

Veena Das
Curriculum Vitae (2014)
Krieger-Eisenhower Professor
Department of Anthropology
404E Macaulay
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EDUCATION

1970 PhD, Sociology, University of Delhi, India
1966 MA, Sociology, University of Delhi, India
1964 BA, Sanskrit, University of Delhi, India (Honors)

TEACHING POSITIONS

Johns Hopkins University

2000-present Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of Anthropology
2005-present Professor of Humanities

New School University

1997-2000 Professor of Anthropology,

University of Delhi

1982-2000 Professor, Department of Sociology
1972-1982 Reader, Department of Sociology
1970-1972 Lecturer, Department of Sociology
1968-1970 Area Studies Fellow
1967-1968 Lecturer, Department of Sociology

VISITING POSITIONS

2009 Fellow, Institut d'études avancées and Visiting Professor, EHESS, Paris
2006 Visiting Distinguished Professor, Grinnell College
2005 Professor, University of Paris

- 1990, 1991 Visiting Professor, Südasien Institut, University of Heidelberg
- 1986 Luce Professor of Ethics, Amherst College
- 1982 Professor, Divinity School and Department of Anthropology, Harvard U.
- 1977 Associate Professor, University of Chicago

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

- 2011 (Fall) Member Academic Council, Johns Hopkins University
- 2001 - 2007 Member Academic Council, Johns Hopkins University
- 2001- 2008 Chair, Department of Anthropology, The Johns Hopkins University
- 1994 -1997 Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Delhi
- 1995-1997 Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Delhi

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2014 Nessim Habib World Prize , University of Geneva
- 2014 Honorary Doctorate in Social Sciences, University of Edinburgh (to be awarded in June)
- 2009 John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship
- 2007 Fellow, Academy of Scientists of Developing countries (TWAS)
- 2001 Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Cambridge, MA.
- 2000 Honorary Doctorate in Letters Humaine, University of Chicago
- 1995 Anders Retzius Gold Medal of the Swedish Society of Anthropology and Geography, the highest award of the Society
- 1991 University Grants Commission, Government of India National Lecturer, India.
- 1986 VKRA Rao Award for Outstanding Research in Social Sciences, ICSSR, Delhi
- 1975 G.S. Ghurye Award for Best Book in Sociology, University of Bombay

NAMED LECTURES/ KEYNOTE ADDRESSES (selected since 1982)

2014. “ War and Intimate Violence: Reading the Ethnographic Record in the Light of the Mahabharata” Chrystal Macmillan Lecture, University of Edinburgh (June 18th)
- 2013 “Finding an Address: Reflections on an Urban Neighborhood” M.N. Srinivas Memorial Lecture, Kings College, London
- 2013 “Meaning, Emotion and Poetic Voice” Golden Jubilee Lecture, Center for Study of Developing Societies, Delhi
- 2012, “Politics of the Urban Poor” Distinguished Lecture, Central University, Hyderabad.
- 2012 “State, Citizenship and the Urban Poor” Annual Sociology Lecture, Bogazici University, Istanbul
- 2012 “On Singularity” Keynote Address, Conference on “Freedom, Creativity and Decision: Toward an Anthropology of the Human Subject”, Cambridge University
- 2012 “Time, Subjectivity and the Poetic Voice” Allen Dundes Lecture, University of California, Berkeley,
- 2012 Keynote Address,” Reconstructing the Subject in the Aftermath of Violence”, Conference on “Emotion, Violence and the Subject” Freiuiversitat, Berlin
- 2011 Keynote Address, “Vital Power and Politics: Human Interactions with Living Things”, Association of Social Anthropologists in UK and the Commonwealth, Lampeter, Wales, UK
- 2011 Keynote Address, PACSA-PCC Conference on “The Local and the Global Understandings of War and Peace” Nicosia, Cyprus
- 2010 B.R. Ambedkar Memorial Lecture, “Citizenship as a Claim” Baba Rao Ambedkar University, New Delhi.
- 2010 M.N. Srinivas Memorial Lecture, “Performance of Violence” Institute,

