquiry in social anthropology
- Political economy & social transformation
- Politics & religion
- Kinship & economics
- Anthropology of the state, democracy & corruption (for Harvard visiting students)

Undergraduate & master's dissertations supervised

- Selfish and selfless ethics among Pachamama environmental activists in California (2017)
- 'What the heck is Humanism about?' Religion, boundaries and tolerance in Uganda (2016)
- Searching for shared humanity: An investigation into middle-class responsibility towards the Urban Poor in India (2016)
- The Public and the Private in South Asian Muslim Women's Identity in London (2015)
- 'British values:' Cosmopolitan censorship in British schooling today (2015)
- Ugandan borders: A theatre of life and death (2015)

Student evaluations available on request

2015	Cambridge Museum of Archeology & Anthropology World Civilisations Programme Lectured on 'Why is anthropology good to think?' and 'What is a person?'
2012-2014	Cambridge, Pembroke & King's College Summer Programme Lecturer in Social Anthropology: designed and taught an introductory course 'How to think like a social anthropologist'
2009-10	Oxford, Institute of Social & Cultural Anthropology Tutor in the 'Anthropology of South Asia', 'Kinship & Social Structure', 'Gender & Hinduism'
2008-2009	University of Bristol, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology Lecturer in the 'Anthropology of South Asia'

FUNDING SECURED

2020-2027	ERC Starting Grant for the study of 'India's politics in its vernaculars' (€1.5 million)
2025-2028	The Sutasoma Trust grant to support the Ukrainian Cosmopolis (£30k)
2026	King's Impact Seed and Synergy Development Grants (£4K)
2022-2025	The Sutasoma Trust grant to support the Odessa House of Photography (£30k)
2017	CRASSH funding for conference on 'India's political lexicon in the vernaculars' (£2,500)
2016	University of Pennsylvania funding for conference on India's political lexicon in the vernaculars (\$25,000)
2011-16	European Research Council Early Career Grant for the study of Muscular Politics in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, chief author of grant proposal and co-Investigator with Lucia Michelutti (€1.2 million)
2012-16	ESRC Large Collaborative Research Grant for the study of Democratic Cultures in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, chief author of grant proposal and co-Investigator with Lucia Michelutti (£800,000)
2015	CRASSH funding for the workshop on Hierarchy, egalitarianism and responsibility (£2,500)
2015	CRASSH funding for the annual meeting of South Asian Anthropologists Group (£3,500)

2011-13	CRASSH and King's College (Cambridge) History & Anthropology Seminar Grant (£6,000)
2008-09	Wenner-Gren Dissertation Fieldwork Grant)
2006	Oxford University Anthropology Research Grant (£1,750)
2005-08	Wolfson College (Oxford) Research Grant (£1,500)
2004	Harvard University Pluralism Project Research Grant (\$4,000)
2004	R.E. Katz Boston University Religion Department Grant (\$3,500)
2004	Boston University Ada Draper Research Grant (\$4,000)
2003	Benjamin A. Gilman International Research Grant (\$5,000)
2003	Freeman International Travel Grant (\$5,000)

EVENTS ORGANISED

2022-now	Organised a dozen conferences and workshops as part of "India's Politics in Its Vernaculars" project and Founder and Head of the Ukrainian Cosmopolis
2021 (May)	Launch conference for India's politics in its vernaculars
Feb 20-Feb 21	Fugitive Words, ERC project on-line seminar series convener.
2020 (Nov)	Chair of Panel on 'Patronage beyond exchange' at the annual conference of the American Anthropological Association (with Aaron Ansell)
2019 (Oct)	HIERARCHY BEYOND CASTE, Symposium of the Madison South Asia Conference
2019 (July)	ALTERNATIVE HIERARCHIES, panel at International Conference of Asian Studies with Ward Keeler
2019 (June)	POST-ELECTION CONFERENCE, King's India Institute
2019 (May)	ELEMENTARY WORDS OF POLITICAL LIFE, conference at Cambridge, with Judith Scheele
2018 (Sept)	ANTHROPOLOGY OF POLITICAL IDEAS, panel of the British Association of Social Anthropologists conference, with Judith Scheele
2018 (May)	INDIA'S POLITICS IN ITS VERNACULARS, conference at Cambridge
2018 (Apr)	LIBERALISM CONTRA DEMOCRACY, conference at Georgetown University in Qatar, with Uday Chandra
2016 (Nov)	INDIA'S POLITICAL LEXICON IN THE VERNACULARS, international, interdisciplinary meeting organised with Lisa Mitchell at the University of Pennsylvania
2016 (Sept)	FESTSCHRIFT CONFERENCE FOR DR PIERS VITEBSKY at Cambridge, with Janne Flora and Florian Stammler
2016 (May)	HIERARCHY, EGALITARIANISM AND RESPONSIBILITY, conference at Cambridge, with Joel Robbins and Vita Peacock
2016-2018	FELLOWS' RESEARCH SEMINARS at Girton College, Cambridge
2015 (Nov)	Annual meeting of the SOUTH ASIAN ANTHROPOLOGY GROUP themed 'Leadership, authority and legitimization in South Asia', with Nicholas Evans in Cambridge

