

# POULAMI ROYCHOWDHURY

McGill University  
Department of Sociology  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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2023 -	Associate Professor of International and Public Affairs, Department of Sociology & the Watson Institute, Brown University
2022 - 2023	Senior Fellow, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University
2022 - 2023	Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, McGill University
2014 - 2022	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, McGill University
2013 - 2014	Pre-doctoral Fellow, Consortium for Faculty Diversity, Smith College

## EDUCATION

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2014	Ph.D. Sociology, New York University
2010	M.A. Sociology, New York University
2003	B.A. Political Science and Economics (Honors), Swarthmore College

## AWARDS

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### *Book Awards*

- American Sociological Association, Human Rights Section, Gordon Hirabayashi Book Award 2022
- Eastern Sociological Association, Mirra Komarovsky Distinguished Book Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Distinguished Scholarly Book Award, Honorable Mention 2022
- Law and Society Association, Herbert Jacob Book Prize, Honorable Mention 2022

### *Article Awards*

- American Sociological Association, Political Sociology Section, Best Article Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Sociology of Law Section, Best Article Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Sociology of Human Rights Section, Best Article Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Crime Law and Deviance Section, James F. Short Jr. Distinguished Article Award, Honorable Mention 2022
- American Sociological Association, Development Section, Best Faculty Article Award, Honorable Mention 2022
- Society for the Study of Social Problems, Arlene Kaplan Daniels Paper Award, Honorable Mention 2022

## BOOKS & EDITED VOLUMES

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### Books

2021. *Capable Women, Incapable States: Negotiating Violence and Rights in India*. New York: Oxford University Press.

#### *Awards*

- American Sociological Association, Human Rights Section, Gordon Hirabayashi Book Award 2022
- Eastern Sociological Association, Mirra Komarovsky Distinguished Book Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Distinguished Scholarly Book Award, Honorable Mention 2022
- Law and Society Association, Herbert Jacob Book Prize, Honorable Mention 2022

#### *Author Meets Critic*

- Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, 2021
- Annual Conference on South Asia, 2021
- UC Berkeley South Asia Reading Group, 2021

#### *Book Reviews*

- Sarah Khan. 2023. *Politics & Gender*.
- Joya Misra. 2022. *American Journal of Sociology*, 127(6): 1935-1937.
- Tugce Ellialte-Kose. 2022. *Feminist Legal Studies*, 30: 376-370.

### Edited Volumes

Forthcoming 2023. *Pandemic Inequality: Citizens, States, and Covid 19 in India*, with Gabrielle Kruks-Wisner (UVA). Under contract with Oxford University Press.

## ARTICLES

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2021. "Incorporation: Governing Gendered Violence in a State of Disempowerment." *American Journal of Sociology*, 124(4): 852-888.

#### *Awards*

- American Sociological Association, Political Sociology Section, Best Article Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Sociology of Law Section, Best Article Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Sociology of Human Rights Section, Best Article Award 2022
- American Sociological Association, Crime Law and Deviance Section, James F. Short Jr. Distinguished Article Award, Honorable Mention 2022
- American Sociological Association, Development Section, Best Faculty Article Award, Honorable Mention 2022
- Society for the Study of Social Problems, Arlene Kaplan Daniels Paper Award, Honorable Mention 2022

2019. "Illicit Justice: Aspirational-Strategic Subjects and the Political Economy of Domestic Violence." *Law & Social Inquiry*, 44(1): 1-24.
2016. "Desire, Rights, Entitlements: Organizational Strategies in the War on Violence." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 41(4): 793-820.
2016. "Over the Law: Rape and the Seduction of Popular Politics." *Gender & Society*, 30(1): 80-94.
2015. "Victims to Saviors: Governmentality and the Re-gendering of Citizenship in India." *Gender & Society*, 29(6): 792-816.
2014. "Brothers and Others: Organizing Masculinity, Disorganizing Workers." *Social Problems*, 61(1): 22-41.
2013. "The Delhi Gang Rape: The Making of International Causes." *Feminist Studies*, 39(1): 282-292.

## BOOK CHAPTERS & SPECIAL ISSUES

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2022. "Between Women and the State: Rights Brokers and Capital Accumulation in West Bengal." *Toward a Sociology of South Asia: Rethinking Politics, Labor, and Culture*. Eds. Smitha Radhakrishnan and Gowri Vijayakumar. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

## IN PROCESS

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- Forthcoming 2024. "States and Social Movements: Sociological Lessons from India," with Rina Agarwala (Johns Hopkins). *Annual Review of Sociology*, vol. 51.

