

## **Curriculum Vitae**

Justin Mathew

Associate Professor  
Department of History  
Hansraj College  
University of Delhi  
Malka Ganj  
Delhi-110007  
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## **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

### **Department of History, Hansraj College, University of Delhi, Delhi-11007**

- Associate Professor, 2022-present
- Assistant Professor, 2009-2022
- Assistant Professor (Guest Basis), 2008-2009

### **Department of History, CMS College, Kottayam, Kerala, 686001**

- Lecturer (Guest Basis), 2003-2004

## **EDUCATION**

PhD in Modern Indian History, Centre for Modern Indian Studies, Georg August University, Gottingen, Germany, 37073

- Dissertation: *Geographies of Accumulation: Nature, Infrastructure, and the Urbanisation of Cochin, c. 1860-1945*

M Phil in Modern History, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India-110067, 2006.

- Dissertation: *Churning the Backwaters: Empire and Harbour Building in Cochin 1920-1939*

Master of Arts in History, School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, India, 686041, 2002

Bachelor of Arts in History, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, 2000

## **TEACHING**

- Global Environmental History

- Environmental History of the Indian Subcontinent
- Fundamentals of Historical Methodology
- History of Modern Europe

## PUBLICATIONS

1. 2025b. "Waste and Urban Environmental Crisis in Cochin: The Case of Brahmapuram Landfill." *Current World Environment* 20 (April): 1–9.
2. 2025a. "Colonialism and the Evolution of Modern Banking System in India." *International Journal of Creative Research and Thoughts* 13 (January): 304–311.
3. 2024c. "Locating Delhi Farmers Protests of 2020–21 as an Environmental Justice Movement." *NCC Review* 144.
4. 2024b. "An Urban Environmental History of Mining: Metal Mining and Urban Appropriation of Nature in Zawar, Rajasthan." *Rajasthan History Congress Proceedings* 37: 216–225.
5. 2024a. "The Challenges of Democratic Path: Decolonisation Studies and Historicising the Constitution of India." *Third Concept* 38 (May): 7–13.
6. 2023. "Capitalism, Climate Crisis, and Methodological Challenges in Environmental History." *Economic and Political Weekly* 58, no. 27 (July): 1–13.
7. 2022. "Badge of Labour: Marginal Lives of the Labouring Poor in the Port of Cochin." In *South Asia Chronicles*, 329–346. Berlin: Humboldt University.
8. 2021b. "Climate Change Studies and the Anthropocene." In *Are You Human: Manushyethara Manavikataykku Oramukhan*, 300–327. Kottayam: DC Books.
9. 2021a. "Richard Grove and Environmental History of the Global Periphery: Hortus Malabaricus muthal El Niño Vare." (In Malayalam). *Chengazi* 1, no. 6: 21–29.
10. 2020. "Race and Slavery in the Reparatory History of the United States." (In Malayalam). *Sahitya Lokam* 6: 6–22.
11. 2018. "Steam Shipping and Uneven Urbanisation: Cochin, Southwest India, c. 1860s to 1914." *Journal of Indian History* XCVI–XCVII: 11–29.
12. 2017. "Democracy and Unfreedom: The History of Ancient Greece for our Times." *Journal of Indian History* XCIV–XCV.
13. 2015. "Port Building and Urban Modernity: Cochin 1920–1945." In *Kerala Modernity: Ideas, Spaces, Practices in Transition*, edited by Satheesh Chandra Bose and Shiju Sam Varghese, 74–91. Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan.

## Book Reviews

1. 2025. Review of *Profit: An Environmental History*, by Mark Stoll. *American Historical Review* 130, no. 1 (March): 446–47.
2. 2023. 'Agola Mooladhavaum Dakshinendyayile Thottamthozhilalikalum (Global Capital and Peripheral Labour: History and Political Economy of Plantation Workers in India)' by K. Raviraman, *Economic and Political Weekly* LVIII, No. 33 (Aug.), 31-34. ISSN No. 0012-9976.
3. 2021. 'Coolies Great War: The Social History of World War I,' *Tapasam* Vol. XVII, no. 1 &2, 2021, 72-180. ISSN No. 2249-9873.

