

ANAND VAIDYA
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Anthropology
Reed College
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Portland, OR

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EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Ph.D., Social Anthropology, May 2014
A.M., Social Anthropology, May 2009

Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA
B.A., Biology and Sociology/Anthropology, May 2005

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2023- Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Reed College
2018-2023 Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Reed College

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2015-2017 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology, University of Bergen
2016-2017 Visiting Scholar, Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University
2014-2015 South Asian Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship, South Asia Institute, Harvard University
2013-2014 Graduate Student Fellowship, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies, Harvard University
2010 Wenner-Gren Dissertation Research Grant, Wenner Gren Foundation
2010 Wenner-Gren Osmundsen Initiative Grant, Wenner Gren Foundation
2010 Fulbright-Nehru Student Research Grant, US India Education Foundation

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Future of the Forest: Struggles over land and law in India. Cornell University Press, 2025.

Edited Volumes

Indian Democracy: Origins, Trajectories, Contestations. Alf Nilsen, Kenneth Bo Nielsen, and Anand Vaidya, eds. Pluto Press, 2019.

Articles

“Fantasy Constitutions: Forest land and forced dispossession.” *Focaal: Journal of Global and Historical Anthropology*, Vol. 95, 2023.

“New Villages for Old: Collective Action and Conditional Futures after India’s Forest Rights Act.” *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, Vol. 45, No. 1, 2022.

With Alf Gunvald Nilsen and Kenneth Bo Nielsen. “Theorizing Law, Social Movements and State Formation in India.” *Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*, Vol. 42, No. 1, 2022.

With Jostein Jakobsen, Alf Gunvald Nilsen, and Kenneth Bo Nielsen. “Mapping the World’s Largest Democracy (1947-2017)” *Forum for Development Studies*, Vol. 46, No. 1, 2019.

“Woh Jangal Hamara Hai: What does a Dalit politics of the forest look like?” *Seminar: Nature’s Present: Dilemmas, conflicts, opportunities*, February 2017.

Book Chapters

“‘The Forest Belongs to Us’: Caste and the Forest Rights Movement.” In *Nature Contested: Conflicts and Choices in Contemporary India*, Mahesh Rangarajan, Rinki Sarkar, and Sonali Verma, eds. New Delhi: Orient-Blackswan. (forthcoming)

With Alf Gunvald Nilsen and Kenneth Bo Nielsen. “Trajectories and Crossroads: Indian Democracy at 70.” In *Indian Democracy: Origins, Trajectories, Contestations*, Alf Gunvald Nilsen, Kenneth Bo Nielsen, and Anand Vaidya, eds., pp. 1-12. London: Pluto Press, 2019.

With Alf Gunvald Nilsen and Kenneth Bo Nielsen. “Indian Democracy and its Prospects: 2019 and Beyond.” In *Indian Democracy: Origins, Trajectories, Contestations*, Alf Gunvald Nilsen, Kenneth Bo Nielsen, and Anand Vaidya, eds., pp. 170-177. London: Pluto Press, 2019.

“‘Word Traps’ and the Drafting of India’s Forest Rights Act.” In *Staking Claims: The Politics of Social Movements in Contemporary Rural India*, Uday Chandra and Daniel Taghioff, eds., pp. 292-316. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Book Reviews

Review of Anuj Bhuwania, *Courting the People: Public Interest Litigation in Post-Emergency India*. *Biblio*, Vol. 23, Nos. 1-3, January-March 2018, pp. 25-26.

Review of Llerena Guiu Searle, *Landscapes of Accumulation: Real Estate and the Neoliberal Imagination in Contemporary India*. *Anthropological Quarterly*, Vol. 91, No. 1, Winter 2017, pp. 415-420.

“A Subtle Alignment,” *n+1*, No. 15, Winter 2013.

INVITED LECTURES

- 2021 “Forest Land, forced dispossession, and fantasy constitutions.” Center for Global and Area Studies, University of Delaware, October 5.
- 2021 “Forest Land, forced dispossession, and fantasy constitutions.” Center for India and South Asia and Department of Anthropology, UCLA, February 22.
- 2017 “Forest Land, forced dispossession, and fantasy constitutions.” Cornell University South Asia Program, October 16.
- 2015 “Legal Forensics and the Forest Rights Movement.” Tufts University Center for South Asian and Indian Ocean Studies, December 1.
- 2015 “The water, forest, and land belong to us: People, Property, and Things in an Indian Forest.” Department of Anthropology, Haverford College, February 16.
- 2015 “The water, forest, and land belong to us: People, Property, and Things in an Indian Forest.” Department of Anthropology, McGill University, February 9.
- 2015 “Trajectories of Legal Knowledge: Translations between Caste and Class and India’s Forest Rights Act.” Ethnography and Social Theory Colloquium, Department of Anthropology, Yale University. January 21.
- 2014 “Legal Forensics and the Forest Rights Movement.” Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, December 22.
- 2013 “The Instability of India’s Forest Rights Act and the Collective Subject of Rights.” Ethnography and Social Theory Colloquium, Department of Anthropology, Yale University, February 4.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS AND COLLOQUIA ORGANIZED

Panels and Conferences Organized

- 2017 “Law, Social Movements, and State Formation in Contemporary India,” Panel at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 27.

