

## Curriculum Vitae

**Name:** Dr. BHARATI JAGANNATHAN

Department: History

Designations: Associate Professor

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### Education

PhD, History, 2010, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

MPhil, History, 1997, University of Delhi.

MA, History, 1993, University of Delhi.

BA (Hons), History, 1988, University of Delhi.

**Field of Specialisation:** History of Religion in Early India

Teaching Experience: 24 years

Teaching at Miranda House since 1998

### Professional Awards

—Fulbright-Nehru post-doctoral Fellowship, 2012-2013, at the Dept of South Asia Studies, UPenn, Philadelphia.

—Post-doctoral Senior Research Fellowship from ICHR for the project, ‘Mapping Pilgrimage in the Tamil Śrīvaiṣṇava Tradition’, February-August 2012.

—ICHR Junior Research Fellow Pay Protection Grant, January-March 2009.

### Publications

Academic Monograph

—*Approaching the Divine: The Integration of Ālvār Bhakti in Śrīvaiṣṇavism*, Primus Books, Delhi, 2015. ISBN 978-93-84082-13-0.

Academic Articles

—“Tears, Laughter and Horror: Understanding the Diverse Responses to Tales of Violence in Śrīvaiṣṇava Hagiographies”, *Journal of Vaishnava Studies*, Vol. 22.4, Spring 2014. ISSN 1062-1237.

Fiction

—*A Spoonful of Curds*, HarperCollins Publishers India, 2020. ISBN 978-93-9032-764-5.

—“Crime and Atonement”, in Kumkum Roy (ed.), *Insights and Interventions: Essays in Honour of Uma Chakravarti*, Primus Books, New Delhi, 2011.

—“Nobody must Know”, in Kumkum Roy (ed.), *Insights and Interventions: Essays in Honour of Uma Chakravarti*, Primus Books, New Delhi, 2011.

—“Goddess of Fire”, in Kumkum Roy (ed.), *Insights and Interventions: Essays in Honour of Uma Chakravarti*, Primus Books, New Delhi, 2011.

Children’s Books

—*A Week along the Ganga*, Eklavya, Bhopal, 2018, ISBN 978-93-85236-34-1. (Selected for Tata Trust’s Parag Honour List 2020)

- Aalai Goes Flying*, Eklavya, Bhopal, 2016. ISBN 978-93-85236-11-2.
- A Meeting in the Street*, Pratham Books, Bangalore, 2016, ISBN 978-93-5022-649-0.
- A Stranger Comes Calling*, Pratham Books, Bangalore, 2016, ISBN 978-93-5022-654-4.
- The Adventurous Tomato*, Children's Book Trust, New Delhi, 2015, ISBN 978-93-84699-12-3.
- One Day in August*, Pratham Books, Bangalore, 2015, ISBN 978-93-5022-348-2.
- A Fair to Remember*, Pratham Books, Bangalore, 2015. ISBN 978-93-5022-342-2.
- The Timid Train*, Pratham Books, Bangalore, 2011, ISBN 978-93-5022-179-2.
- Samira's Awful Lunch*, Pratham Books, Bangalore, 2009, ISBN 978-81-8479-051-1.
- Samira Goes Shopping*, Pratham Books, Bangalore, 2009, ISBN 978-81-8479-043-6.

—“Rakhigarhi”, in *Chakmak* (Children's Science Magazine), no. 377, February 2018.

#### Poetry

- “Seasons, India 1 & 2”, *RaedLeaf Poetry*, November 2013.
- “Last Post”, *Indian Literature, Sahitya Akademi's Bimonthly Journal*, Vol. 274, March-April 2013.
- “Philadelphia Winter” in *Four and Twenty of the Week*, 29 January 2013.
- “Belief” in *Four and Twenty*, Vol. V, no. 1, 17 January 2012.
- “Goddess of Palai”, in Kumkum Roy (ed.), *Insights and Interventions: Essays in Honour of Uma Chakravarti*, Primus Books, New Delhi, 2011.

