




Faculty Details proforma for DU Web-site

Title	Prof.	First Name	Sunil	Last Name	Kumar	Photograph
Designation		Professor in the History of Medieval India, Department of History				
Address		Social Science Building, North Campus, Delhi University, Delhi 110007				
Phone No	Office	2766-6659				
	Residence	41016075				
	Mobile	9650511673				
Email		sunilkumar.history.du@gmail.com				
Web-Page		http://du-in.academia.edu/SunilKumar				
Educational Qualifications						
Degree		Institution			Year	
Ph.D.		Duke University, Durham, U.S.A.			1992	
M.Phil. / M.Tech.						
PG		University of Bridgeport, U.S.A			1978	
UG		St. Stephens College, Delhi University			1975	
Any other qualification						
Career Profile						
<p>2005 -- Professor: Dept. of History, Delhi University Oct 2008-June 2010 – Reader: Dept. of History, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University 1994-2005 – Reader: Dept. of History, Delhi University 1992-1994 – Senior Lecturer: Dept. of History, Delhi University 1985-1992 – Lecturer: Dept. of History, Delhi University 1984-1985 – Ad-hoc Lecturer: St. Stephens College, Delhi University</p>						
Administrative Assignments						
<p>1) Curriculum Development: At Delhi University: 2010-2011: Coordinator - M.Phil programme, Dept. of History, Delhi University; (ii) Executive Council's nominee on the Managing Committee of D.S.Kothari Hostel; At SOAS, London University: 2008-2010 – i) Framed the proposal for a “Two Year M.A. Programme in South Asian history at SOAS and JNU”. Currently under review by the FLTC for implementation in 2012; ii) co-convenor of the South Asia Seminar. At Delhi University: (i) 2015-2016, Involved in course revision exercise undertaken for BA course syllabus; (ii) 2006, chaired workshop of college lecturers for the teaching of ‘Medieval Delhi’ concurrent course; (iii) 2004, framed two Medieval history concurrent courses for B.A. (Hons) non-history stream students; (iv) 2003, Chaired meeting of college teachers for implementation of the new course B.A. History (Hons.), paper 3, History of India, 750-1550 CE; (v) 2002, Chaired committee for course revision of B.A. History (Hons.), paper 3, History of India, 750-1550 CE; (vi) 1990, Framed the M.Phil Ordinance for the M.Phil. Committee; (vii) 1990 + involved in implementing the revised M.Phil. course.</p>						

2) Recent Administrative Duties at Delhi University: (i) 2008, Part of Delhi University team that visited Uzbekistan to determine possibilities of exchange programme; (ii) 2008 Executive Councils nominee on the Managing Committee of D.S.Kothari Hostel; (iii) 2007, appointed member of the Governing Body, Miranda House College, Delhi University; (iv) 2007, appointed Chairperson of Screening Committee for appointments and promotions, Miranda House College, Delhi University; (v) 2007, Member Himachal Pradesh University Vice Chancellor's Committee of Examination Experts for history.

Areas of Interest / Specialization

Medieval Indian history, the medieval world, history of religion (primarily Islam), Archaeology. My work is mainly concerned with questions relating to the emergence of the Muslim community, their relationship with the state, the emergence of pietistic cultures, political cultures and their ideological and institutional manifestations.

Subjects Taught

Delhi University:

M.A. Courses i) A Social and Cultural History of Medieval Europe and the Central Islamic lands; ii) Sufism; iii) The Provincial Sultanates in Medieval South Asia (1350-1550); iv) The Delhi Sultanate (1192-1550); v) History of India (1540-1605); vi) Urban History of Medieval India; vii) Medieval Societies: the Central Islamic Lands 600-1258; viii) Political Processes and Socio-Cultural Formations in India, c. 1000-1400; ix) Sultanate and Mughal Delhi c. 1200-1850

M.Phil seminar course: i) The Historian's Craft; ii) Problems in the Historical Study of Society and Culture.

