

Anand Venkatkrishnan  
Assistant Professor  
University of Chicago Divinity School  
Swift Hall 303B, 1025 E 58th St  
Chicago, IL 60637

## EDUCATION

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### Columbia University

Ph.D. in Religion (South Asian Religions).	Oct. 2015
M.Phil. in Religion (South Asian Religions), conferred with distinction.	Feb. 2013
M.A. in Religion (South Asian Religions).	May 2012

### Stanford University

B.A. in Classics (Philology), conferred with distinction.	June 2010
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## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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Certificates of Teaching Excellence, Derek Bok Center, Harvard University	2017-2019
Junior Research Fellowship, Balliol College, Oxford	2015-2017
Jacob K. Javits Fellowship	2011-2015
Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University	2010-2015, declined after 2011
Deans' Award for Academic Achievement, Stanford University	2010
James W. Lyons Award for Service, Stanford University	2010
Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society	2010

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Monographs

*Love in the Time of Scholarship: The Bhāgavata Purāṇa in Indian Intellectual History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2024).

In Progress

*Searching for Sarasvati: Race, Gender, and the Social Lives of Sanskrit in America.*

“Hidden Mūrtis: The Sanskrit Students of Radcliffe College.” In *Modern Sanskrit: Dialogues Across Times, Spaces, and Religions*, edited by Finnian Moore Gerety, Laurie Patton, and Charles Preston. London: Routledge, forthcoming.

### Journal Articles

with Andrew Ollett, “Plumbing the Depths: Reading Bhavabhūti in Seventeenth-Century Kerala.” *Asiatische Studien — Études Asiatiques* 76.3 (2022): 581-622.

“Skeletons in the Sanskrit Closet.” *Religion Compass* 15.5 (2021): 1-9.

“Leaving Kashi: Sanskrit Knowledge and Cultures of Consumption in 18th C. South India.” *The Indian Economic and Social History Review* 57.4 (2020): 567-581.

with Rosalind O’Hanlon and Richard David Williams, “Scribal service people in motion: Culture, power, and the politics of mobility in India’s long eighteenth century, c. 1680-1820.” *The Indian Economic and Social History Review* 57.4 (2020): 443-460.

“Philosophy From the Bottom Up: Eknāth’s Vernacular Advaita.” *Journal of Indian Philosophy* 48.1 (2020): 9-21.

“*The River of Ambrosia: An Alternative Commentarial Tradition of the Bhāgavata Purāṇa.*” *Journal of Hindu Studies* 11.1 (2018): 53-66.

“Love in the Time of Scholarship: An Advaita Vedāntin Reads the Bhakti Sūtras.” *Journal of Hindu Studies* 8.1 (2015): 139-152.

“Ritual, Reflection, and Religion: The Devas of Banaras.” *South Asian History and Culture* 6.1 (January 2015): 147-171.

with Rosalind O’Hanlon and Christopher Minkowski, “Social History in the Study of Indian Intellectual Cultures?” *South Asian History and Culture* 6.1 (January 2015): 1-9.

### Book Chapters

“You Came So That We May Live.” In *Sensitive Reading: The Pleasures of South Asian Literatures in Translation*, edited by Yigal Bronner and Charles Hallisey, pp. 226-229. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2022.

“Are There Atheists in Potholes? Mimāṃsakas Debate the Path of Bhakti.” In *Regional Communities of Devotion in South Asia: Insiders, Outsiders, and Interlopers*, edited by Gil Ben-Herut, Jon Keune, and Anne Monius, pp. 177-191. London: Routledge, 2020.

## Edited Volumes

Co-editor, *Scholar Intellectuals in Early Modern India* (London: Routledge, 2015).

## Book Reviews

“A Time of Novelty: Logic, Emotion, and Intellectual Life in Early Modern India, 1500-1700 CE,” *English Historical Review* 138.592 (2023): 647-649.

“Translating Wisdom: Hindu-Muslim Intellectual Interactions in Early Modern South Asia,” *Journal of Islamic Studies* 33.1 (2022): 117-119.

