

Samantha Gayathri Iyer
Fordham University
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Fordham University, 2016 to present
Assistant Professor of History

Harvard University, 2014 - 2016
Global American Studies Postdoctoral Fellow, Warren Center for Studies in American History

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D., History, 2014

Dissertation: “The Paradox of Poverty and Plenty: Egypt, India, and Rise of U.S. Food Aid, 1870s-1950s” (Committee: Richard Candida-Smith (chair), Beshara Doumani, Gillian Hart, James Vernon)

- Winner of the Gilbert C. Fite Award for the Best Dissertation on Agricultural History
Agricultural History Society, 2014
- Winner of the David Hollinger Prize in Intellectual History
University of California, Berkeley, Department of History, 2014

University of Chicago

B.A., Sociology, 2004 (with general honors and honors in sociology)

PUBLICATIONS AND CURRENT PROJECTS

Book

Agrarian Superpower: The Rise of U.S. Global Power out of a British Imperial World (under contract with Columbia University Press)

Articles

“Agricultural Workers, Tenant Farmers, and the Midcentury U.S. Welfare State: A View from the Lower Mississippi Valley” (forthcoming with *Past and Present*)

“Colonial Population and the Idea of Development,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 55(1) (2013): 65-91.

Book Reviews and Occasional Writings

“Speculating on Race: How Systematic Inequalities in Housing Create Investment Opportunities,” 24 January 2021, *Spectre: A Marxist Journal*.

Review of *Global Population: History, Geopolitics, and Life on Earth* by Alison Bashford, *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, 70(3) (2015): 279-281.

Review of *Poverty in Common: The Politics of Community Action During the American Century* by Alyosha Goldstein, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 56(1) (2014): 249-250.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Faculty Fellowship on “Alternative Ecologies,” Warren Center, Harvard University, 2024-2025

Kluge Fellowship, Library of Congress, 2019-2020

Faculty Fellowship, Fordham University, 2019-2020

Faculty Research Grant, Fordham University, 2019-2020

O’Connell Initiative Research Grant, Fordham University, Department of History, 2019-2020

ACLS Fellowship, 2018-2019

Senior Research Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies, 2017-2018

O’Connell Initiative Research Grant, Fordham University, Department of History, 2017-2018

Faculty Research Grant, Fordham University, 2017-2018

Summer Urdu Language Program, American Institute of Indian Studies, 2016

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2013-2014

Mabelle McLeod Lewis Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2013-2014 (declined)

Graduate Division Summer Grant, U.C. Berkeley, 2012 and 2013

Bemis Dissertation Research Grant, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, 2012

Moody Grant, Lyndon B. Johnson Foundation, 2011-2012

Eisenhower Research Grant, Jeffcoat Memorial Foundation, 2011- 2012

Dean’s Time Normative Fellowship, U.C. Berkeley, Spring 2012

Simpson Research Fellowship, Institute of International Studies, U.C. Berkeley, 2011-2012

International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council, 2010-2011

Fulbright IIE, U.S. Department of State, 2010-2011 (for Egypt)

Critical Language Enhancement Award, U.S. Department of State, 2010
(For study of Modern Standard Arabic and Egyptian Colloquial Arabic)

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education, 2008-2009
(For study of Modern Standard Arabic)

TEACHING

Fordham University
Assistant Professor, Department of History

Undergraduate Courses

Understanding Historical Change: U.S. History

Culture and Capitalism in the U.S.

Research Methods: History

Values and Global Capitalism

Economic Life and British Colonialism

Questions of Global Capitalism

Graduate Courses

History, Theory, Methods: The Historian's Tools

History of Economic Life: Capitalism and Its Others

Dissertation Committees

Matt Mulhern, "Zbigniew Brzezinski and the Arc of Crisis: The Influence of Political Theory on Policy and the Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan," in progress

Spencer Tompkins, "At the Moving Frontier: Arthur D. Little and the Development of Capitalism in the Americas," in progress

Nicholas DeAntonis, "Emancipating 'the Unfortunates': The Anti-Slavery Society, the United States, the United Nations and the Decades-Long Fight to Abolish the Saudi Arabian Slave Trade," completed 2021

Harvard University
Lecturer, Department of History

Courses (Mixed Composition, Mostly Undergrad)

Time and Place in the History of American Capitalism

Work in Global Perspective

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED TALKS

“U.S. Food Aid and the Making and Breaking of Egypt's National Economy, 1950s-1960s,” Finance and its Environments Conference, University of Zurich, 23-24 May 2024, Zurich, Switzerland

“A Social History of National Crop Forecasting in the US, Egypt, and India,” U.S. Political Economy Lab, Zoom, 5 December 2023

“The Global Problem of Plenty: Regulating Agriculture in Egypt and the United States, 1920s to 1930s,” Agrarian Studies Seminar, Yale University, 6 December 2019, New Haven, CT

“Imagining the National Economy: Managing Agricultural Surpluses in Inter-War Egypt and the United States,” Eating the World Conference, City, University of London, 11 June 2019, London, U.K.

“India’s Wartime Food Emergency: Hoarders, Speculators, and Black Marketers,” Annual Conference on South Asia, 1 October 2018, Madison, WI

“The Politics of Food in Egypt during World War II,” Surveying Modern Egypt Workshop, CUNY Graduate Center, 20 April 2018, New York, NY

“Agrarian Superpower: The Politics of Food in Egypt, India, and the United States, 1870s to 1970s,” Revising the Geography of Modern World Histories, University of York, 9 February, 2018, York, U.K.

“Predicting the Market: Crop Forecasting in India, 1870s – 1920s,” Global Histories of Capital, NYU/New School, 7 October 2017, New York, NY

“Welfare and the Ecology of Hunger in Post-World War II California,” Humans on Earth Workshop, Remarque Institute, New York University, 25 March 2017, New York, NY

“Colonial Population and the Idea of Development,” Center for Global Health Histories, University of York, 2 June 2016, York, U.K.

“The Nature of Hunger: The Politics of Food Distribution in Post-War California and the Mississippi Delta,” Capitalism’s Environment Making Histories Workshop, New School for Social Research, 5 February 2016, New York, NY

“Food for the Farmworkers: Welfare in California Agriculture,” Global American Studies Symposium, Harvard University, 25 September 2015, Cambridge, MA

“Remembering the Land: U.S. Agriculture and Food Welfare,” Planetary Natures Conference, 10-11 July 2015, Binghamton, NY

"Debt and Difference: The Politics of Agriculture in an Age of Global Crisis," Global American Studies Symposium, Harvard University, 11 December 2014, Cambridge, MA

"Agricultural Statistics and Rural Credit in an Age of Crisis," Annual Conference of Social Science History Association, 21 November 2013, Chicago, IL

"The Emergence of the Post-War International Food Order," Annual Conference of Association of American Geographers," 10 April 2013, Los Angeles, CA

"Peasant Thought and the Inter-War Agricultural Crisis in Egypt," Annual Conference of Middle East Studies Association, 18 November 2012, Denver, CO

"A History of Demographic Thought: Late Nineteenth-Century Constructions of Development Narratives," Berkeley International and Global History Conference, 5 March 2011, Berkeley, CA

LANGUAGES

Arabic: Advanced reading and speaking (Egyptian colloquial), proficient writing

French: Advanced reading and speaking, proficient writing

Hindi/Urdu: Proficient reading, speaking, writing

Tamil: Basic reading, advanced speaking, basic writing