2015 (Oct)	DEMOCRACY ON THREE CONTINENTS AND AN ISLAND, roundtable at the Cambridge Festival of Ideas
2011-2013	HISTORY & ANTHROPOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES at Cambridge
2012 (Jan)	WORK IN PROGRESS SEMINAR SERIES with Michael Herzfeld at King's College, Cambridge
2011 (Sept)	PATRONAGE IN SOUTH ASIA, Colloquium at Cambridge
2008 (Jul)	CRIME & PUNISHMENT IN SOUTH ASIA, panel of the Annual European Conference of Modern South Asian Studies in Manchester, with Kim Wagner
2007 (Sept)	MIGRANT HEALTH WORKERS IN THE UK, US, IRELAND, AND CANADA, an international conference at the Oxford University Centre for Migration, Policy and Society
2007 (Sept)	MIGRANT INTEGRATION INTO THE UK LABOUR MARKET, an international, multi-professional (involving academics, government officials, voluntary and community organization members) conference at the Oxford University Centre for Migration, Policy and Society

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & MEMBERSHIPS

2024-now	Education Lead responsible for education programmes of the Global Institutes at King's
2020-2024	PhD Convener for PhD in Contemporary India at King's
2019-2020	Admissions Tutor for the MSc in Global Affairs at King's
From 2018	Convener of the India Institute Seminar Series at King's
From 2018	Convener of the India Institute PhD work-in-progress seminars at King's
2018-2019	Vice-lead on Education for the Global Institutes at King's
2018-2019	Director of MA in Contemporary India at King's
2015-2016	Member of the Girton College Council (main executive body) and College Trustee
From 2015	Chair of Girton's Research Fellowship appointment committee
From 2015	Convener of Fellows' Research Seminars at Girton
From 2015	Member of Girton's People's Portraits Committee
2016	Elector on Girton's Artist in Residence competition
From 2015	Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute
2014-2017	Interviewer for undergraduate admissions for Girton and St Catherine's Colleges, Cambridge
2014-2017	Secretary & Convener of the Girton Fellowship in Arts Committee
2014-2017	Member of the Girton Lawrence Room Committee
From 2013	Fellow of the Groningen Centre for the Study of Religion and Culture in Asia
From 2012	Member of the Cambridge Committee for Social Thought
From 2012	Member of the Commonwealth Election Commissioners' group in Cambridge
2012	Member of King's College Council (main executive body)
2011-2012	Member of the King's College Library Committee
From 2011	Member of the European Association of Social Anthropologists
From 2011	Member of the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK
From 2011	Member of the European Association of South Asian Studies

From 2011	Member of the British Association for South Asian Studies
From 2011	Member of Editorial Board of <i>HAU: Journal of ethnographic theory</i>
From 2011	Regular peer reviewer for <i>Comparative Studies in Society & History</i> , <i>Modern Asian Studies</i> , <i>HAU</i> , <i>JRAI</i> , <i>American Ethnologist</i> , <i>American Anthropologist</i> , <i>Anthropological Theory</i> , <i>Ethnography</i> , <i>Contemporary South Asia</i> , the <i>Journal of Development Studies</i> , as well as Berghahn, Routledge, OUP, and CUP
2007	Research Officer at the Oxford Centre for Migration, Policy and Society
2006-07	Peer Reviewer, Assistant Editor and Research Assistant for the <i>Journal of the Anthropological Society of Oxford</i> at the Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Oxford

AWARDS & HONOURS

2005-08	Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford
2006	MSc with distinction, Oxford
2004	Graduated from Boston University <i>summa cum laude</i>
2004	Boston University Anthropology Department Prize (sole recipient)
2002-04	Boston University Trustee Scholarship (full tuition)
2000-04	Boston University Merit Scholarship
2002-04	Augustus H. Buck Scholarship (full tuition)
2004	<i>Phi Beta Kappa</i> Honours Society membership
2002-03	School for International Training Scholarship
2001	National Key Award, Boston University

ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELDWORK

2022-now	Language and political belonging in wartime Odessa (26 months so far)
2020-now	Political language in Rajasthan (5 months so far)
2013-14	The criminalisation of politics in Rajasthan, India (12 months)
2005-09	Doctoral field research among professional thieves in Rajasthan, India (18 months)
2003	Spirit possession and land tenure in Rajasthan, India (3 months)
2004	American Jains in Boston and San Francisco (3 months)
2002	Mongolia (2 months)
2002	Post-Soviet canonisation of Orthodox saints in Pskov, Russia (3 months)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2020-now	Gave 24 invited lectures
2020 (Nov)	Commentator at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association panel dedicated to my forthcoming book, <i>Nobody's people: Hierarchy as hope in a society of thieves</i>
2021 (Sept)	Keynote address at the Conceptual History Conference, Humbolt U Berlin; For an ethnographic conceptual history
2020 (Apr)	Hierarchical justice for an unequal world, University of Texas, Austin, South and Southeast Asia seminar
2019 (Mar)	'The other BJP, or Rajputs versus Hindutva', India at the Polls conference at the Institute for Advanced Studies, University of London

- 2019 (Mar) Contributed to a roundtable on Everyday Democracy, Trinity Politics Society, Cambridge
- 2018 (Nov) Hierarchical justice for an unequal world LSE Anthropology Senior Seminar
- 2018 (Nov) Hierarchical justice for an unequal world, Oslo Anthropology Senior Seminar
- 2018 (Oct) Hierarchy as a Value in Indian Democracy, Oxford South Asia Seminar
- 2018 (Jun) **Keynote** address at the Interdisciplinary Corruption Research Conference, University of Gothenburg
- 2018 (Jun) Corruption in other cultures, lecture at the Quality of Government Institute, University of Gothenburg
- 2018 (Apr) For a vernacular theory of South Asia's politics, **keynote** at the conference of South Asia's Politics in Its Vernaculars
- 2018 (Apr) Hierarchy as hope, South Asian Studies Seminar at UPenn
- 2018 (Mar) Hierarchy as hope, Scheps Anthropology Seminar at Columbia University
- 2018 (Mar) Hierarchy as a value in Indian democracy, South Asia Seminar at Columbia University
- 2017 (Oct) The question of India's democratic values, talk at the University of Pomona conference on India @ 70; participant in the closing roundtable debate
- 2017 (June) Hierarchy, egalitarianism and democracy in India, and beyond, Indian Democracy Conference at King's India Institute, organized by Sunil Khilnani, Christophe Jaffrelot and Louise Tillin
- 2017 (May) Hierarchy, egalitarianism and democracy (in northern India), or what kind of relational logic does democracy (anywhere) demand? Oxford South Asian Political Thought Seminar
- 2017 (May) The perils of stray men, or why everybody needs a master (in India, for example), Cambridge Centre for Mongolian Studies Seminar
- 2017 (March) Hierarchy as Hope, Cambridge Social Anthropology Seminar
- 2016 (Nov) The Janus-faced *sarkar*, or governance by persons and institutions. University of Pennsylvania, conference on India's political lexicon in the vernaculars
- 2016 (Nov) Democracy as a hierarchical political form, University of Pennsylvania South Asia Colloquium
- 2016 (July) The myth of India's political criminalisation, Oxford conference on the Criminalisation of Politics in South Asia
- 2016 (May) Hierarchy, democracy and political responsibility in Rajasthan, SOAS Department of Politics senior seminar
- 2016 (Mar) Democracy as hierarchy in northern India, Cambridge South Asia senior seminar
- 2015 (Nov) *Sarkar*, *darbar* and 'the state' in India. Wisconsin South Asia conference, pre-conference workshop on the state
- 2015 (Nov) Hierarchy, democracy and political representation in Rajasthan, University of Edinburgh South Asia department seminar
- 2015 (Oct) The ethics of efficacy in (north) India's goonda raj, Cambridge Social Anthropology senior department seminar
- 2015 (Oct) The telos of efficacy in north India's 'goonda raj', Kent, anthropology senior department seminar
- 2015 (June) Democracy and mediation in northern India, University of Gottingen conference on mediation and marginality
- 2015 (May) The orthoprax morals of (north) India's 'goonda raj', Gottingen Institute for Religious Diversity
- 2015 (Apr) Hierarchy, democracy and responsibility in northern India, University of Jyväskylä, Finland
- 2014 (Nov) Rulers or political representatives in northern India? U of Austin, Texas