- 2017 “Democracy and its Trajectories: India at 70,” Conference at the University of Oslo, Oslo, October 5 and 6.
- 2017 “Rethinking Dalit Politics in the New India,” Panel in the New York University South Asia @ NYU seminar series, New York, NY, April 21.
- 2016 “Rights-based Legislation under India’s New Regime,” Panel at the Law and Social Sciences Research Network conference, New Delhi, December 10.
- 2016 “Revisiting dis/possession politics: The Macro View of India,” Panel at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 20.
- 2016 “Mapping Subaltern Modernities in Neoliberal India,” Panel at the SASNET international conference on ‘Modern Matters: Negotiating the Future in Everyday Life in South Asia,’ Lund University, Sweden, September 20.
- 2015 “Geographies of Contested Land,” Panel at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 23.
- 2013 “Social Movements Across Scales and Cycles,” Panel at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 20.
- 2012 “State Interventions as Boundary Objects: Official Categories and Contesting Publics in Contemporary India,” Panel at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, November 18.
- 2012 “Rights Legislation, Citizenship, and Legalized Politics,” Panel at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 13.
- 2009 “Workshop on Water and the Environment,” Conference at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, May 1 and 2.
- 2008 “New Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Water and Society in World Perspectives,” Conference at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University, May 9 and 10.

Papers Presented

- 2024 “The Problem of Property in the Forest,” Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL, November 21.
- 2024 “The Problem of Property in the Forest,” Presented at the the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, November 2.

- 2024 “The Problem of Property in the Forest,” Presented at Engagements in Everyday Life: Analyzing Emerging Forms of Social Action,” Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur, October 21.
- 2022 “Accumulation, enclosure, and anti-enclosure mobilization in India,” Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, November 10.
- 2021 “Forest Rights and the Right: Bewilderment and Intimacy in an Indian Forest,” Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, November 20.
- 2018 “The Right and Affective Rights in a Maharashtra Forest,” Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Jose, CA, November 16.
- 2016 “Rights legislation and the new regime in India,” Presented at the Law and Social Sciences Research Network conference, New Delhi, India, December 10.
- 2016 “‘The Water, Forest, and Land Belong to Us’: Caste, Property, and India’s Forest Rights Act,” Presented at the Taking Nature to Court workshop, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France, March 7.
- 2015 “‘The water, forest, and land belong to us’: Caste, Property, and India’s Forest Rights Act,” Presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 23.
- 2015 “Trajectories of Legal Knowledge: India’s Forest Rights Act and sedimented contests of caste and class,” Presented at the Democratizing Indian Democracy? Social Movements and the State in Contemporary India workshop, Department of Sociology, University of Bergen, Norway, March 26.
- 2014 “The Instability of the Forest Rights Act and the Collective Subject of Rights,” Presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 19.
- 2014 “Legal Forensics and the Forest Rights Movement,” Presented at the South Asia Legal Studies Pre-Conference, Madison, WI, October 16.
- 2014 “‘Word Traps’ and the Drafting of India’s Forest Rights Act,” Presented at the Law as Living Language Workshop, Harvard Yenching Institute, Cambridge, MA, April 26.
- 2014 “Corrupt Movements, the Anti-Corruption Movement, and the Movement of Knowledge in Indian Political Practice,” Presented at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, March 26.

- 2013 “‘Word Traps’ and the Drafting of India’s Forest Rights Act,” Presented at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, November 20.
- 2013 “‘Word Traps’ and the Drafting of India’s Forest Rights Act,” Presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 18.
- 2013 “Trajectories of Legal Knowledge: India’s Forest Rights Act and sedimented contests of caste and class,” Presented at the SSRC Inter-Asian Connections Workshop, Istanbul, Turkey, September 30.
- 2013 “India’s Forest Rights Act and the Long History of the Emergency,” Presented at the American Ethnological Society Spring Conference, Chicago, IL, April 11-13.
- 2012 “The Instability of India’s Forest Rights Act and the Collective Subject of Rights,” Presented at a workshop on “Forests, Rights, and Insurgency,” University of Connecticut, November 30.
- 2012 “The Instability of India’s Forest Rights Act and the Collective Subject of Rights,” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco, CA, November 18.
- 2012 “The Instability of India’s Forest Rights Act and the Collective Subject of Rights,” Presented at the Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, October 13.
- 2012 “Mediated Legalities and the Indian Anti-Corruption Movement,” Presented at the Association of Social Anthropologists in the UK and Commonwealth Annual Meeting, New Delhi, India, April 3.
- 2011 “Guardhouse,” Screened at the Goethe Institut Greenhouse, New Delhi, India, February 4.
- 2011 “The Origins of the Forest, Private Property, and the Law,” Presented at a panel on Politics of Policy Making and Community Rights in the Commons at the International Association for the Study of the Commons meeting, Hyderabad, India, January 11.
- 2010 “The Force of Expertise in the Creation of India’s Forest Rights Act,” Presented to the Delhi University Ecology and Society Working Group, Delhi, India, October 20.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught

Reed College

Introduction to Anthropology
Anthropology of Science
Global Political Ecology
Social Movements in South Asia
Labor, Land, and Value in India
Marx from the South
Caste and Race
Legal Anthropology

Harvard University

Global Political Ecology
Social Movements in South Asia

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

2023-2024 Program Co-chair, Association for Political and Legal Anthropology

Journal manuscripts reviewed for *American Anthropologist*; *Anthropological Quarterly*; *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*; *Cultural Anthropology*; *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*; *Journal of Contemporary Asia*; *Journal of Peasant Studies*; *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*; and *Public Culture*.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Reed College Governance

2023-2024 Chair, Department of Anthropology

2021-2024 Member, Comparative Race and Ethnicity Studies Committee

2021-2023 Member, Fellowships and Awards Committee

2019-2020 Member, Fellowships and Awards Committee

2018-2019 Member, Civic Engagement Committee

2018-2019 Member, Undergraduate Research Committee

2018 Member, Computing Policy Committee

LANGUAGES

Hindi: Spoken – Advanced; Written – Advanced.

French: Spoken – Advanced; Written – Advanced.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

2014- American Anthropological Association

2019- Association for Political and Legal Anthropology