

KIRTAN PATEL

E: kirtan575@gmail.com & kirtan.patel@usu.edu

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3080-6043>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Utah State University, Logan, UT

Assistant Professor of South Asian History

2025-present

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

2025

Ph.D. in History

Dissertation Title: “*Divinity in Dispute: Building a Hindu Community in Colonial Gujarat*”

Committee Members: Sumit Guha (Supervisor), A. Azfar Moin (co-supervisor), Cynthia Talbot, William Pinch

Utah State University, Logan, UT

2018

M.A. in History

Master’s Thesis: “*Weaving a Religious Community: Monasticism, Authority, and Theology in Gujarat, 1830-1905*”

Shree Somnath Sanskrit University, Veraval, India

2016

Postgraduate Diploma in Sanskrit, Gujarati and Hindu Studies

University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

2015

B.A. (Hons) in History

EXPERIENCE

Teaching Experience

University of Texas at Austin

Spring 2025 Assistant Instructor, Department of History

- “Intro to the History of India”

2019-2024 Teaching Assistant, Department of History

2020-2023 Guest Lecturer in Undergraduate Courses, Department of History

- “Mahatma Gandhi” in “Indian Subcontinent, 1750-1950,” Fall 2023

- “Asian Religions and the Cold War” in “Intro to Asian-American History,” Spring 2022

- “South Asian Immigration” in “Immigration and Ethnicity,” Spring 2020

Utah State University

2017 Guest Lecturer in Undergraduate Courses, Department of History

- “Yoga and Defining Hinduism” in “Intro to Religious Studies: Hinduism,” Fall 2017

Teaching Assistant

- Undergraduate Beginners Sanskrit Class

Research Appointments

Utah State University

2016-2018 Research Assistant to Professor Ravi M. Gupta

- Research for and Planned *Hinduism: The Primary Sources*, an undergraduate reader under consideration by Oxford University Press

- Researched into the nature and function of Sanskrit Commentaries

Editorial

University of Texas at Austin

- 2021 Copyeditor
Copy-edited Professor Sumit Guha's books: *Tribes and State in Asia Through Twenty-Five Centuries* (2021) and *The Ecology of Empire in Southern Asia, c. 1450-1950* (2023)
Bhakti Virtual Archive ([BHAVA](#))
- 2021 Curator for the Gujarati Bhakti Bibliography

PUBLICATIONS

Book Reviews

- 2024 Review of "Religion, Enlightenment and Empire: British Interpretations of Hinduism in the Eighteenth Century" by Jessica Patterson in *Global Intellectual History*
- 2020 Review of "The Emergence of Modern Hinduism: Religion on the Margins of Colonialism" by Richard Weiss in *Reading Religion*
- 2016 Review of "Spiritual Despots: Modern Hinduism and the Genealogies of Self-Rule" by J. Barton Scott in *Reading Religion*

AWARDS

Fellowships and Grants

- 2023-2024 University Graduate Continuing Fellowship, UT Austin (\$35K)
- 2023 College of Liberal Arts Summer Writing Fellowship, UT Austin (\$6K)
- 2022 College of Liberal Arts Summer Research Fellowship, UT Austin (\$6K)
Bernadotte E. Schmitt Grant for Research, American Historical Association (\$1.5K)
Graduate Research Fellowship, British, Irish and Empire Studies, UT Austin (\$1K)
- 2022-2023 History Department Research Fellowship, UT Austin (\$24K)
- 2016-2018 Charles Redd Fellowship, Utah State University (\$10K annually)
- 2017 Research Grant, Department of History, Utah State University
Freie Universität Travel Grant for the Global History Student Conference
USU Conference Travel Grant
- 2012-2015 Lloyds Scholars, University of Oxford (£1K annually & Two Paid Summer Internships)

Academic Awards

- 2017 Finalist for the CHaSS Master's Student Researcher of the Year, Utah State University
2nd Prize for the Arrington Lecture Essay Competition, Utah State University (\$500)

CONFERENCE PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

Public Talks

- 2018 "A Tailor Weaves His Community," IGNITE USU, Utah State University

Conference Presentations

- 2024 "Monks on the Margins: The Sacred-Moral Geography of Transoceanic Hinduism, 1882-1951"; Accepted for a poster presentation at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, but was unable to attend
- 2023 "The Sacred Hilltop: Seeking Space and Fulfilling Prophecy in Gadhada, 1940-1951," at the American Academy of Religion Conference, San Antonio
"Politics of Piety: Schism, Sovereignty, and Obedience in Colonial Gujarat, 1870-1905," at The Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions, King's College, London
"Rejuvenating a Bhakti Ethic: Shastriji Maharaj and Ahmedabad's Elite, 1933-41," at the BAPS and IHRC organized International History Conference titled "The Role and Contribution of Saints and Sages in Indian History", Ahmedabad, Gujarat

- 2022 “Writing History, Expressing Emotion: Devotional kirtans in early twentieth-century BAPS,” at the BAPS organized Swaminarayan Literature Conference, Ahmedabad
 “Resisting Reform and Defending Truth: The Pushtimarg in the Early Twentieth Century” at the Texas Asia Conference, UT Austin
- 2018 “Bhakti through Letters: Mediating Caste and Ashram Politics in Nineteenth Century Gujarat” at the 16th Annual DANAM Conference, Denver, Colorado
 “Beyond Caste: Ashram as a Social Identity in the Swaminarayan Sampraday” at the AAR-SBL-ASOR Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Region Regional Conference, Brigham Young University
- 2017 “East Africa’s ‘Brown’ Racial Discourse: M.G. Vassanji’s *The In-Between World of Vikram Lall* and Peter Nazareth’s *In a Brown Mantle*” at the Global History Student Conference, Freie Universität, Berlin
 “The Guru as Darji: Negotiating Religious Authority in Late Nineteenth-Century Gujarat” at the AAR-SBL-ASOR Rocky Mountain-Great Plains Region Regional Conference, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2016 “The Kanchipuram Kailasanathar Temple: History, Architecture and Tradition” at the Siva Tattva Conference, Shree Somnath Sanskrit University, Veraval, Gujarat, India

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

- 2023 Peer Reviewer for *Modern Asian Studies*
 Co-convended the Spalding Symposium on Indian Religions, King’s College, London

ADVISORY-CONSULTANCY ROLES

- 2019-2023 Oral History Project Consultant, South Asian Hindu Community, New Jersey
- 2016 Discussion Lead on Approaches to Interfaith Dialogue, Interfaith Day at Chestnut Grove Academy, South London
- 2014 Youth Consultation on Interreligious Dialogue at the KAICIID Centre, Vienna, Austria

ADDITIONAL TRAINING & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Teaching and Presentation Training

- 2024 Teaching Preparation Series, Center for Teaching and Learning, UT Austin
- 2021 Supervised Teaching in History Course, Department of History, UT Austin
- 2018 IGNITE Public Speaking & Research Presentation

Research Experience

- 2023 British Library, London
- 2022-2023 AARSH Research Center and Archives, Gandhinagar, India; BJ Institute, Ahmedabad, India; Maharashtra State Archives, Mumbai, India; Forbes Gujarati Sabha, Mumbai, India; Visited Hindu temples built in early 20th-century Gujarat to analyze design, construction and inscriptions
- 2022 British Library, London

ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS

American Historical Association
 American Academy of Religion

LANGUAGES

English (native fluency), Gujarati (native fluency), Hindi (advanced reading), Sanskrit (beginner reading), Urdu (beginner reading), German (beginner reading)