SOAS Courses:

Undergraduate Courses: i) The Making of Medieval India; ii) Structures of Authority: Islam, the Delhi Sultans and the Mughals.

Graduate Courses: i) Islam in South Asia; ii) Third year Post Graduate Writing Workshop in History

Research Guidance

1. Supervision of awarded Doctoral Thesis

2016 Pankaj Jha, "Reading Vidyapati: Language, Literature and Cultural Values in 15th century north Bihar"

2011 Hardip Singh Syan, "Peace, Love and War: The Development of Sikh 'Militancy' in the Seventeenth Century". Department of History, School of Oriental and African Studies.

2001 Nandita Sahai, "Artisans in a Mughal Province: A Study of 18th Century Marwar". Department of History, Delhi University.

2. Supervision of Doctoral Thesis, under progress

Khurshid Khan "The Textual Formation of a Malfuz: a historical study of the *Khair al-Majalis*"

Sonal "Textures of Exchange: the Maratha States, the Mughals and the English East India Company"

Sushmita Banerjee "The World of a Seventeenth Century 'Alim: 'Abd al-Haqq Muhaddis Dehlawi, Islam, History and Notions of Piety"

Nisha "Rajgharana aur Nagar Madhya 17th – 19th shatabdi mein Rathor Rajgharan ka aitihāsik adhyān"

Mayurakshi Kumar "Eighteenth Century Jaipur Kingdom: Politics, Society and the New Capital"

Dipanjan Mazumdar, "Multiple Grounds: Landscape, Circulation and Confrontation in the Bengal Borderlands (c. 1400-c. 1800)

3. Supervision of awarded M.Phil dissertations

- 2011 Nisha, “The Importance of Festivals and Fairs in mid 17th – early 19th century Marwar”
- 2010 Ashutosh Kumar, “Coparceners, Genealogies and the *Yasa*: Framing Mughal Authority in the Sixteenth Century”
- 2009 Anu Saini, “Soldiering and its Reportage in five Sultanate Texts”
- 2008 Sushmita Banerjee, “The Usages of the Past: History and its Possibilities in the *Fawa'id al-Fu'ad* and the *Ta'rikh-i Firuz Shahi*”
- 2006 Shalini Sinha, “Succession to High Office in the Lodi Dynasty”
- 2005 Jyoti Gulati, “Stature, Social Relations and the Piety-Minded: Reading Amir Khwurd’s *Siyar al-Awliya*”.
- 2001 Sneha, “‘My kingdom for a horse’: an analysis of the narrative structures in the *Baburnama*”
- 1999 Pratibha, “Making an Impression: A study of the *Khair al-Majalis* and the dargah of Nasir al-Din Chiragh-i Dehli”
- 1998 Pankaj Jha, “Sharafuddin Maneri’s *Khwan-i Pur Nimat*: Studying Bihar through a 14th Century *Malfuz*”.
- 1997 Samita Roy, “Everyday life and the evidence of the *Fawa'id al-Fu'ad*”
- 1997 P. Ajitha, “The ideology of *faqr* and *futuh* : an analysis of the *Fawa'id al-Fu'ad* and the *Khair al-Majalis*”
- 1996 Yeshe Seli, “Reinterpreting Mira’s Bhakti”
- 1995 Ruby Lal, “Women and the ‘way’ of the Sufi – Studying the Nizamiyya tariqa”

4. Supervision of M.Phil dissertations, under progress

- Shambu Nath Mahto “Death and its representation in the 13-14th century Sultanate period”
- Anu Balachandran “Representing marginality in narratives of Muslim Authority: a study of Barani’s *Tarikh-i Firuz Shahi* and ‘Isami’s *Futuh al-Salatin*”
- Pia Malik “Sayyid Gisudaraz Bandanawaz: An Insight Into Processes of Provincialisation”
- Pooja Hazra “The Body and 14-15th century Persian narratives on obedience and rebellion”
- Arjun Bhattacharya “Honour and Military Service in 15th century Rajput Narratives”

Publications Profile

1. Books/Monographs

a) Authored Books

2010: *The Emergence of the Delhi Sultanate, 1192-1286*, Delhi: Permanent Black. Paperback Edition.