Under Review. "Methodological Impasses: Facing Interrogation and Silence While Gathering Data on Sexual Violence," with Aditi Malik (Holy Cross). Special Issue on Feminist Methods. *Political Science & Politics*.

## PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

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2022. "Why Police Sexual Harassment? Women's Rights and the Politics of Hindu Nationalism." *India in Transition*. Center for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania.
2022. "Governing Gendered Violence" [blog post]. *Law in Action*. American Sociological Association, Sociology of Law Section.
2022. "Capable Women, Incapable States" [podcast]. *The Great Gender Divide*.
2021. "Capable Women, Incapable States" [podcast]. *New Books Network*.
2021. "Absence in the Time of Covid 19" [blog post]. *Ethnographic Marginalia*.

2018. “McGill Profs Back Students Call for External Investigation” [radio broadcast]. *Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*.

2016. “A Call to Knowledge: Let’s Gather More Data Before Rushing to Action” [blog post]. *Gender & Society*.

2014. “Gender-based Violence: An Index of ‘Tradition’ or Social Change” [blog post]. *Gender & Society*.

2013. “Focus on Rape in India Ignores Global Problem” [online article]. *CNBC*.

## **FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS**

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### **External**

2016 - 2023      Fonds de Recherche du Québec, Établissement de Nouveaux Professeurs-Chercheurs

2016 - 2021      Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada, Insight Development Grant

2013 - 2014      Consortium for Faculty Diversity, Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Smith College

2010 - 2011      National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant

2010 - 2011      Fulbright-Nehru Dissertation Research Fellowship

2009 - 2010      American Institute for Indian Studies Junior Research Fellowship

2006              Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, UC Berkeley

### **Internal**

2020 - 2023      Social Sciences & Humanities Development Grant, McGill University

2015 - 2016      Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council Travel Grant, McGill University

2015 - 2017      Social Sciences & Humanities Development Grant, McGill University

2012 - 2013      Georgette Bennett Fellowship, New York University

2009 - 2010      Pre-doctoral Research Fellowship, New York University

2009              Collaborative Research Grant, with Professor Judith Stacey, New York University

2005 - 2010      Henry McCracken Fellowship, New York University

2001 - 2022      Swarthmore Foundation Grant, Swarthmore College

1999 - 2003      Presidential Scholarship, Swarthmore College

## INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS

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- 2023 “Capable Women, Incapable States”  
Book Talk: Department of Sociology, Northwestern University
- 2023 “Irregular Rights: Abortion in the US and Domestic Violence in India”  
Talk: Department of Sociology, London School of Economics
- 2023 “Encountering Rape: Sexual Violence, Deadly Force, and the Production of State Authority”  
Workshop: Gender/Power/Theory Network, Princeton University
- 2022 “Capable Women, Incapable States”  
Book Talk: Centre for Sustainable Development, Oxford University (virtual)
- 2022 “Capable Women, Incapable States”  
Book Talk: Open Society University Network, Bard College Berlin (virtual)
- 2022 “Capable Women, Incapable States”  
Book Talk: Feminist Theory and Practice Seminar, University of Toronto (virtual)
- 2021 “Capability and Incorporation: Pathways to Redress in the Aftermath of Violence”  
Book Talk: Center for South Asia, Stanford University (virtual)
- 2021 “Capable Women, Incapable States”  
Book Talk: South Asia Reading Group, University of California Berkeley (virtual)
- 2021 “Capable Women, Incapable States”  
Book Talk: Gender/Power/Theory Network & NYU Sociology (virtual)
- 2021 “Capable Women, Incapable States”  
Book Talk: IDInsight India (virtual)
- 2021 “Encountering Rape: Sexual Violence and Police Use of Deadly Force in India”  
Workshop: Gender/Power/Theory Network (virtual)
- 2021 “Sexual Harassment and Enemies of the Nation in the era of Hindu Nationalism”  
Workshop: Gender and Politics in South Asia, University of California, Berkeley (virtual)
- 2021 “Capable Women, Incapable States: Talking through Methods”  
Book Talk: Brown University, Department of Sociology, Providence, RI
- 2020 “Capable Women, Incapable States”  
Book Talk: Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, London School of Economics
- 2020 “Capabilities Without Rights”  
Workshop: Department of Sociology, University of Southern California