- of Advanced Study, Bangaluru
- 2009 Distinguished Lecture, South Asia Program, UCLA
- 2008 Keynote Address, South Asia Conference, University of Wisconsin,
- 2008 Keynote Address, Conference entitled A la recherché du genre, Swiss Graduate Program in Gender Studies, Geneva.
- 2008 Gillian Lectures in Asian Studies, Michigan State University
- 2007 Henry Morgan Lectures “Hindu-Muslim Relations in Urban India” , Rochester University.
- 2005 Distinguished Lecture, the Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium, “Psychiatric Illness and the urban Poor”, April 19th
- 2005 Wertheim Lecture, “ Illness, Hope and Despair” University of Amsterdam
- 2005 Frazer Lecture “Ethics of the Ordinary: Figures of Life and Law in the context of urban poverty” Oxford University.
- 1999 Barbara Stoller Miller Lecture, “Interpreting Ritual through the Experience of Death” University of Columbia
- 1982 Henry Myers Lecture of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, entitled “The Language of Sacrifice”

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2014 *Affliction: Health, Disease, Poverty*. Fordham University Press, New York (date of publication October 2014)
- 2012 *Structure and Cognition: Aspects of Hindu Caste and Ritual (with a new Introduction)* , Oxford Perennials, Delhi
- 2008 Sujeto del Dolor, Agentas de Dignidad, (Veena Das Reader ed. Francisco Ortega,) Universidad National de Colombia, Bagota.

- 2007 *Life and Words: Violence and the Descent into the Ordinary*, California University Press, Berkeley. (translated in Chinese)
- 1995 *Critical Events: An Anthropological Perspective on Contemporary India*, Oxford University Press, Delhi. (reprinted 2001)
- 1977[2012] *Structure and Cognition: Aspects of Hindu Caste and Ritual*, Oxford University Press, Delhi. (Reprinted in 1982, 1991,
- Edited Books**
- Under Review. *Politics of the Urban Poor. Special Issue of Current Anthropology*
(with Shalini Randeria)
- Under Review *An Anthropological Companion to the Anthropology of Living and Dying* (with Clara Han). University of California Press, Berkeley
- 2014 (with Michael Jackson, Arthur Kleinman, Bhrigupati Singh) *The Ground Between : Anthropologists Engage Philosophy*
Duke University Press, Durham (May 2014)
- 2010 *Anthropology and Sociology of Economic Life: the Moral Embedding of Economic Action* (with Ranendra Das). Oxford University Press, New Delhi)
- 2004 *Anthropology in the Margins of the State* (with D.Poole) SAR, Santa Fe.
- 2003 *Oxford India Companion to Sociology and Social Anthropology*, Vol. 1 and Vol.2
- 2002 *Tradition, Pluralism and Identity: Essays in Honour of T.N. Madan* (co-edited with Dipankar Gupta and Patricia Uberoi,) Delhi, Sage.
- 2001 *Remaking a World* (with Arthur Kleinman, Margaret Lock, Mamphela Ramphele, and Pamela Reynolds), California University Press.
- 2000 *Violence and Subjectivity* (with Arthur Kleinman, Margaret Lock, (co-edited Mamphela Ramphele and Pamela Reynolds), California University Press.
- 1998 *Social Suffering* (with Arthur Kleinman and Margaret Lock), California University Press, Berkeley.
- 1991 *Mirrors of Violence*, Oxford University Press, Delhi.

1986 *The Word and the World: Fantasy, Symbol and Record*, Sage Publications, Delhi.

Books Near Completion with expected dates (all single authored)

2015 *Speaking of Violence: Essays on Language, Gender, and Performance*

2015 *Estranged Intimacies: Being a Muslim in Contemporary India*

Journal Articles and Book Chapters (selected)

2014 Experiments between anthropology and philosophy: Affinities and antagonisms” (co-authored) in *The Ground Between: Anthropologists Engage Philosophy*. Duke university Press, Durham. In Press. Introduction

“Action, expression, and everyday life: Recounting household events” in *The Ground Between: Anthropologists Engage Philosophy*. Duke University Press, Durham, 2014

“Democratic strivings, social sciences and public debates; The case of India” (with Shalini Randeria) *American Anthropologist*. 2014

Entries on Asad, Talal; Srinivas, M.N, and Wittgenstein, Ludwig in *Theory in Social and Cultural Anthropology: An Encyclopedia*. 2014 (Vols. 1 and 2). (ed. R.Jon McGee, Richard L Warms) . Sage Reference, London, (pp. 33-36; 810-812; 937-939)

"Neighbors and acts of silent kindness." *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 3.1 (2013), Vol. 3 (1): 217-220.

"Knowledge Production and Regional Scholarship." *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East* .2013. Vol. 33 (3) 272-275.