#### Articles

- “Did COVID merit such an intensive Lockdown?”, *The Hindu Business Line*, 14 May 2020.
- “In Order to Avoid Controversy”, in *Mainstream*, Vol. L, no. 22, May 19, 2012.
- “Let a Thousand Ramayanas Bloom”, in *Mainstream*, Vol. XLIX, no. 49, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2011.
- “Terrorism: Some Questions”, in *Mainstream*, Vol. XLVII, no. 8, February 7, 2009.
- “Banning Sacrifice and Slaughter”, in *Mainstream*, Vol. XLI, November 2003.
- “Creating History”, in *The Times of India*, 14 October 2000.
- “Ramzan Mubarak”, in *The Times of India*, 10 February 1997.
- “Wedding Sonata”, in *The Times of India*, 29 February 1996.
- “Anonymous Friends”, in *The Times of India*, 16 November 1995.

#### Book Reviews

- Queen of Fire* by Devika Rangachari, *Jamlo Walks* and *Nida Finds a Way*, both by Samina Mishra, in *The Book Review*, Vol XLV, no. 11, November 2021.
- Poonachi*, *Lost in the Forest*, by Peruma! Murugan, *Hina in Purani Dilli*, by Samina Mishra, *Guthli to Pari thi*, by Kanak Shashi, *Ziddi Shanno*, by Seema, *Goopy Gavaiya Bagha Bajaiya*, by Upendrakishore Ray Chowdhury, *Rickshawali ladki*, by Mitali Perkins, in *The Book Review*, Vol. XLIV, no. 11, November 2020.
- The Jungle Story Telling Festival*, by Janaki Ganesh, *The Forbidden Forest* (1-2), by Kay S, in *The Book Review*, Vol. XLIII, no. 11, November 2019.
- Classics from Other Ages*, 4 Aleph Classics, in *The Book Review*, Vol. XLIII, no. 8, August 2019.
- Shiva; Vishnu; Devi*, by Subhadra Sen Gupta, in *The Book Review*, Vol. XLI, no. 11, November 2017.
- Jungle Folk: Indian Natural History Sketches*, by Douglas Dewar, as ‘A Bird's Eye View of India's Natural History’, in *The Book Review*, Vol. XL, no. 2, February 2016.

- Social Movements and Cultural Currents, 1789-1945*, by Vandana Joshi (ed.), in *Indian Historical Review*, Vol. 39.1, September 2012.
- Interpreting Devotion: The Poetry and Legacy of a Female Bhakti Saint of India*, by Karen Pechilis, as “Re-reading a Saint” in *Himal South Asian*, July 2012.
- Sita’s Ramayana*, by Samhita Arni and Moyna Chitrakar, as ‘Pictures worth a thousand words’, in *Biblio: A Review of Books*, Vol. XVI, nos. 9 & 10, Sept-Oct 2011.
- Elephant Kingdom: Sculptures from Indian Architecture*, by Vikramjit Ram, as ‘Celebrating the Elephant’, in *Biblio: A Review of Books*, Vol. XII, nos. 11 & 12, Nov- Dec 2007.
- Kevala Bodhi: Buddhist and Jaina History of the Deccan*, by Aloka Parasher-Sen (ed.), in *The Indian Historical Review*, Vol. 34, no.2, July 2007.
- Trees of Delhi: A Field Guide*, by Pradip Kishen, as ‘A Tree Guide’, in *The Book Review*, Vol. XXXI no. 2, February 2007.
- Iron and Social Change in Early India*, by B.P. Sahu (ed.), in *The Indian Historical Review*, Vol. 33, no. 2, July 2006.
- MS, A Life in Music*, by T.J.S. George, as ‘Documenting a Musical Demi Goddess’, in *The Book Review*, December 2004.
- Singing the Body of God: The Hymns of Vedāntadeśika in their South Indian Tradition*, by Steven Paul Hopkins, as ‘The Srivaishnava Tradition’, in *The Book Review*, Oct 2004.
- Invoking Goddesses: Gender Politics in Indian Religion*, by Nilima Chitgopekar (ed.), as ‘A Framework of Binary Opposition’, in *The Book Review*, May 2003.
- Walking Naked: Women, Society and Spirituality in South India*, by Vijaya Ramaswamy, in *The Indian Historical Review*, Vol. 29, Jan-July 2002.
- Mughals, Maharajas and the Mahatma*, by K.R.N. Swamy, as ‘Stories from History’, in *The Book Review*, March 1998.