- 2019 “Incorporation: Governing Violence in a State of Disempowerment”  
Talk: Political Violence and its Legacies Workshop, Yale University
- 2019 “Capable Citizens: How India Outsources Justice for Gendered Violence,” Workshop:  
Oxford University Press Annual Conclave, New Delhi
- 2019 “Claiming Rights While Distrusting the State: State Failure and Democratic Practice”  
Talk: Challenges Facing the World in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, ISID, McGill University
- 2019 “Protection vs Incorporation: Why State Capacity Matters for Legal Redress”  
Workshop: Department of Sociology, University of Chicago
- 2018 “Outsourced! Solutions to Law and Order in Weak Institutional Contexts.”  
Talk: Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University
- 2018 “A Sentimental Education: How NGOs Train Survivors to Want Rights”  
Workshop: Department of Sociology, UMass Amherst
- 2018 “The Governmental Strategies of Incapacitated States”  
Workshop: Department of Sociology, University of California Berkeley
- 2018 “Balancing Academia and Life”  
Talk: Professional Development Seminar, McGill University
- 2017 “Violence and Incapacitated States”  
Talk: Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University
- 2017 “Bureaucratic Manipulations: Outsourcing Criminal Justice to Women”  
Workshop: Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University
- 2016 “Going Beyond Governance: New Research Directions on States and Citizens”  
Workshop: Department of Sociology, Brown University
- 2016 “Moving the Criminal Justice System: When do Women Make Gains?”  
Talk: Department of Sociology, University of Toronto
- 2016 “How Does State Capacity Influence Case Processing?”  
Talk: Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University
- 2016 “Dealing with Difference: Sociological/Anthropological Perspectives on Field Work”  
Talk: Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, McGill University
- 2015 “Over and Against the Law: The Politics of Sexual Violence in India”  
Talk: School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University
- 2015 “Bureaucratic Incorporation: Violence and Neoliberal Government”

- Workshop: Ethnography Workshop, New York University
- 2015 “The Extended Case Method in Practice: Reflections on Fieldwork”  
Talk: Qualitative Research Methods Seminar, McGill University
- 2015 “Illicit Justice: Measurement Issues with Gendered Violence”  
Talk: Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University
- 2014 “Dealing with Difference: Sociological/Anthropological Perspectives on Field Work”  
Talk: Feminist Theories and Methods Seminar, McGill University
- 2013 “Power and Disempowerment: Exploring Cross-cultural Sources of Violence:”  
Talk: CARE Gender Violence Panel, New York
- 2013 “Ambivalent Citizens and the Politics of Entitlement”  
Talk: Department of Sociology, Smith College
- 2013 “The Legal Uses of Anger: Examining Recent Mobilizations against Sexual Violence”  
Talk: Symposium on Gender Violence, Annual Conference on South Asia
- 2013 “Rape, Media, and Global Politics”  
Talk: Visiting Speaker Series, Bard College
- 2012 “Illegality as Strategic Action in India’s Criminal Justice System”  
Talk: Criminal Justice Colloquium, New York University School of Law
- 2012 “Abortion, Family Planning, and Women’s Health: What is Happening to the GOP?”  
Talk: Graduate Student Conference, New York University
- 2012 “Has Breaking the Silence Gone Too Far? Feminism and Domestic Violence Reform”  
Talk: Spring Conference, New York University
- 2011 “The Cultural Politics of Violence: Women’s Rights Campaigns in India”  
Workshop: Center for Human Sciences, New Delhi
- 2011 “Entering and Exiting the Field: Reflections on Ethnographic Research”  
Talk: Research Methods Seminar, New York University

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 2023 “Revisiting Feminist State Theory”  
Social Science History Association Conference, Washington, DC
- 2022 “Why Police Sexual Harassment?”  
American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA
- 2021 “Incorporation and Capability: Theorizing States and Gendered Citizenship”

