

Speakers' Bio-Notes

Chitra Joshi

Chitra Joshi taught for several decades in Delhi University and had teaching assignments and fellowships in institutions in India and outside. Her publications include, *Lost Worlds: Indian Labour and its Forgotten Histories* (New Delhi: Permanent Black, 2003, London: Anthem, 2005), *Labour in Transport: Histories from the Global South, c1750-1950*, co-edited with Stefano Bellucci, L Correa, J.G Deutsch (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 2014), and several book chapters and essays in international journals. A founding member of the Association of Indian Labour Historians (AILH), she is currently working on a book project on labour regimes beyond the factory.

Amanda Lanzillo

Amanda Lanzillo is an Assistant Professor in the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. She is a historian of labour, technology, and religion, and is the author of *Pious Labor: Islam, Artisanry, and Technology in Colonial India* (University of California Press, 2024). Currently, Amanda is a fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies, researching a second book project about Afghan migration and labour in British India and the Indian Ocean world.

Amanda holds a PhD in history from Indiana University (2020), and she was previously a lecturer at Brunel University and a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton University. Her work has been supported by fellowships and grants including from Fulbright-Hays, the American Institutes of Indian, Sri Lankan, and Afghanistan Studies, the Library of Congress, and the American Historical Association. She has published in peer reviewed journals including *Modern Asian Studies*, *South Asia*, the *Journal of Social History*, and the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, among others. Amanda also frequently writes about South Asian social history for the popular press, including in a series on artisan and labouring histories in *The Wire* co-authored with Arun Kumar.

Arun Kumar

Arun Kumar is an Assistant Professor in British Imperial, Colonial, and Post-Colonial History at the University of Nottingham. His research brings together aspects of social and labour history in conversation with education and literary history. His work on workers' and labouring castes' education and subaltern literacy culture has been foundational in demolishing the myth of Indian workers as illiterates. These perspectives are discussed in detail in his work-in-progress monograph currently titled *The Silent Rebellion: Working-Class Dreams, Education and Welfare Capitalism*. Arun

Kumar's research and reviews have appeared in various international journals including *Past & Present*, *South Asia: Journal of South Asia*, *Journal of South Asian Development*, *International Review of Social History*, *American Historical Review*. He frequently writes for leading newspapers and news portals, such as *The Indian Express*, *The Telegraph*, *The Wire*, *Scroll*, etc.

Nitin Varma

Nitin Varma is a historian with degrees from the University of Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University (Delhi). He holds a PhD from Humboldt University, Berlin, having worked on the history of coolie labour in the colonial tea plantations of Assam. The thesis was later published as a monograph titled *Coolies of Capitalism* (Berlin, 2016). He has published a two-volume co-edited book (with Nitin Sinha) titled *Servants' Pasts* (Delhi, 2019) which included contributions on the history of domestic servants in South Asia from the 16th century to the present. He is currently a researcher at ZMO, Berlin working on temporality and labour in 19th and 20th century South Asia