### **Educational Resource Material Developed**

- Curriculum for Ancient Indian History for the National Open School textbooks.
- Editorial work for the History project, ILL, University of Delhi.

### **Research Papers presented at Seminars/ Workshops/ Conferences/ Colloquia**

- ‘Wilful Wives, Motivational Mothers: Women in Śrīvaiṣṇava Hagiographies’, *Of Thieves and Theris, Hunters and Housewives: A Conference in Honour of Kumkum Roy*, International Conference at Miranda House, 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
- “How to Challenge Your Guru and Get Away with It: Contestation and Resolution of Teacher-Student Conflicts in Śrīvaiṣṇava Hagiographies”, *Religions and Regions in Indian History*, conference at the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, 25-26 March 2019.
- “Different Speakers, One Voice”, 25<sup>th</sup> European Conference on South Asian Studies, Paris, 24- 27 July 2018.
- “Thinking Translation as a Generator of Meaning and Sacrality”, at the conference, *Translation and Religion: Interrogating Concepts, Methods and Practices*, Edinburgh University, UK, 1- 3 September 2016.

- “Rāmānuja in Fourteenth Century Śrīvaiṣṇava Scripture and Twentieth Century Television”, Twenty-fourth European Conference on South Asian Studies, Warsaw, 27- 30 July 2016.
- “An Ancient Epic in the Twenty-first Century”, *I International Congress on Asia in Torun*, Torun, Poland, 15- 16 May 2014.
- “Pilgrimage, Text and Praxis in the Tamil Śrīvaiṣṇava Tradition” *International Conference on Textual and Lived Religions, Precepts and Practices*, Centre for the Study of Comparative Religions and Civilizations, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 20- 21 March 2014.
- “Tears, Laughter and Horror: Understanding the Diverse Responses to Tales of Violence in Śrīvaiṣṇava Hagiographies”, *Cultures of Violence*, conference at Georgetown University, Washington DC, 21- 23 February, 2013.
- “Rejoicing in the Lord. Rejoicing in His Creation?”, *The Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions*, Merton College, Oxford University, UK, 23- 25 March, 2012.
- “More Equal than the Others”, *The Politics of Identity in South Asia*, conference at Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 21- 22 March 2011.
- “A Promise of Salvation: Construction of Śrīvaiṣṇava Theological Discourse through Hagiography”, *The Indo-Romanian Seminar on the History of Religion*, on the occasion of Mircea Eliade’s centenary celebrations, at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, October 2007.
- “The Ardently Loving God: Salvation in Śrīvaiṣṇava Theological Discourse”, *Ancient India: New Research*, seminar organised by the Manana Library and the India International Centre, August 2005.

#### **Lectures delivered at Orientation/ Refresher Courses**

- “The Tamil Bhakti Tradition”, at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Refresher Course in History at the Academic Staff College, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 19 August 2016.
- “The *Ramayana*: Interpreting a Text”, at the 19<sup>th</sup> Refresher Course in History at the Academic Staff College, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, May 2012.
- “Bhakti: an Introduction”, at the 19<sup>th</sup> Refresher Course in History at the Academic Staff College, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 17 May 2012.
- “Diversity in the *Ramayana* Tradition” at the 78<sup>th</sup> Orientation Course at the Academic Staff College, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 8 February 2012.
- “The *Ramayana*: Understanding a Dynamic Tradition”, at the 18<sup>th</sup> Refresher Course in History at the Academic Staff College, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 4 October 2011.
- “Reading the Rama Stories”, at the 17<sup>th</sup> Refresher Course in History at the Academic Staff College, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 23 December 2010.