- American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2021 “Policing Gendered Violence: Lessons from the Indian Case”  
American Political Science Association Conference, Seattle, Washington
- 2021 “The Rights Market: Why Brokers Help Survivors of Violence”  
Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI
- 2021 “Author meets Critics Session: Capable Women, Incapable States”  
Social Science History Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA
- 2020 “Capabilities as a Model of Rights Acquisition”  
Social Science History Association Conference, Washington, DC (canceled due to Covid-19 pandemic)
- 2020 “Protecting Women, Affirming Hindu Hegemony: Sexual Harassment and the BJP”  
American Sociological Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA
- 2020 “Incorporation: Governing Violence in a State of Disempowerment”  
Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Denver, CO (canceled due to Covid-19 pandemic)
- 2019 “Aspirational-Strategic Women: Citizenship Practices in Stalled States”  
American Sociological Association Annual Conference, New York, NY
- 2019 “States of Disempowerment: Governing Gendered Violence in Limited States”  
Research Committee on Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy, Mannheim University, Germany
- 2019 “Incorporation: Law Enforcement Strategies for Governing Gendered Violence”  
Contemporary South Asia Miniconference, Eastern Sociological Association Conference, Boston, MA
- 2018 “Beyond State Control: Theorizing Crime and Punishment in Limited States”  
Social Science History Association Conference, Phoenix, AZ
- 2017 “Political Parties and Gendered Violence in India”  
Social Science History Association Conference, Montreal, QC
- 2016 “Gender Violence and Incapacitated States: The Case of India”  
Social Science History Association Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2016 “Between Rights Discourse and Practice: The Significance of Institutional Capacity”  
American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA
- 2016 “Reconciliation or Resistance: The Social and Political Basis of Redress”  
Law and Society Association, New Orleans, LA



- 2015 “Rethinking Regimes: Rape and Popular Politics in India”  
American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL
- 2015 “Might Makes Rights: Sexual Violence and Citizen Ambivalence in India”  
Law and Society Association, Seattle, WA
- 2015 “Co-optive Politics: Sexual Violence, Social Change, and Governance in India”  
Sociology of Development Conference, Brown University, Providence, RI
- 2014 “Narrative Demands: The Institutionalized Incoherence of Legal Truths”  
Legal Studies Pre-Conference, Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI
- 2014 “Victims to Saviors: Rights against Violence and the Re-gendering of Citizenship”  
Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI
- 2013 “Narrative Disjunctures: Gender Violence and Conflicting Testimony”  
American Sociological Association, New York, NY
- 2013 “Dangerous Desires, Wicked Women: Exclusionary Categories in Feminist Politics”  
Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI
- 2012 “What is Domestic About Domestic Violence?”  
Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI
- 2012 “Migrating Feminists: Mediation and Scale in Contemporary Rights Practice”  
Feminist South Asia Pre-conference, Madison, WI
- 2012 “Might Makes Rights? Using Violence to End Violence Against Women”  
Locating Solidarity, New School for Social Science Research, New York, NY
- 2012 “Narrating Abuse: Dilemmas of Feminist Legal Engagements”  
Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University, New York, NY
- 2012 “Narrative Disjunctures: Feminism, Gender Violence, and the Law”  
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference, New York, NY
- 2011 “Women’s Bodies as Political Resources: Negotiating Violence against Women”  
Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI
- 2009 “Brothers and Others: Organizing Masculinities, Disorganizing Workers”  
American Sociological Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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### **Editorial**

- 2023 - 2026 Editorial Board, *Law & Social Inquiry*  
 2021 - 2024 Editorial Board, *Sociological Theory*  
 2021 - 2024 Editorial Board, *Gender & Society*

2018 - 2022 Associate Editor, *Social Politics*

### **Council & Advisory**

2023 - 2026 Council Member, ASA Global and Transnational Sociology Section  
2023 - 2025 Committee Member, ASA Sections Committee  
2019 - 2022 Advisory Board, Institute for the Study of International Development, McGill University  
2017 - 2020 Council Member, ASA Development Section  
2017 - 2019 Organizer, Law & Society Colloquium, McGill University  
2015 - 2017 Advisory Board, Institute for Gender Sexuality and Feminist Studies, McGill University

### **Awards**

2022 - 2023 Committee Member, ASA Political Sociology, Article Awards  
2022 - 2023 Committee Chair, ASA Sociology of Law Section, Article Awards  
2021 - 2022 Committee Member, ASA Sex & Gender Section, Article Awards  
2021 - 2022 Committee Member, ASA Theory Section, Article Awards  
2020 - 2021 Committee Chair, ASA Development Section, Article Awards  
2019 - 2020 Committee Chair, ASA Development Section, Article Awards  
2016 - 2017 Committee Member, ASA Political Sociology Section, Article Awards  
2015 - 2016 Committee Member, ASA Development Section, Article Awards