2010: *The Present in Delhi’s Pasts*, Delhi: Three Essays Collective. Second Edition, with an additional chapter.

b) Edited Books

2013: ed. with Richard M. Eaton, Munis D. Faruqui, David Gilmartin, *Expanding Frontiers in South Asian and World History: Essays in honour of John F. Richards*, Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

2008: ed., *Demolishing Myths, or Mosques and Temples? Readings on History and Temple Desecration in Medieval India*, Delhi: Three Essays Press.

2007: ed. with Kunal Chakrabarti, *Our Pasts II: Social Science Text Book in History for Class VII*, Delhi: NCERT.

2. Papers in Refereed/Peer Reviewed Journals

2009 "The Ignored Elites: Turks, Mongols and a Persian Secretarial Class in the early Delhi Sultanate", *Modern Asian Studies*, vol. 43, pp. 45-77.

2007 "Balancing Autonomy with Service: Frontier Military Commanders and their relations with the Delhi Sultans in the 13th and 14th centuries", Presidential Address, Medieval History Section, *Proceedings of the Punjab History Congress*, Patiala, vol. 39, pp. 86-100.

2005 "La Communauté Musulmane et les Relations Hindous-Musulmans dans l'Inde du Nord au début du XIII^e siècle: une Réévaluation Politique", *Annales Histoire, Sciences, Sociales*, vol. 60, pp. 239-64.

1994 "When Slaves were nobles: The Shamsi bandagan in the early Delhi Sultanate", *Studies in History*, vol. 10, pp. 23-52.

1994 "A Medieval Tank and Modern Urban Planning: Local Society and the Hauz-i Rānī", *Geminal: Fascism and Culture*, vol. 1, pp.157-66.

1993 "Making Sacred History or Everyone his own Historian: a study of the village of Saidlajab", *The India Magazine of her People and Culture*, vol. 13, pp. 46-55.

1985 "The value of the *Ādāb al-Mulūk wa Kifāyat al-Mamlūk* as a historical source; an insight into the ideals and expectations of Islamic society in the Middle period (945-1500)", *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, vol. 22, pp, 307-27.

3. Research papers in Edited and Peer Reviewed Conferences

2014 "An Inconvenient Heritage: the Central Asian background of the Delhi Sultans" in Upinder Singh and Parul P. Dhar, *Asian Encounters*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 86-106

2014 "*Bandagī* and *Naukarī*: Studying transitions in Political Culture and Service under the North Indian Sultanates, 13-16th centuries" in Francesca Orsini and Samira Sheikh, eds., *After Timur Came*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, pp. 60-108.

2012 "Delhi" in *Encyclopaedia of Islamic Political Thought*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 126-127

2012 "Delhi Sultanate" in *Encyclopaedia of Islamic Political Thought*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, pp. 127-128.

2011 "Courts, Capitals and Kingship: Delhi and its Sultans in the 13th and 14th centuries" in Jan-Peter Hartung and Albrecht Fuess, eds., *Court Cultures in the Muslim World*, London: SOAS/Routledge Studies on the Middle East, pp. 123-148.

2010 "The Pir's *barakat* and the Servitor's Ardour: the contrasting history of two Sufi shrines in Delhi" in Pami Singh ed., *Celebrating Delhi*, (Delhi: Penguin and Ravi Dayal), pp. 47-75.

2010 "Reflections on the Past and Present of two Sufi Shrines in Delhi" in Sunil Kumar, *The Present in Delhi's Pasts*, Delhi: Three Essays Collective, 2nd edition, pp. 103-138.

2008 "Politics, the Muslim Community and Hindu-Muslim Relations Reconsidered: North India in the early Thirteenth century", in Rajat Datta ed. *Rethinking a Millennium: Perspectives on Indian History from the Eighth to the Eighteenth century: Essays for Harbans Mukhia*, (Delhi: Aakar Books, pp. 139-167.