### **Educational Resources:**

1. 2024. "Mining." In *Environmental Histories of the Indian Subcontinent*, 282–294. Delhi: IGNOU:  
<https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/111048/3/Unit-23.pdf>
2. 2021. "Colonialism and Environment- Green Imperialism, IGNOU Study material for UG and PG Courses:  
<https://egyankosh.ac.in/handle/123456789/76829>

### **Popular Articles:**

- 2021. "Sunderlal Bahuguna: Prophet of Nature." *Samakalika Malayalam Vaarika* 25, no. 4 (June 7): 40–51.
- 2020c. "Neoliberalisation of Education and Classroom Experiences of Students." *Navamalayali Magazine*, June 10, 2020.  
<https://navamalayali.com/2020/06/10/neoliberal-exams-and-students/>.
- 2020b. "Pandemic and the Right to the City." *Navamalayali Online Magazine*, May 23, 2020. <https://navamalayali.com/2020/05/23/column-justin-mathew/>.
- 2020a. "The Constitution and Social Justice: A Manifesto for Decolonisation." *Navamalayali Magazine*, February 29, 2020.  
<https://navamalayali.com/2020/02/29/article-justin-mathew/>.
- 2019b. "Panama Canal and the Divided History of Globalisation." *Navamalayali Magazine*, December 24, 2019.  
<https://navamalayali.com/2019/12/24/second-nature-column-by-justin-mathew/>.
- 2019a. "Capitalocene and the Marxian Interpretation of Nature." *Navamalayali Magazine*, November 21, 2019. <https://navamalayali.com/2019/11/21/column-second-nature-justin/>.
- "Neoliberal Policies and Higher Education Reforms in India." *Madhyamam Weekly* 17, no. 20.
- "Autonomy and Higher Education: A Case of Kerala Colleges." *Mathrubhumi Daily*, May 14, 2013, 4.

- "Ramayana Readings and Historical Research." *Mangalam Daily*, December 17, 2011, 6.

## **AWARDS**

- Research Excellence Award, Hansraj College, University of Delhi

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

- 1) 2017: PhD Scholarship German Historical Institute, London.
- 2) 2014-2017 Erasmus Mundus PhD Fellowship.
- 3) 2008: Indian Council of Social Science Research-Centre for Studies in Developing Societies Junior Research Fellowship, 2008.
- 4) 2007: Junior Research Fellowship, Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, India.
- 5) 2004-05 Fellow, Students Stipendship Programme on Research on City 2004-2005, Sarai, Centre for Studies in Developing Societies, 29 Rajpur Road, Delhi, India. Title of the Research Paper: *Labour in a Colonial Port City: Construction Workers of Cochin Port 1920-1940*.
- 6) 2004: Research Grant for M Phil Field Visit to meet the Cochin Regional Archives and Port Workers of the Cochin Port, Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, India.

## **CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED LECTURES**

### **International Conferences**

1. 2026. "Urban Environmental History: Possibilities in the Context of Kerala." Invited lecture at the Three-Day International Conference on Historiography since the Formation of Modern Kerala, Department of History, University of Kerala, March 11–13.
2. 2025. "International Conference on Ecologies of the Future: Environmental Humanities for Global Sustainability." Keynote lecture at the Department of English and Cultural Studies, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR, February 6.
3. 2023. "Development in Mountains: Issues, Challenges and Solutions." Inaugural address at the Third Himachal Pradesh Sociological Society Conference, December 11–12.
4. 2023. "Connected Stories." Invited lecture at the International Conference on Environment and Society, Department of History, University of Maranhao, Sao Luis, Brazil, November 21–24.
5. 2023. "The Political Ecology of a Colonial Harbour Building Project: Cochin Backwaters, Southwest India, 1920-39." Paper presented at the European Society for Environmental History Conference, Bristol, UK, 25-28 July.

