

## SAHAJ PARIKH

[sahajparikh@ucsb.edu](mailto:sahajparikh@ucsb.edu) | <https://ucsb.academia.edu/SahajParikh> | +1 (805) 618 6612

---

### EDUCATION

---

- **M.A. Religious Studies (Specialization: South Asian Religions)**
  - University of California, Santa Barbara, USA
  - Accepted and Admitted for Fall 2020
  - Deferred Admission to Fall 2021 because of the ongoing Corona Pandemic
  - 2021-2023
- **M.A. History (Specialization: Modern Indian History)**
  - Hindu College, University of Delhi, India
  - First Division (62.81%)
  - 2017-2019
- **B.A. (Honours) History**
  - Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi, India
  - First Division (68.36%)
  - 2014-2017
- **Diploma Course in Sanskrit Teaching**
  - Shree Somnath Sanskrit University, India
  - Ongoing
  - 2019-2021 (Delayed due to Corona Pandemic)
- **Gujarat State Eligibility Test in History**
  - Cleared in 2018 (Eligible to be an Assistant Professor of History in the state universities of Gujarat)
- **Higher Secondary School (Class 12<sup>th</sup>)**
  - Delhi Public School, Central Board of Secondary Education, India
  - 88.5% (best of four)
  - 2014

### LANGUAGE SKILLS

---

- Advanced Level
  - English
  - Gujarati
  - Hindi
- Intermediate Level
  - Sanskrit

### PUBLICATIONS

---

- 2020. "Dynamics of Distance Devotion: Letters Exchanged between Indian Ascetics and the Gujarati Diaspora in East-Africa from 1933-50." In *'Shodh Samhita'* - Journal of Fundamental and Comparative Research - All India Oriental Conference 50th Session Special Issue. 2020. 164-188

- 2019. "Linguistic Pluralism within the Sufi and Bhakti Movements." *The Journey of Indian Languages: Perspectives on Culture and Society – Volume 3*, New Delhi, India. 3. 39-41.
- 2017. "The Martyr and the Mahatma: Gandhi's Actions and Reactions after Bhagat Singh Embraced the Gallows." Edited by Mita Hussain. *Vani (Golden Jubilee Issue)*, University of Delhi, India 25–1. 17-19.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

---

- January 2020. "Dynamics of Distance Devotion: Letters Exchanged between Indian Ascetics and the Gujarati Diaspora in East-Africa from 1933-50." All India Oriental Conference 2020 – 50<sup>th</sup> Session, Kavikulguru Kalidas Sanskrit University (KKSU), Nagpur, India. (Awarded the Best Paper in the History Section.)
- March 2018. "Linguistic Plurality Within Bhakti and Sufi Traditions." International Linguistic Studies Conference, IGNOU, New Delhi and BAOU, Ahmedabad.
- October 2017. "Faith at Work: Engaging the Socio-historical Framework of Volunteerism at Akshardham in Delhi." A National Conference on Akshar-Purushottam Darshan, AARSH Shodh Sansthan, Gandhinagar.

## EXPERIENCE

---

### 2021-Present **Teaching Assistant, Department of Black Studies, UC Santa Barbara**

- Teaching Assistant to Professor Chris McAuley
- Teaching course BL ST 3 – Introduction to African Studies

### 2020-Present **Research Assistant, *Inventory of Non-Ordinary Experiences (INOE)***

- Headed by Professor Ann Taves, UC Santa Barbara
- Collection and analysis of data from Hindi language speakers in India
- Translation of Hindi language survey items to and from English
- Help the research team make better decisions on how to word survey items

### 2020-2021 **Creative Writer and Editor, Translation Project of Pramukh Swami Maharaj's Biography, BAPS Research Institute, New Delhi**

- Adaptation of the Gujarati Biography (Multiple Volumes) into English
- Writer, Translator, Researcher, and Editor for the Project
- Research Assistant to the Chief Editor of the Project, Sadhu Gnanmunidass

### 2019-2020 **Undergraduate Lecturer at BAPS Sanskrit Mahavidyalay, Sarangpur**

- Taught History and English to second- and third-year students
- My role was not only to lecture but also to facilitate discussions and provoke the students to ask critical questions.