2007 "Raziyya, Sultan" in *Encyclopaedia of Women in World History*, New York: Oxford University Press, pp. 585-86.

2006 "Service, Status and Military Slavery in the Delhi Sultanate of the thirteenth and early

fourteenth centuries”, in Richard Eaton and Indrani Chatterjee, eds., *Slavery in Indian History*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pp. 83-114.

2006 “Mongols and Nomadic Empires, 13th-14th Centuries” in Narayani Gupta, ed., *NCERT Class XI, Text-book on World History*, Delhi: NCERT, pp. 104-122.

2001 “Qutb and Modern Memory” in *Partitions of Memory*, ed. Suvir Kaul, Delhi: Permanent Black, pp. 140-182. Reprinted in Barry Flood, ed., *Politics and Piety*, Delhi: Oxford University Press, Themes in Indian History Series, 2008, pp. 150-178.

2000 “Assertions of Authority: a Study of the Discursive Statements of Two Sultans of Delhi—‘Ala al-Din Khalaji and Nizam al-Din Auliya”, in *The Making of Indo-Persian Culture: Indian and French Studies*, ed. Muzaffar Alam, Françoise ‘Nalini’ Delvoye, and Marc Gaborieau, Delhi: Manohar, pp. 37-65

1999 “Perceiving ‘your’ Landscape: Neighbourhood Settlements and the Hauz-i Rānī”, in *Perceiving Landscape*, ed. R. Layton and P. Ucko, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, pp. 159-74.

Conference Organization/ Presentations (in the last three years)

1. Organization of a Conference

2007 – *Co-organiser of the IESHR Annual Lecture* held every December at the Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre (Eight lectures held so far).

2006: *Co-Organiser of Conference: “Expanding Frontiers in South Asian and World History – Honouring John F. Richards”*, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, Sept. 29-30.

2. Participation as Paper/Poster Presenter(last 5 years only)

2015 “Deep structures: The capitals of the Delhi Sultans and the riverine plain of Delhi, ca. 13th - 14th centuries”

At the Sociology Colloquium, Delhi School of Sociology, Delhi University, 16th October

2015 “Deep structures: The capitals of the Delhi Sultans and the riverine plain of Delhi, ca. 13th -14th centuries”

At the Institute of Near and Middle Eastern Studies Seminar, Ludwig Maximilians Universitat, Munich, 8th July

2015 “Politics, History and Folklore and the Making of *Hazrat-i Dehli*, ca 1200-1300 CE”

At the Institute of Iranian Studies, Vienna, 16th June.

2015 “Politics, History and Folklore and the Making of *Hazrat-i Dehli*, ca 1200-1300 CE”

Inaugural Professorial Lecture, Ludwig Maximilians Universitat, Munich, 12th May and

2014 “‘...not to have the good fortune of being accounted amongst men’: the long history of Sultan Raziyya”.

The First Nandita Prasad Sahai Memorial Lecture, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 1st August.

2014 “Historicising the South Asian Chishtiyya: contextualising Gesu Daraz’s *Jawami al-Kalim* and the making of Sufi fraternities”

At the Simon Digby Memorial Conference, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, 9th – 11th June 2014.

2014 “Evaluating recent research on Shah Jahan and the mid-seventeenth century”

Discussant at the Conference “The Mughal Empire under Shah Jahan (1628-58) – New trends of research”, Institute for Iranian Studies of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, 26th to 27th May.

2014 “Dehli-i kuhna’s *lashkargah*: the past and the present of the 13th century *hauz-i rani*”

Keynote Address at the Conference “The Medieval State”, Aligarh Muslim University, 25th March.