6. 2017. “Colonial Ports and Geographies of Accumulation, Cochin Southwest India (1860-1945).” Paper presented at the Colloquium Series, German Historical Institute, London, 17 September.
7. 2016. “The Maritime Infrastructure Project and Urban Modernity.” Paper presented at the workshop “On the Concept and Methodology of Multiple Modernities and Global Theory,” Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Göttingen, December.
8. 2016. “British Free Trade and Princely Monopoly: Colonial Port and the Geographies of Accumulation in Southwest India, 1850s-1870s.” Paper presented at the workshop “Studying Capitalist Phenomena in Time,” Uppsala Lab of Economic Sociology, Uppsala, Sweden, December.

### **Invited Talks and Conference Participation**

1. 2026. ‘Why Environmental History Matters Today: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future’, National Seminar on ‘Trends in Historiography: Regional Studies and Environmental Perspectives’ organised by the Department of History, Sree Sankara Vidyapeetom College, Valayanchirangara, 16 January.
2. 2026. Resource Person at the Two-Day National Conference on ‘Rethinking Keralam: Landscapes and Social Configurations’, 14–15 January.
3. 2024. ‘An Urban-Environmental History of Mining: Metal Mining and Urban Appropriation of Nature in Zawar, Rajasthan’. Paper presented at the 37th Rajasthan History Conference, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, 23–24 February.
4. 2024. “New Directions in Urban History”. Keynote Speaker at the two-day National Seminar on Urban Studies organised by the Department of English and Cultural Studies, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore Yeshwanthapur Campus, 15–16 March.
5. 2024. “New Directions in Urban History: Reflections in the Context of Cochin”. Inaugural lecture, Cochin Study Centre, St. Joseph’s College, Irinjalakuda, Thrissur, Kerala, 18 March.
6. 2024. “Urbanisation of the Sahyadris: A Critical Environmental History of the Munnar-Cochin Plantation Hill Road (c. 1860–1939)”, Department of History, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, 1 February.
7. 2024. “Youth Migration and Higher Education”. Invited lecture in the second National Youth Seminar organised by the Kerala State Youth Commission, 31 January.
8. 2024. ‘Historical Perspective on the Climate Crisis: Methodological Challenges’. Invited talk at the Short-Term Course on ‘Research Methodology’ organised by UGC-MMTTC, Bharathiar University, Tamil Nadu, December.

9. 2022. 'What History Means in the Contemporary World'. Two-hour lecture for the online certificate course 'Academic Writing, Research Methodology, and New Frontiers of Research for Humanities and Social Sciences', Student Learning Centre, IQAC, and Department of English, Hansraj College, University of Delhi, 15–29 January.
10. 2022. 'Climate Change and Writing Environmental History'. Lecture presented at the Faculty Development Programme on 'Historical Method and Theory' organised by UGC-STRIDE, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, in collaboration with UC College, Aluva, 5 February.
11. 2022. 'Critical Climate History: A Marxist Historical Perspective in the Age of Global Warming'. Special lecture at the Institute of Multidisciplinary Programmes in Social Sciences (IMPSS), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, 18 March.
12. 2022. 'Climate Crisis, the Anthropocene, and Critical Environmental History'. Paper presented at the Lecture Series, Department of History, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, March.
13. 2022. 'Agrarian and Environmental Movements in Intersectional Perspective'. Invited talk at the Ten-Day Short-Term Course on Intersectionality Studies organised by the Dakshayani Velayudhan Centre for Women's Studies, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala, 17–26 March.
14. 2021. 'Marine Infrastructure Projects and Environmental Justice: A Case of Cochin Harbour'. Invited lecture organised by the Department of History, University of Calicut, Kerala, 5 June.
15. 2021. 'Delhi Farmers' Movement: Why It Matters to Environmental Justice'. Lecture at the Department of Political Science, Government College, Madappally, Kerala, 16 August.
16. 2021. 'Critical Geography and Rethinking the History of Urbanisation'. Paper presented as part of the Seven-Day Online National Conference on 'Critique and Constructions: Contemporary Writings on Histories of Keralam' organised by the Department of History, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, 2 March.
17. 2020. 'The Urbanisation of Backwaters: A Political Ecology of the Cochin Harbour Project'. Lecture presented as part of the International Webinar Series organised by the Kerala Council for Historical Research, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, 13 October.
18. 2020. 'Thinking about the Past in the History Classroom'. Special lecture organised by the Department of History, UC College, Aluva, Kerala, 13 November.