### 2016-2019 **Research Assistant to Professor J. M. Dave, BAPS Research Institute, New Delhi**

- Assisted with historical archival research and data documentation
- Conducted ethnographic interviews and surveys
- Helped with the preparation of conference lectures and presentations
- Helped with Gujarati to English and Hindi to English translation
- Assisted with the institute archives organization and library digitization
- Participated in event management and logistics

- 2017-2018 **Research Assistant to Professor Parul Pandya Dhar, Associate Professor of South and Southeast Asian Art History, University of Delhi**
- Assisted with her research on the image cult of political figures that was published in The Wire as the article “Of Political Icons and Vandalism: A View from History” ( <https://thewire.in/history/of-political-icons-and-vandalism-a-view-from-history>).
- 2017-2019 **M.A. History at the Department of History, University of Delhi**
- Class Representative in M.A. History program
  - Represented University of Delhi to the NAAC Peer Review Team as one of the best students of the University
  - Core Member: Research Scholars’ Conference Committee; Seminar Committee; Library Committee; Student-Faculty Committee
  - Organized and Chaired seminar lectures of various scholars including Akeel Bilgrami, Robert Goldman, Sanjay Subrahmanyam, Peter Bang, Ali Anooshahr, Malavika Kasturi, John Cort, Samuel Wright, Vinay Lal, Shahid Amin and Dilip Menon
  - Co-organized two Research Scholars’ Conference (2018 and 2019) at the Department of History, Delhi University
  - Master of Ceremony of various departmental functions and events
- 2014-2017 **B.A. (Honors) History at the Department of History, University of Delhi**
- Editorial Team Member, Annual college magazine
  - Class Representative (Year I, III)
  - Key Member, Annual Organizing Team for yearly departmental festivals and fresher’s meet
  - Conceived and organized various academic lectures during departmental festivals
  - Master of Ceremony, various intra-college and inter-college functions

## AWARDS

---

- Radhadevi Srinivas Tiwari Prize for outstanding research and performance in the History Section at the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the All India Oriental Conference - 2020
- Top Three Scorers: M.A. History, University of Delhi
- Top Five Scorers: B.A. History, University of Delhi (Year I and III)
- *Tejasvi* (Bright Student) Award, Delhi Public School (Class 12)

## ACADEMIC SERVICES

---

- November 2019. A member of the event management team for the national conference on “The Akshar-Purushottama Darshan in Dialogue with Other Darshans,” organized by Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi.
- March 2019. Co-organized the conference “Source and Sensibility,” organized by Research Scholars’ Forum, Department of History, University of Delhi.

- February 2019. A member of the planning and event management team for the “National Conference on Chronologies and Connections,” organized by Centre of Advanced Studies, Department of History, University of Delhi.
- March 2018. Co-organized the conference “Contemporary Practices of History,” organized by Research Scholars’ Forum, Department of History, University of Delhi.
- December 2015. A member of the event management team for the conference on “Bhakti and Prappatti in Indian Philosophy,” organized by Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi.
- August 2013. A member of the event management team for the conference on “Sahajanand Swami and the Swaminarayan Sampradaya,” organized by Itihas Parishad of Gujarat and Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad University, Baroda.

## References

---

### 1. Professor Ann Taves

- Distinguished Professor (Emerita) of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara
- [taves@religion.ucsb.edu](mailto:taves@religion.ucsb.edu)

### 2. Professor Barbara Holdrege

- Professor of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara
- [holdrege@religion.ucsb.edu](mailto:holdrege@religion.ucsb.edu)

### 3. Professor Anshu Malhotra

- Kunadan Kaur Kapany Professor and Chair of Sikh Studies at the Department of Global Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara
- [anshumalhotra@ucsb.edu](mailto:anshumalhotra@ucsb.edu)

### 4. Professor Raziuddin Aquil

- Professor, Department of History, University of Delhi
- [razi.aquil@gmail.com](mailto:razi.aquil@gmail.com)