“War and the mythological imagination” *Anthropologia*. 2013, Anno XIII (16): 25-36

“Cohabiting an interreligious milieu: Reflections on religious diversity” 2013.in *A Companion to the Anthropology of Religion*. (ed. Janice Boddy and Michael Lambek), Wiley Blackwell, London, Chapter 3, 69-84.

“Being-together with animals: Death, violence and non-cruelty in Hindu imagination” in *Living Beings: Perspectives on Interspecies Engagements* (ed. Penny

Dransart. 2013, Bloomsbury Publishing. London. Chapter 1

“In urban and rural India, a standardized patient study showed low levels of provider training and huge quality gaps” (coauthored) *Health Affairs*, 2012, Vol. 31: 2774-2784

“South Asia: the stake of theory” in (ed. J. Carrier and D. Gewertz *Handbook of Sociocultural Anthropology*, 2012, Oxford: Berg Publishers

“Gathering the center” Seminar (Special Issue entitled Institutional Legacy), 2012 , No. 639: 12-15.

“The mental-health gender gap in urban India: patterns and narratives” (with J.Das and R.Das) *Social Science and Medicine*, 2012, vol. 75: 1660-72

“The braiding of violence and non-violence in Hindu ethics” in *Oxford Handbook on Religion and Violence*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2012, Chapter 1.

“The dreamed guru: entangled lives of an amil and a guru” in *The Guru in South Asia : Interdisciplinary Perspectives* , (ed. Jacob Copeman and Aye Ikigama)), London: Routledge, 2012, Chapter 7

“2012 “Ordinary ethics” in *A Companion to Moral Anthropology of* (ed. Didier Fassin), Oxford: Blackwell-Wiley. Chapter 8.

“AIDS as a biosocial formation” in *The Fourth Wave: Violence, Gender, Culture and HIV in the Twenty-first Century* (ed. Vinh-Kim Nguyen and Jennifer F.Klot) SSRC Publications, New York, 2011, 13-18.

“State, citizenship and the urban poor” *Citizenship Studies*, 2011, Vol. 15, 319-333

“Sexuality, vulnerability and the oddness of the human? *Borderlands*, 2010,, Vol. 9,

No. 3, e-journal

“ Economies of knowledge: A Short commentary” in *Anthropology and Development* (ed. Soumhya Venketeshwaran et al) Oxford: Bergham Publishers, 2011, 58-61

“The life of humans and the life of haunted spirits” in *Rethinking the Human* (ed. J.M.Mollina and D.Swearer), Cambridge, Ma: Harvard University Press, 31-51, 2010.

“Engaging the Life of the other: Love and everyday Life” in *Ordinary Ethics: Anthropology, Language and Action* (ed. Michael Lambak) New York: Fordham University Press, New York 376-400, 2010

“Passionate performance: 26/11, Mumbai” in *Performances of Violence* (ed. Austin Sarat, Carleen R.Basler, Thomas L.Dumm), Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press , 118-140, 2010

“Of M.F. Husain and an impossible love” in *Barefoot Across the Nation* (ed. Sumathi Ramaswamy) London: Routledge, , 116-130, 2010

“Moral striving in the everyday: To be a Muslim in contemporary India” in *Ethical Life in South Asia* (ed. Anand Pandian and Daud Ali) Indiana: Bloomington, 232-253, 2010,

“Introduction: the moral embedding of economic action” in *The Sociology and Anthropology of Economic Life*, (ed. with R.K.Das) Delhi: Oxford University Press,

“Two plaits and a step in the world: a childhood remembered” in *Remembered Childhood: Essays in Honour of André Bèteille*, (ed. Malavika Karlekar and Rudragshu Mukherjee) Delhi: Oxford University Press, 196-209, 2009.