19. 2019. 'The Concept of Nature and Writing History: Lessons from the Great Floods of 1924 and 2018'. Lecture at Newman College, Thodupuzha, Kerala, 17 January.
20. 2019. 'Historical Geography and Critical Urban Theory'. Lecture at the Department of History, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala, 18 January.
21. 2019. 'Studying Contemporary History: A Critical Perspective'. Invited talk at the Department of History, Henry Baker College, Melukavu, Kerala, 28 June.
22. 2019. 'Mapping Independent India: Language-Based State Formations as the History of Decolonisation'. Special lecture at Pavanatma College, Murickassery, Kerala, 1 July.
23. 2015. Invited Lecture for the Foundational Training Programme for Indian Telecommunications Service Officer Trainees. Indian Institute of Public Administration, Delhi, 13 January.
24. 2007. 'Region, Modernity and History Writing: Narratives from the Western Ghats'. Keynote lecture presented at the National Seminar, Department of History, Pavanatma College, Murickassery, Kerala, 16 January.
25. 2007. 'Cochin in the Indian Ocean World Economy: 1920–1945'. Lecture presented at the Seminar Series, School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala, August.
26. 2007. 'Imagining Backwaters as Harbour Space: Cochin in the Era of Steam, 1870–1914'. Paper presented in the Research Scholars' Paper Presentation Series, Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences, JNU, New Delhi, November.
27. 2006. 'Local and Imperial Knowledge in the Work Process: Building of the Cochin Harbour, 1920–1939'. Paper presented at the 6th International Conference on Labour History organised by the Association of Indian Labour Historians, Delhi, November.

### **Workshop Participation**

1. 2025. Resource Person for the Three-Day Workshop on UGCF-NEP 2020 History Courses, Department of History, University of Delhi, 14–16 October.
2. 2025. Resource Person at the One-Day Workshop on 'Doing South Asian Environmental History: A Workshop on Methods', Department of History, Farook College, Kozhikode, Kerala, 18 March.
3. 2023. 'Critical Environmental Histories'. Short-term course offered at the Institute for Multidisciplinary Programmes in Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, April–June.

4. 2023. Resource Person at the Two-Day National Workshop on ‘Writing History: Sources and Methods’, UC College, Aluva, 4–5 February.
5. 2021. ‘Introduction to Environmental History’. Short-term online seminar course offered at the Institute for Multidisciplinary Programmes in Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, July–August.
6. 2021. Coordinator for the one-week Faculty Development Programme on ‘Historiography and Research Methodology’ organised by the Department of History, Hansraj College, in collaboration with Mahatma Hansraj Faculty Development Centre, 19–24 April.
7. 2021. Organised a one-day National Workshop on ‘Decolonisation and Studying the History of Contemporary India’, Department of History, Hansraj College, 13 February.
8. 2020. ‘Marxism and Critical Geography’. Short-term online seminar course offered at the Dialectical Research Forum, Kalady, Kerala, October.
9. 2019. Organised a one-day workshop on the CBCS-LOCF GE course ‘Politics of Nature’, Department of History, University of Delhi, 20 November.
10. 2012. Participant in the Summer School on ‘The Indian Ocean World and Eurasian Connections: Networks of Connectivities: Routes, Commodities, and the Politics of the Indian Ocean’, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, 25–30 July.