*Hindu Pluralism: Religion and the Public Sphere in Early Modern South India*,” *International Journal of Hindu Studies* 26.2 (2022): 254-255.

“A Vaiṣṇava Poet in Early Modern Bengal: Kavikarṇapūra’s Splendour of Speech,” *Journal of Religion* 101.4 (2021): 550-551.

“The Pariah Problem: Caste, Religion, and the Social in Modern India.” *Journal of Hindu Studies* 8.3 (2015): 338-340.

“Periodization and Historiography of Indian Philosophy.” *Philosophy East and West* 65.2 (2015): 604-610.

“Liturgy of Liberation: A Christian Commentary on Shankara’s Upadeśasāhasrī.” *Toronto Journal of Theology* 30.2 (2014): 331-332.

## TEACHING AND WORK EXPERIENCE

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### University of Chicago

#### Assistant Professor

Fall 2019-

Taught undergraduate and graduate courses in the Divinity School and the College: e.g., Hinduism, Contemporary Topics in South Asian Religion, Classical Theories of Religion, Philosophy and Literature in India, and Music and Love in South Asia.

### Harvard University

#### Preceptor

Fall 2017-Spring 2019

Taught Elementary, Intermediate, and Advanced courses in Sanskrit in the Department of South Asian Studies. Conducted independent readings and helped supervise graduate student dissertation projects.

### Columbia University

#### Lecturer

Spring 2015

Taught seminar course “Language and Religion in South Asia” in Religion Department. Designed syllabus, facilitated discussion, monitored responses, and graded final papers.

#### Lecturer

Spring 2014

Taught “Intermediate Sanskrit II” in Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS). Directed readings in *Hitopadeśa* and *Uttararāmacarita*. Composed and graded midterms and exams.

### Rutgers University

#### Adjunct Instructor

Fall 2013 - Spring 2014

Taught “Elementary Sanskrit I & II” in the Department of African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Languages and Literatures. Designed syllabus and supplementary material, including electronic and audio exercises for blind student. Composed and graded written assignments and exams.

### SUNY Stony Brook

#### Adjunct Lecturer

Spring 2013

Taught introductory course “Hinduism: Tradition and Dissent” in Department of Asian and Asian American Studies (AAS): a comprehensive historical survey of Hindu religious, philosophical, and political traditions. Designed syllabus and lectures. Composed and graded written assignments and exams.

### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (LAST FIVE YEARS)

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“Searching for Sarasvati: Race, Gender, and the Social Lives of Sanskrit in America.” Anjali Lecture, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. April 10, 2025.

“Trans-Asian Feminist Biographies.” East Asian Studies Speaker Series, Johns Hopkins University. Mar. 7, 2025.

“Fear needs Ablative, Love needs Locative: The Promise and Peril of Classical Learning.” Humbert Lecture on Religion and Public Life, Eureka College. Feb. 4, 2025.

“Desde San Jose hasta San José: Investigaciones en sánscrito y español.” Facultad de Letras, Universidad de Costa Rica, San José. Jan. 23, 2024.

“Memories of a Marxist Monk: Anand Kausalyayan’s *Jo Na Bhool Saka*.” Society for Buddhist Studies. Cornell University. Dec. 2, 2022.

“Anti-Bourgeois Hinduism: Sahajanand Saraswati’s *Gita Hriday*.” Annual Conference on South Asia. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Oct. 20, 2022.

“Text, Context, Subtext: Religion in Sanskrit Intellectual History.” Religion Department, Barnard College, Columbia University. Dec. 13, 2021.

“Bhakti and Mukti: Literature and Liberation in Sixteenth-Century Kerala.” Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Lausanne, Switzerland. Oct. 26, 2020.

## LANGUAGES

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Advanced:	Sanskrit, Tamil (native fluency), Spanish
Reading:	Hindi, German, Greek, Latin
Basic:	Persian, Urdu, Malayalam
Indic Scripts:	Nagari, Sharada, Newari, Grantha