### Invited talks

- ‘Women and Bhakti: An Examination of the Poetry and Hagiographies of Kāraikkāl Ammaiyār & Āṇḍāl’, National Museum Public Lecture, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021.
- ‘An Epic for All Time’, Series of two Lectures on the Ramayana Tradition in South Asia for INSTUCEN, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August 2021.
- “Āṇḍāl, Kāraikkāl Ammaiyār, Akkā Mahādevī: A Window into Women and Religion in Early Medieval South India”, Kalindi College, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2021.
- “Ramayana: An Epic for All Time”, as part of the panel, *Epics and Civilization*, Kirori Mal College, 2 April 2019.
- “Ideal Devotees. Idols for Devotees?” Satyavati College, Delhi University, 24 Jan 2019.
- “Women’s Devotion, Women’s Lives: Interrogating the Poetry and Narratives of Āṇḍāl and Kāraikkāl Ammaiyār”, Dept of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, 5 Dec 2018.
- “Perspectives on Bhakti”, Mata Sundri College, Delhi University, 1 November 2018.
- An examination of School History Textbooks of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, at *The Idea of Culture*, The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual History for Peace Conference, Calcutta, 3- 5 August 2018.
- “How do Women Experience Bhakti? Unspooling the Tales of Āṇḍāl and Karaikkal Ammaiyar”, Ashoka University, Sonipat, 25 September 2017.
- “Reassessing Tamil Bhakti”, Ambedkar University, Delhi, 24 March 2017.
- “Many Tails and Tales in an Epic Tale”, Kamla Nehru College, University of Delhi, 19 January 2017.
- “Bodies of Women Bhaktas”, the English Literary Society, Lady Shri Ram College, colloquium on *The Body in Mythology*, 9 March 2016.
- “The Many Tales in a Tale: The Ramakatha”, History Department, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, 29 February 2016.
- “Sītā’s Tale, Hanumān’s Tail, Vibhiṣaṇa Tell-tale: The Many Tales of the Rāmakathā”, *Maazi-o-Mustaqbil: The Future of Indian Pasts*, the Academic Festival of the History Department, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, New Delhi, 26 February 2016.
- “The Many Tales of the Rāmakathā”, presentation at Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, New Delhi, 29 February 2016.
- “Goddesses and Female Devotees”, Academic Conclave, St Stephens College, Delhi, 11 February, 2016.

- “Fascism and Women”, lecture for postgraduate students at the Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women’s Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 19 November 2015.
- Book Discussion of *Approaching the Divine: The Integration of Ālvār Bhakti in Śrīvaiṣṇavism*, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 28 October 2015.
- “The Development of Pilgrimage in Śrīvaiṣṇavism”, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland, 12 May 2014.
- “Understanding Bhakti: The Tamil Tradition” The Department of Oriental Studies, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland, 29 April 2014.
- “A Tale of Many Tails: The Ramayana”, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, Delhi University, 15 January 2014.
- “The Rāmāyaṇa: All-time Bestseller”, talk given at the Indo-Dutch Collaborative Programme 2013, jointly organized by Shri Ram College of Commerce, Miranda House, and Utrecht Business School, at Miranda House, Delhi University, October 2013.
- “The Contentious Ramayana”, Barnard College, Columbia University, NYC, 11 April 2013.
- “Who’s Afraid of Rama?”, Emerson College, Boston, MA, 10 April 2013
- “Censorship and the Delhi University Curriculum”, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA, 9 April 2013.
- “Named Women in Art and Text”, Drew University, Madison, NJ, 27 March 2013.
- “Writing Women: Stereotypical and Surprising Women in the Śrīvaiṣṇava Hagiographies”, Colloquium, South Asia Studies, UPenn, PA, 21 March 2013.
- “The Political Roles of Indian Academics and Writers”, Kenyon College, Ohio, 19 March 2013.
- “The *Ramayana* Epic of India: Ancient Story and Current Controversy”, open lecture, delivered at Drew University, Madison, NJ, 27 March 2013.
- “The Ramayana in Bard and in Delhi University”, Bard College, NY, 4 March 2013.
- “Understanding the Politics of Religion in Modern India”, Georgetown University, Washington DC, 6 February 2013.
- “Stories and Places: Pilgrimage in the Tamil Śrīvaiṣṇava Tradition”, Dept of Religious Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, 25 January 2013.
- “Creating a Community, Creating a Tradition: The Politics of Tamil Śrīvaiṣṇava Hagiographies”, 22<sup>nd</sup> European Conference on South Asian Studies, Lisbon, 25- 28 July 2012.