### **Discussant**

- 2025 Discussant and Moderator of a plenary session titled “Impact of Climate Change on Health and Gender” at the International Seminar on Climate Education for Sustainable Future organised by the Institute of Home Economics, University of Delhi and Ramjas College, and Education International Asia-Pacific, India International Centre, 29 Aug.
- 2024 Discussant of a Research Paper Presented at the Second Annual Workshop of the South Asian Global History Network on “Writing Global History: Perspective from Global South” held at the Department of History, University of Delhi, 8-9 March.
- 2023. Discussant of the Research Papers Presented at the Research Conclave titled “Locality and Region: Literature, History and Culture” organised by Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit Kalady, 12 Sept.

### **Organisation of Conferences, Workshops and FDPs**

1. 2026 Seventh Undergraduate History Conference “Experience, Agency and Everyday Life in History” Hansraj College, 28 March”

2. 2025 Sixth Undergraduate History Conference “Doing Oral Environmental History”, Hansraj College, 14 April 2025.
3. 2024. One-Day Workshop on Gender and Historical Thinking”, Department of History, Hansraj College, 5 Oct.
4. 2024 Fifth Undergraduate History Conference “Animals in History, 13 April.
5. 2023 Fourth Undergraduate History Conference “New Directions in Urban History: Culture, Climate, and Environment, Hansraj College, 25 Feb.
6. 2022 Third Undergraduate History Conference “Climate Change and Critical History”, Hansraj College, 20 March.
7. 2021 One Week Interdisciplinary Faculty Development Programme on “Historiography and Research Methodology”, Department of History in Collaboration with Mahatma Hansraj Faculty Development Centre, 19-24 April.
8. 2021 Second Undergraduate History Conference “Dissent in History” Department of History, 20 Feb.
9. 2021 One Day National Workshop on “Decolonisation and Studying the History of Contemporary India”, Hansraj College, 13 Feb.
10. 2020 One Day Workshop on the CBCS-LOCF GE Courses, Department of History, University of Delhi, 20 Nov.
11. 2019 One Day Workshop on “Gender and History”, Department of History, 26 March.
12. 2019 First Undergraduate History Conference “Grassroot Politics and Writing History”, Hansraj College, 13 March.

## **CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

- Convener of the Syllabus Making Committee, Department of History, University of Delhi for the following Courses, from 2018-19 to 2022-23:
  1. Global Environmental Histories (for BA Hons History)
  2. Politics of Nature (BA Hons general course)
  3. Nature in Human History (BA Programmes core general course)
  4. Environmental History of the Indian Subcontinent (BA Hons History)
  - 4: DSE XVI: The Making of Contemporary India (c. 1950-1990s) (BA Hons History)
  - 5 Core II and IV: Social Formations and Cultural Patterns of the Ancient and Medieval World (BA Hons History)
  6. History of Modern India (BA Programme Core Course)
- Courses Designed for Institute for Multidisciplinary Programmes in Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala

Perspectives in Environmental History

- Courses Designed for Institute for School of Humanities, Christ Deemed to be University, Delhi  
Climate Change and Critical Environmental History

### **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

- 2022-2025 Member, Board of Studies, Department of History, Sree Shankara University, Kalady, Kerala
- 2022-24 Member, Board of Studies, Department of English and Media Studies, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi-NCR
- 2022 Convener, NEP UG History Courses' Revision Committee, Department of History, University of Delhi
- 2020-2024 Distinguished Scholar, Multidisciplinary Programme in Social Sciences (IMPS), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam.
- 2020-2024 Member, Board of Studies, Multidisciplinary Programme in Social Sciences (IMPS), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam.
- 2019 Member, Board of Studies for LOCF UG Courses, Department of History, University of Delhi
- 2014-2016, Member, Board of Studies, School of Social Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala.
- Subject committee member for BA History, Equal Opportunity Cell, University of Delhi.