- 2014 (Oct) Elective aristocracy, or political representation the Indian way, Madison (Wisconsin)
- 2014 (Oct) Stage fright: how costumes, curtains and masks let us speak, Cambridge
- 2014 (Oct) How do Indian politicians 'represent' Indian citizens? UCL
- 2014 (Jul) The ethics of 'goonda raj' in northern India, Zurich
- 2014 (May) What an anthropologist can teach political analysts about democracy, Cambridge CUSAS
- 2014 (May) India's democracy and corruption, and why the one needs the other, Koç University (Istanbul) Department of Politics
- 2014 (May) 'Feudal' democracy in India, and not only there, Sabanci University (Istanbul) Department of Politics
- 2014 (Apr) On borders and borderlands, Cambridge CRASSH
- 2014 (Feb) India's 'feudal' democracy, Oxford Queen Elizabeth House
- 2014 (Feb) Patronage as politics in South Asia, Cambridge Magic Circle Seminar
- 2014 (Jan) India's democracy and corruption, and why the one needs the other, Brunel
- 2013 (Oct) The criminal tribe in India before the British, Indian Council of Historical Research, Delhi
- 2013 (Sep) A human democracy. Meeting of the Cambridge Vice-Chancellor's Circle of Advisors, Delhi
- 2013 (Jun) Where is the public sphere? UCL anthropology day
- 2012 (Dec) Notes on oaths and adjudication in Northern India, Oxford Legalism Seminars
- 2012 (Nov) The World's Largest Democracy and Its Depravities: A View from Within, Harvard Department of South Asian Studies
- 2012 (Nov) The criminal tribe in India before the British, Cambridge CRASSH seminar series
- 2012 (Oct) Democracy & the Morals of the 'Public Sphere' in Northern India, University of Kyoto Department of Asian Studies
- 2012 (Mar) Brahmins' Brigands, Haifa University Department of Asian Studies
- 2012 (Feb) How to Stop The Gift from Giving, UCL Anthropology Department Seminar
- 2011 (Nov) On Making Do without Exchange in Western India, Cambridge Anthropology Senior Seminar
- 2011 (May) On Law and Adjudication in Rural Western India, Cambridge Magic Circle Seminar
- 2011 (April) Truth, Truce and Trust: Oaths and Adjudication among Thieves in Western India, Oxford Legalism Seminars
- 2011 (Feb) Thieving and Policing the Same Beats or the Social Reproduction of State Demarcation in Western India, Cambridge SARA Seminar
- 2010 (Sept) Thieves, Goddesses and the Logic of Patronage in Western India, Oxford South Asian Anthropologists' Group Annual Conference
- 2009 (Nov) Relatedness and the Rhetoric of Secrecy among Thieves in Western India, Oxford Anthropology Seminar
- 2008 (Jul) Crime, Corruption and the State: Conventions of Deviance in the Politics of Rural Rajasthan, Annual European Conference of Modern South Asian Studies
- 2007 (May) The Moghia Commission and Its Discontents: Notes on Policing and Politicking in Nineteenth-Century North India, Oxford Seminars in Commonwealth History
- 2007 (Apr) Anthropology in the Archive: Bandits, Policemen and the State in Rural North India, Oxford Seminar in Modern South Asian Studies
- 2007 (Mar) 'Who Will Police the Police?', Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting in Boston
- 2006 (Sept) Local Knowledge and Criminal Castes, Cambridge 'Beyond Representation' Workshop

- 2006 (Jun) Criminal Tribe’ or Vimuktu Jati?: Democratization and the Legal Invisibility of an ‘Ex-Criminal’ Community in Rajasthan, European Association of South Asian Studies 19th Biennial Conference, Leiden
- 2006 (May) Public Secrets: Truths Revealed and Concealed in the Study of Rajasthan’s Bandits, LSE Anthropology Seminar
- 2006 (May) ‘Criminal Caste’ as Public Secret: Gossip, ‘Truth’ and Criminalizing Difference in Rajasthan, University of Sussex Anthropology Department Seminar
- 2006 (Mar) Stories & Silences: Secrets of Rajasthan’s ‘Ex-Criminal’ Caste, invited presentation, University of Delhi Special Lecture
- 2006 (Feb) Secrets in the ‘Field:’ The Antics of Researching Rajasthan’s Banditry, invited presentation, University of Edinburgh Department of Asian Studies
- 2006 (Jan) Nomads, Mercenaries and ‘Criminal Tribes’ in India, invited presentation, Oxford
- 2005 (Apr) Conversations with Landlords: Spirit Possession and Land Tenure among Rajasthan’s Adivasis, University of Delhi Department of Modern Languages
- 2005 (Mar) Giving Shape to Shadows: Spirit Possession, Power Relations and Resistance among Rajasthan’s Sahariya Adivasis, University of Sussex
- 2004 (Oct) The Jain Community in Greater Boston and Beyond: Organization, Challenges and New Paradigms, Harvard Divinity School

LANGUAGES

English & Russian: native-level

Ukrainian & Hindi: fluent literate & conversational

Urdu, Mewari & Kanjari: conversational

French: literate

Sanskrit: smatterings