### **University Service**

2021 - 2022 Department Contact to the Administration on Equity & Diversity, McGill University  
2020 - 2022 Equity Committee, McGill University, Sociology  
2019 - 2020 Events Committee, McGill University, Sociology  
2018 - 2021 Graduate Admissions Committee, McGill University, Sociology  
2018 - 2019 Visiting Speakers Committee, McGill University, Sociology  
2016 - 2017 Graduate Committee, McGill University, Sociology  
2015 - 2017 Website Committee, McGill University, Sociology  
2014 - 2016 Faculty Recruitment Committee, McGill University, Sociology  
2014 - 2017 Consortium for Qualitative Research Methods (CQRM), McGill University, Sociology  
2014 - 2022 Development and Social Change Exam Committee, McGill University, Sociology  
2014 - 2022 Sex and Gender Exam Committee, McGill University, Sociology  
2014 - 2015 Visiting Speaker's Committee, McGill University, Sociology  
2014 - 2015 Spring Conference Organizer, McGill University, Sociology  
2012 - 2013 Gender Workshop Organizer, New York University, Sociology  
2007 - 2008 Graduate Student Association Representative, New York University, Sociology

### **Workshop & Panel Organizer**

2018 Gender Power Theory Workshop (with Ann Orloff and Abigail Andrews), UC Berkeley  
2018 Special Session: Retheorizing States (with Gowri Vijaykumar), American Sociological Association Conference  
2018 Panel: Reconceptualizing Gendered States (with Ann Orloff), Social Science History Association Conference  
2017 Panel: Movements and Counter-movements (with Ann Orloff), Social Science History Association Conference  
2017 Regular Session: Culture and Narrative, American Sociological Association Conference  
2016 Panel: States, Gender, Social Transformation, Social Science History Association Conference  
2016 Panel: Redress and Recognition (with Michael Yarborough), Law and Society Conference

2015	Spring Conference, McGill University, Sociology
2015	Panel: Sovereigns Beyond the Law, Law and Society Conference
2014	Panel: The Age of Rights, Annual Conference on South Asia
2012	Panel: Legislating Conjugalities, Annual Conference on South Asia
2012	Panel: Transnational Narratives, Eastern Sociological Society Conference
2011	Panel: Political Transformations in West Bengal, Annual Conference on South Asia

### **Book Discussant**

2022	Paige Sweet, <i>The Politics of Surviving</i> , Social Science History Association Conference
2022	Zachary Levenson, <i>Delivery as Dispossession</i> , Knowing Africa Seminar, Carleton University
2022	Gowri Vijayakumar, <i>At Risk</i> , Annual Conference on South Asia
2021	Chaitanya Lakkimsetti, <i>Legalizing Sex</i> , Annual Conference on South Asia

### **Journal Reviewer**

<i>American Ethnologist</i>	<i>Political and Legal Anthropology Review</i>
<i>American Journal of Sociology</i>	<i>Qualitative Sociology</i>
<i>American Political Science Review</i>	<i>Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society</i>
<i>Contexts</i>	<i>Social Problems</i>
<i>Gender &amp; Society</i>	<i>Social Politics</i>
<i>Journal of Law &amp; Society</i>	<i>Social Science Research</i>
<i>Mobilization</i>	<i>Sociological Theory</i>

### **Professional Memberships**

American Sociological Association  
Law & Society Association  
Sociologists for the Study of Women in Society  
Social Science History Association

## **TEACHING & SUPERVISION**

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### **Teaching**

Gender and the State  
Gender and Development  
Gender, Deviance, Social Control  
Developing Societies  
Qualitative Research Methods I  
Qualitative Research Methods II

### **Student Supervision**

PhD Chair: Nandini Krishnan  
MA Chair: Harmata Aboubakar; Aylish Cotter; Hilary Flowers; Nathaniel Lamont  
MA Research Paper Reader: Natasha Comeau; Jessica Farivar  
Dissertation Committee Member: Maïke Isaac; Angela Kalyta; Candice Shaw  
Oral Defense Committee Member: Cassandra Cotton  
Undergraduate Research Supervisor: Natasha Comeau; Ariane Kent; Ximena Villanueva

### **Research Assistants**

PhD: Ina Filkobski, Maike Isaac; Nandini Krishnan  
MA: Aylish Cotter; Nathaniel Lamont  
Undergraduate: Ralph Haddad