### **RESEARCH SUPERVISION**

- Department of History, University of Delhi- 1 PhD in Environmental History (current supervision)
- Department of History, University of Calicut, Kerala (Co-supervision)-1 PhD in Environmental History
- Department of History, Hansraj College, 2 Fourth year UG Dissertations (Current project)

### **RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER**

- Department of History, University of Delhi- 1
- Department of History, Sree Shankara University of Sanskrit, Kerala- 2

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & ACADEMIC SERVICE**

- Reviewer of Book Proposal, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 2018
- Reviewer of Book Proposal, Sage Publications, Delhi, 2013
- External PhD and MPhil Examiner for various universities (Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, Sree Sankara University of Sanskrit, Kalady, Kerala, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala)

- External Reviewer for various refereed Journals and Publishing Houses (*Economic and Political Weekly*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, Sage Publications Delhi)
- Convener, Board of Examiners for various UG History Courses, Department of History, University of Delhi
- Member (Educationalist), School Management Committee, Kerala School, Mayur Vihar Phase III, Delhi.
- Faculty Editor, Hansraj History Journal 2019-2024.

## **MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

### 2025-26:

- Convener, Creative Writing Society

### 2024-25:

- Teacher-in-Charge, Department of History

### 2023-24

- Deputy Superintendent of Examination, Hansraj College
- Convener, Environmental Awareness Society (Haritima)
- Member, Timetable Committee

### 2022-23

- Convener, Environmental Awareness Society (Haritima)
- Member, Timetable Committee

### 2021-22

- Convener, College Timetable Committee, Arts and Commerce
- Member, College Workload Committee, Arts and Commerce

### 2020-21

- Teacher-in-Charge, Department of History
- Convener, College Timetable Committee, Arts and Commerce
- Member, Apex Committee for Online Education

### 2019-20

- Convener, Environmental Awareness Committee, Hansraj College

### 2018-19

- Teacher-in-Charge, Department of History
- Convener, Environmental Awareness Committee
- Member, Equal Opportunity Cell, Hansraj College

### 2017-18

- Member, Enabling Unit
- Member, College Discipline Committee

### 2013-14

- Member, Garden Committee, Hansraj College
- Advisor, Enabling Unit, Hansraj College

### 2012-13

- Teacher-in-Charge, Department of History
- Convener, English Debating Society
- Advisor, Enabling Unit, Hansraj College

### 2011-12

- Convener, English Debating Society
- Convener, English Dramatics Society
- Seminar-in-Charge, Department of History
- Coordinator, Enabling Unit, Hansraj College

### 2010-11

- Member, Equal Opportunity Cell, Hansraj College
- Seminar-in-Charge, Department of History, Hansraj College

### 2009-10

- Seminar-in-Charge, Department of History

## **PODCASTS AND PUBLIC LECTURES**

### **Podcast**

- Second Nature: <https://www.youtube.com/@SecondNaturewithJustinMathew>

### **Public Lectures:**

- The Urbanisation of Backwaters, KCHR, Kerala (2020):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjfEjNIPzQA&t=1351s>
- Critical Geography and Rethinking the History of Urbanisation, SSUS Kalady (2021): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEiCfJiX8A0&t=20s>
- Capitalism and the Idea of Nature, Dialectical Research Forum, Kalady:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4gSM1IXIQ8&t=128s>
- Geographies of Uneven Development, Dialectical Research Forum, Kalady:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YIL9UsELfJw&t=638s>
- 'The Production of Social Space, Dialectical Research Forum, Kalady:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1PQjQmA-Jc&t=2937s>

### **Column in Periodical:**

- Columnist, *Navamalayali Online Magazine*. Column: "The Archive" (Malayalam) | [navamalayali.com](http://navamalayali.com) (2025 onwards)