“Illness and the urban poor: Psychiatric institutions and the singularity of lives” in *Enchantments of Modernity: Empire, Nation, Globalization* (ed. S.Dube) Delhi: Routledge, 152-170, 2009

“Anthropology, knowledge flows and global health” (with S.Freeman, A. Kleinman, K.Stewart and P.Farmer), *Global Public Health*, December, 2009,
<http://www.informaworld.com/10.108>

- “Fire related deaths in India in 2001: a retrospective analysis” (with P. Sanghavi and K. Bhalla) *Lancet*, March, Vol. 373,, Issue 9671, 1282-1288, 2009
- “The modalities of the domestic” (with Jonathan M Ellen and Lori Leonard). *Home Cultures*, Vol. 5(3): 349-377, 2008
- “Violence, gender and subjectivity” *Annual Review of Anthropology*, Vol. 37, 283-299, 2008
- “How the body speaks: Illness and the life-world among the urban poor” In *Subjectivity: Ethnographic Investigations* (ed. Joao Biehl, Byron Good, Arthur Kleinman) Berkeley: University of California Press, 66-98, 2007
- “Trauma and testimony: Between law and discipline” *Ethos*, Vol. 35 (33): 330-35, 2007
- “The citizen as sexed: women, violence and reproduction” in *Women and the Contested State* (ed. Monique Skidmore and Patricia Lawrence) Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 29-50, 2007
- “Poverty, marginality and illness” *American Ethnologist*, Vol. 33 (11): 27-32, 2006
- “Kinship, memory and time in the lives of HIV patients in a North American city” (with L. Leonard) In *Ghosts of Memory: Essays on Remembrance and Relatedness*. Blackwell Publishers, London: 194-218, 2006
- “Pharmaceuticals in urban ecologies: The register of the local” (with R.K.Das). In *Global Pharmaceuticals: Ethics, Markets, Practices* .(ed. Adriana Petryna, Andrew Lakoff, and Arthur Kleinman). Durham :Duke University Press, 171-206, 2006
- “Sexual violence, discursive formations, and the state” in *States of Violence* (eds. Fernando Coronil and Julie Skurski) Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 393-425, 2006
- “Gemeinschaften als politische Akteure: Die Frage der kulturellen Rechte” *Soziale Welt*, Sonderband 15, 137-155. 2004

“State and its margins: comparative ethnographies” (with Deborah Poole) in *Anthropology in the Margins of the State* (with Deborah Poole) Santa Fe: SAR, 3-35, 2004

“The signature of the state: the paradox of illegibility” in *Anthropology in the Margins of the State* (with Deborah Poole) Santa Fe: SAR, 225-253, 2004

“Community and violence in contemporary Punjab” (with R. Singh Bajwa) in *Violence/Non-Violence: Some Hindu Perspectives* (eds. Denis Vidal, Gilles Tarabout, and Eric Meyer) New Delhi: Manohar, , 54-68, 2003

“Technologies of self: poverty and health in an urban setting” In *Shaping Technologies, Sarai Reader 03*, Delhi: Autonomedia . 95-103, 2003

“Trauma and testimony: implications for political community” *Anthropological Theory*, 3, 293-307

“Wittgenstein and Anthropology,” in *Ludwig Wittgenstein: Critical Assessment of Leading Philosopher Series, Vol. 4* (revised version of paper published in 1998) London: Routledge Philosophy Series, 2002

“Sexual Violation and the Making of Engendered Subject,” in *Discrimination and Toleration* (ed. K. Hastrup and G. Urlich) London: Kluwer International, 257-265, 2002

“Tradition, pluralism and identity: framing the issues” in *Tradition, Pluralism and Identity: Essays in Honour of T.N. Madan* (co-edited with Deepankar Gupta and Patricia Uberoi) Delhi: Sage, 1-26, 2002

“Disability and domestic citizenship: Voice, gender and the making of the subject” (with Renu Addlakha), *Public Culture*, 13 (3), 511-531, 2001

“Violence and Translation” *Anthropological Quarterly*, 75(1), 105-112, 2001

“The act of witnessing: violence, poisonous knowledge, and subjectivity” in *Violence and Subjectivity* (with Arthur Kleinman, Margaret Lock, Mamphela Ramphele

and Pamela Reynolds) Berkeley: University of California Press, 205-226, 2000

“Disease control and immunization: a sociological enquiry” (with Ranendra K. Das and Lester Coutinho) *Economic and Political Weekly* (Special Issue on Social Science and Immunisation), 35, 625-633, 2000

“The making of modernity: gender and time in Indian cinema.” In *Questions of Modernity* (ed. Timothy Mitchell) Minneapolis: Minnesota University Press, 2000

“The practice of organ transplants: networks, documents, translations” In *Living and Working with New Technologies: Intersections of Inquiry* (ed. Margaret Lock et al.) London: Cambridge University Press, 263-288, 2000

“Violence and the work of time” In *Signifying Identities: Anthropological Perspectives on Boundaries and Contested Values* (ed. Anthony P Cohen). London: Routledge, 59-75, 2000