- 2014** *"Bandagi and Naukari: Studying transitions in Political Culture and Service under the North Indian Sultanates, 13th-16th centuries".*
At the Conference "The Medieval State", Aligarh Muslim University, 25th March.
- 2014** "Transitions in the relationship between political elites and Sufis: the 13th and 14th century Delhi Sultanate"
For the Conference on "State Formation and Social Integration in Pre-modern South and Southeast Asia: A Comparative Study of Asian Society", at the Toyo Bunko, Tokyo, Japan, March 8-9.
- 2014** "Digbynama: Simon Digby and his Contributions to the Study of Sufism and Islamicate Societies in South Asia"
At the History Department Seminar, Shivaji College, 20th February.
- 2014** "[And] he proceeded into the *mawas'*: Reconsidering the inhospitable environs of Sultanate settlements, ca 13-14th centuries"
For the Conference on "Unruly Environments: Ecologies of agency in the global era", at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, 13-14 February.
- 2013** Discussant of Papers
Workshop on "Conservation and Management of Red Fort Complex, Delhi", Archaeological Survey of India, 28th and 29th October
- 2013** Discussant of Papers
Workshop on "Riverfront Mughal Gardens of Agra", Archaeological Survey of India, 25th and 26th October
- 2013** "Islam's Encounter with South Asia and the Delhi Sultanate"
U.S. National Endowment for the Humanities Workshop in Delhi, 16th July.
- 2013** "Deep Structures: the many Sultanate Capital Cities in the Delhi riverine plain"
Nehru Memorial and Museum Library, Seminar Series, 23rd April 2013.
- 2012** "Deep Structures: the many Sultanate Capital Cities in the Delhi riverine plain"
For the Maharaja Umaid Singh Ji Lecture Series, organized by Maharaja Man Singh Pustak Prakash, Research Centre, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, 24th November 2012.
- 2012** "The Riverine Plain and the Capitals of the Delhi Sultans"
at the Department of History Seminar, Ambedkar University, Delhi, October 19.
- 2012** "Reading thirteenth century Sultanate sources on urban settlements and their habitats -- problematising the binarism in contestation and accommodation"
For the Workshop on 'Environmental Issues in India' to be held at Institute of Life Long Learning (ILL), University of Delhi, March 16-17.
- 2012** "The Riverine Plain and the Capitals of the Delhi Sultans"
at the India International Centre, *Frontiers in History Series*, 23rd February.
- 2011** "The many Sultanate Capital Cities in the Delhi riverine plain"
at the Seminar: "Architecture and Artisans in India: the History of Design, Technology and Labour", organised by the Aligarh Historians Society, at the Indian History Congress, Patiala, December 11-12
- 2011** "Deep Structures: the many Sultanate Capital Cities in the Delhi riverine plain"
at the Seminar: "Delhi: a heritage city (Ancient and Medieval Period)", organised by INTACH, Nov. 10
- 2011** "An Inconvenient Heritage: the Central Asian background of the Delhi Sultans"
at the Conference: "Asian Encounters", at the University of Delhi, November 1-4
- 2011** "Making Friends and talking about them: an insight into Sultanate polity and society"
at the Conference: "The History and Cultures of Friendship in South Asia", at the University of Pennsylvania, May 2-4
- 2011** "Mooring the household: problems in writing a history of early Sultanate elites"

at the Conference: *“Looking Within/ Looking Without: Pre-colonial Households”* at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, February 24-26.

2010 “A preliminary prosopographical review of early *tazkirat* literature in the 14th-16th centuries” at the Conference: *“From the medieval to the ‘early modern’ in South Asia: Sources, methodologies and problems”*, St. Anthony’s College, Oxford University, June 11.

2010 “Trans-regional Contacts and Relationships: Turks, Mongols and the Delhi Sultanate in the thirteenth and fourteenth Centuries

at the 2009-10 *Levi Della Vida Medal for Excellence in Islamic Studies Conference in honour of Professor Edmund Bosworth*, University of California at Los Angeles, May 18-19.

2010 1) “The Woman and the *hisab* of Men: Sultana Raziyya and Early Sultanate Society”.