- Paper on Delhi University's deletion of AK Ramanujan's essay, "300 Ramayanas..." from the History Concurrent syllabus, Roundtable on History Textbooks and Syllabi in an international conference on *Historiographical Engagements in India, A Symposium in Honour of Professor R.S. Sharma*, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 27- 29 January, 2012.
- Delivered a lecture on Themes in Indian Mythology at the Indo-US Collaborative Programme 2012 hosted by Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi, in collaboration with the University of Wisconsin Eau-Claire, USA, at Shri Ram College of Commerce, 5 January 2012.
- "Contemporary retellings of the *Ramayana*" along with reading a retelling of my own to graduate and undergraduate students enrolled in an upper-level course on the *Ramayana* at the University of California, Davis, May 2010.

### **Other Activities**

- Read Aloud of my picture books at the Community Library, Sheikh Sarai, 26 February 2018.
- Dramatised reading of excerpts from "*Quo Vadis*", in collaboration with Dr Monika Browarczyk of Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, and the Polish Institute, New Delhi, at the Dept of European Studies and Foreign Languages, Manipal University, Karnataka, 6 February 2017.
- Presentation of excerpts from "*Quo Vadis*", with Dr Monika Browarczyk of Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, as part of the centenary celebration of Henryk Sienkiewicz at the Polish Institute, New Delhi, 27 October 2016.
- Conducted a Tree Walk in Nehru Park for the students of the Environment Club, Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, New Delhi, 18 February 2016.
- Resource person for Innovations Workshop on Children's Picture Books in India: Rethinking History, Storytelling and Pedagogy, Miranda House, 15 January 2016.
- Narrated my children's stories and interacted with the children and their parents at Bookaroo 2015, The British School, 28 November 2015.
- Narrated stories at Rajkumari Amrit Kaur Child Study Centre, for Bookaroo-in-the-City, the Children's Literature Festival, New Delhi, 17 November 2015.
- Narrated my stories and interacted with the students at Jaffarpur Kalan Government Co-ed Senior Secondary School for Bookaroo-in-the-City, the Children's Literature Festival, New Delhi, 17 November 2014.
- Resource Person for Training Workshop in Social Sciences, organized by the Azim Premji Foundation in collaboration with Eklavya, Hoshangabad, 15- 20 September, 2014.
- Resource person for the pre-departure orientation of Indian Fulbright Scholars, 2014-15, New Delhi, 13- 15 May 2014.

- Served as a member of a Selection Committee Panel for the Fulbright Research Grants in India for American Citizens, 2014-15, USIEF, New Delhi, 31 January 2014.
- Resource person for the pre-departure orientation of Indian Fulbright Scholars, 2013-14, Kolkata, 13-15 May 2013.
- Narrated the *Ramayana* to the Religion Colloquium at Bard College, NY, 4 March 2013.
- Narrated the *Ramayana* to Sixth graders at Bala Cynwyd Middle School, Pennsylvania, 4 Feb 2013.
- Spoke on “The Ramayana as a Bestseller”, at the IDG, St Stephens’ College, University of Delhi, 10 February, 2012.
- Resource person for Bookaroo, the Children’s Literature Festival, New Delhi, November 2011.
- Discussed the multiple Ramayana traditions at Ramjas College, Delhi University, 8 November 2011.
- Did readings for students of classes I and II at Vasant Valley School New Delhi, 20 October 2011.
- Delivered a lecture, “The Diversity of the Ramayana Tradition”, at the Indo-Dutch Collaborative Programme 2011: Management and Culture, jointly organised by Shri Ram College of Commerce, Miranda House, and Utrecht Business School, at Miranda House, 14 October 2011.
- Participated as resource person in *Ghumakkad Narayan, The Travelling Children’s Literary Festival*, a UNESCO initiative organised in collaboration with Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Nivesh, and Himalayan Hub for Art Culture and Heritage, August 2011.
- Read from my children’s books and interacted with students at the Heritage School, Dehradun, as part of a campaign, Donate a Book, a collaboration between UNESCO and Pratham Books to promote reading, 31 July 2010.
- Read out and enacted stories to children at Bookaroo, the Children’s Literature Festival, New Delhi, November 2009.
- Have been an active participant in numerous activities related to popularising reading among children, particularly from economically backward and underprivileged sections of society, organized by Pratham, an NGO working in the education sector.
- Conducted several tree walks in Delhi— as a keen birdwatcher and tree lover, interested both in identification of trees and folktales and mythologies connected with them— for various institutions (Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi; British Council Library, summer workshop; Manana Centre and Library; Fulbright India Chapter).