“Scientific and political representations: Cholera vaccine in India” (with Abhibit Dasgupta) *Economic and Political Weekly* (Special Issue on Social Science and Immunisation), 35, 633-645, 2000

“Public good, ethics and everyday life: beyond the boundaries of bioethics” *Daedalus*, 128(4), 99-133, 1999

“Anthropological knowledge, alterity and autobiographical voice” in *Anthropological Journeys: Reflections on Fieldwork* (ed. Meenakshi Thapan), Hyderabad, India: Orient Longman Limited, 41-54, 1998

“Hunger” *Seminar* (Special Issue on Children), 67-75, 1998

“Specificities: Official Narratives, Rumour, and the Social Production of Hate” *Social Identities*, 4(1) 109-130, 1998

“Sufferings, theodicies, disciplinary practices, appropriations” *International Social Science Journal*, 154, 563-573, 1997

“Dislocation and rehabilitation: defining a field” *Economic and Political Weekly*, 31(24), 1509-1514, 1996

“Language and body: transactions in the constructions of pain” *Daedalus*, 125, 67-

91,1996

"Voice as birth of culture" *Ethnos*, 60(3), 159-179, 1995

"On soap opera: what kind of anthropological object is it?" in *Worlds Apart: Modernity Through the Prism of the Local* (ed. Daniel Miller) London: Routledge, 169-189, 1995

"National honor and practical kinship: unwanted women and children" in *Conceiving the New World Order: The Global Politics of Reproduction* (eds. Faye D. Ginsburg and Rayna Rapp) Berkeley: University of California Press, 212-234, 1995

"Modernity and biography: women's lives in contemporary India" *Thesis Eleven*, 39, 52-62, 1994

"Composition of the personal voice: violence and migration" *Studies in History*, 7(1), 65-77, 1991

"The imaging of Indian women: missionaries and journalists" in *Conflicting Images: India and the United States* (ed. Sulochana Raghavan Glazer) Riverdale Co. Publishing, 203-220 1990

"Subaltern as Perspective" *Subaltern Studies*, VI, 310-325, 1989

"The anthropology of violence and the speech of victims" *Anthropology Today*, 3(4), 11-13, 1987

"On female body and sexuality" *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 21, 57-66, 1986

"Gender studies, cross-cultural comparison and the colonial organization of knowledge" *The Berkshire Review*, 21, 58-76, 1986

"The work of mourning: death in a Punjabi family" in *The Cultural Transition. Human Experience and Social Transformation in the Third World and Japan* (eds. Merry White and Susan Pollak) New York: Routledge, 179-210, 1986

"

"Anthropological knowledge and collective violence: the riots of Delhi, November 1984" *Anthropology Today*, 1(3), 4-6, 1985

"Violence, victimhood, and the language of silence" *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 19(1), 177-95, 1985

“

The language of sacrifice” *Man*, 18, 445-62, 1983

“The mythological film and its framework of meaning” *India International Center Quarterly*, 8(1), 43-56, 1980

“The uses of liminality: society and cosmos in Hinduism” *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 10(2), 245-263, 1976

“Masks and faces: An essay on Punjabi kinship” *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, Vol. 10 (1): 1-30

“The categorization of space in Hindu ritual” in *Text and Context: The Social Anthropology of Tradition* (ed. Ravindra K. Jain) Institute for the Study of Human Issues, 1974

“Sociology of law” in *A Survey of Research in Sociology and Social Anthropology*, (ed M.N Srinivas et al), Delhi: Popular Prakashan, Vol.1, 102 -128, 1974

“The structure of marriage preferences: an account from Pakistani fictions” *Man*, 8 (1), 30-45, 1973

“

The elementary structure of caste” (with Jit Singh Uberroi), *Contributions to Indian Sociology*, 5, 33-43, 1971

“A sociological approach to the caste puranas: a case study” *Sociological Bulletin*, 17(2), 141, 1968

Popular Writings

I have also written for blogs such as the Immanent Frame, Cultural Anthropology Blog and for popular magazines and newspapers such as India Today, Hindustan Times, Times of India and Indian Express and feminist magazines such as Manushi. Long interviews on my work have been published in Turkey, Brazil, Canada, France, and the USA.

My work has been translated in several languages including Spanish, French, Arabic, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese and Korean. A Tamil translation of *Life and Words* is in progress.