2) “Courts, Capitals and Kingship: Delhi and its Sultans in the 13th and 14th centuries”

3) “History and the Politics of Medieval India”

as Visiting Professor, Centre for historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, March 26-April 9

2010 “Courts, Capitals and Kingship: Delhi and its Sultans in the 13th and 14th centuries”

at the Oxford South Asia History Seminar, January 19th

Research Projects (Major Grants/Research Collaboration)

Medieval Delhi Digital Humanities Research Collective, is a Canadian-led international team of historians and art and architectural historians that includes leading scholars from the United Kingdom and Japan. The aim of the project is to develop a digital infrastructure that will make the study of Medieval Delhi more cost effective for Indian and international researchers and position the field so that it is able to take advantage of new emerging forms of computational analysis for humanities research. Another goal is to develop a general researcher-oriented IT tool that helps relate and analyze historical relations between material and social phenomena and is of use to the wider scholarly community. The pilot project will develop a prototype for a sustainable, researcher-driven and internet accessible, relational database or set of databases populated with spatial, three-dimensional model, photographic and textual data pertaining to Delhi’s historic Quwwat al- Islam mosque. Participants include: Dr. Hussein Keshani, who is with the Art History Program at the University of British Columbia – Okanagan (UBCO) and is also the principal investigator. Other collaborators include Dr. Anthony Welch with the University of Victoria’s History in Art Program; Professor Sunil Kumar at the Department of History, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Dr. Tomoko Masuya at the University of Tokyo and Dr. Naoko Fukami, currently with Waseda University, Tokyo, the principal architects of the IOC website on Medieval Delhi (<http://www.ioc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~islamarc/delhiphotosearch/index.html>).

Awards and Distinctions

May-June 2015: *Allianz Distinguished Visiting Professor for Islamic Studies, Institute for Near and Middle Eastern Studies, Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich.*

March 2010: *Visiting Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, March 26 – April 9*

February 2008: *Townsend Scholar in Residence, Townsend Center, University of California at Berkeley.*

March 2007: *Presidential Address, Medieval India Section, Punjab History Congress, Patiala, March 16.*

May - June 2006: *Visiting Professor, Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Sorbonne, University of Paris, France.*

March 2001: *Visiting Professor, CEIAS, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France*
1993 – 2015: *Visiting Professor, Lewis and Clark College, Portland. Summer Program.*
1994: *Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Duke University. Summer 1994.*
1992, 1988: *Visiting Instructor, Department of History, Duke University.*

Association With Professional Bodies

1. Editing

2016 – Senior Editor, Oxford Research Encyclopaedia, New York, Oxford University Press.

2001 – Managing Editor, of the peer reviewed journal, *The Indian Economic and Social History Review*

1997 – 2001: Associate Editor, of the peer reviewed journal, *The Indian Economic and Social History Review.*

2. Reviewing

- a) Oxford University Press India;
- b) Permanent Black;
- c) Cambridge University Press UK;
- d) IB Tauris, UK;
- e) Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient;
- f) Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies;
- g) Indian Economic and Social History Review;
- h) Royal Asiatic Society;
- i) South Asia Research

3. Advisory

2010 – Editorial Advisor to the peer reviewed journal, *South Asia Research*, School of Oriental and African Studies

4. Committees and Boards

Governing Body, *Indian Economic and Social History Association*

5. Memberships

Life Member: *Indian History Congress*

6. Office Bearer

Treasurer, *Indian Economic and Social History Association*

Other Activities

2006: *Advisor, Textbook Development Committee, NCERT, Class VII textbook: “Our Pasts II”.*

1995 – 96: *Research consultant, Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH): Humayun Tomb project.*

1993 – 94: *Research consultant, Theatre in Education Company, National School of Drama, New Delhi. “Raziyya Sultana”, directed by Maya Krishna Rao.*

1989 – 92: *Research consultant, Land Use and Vegetation changes in South Asia, 1800-1980.*