

DR. JUSTIN MATHEW

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2025 – Present	Professor, Department of History, Hansraj College, University of Delhi
2022 – 2025	Associate Professor, Department of History, Hansraj College, University of Delhi
2009 – 2022	Assistant Professor, Department of History, Hansraj College, University of Delhi
2008 – 2009	Assistant Professor (Guest Basis), Department of History, Hansraj College, University of Delhi
2003 – 2004	Lecturer (Guest Basis), Department of History, CMS College, Kottayam, Kerala

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, Germany Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS) Dissertation: <i>Geographies of Accumulation: Nature, Infrastructure, and the Urbanisation of Cochin, c. 1860–1945</i>
M.Phil. (2006)	Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi Centre for Historical Studies Dissertation: <i>Churning the Backwaters: Empire and Harbour Building in Cochin 1920–1939</i>
M.A. (2002)	Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala School of Social Sciences — Master of Arts in History
B.A. (2000)	Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala Bachelor of Arts in History

TEACHING SPECIALISATIONS & CORE COURSES

Global Environmental History	Environmental History of the Indian Subcontinent	Fundamentals of Historical Methodology
History of Modern Europe	Urban & Infrastructure History	Political Ecology & Capitalocene

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles & Book Chapters

- 2025b. "Waste and Urban Environmental Crisis in Cochin: The Case of Brahmapuram Landfill." *Current World Environment* 20 (April): 1–9.
- 2025a. "Colonialism and the Evolution of Modern Banking System in India." *International Journal of Creative Research and Thoughts* 13 (January): 304–311.
- 2024c. "Locating Delhi Farmers Protests of 2020–21 as an Environmental Justice Movement." *NCC Review* 144.
- 2024b. "An Urban Environmental History of Mining: Metal Mining and Urban Appropriation of Nature in Zavar, Rajasthan." *Rajasthan History Congress Proceedings* 37: 216–225.
- 2024a. "The Challenges of Democratic Path: Decolonisation Studies and Historicising the Constitution of India." *Third Concept* 38 (May): 7–13.
2023. "Capitalism, Climate Crisis, and Methodological Challenges in Environmental History." *Economic and Political Weekly* 58, no. 27 (July): 1–13.
2022. "Badge of Labour: Marginal Lives of the Labouring Poor in the Port of Cochin." In *South Asia Chronicles*, 329–346. Berlin: Humboldt University.

- 2021b.** "Climate Change Studies and the Anthropocene." In *Are You Human: Manushyethara Manavikataykku Oramukhan*, 300–327. Kottayam: DC Books.
- 2021a.** "Richard Grove and Environmental History of the Global Periphery: Hortus Malabaricus muthal El Niño Vare." (In Malayalam). *Chengazi* 1, no. 6: 21–29.
- 2020.** "Race and Slavery in the Reparatory History of the United States." (In Malayalam). *Sahitya Lokam* 6: 6–22.
- 2018.** "Steam Shipping and Uneven Urbanisation: Cochin, Southwest India, c. 1860s to 1914." *Journal of Indian History* XCVI–XCVII: 11–29.
- 2017.** "Democracy and Unfreedom: The History of Ancient Greece for our Times." *Journal of Indian History* XCIV–XCV.
- 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

- 2025.** Review of *Profit: An Environmental History*, by Mark Stoll. *American Historical Review* 130, no. 1 (March): 446–447.
- 2023.** Review of *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 (August): 31–34. ISSN: 0012-9976.
- 2021.** Review of *Coolies Great War: The Social History of World War I*, by Radhika Singha. *Tapasam* XVII, no. 1 & 2: 72–180. ISSN: 2249-9873.

Educational Resources

- 2024.** "Mining." In *Environmental Histories of the Indian Subcontinent*, 282–294. Delhi: IGNOU.
- 2021.** "Colonialism and Environment: Green Imperialism." IGNOU Study Material for UG & PG Courses.

Public & Popular Essays / Columns

- 2025–present.** Columnist, *Navamalayali Online Magazine*. Column: "The Archive" (Malayalam).
- 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.
- 2020b.** "Pandemic and the Right to the City." *Navamalayali Online Magazine*, May 23.
- 2020a.** "The Constitution and Social Justice: A Manifesto for Decolonisation." *Navamalayali Magazine*, February 29.
- 2019b.** "Panama Canal and the Divided History of Globalisation." *Navamalayali Magazine*, December 24.
- 2019a.** "Capitalocene and the Marxian Interpretation of Nature." *Navamalayali Magazine*, November 21.
- 2016.** "Neoliberal Policies and Higher Education Reforms in India." *Madhyamam Weekly* 17, no. 20.
- 2013.** "Autonomy and Higher Education: A Case of Kerala Colleges." *Mathrubhumi Daily*, May 14.
- 2011.** "Ramayana Readings and Historical Research." *Mangalam Daily*, December 17.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Award	Research Excellence Award , Hansraj College, University of Delhi
2017	PhD Scholarship , German Historical Institute (GHI), London
2014 – 2017	Erasmus Mundus PhD Fellowship , European Commission
2008	ICSSR-CSDS Junior Research Fellowship , Centre for Studies in Developing Societies, Delhi
2007	Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) , Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), New Delhi
2004 – 2005	Sarai-CSDS City Fellow , Student Stipendship Programme on Research on City. Project: <i>Labour in a Colonial Port City: Construction Workers of Cochin Port 1920-1940</i>
2004	ICHR Research Grant for M.Phil. Fieldwork , Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi

CONFERENCE PAPERS & INVITED LECTURES

International Conferences & Symposia

- **2026:** “Urban Environmental History: Possibilities in the Context of Kerala.” Invited Lecture at the 3-Day International Conference on Historiography since the Formation of Modern Kerala, Department of History, University of Kerala (March 11–13).
- **2025:** “International Conference on Ecologies of the Future: Environmental Humanities for Global Sustainability.” Keynote Lecture, Dept. of English and Cultural Studies, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi NCR (Feb 6).
- **2023:** “Development in Mountains: Issues, Challenges and Solutions.” Inaugural Address at the 3rd Himachal Pradesh Sociological Society Conference (Dec 11–12).
- **2023:** “Connected Stories.” Invited Lecture, International Conference on Environment and Society, Department of History, University of Maranhao, Sao Luis, Brazil (Nov 21–24).
- **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 (ESEH) Conference, Bristol, UK (July 25–28).
- **2017:** “Colonial Ports and Geographies of Accumulation, Cochin Southwest India (1860-1945).” Paper presented at Colloquium Series, German Historical Institute, London (Sept 17).
- **2016:** “The Maritime Infrastructure Project and Urban Modernity.” Workshop on ‘Multiple Modernities and Global Theory’, CeMIS, University of Göttingen (Dec).
- **2016:** “British Free Trade and Princely Monopoly: Colonial Port and Geographies of Accumulation in Southwest India, 1850s-1870s.” Uppsala Lab of Economic Sociology, Uppsala, Sweden (Dec).

National Seminars, Keynotes & Invited Talks

- **2026:** ‘Why Environmental History Matters Today: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future’, National Seminar, Sree Sankara Vidyapeetom College, Valayanchirangara (Jan 16).
- **2026:** Resource Person, Two-Day National Conference on ‘Rethinking Keralam: Landscapes and Social Configurations’ (Jan 14–15).
- **2024:** Keynote Speaker, “New Directions in Urban History”, National Seminar on Urban Studies, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Bangalore Yeshwanthapur Campus (March 15–16).
- **2024:** Inaugural Lecture, “New Directions in Urban History: Reflections in the Context of Cochin”, Cochin Study Centre, St. Joseph’s College, Irinjalakuda (March 18).
- **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 (Feb 1).
- **2024:** Invited Talk, “Youth Migration and Higher Education”, 2nd National Youth Seminar, Kerala State Youth Commission (Jan 31).
- **2024:** Invited Talk, ‘Historical Perspective on the Climate Crisis: Methodological Challenges’, UGC-MMTTC Short-Term Course, Bharathiar University, Tamil Nadu (Dec).
- **2022:** Lecture, ‘What History Means in the Contemporary World’, SLC, IQAC & Dept. of English, Hansraj College, DU (Jan 15–29).
- **2022:** Lecture, ‘Climate Change and Writing Environmental History’, FDP, UGC-STRIDE, M.G. University & UC College, Aluva (Feb 5).
- **2022:** Special Lecture, ‘Critical Climate History: A Marxist Historical Perspective in the Age of Global Warming’, IMPSS, M.G. University, Kerala (March 18).
- **2022:** Lecture, ‘Climate Crisis, the Anthropocene, and Critical Environmental History’, Department of History, SSUS Kalady (March).
- **2022:** Invited Talk, ‘Agrarian and Environmental Movements in Intersectional Perspective’, Short-Term Course, SSUS Kalady (March 17–26).
- **2021:** Invited Lecture, ‘Marine Infrastructure Projects and Environmental Justice: A Case of Cochin Harbour’, University of Calicut (June 5).
- **2021:** Lecture, ‘Delhi Farmers’ Movement: Why It Matters to Environmental Justice’, Government College, Madappally (Aug 16).
- **2021:** Paper, ‘Critical Geography and Rethinking the History of Urbanisation’, National Online Conference, SSUS Kalady (March 2).

- **2020:** Lecture, 'The Urbanisation of Backwaters: A Political Ecology of the Cochin Harbour Project', KCHR International Webinar Series (Oct 13).
- **2020:** Special Lecture, 'Thinking about the Past in the History Classroom', UC College, Aluva (Nov 13).
- **2019:** Lecture, 'The Concept of Nature and Writing History: Lessons from the Great Floods of 1924 and 2018', Newman College, Thodupuzha (Jan 17).
- **2019:** Lecture, 'Historical Geography and Critical Urban Theory', SSUS Kalady (Jan 18).
- **2019:** Special Lecture, 'Mapping Independent India: Language-Based State Formations as Decolonisation', Pavanatma College, Murickassery (July 1).
- **2015:** Invited Lecture, Foundational Training Programme for Indian Telecommunications Service Officer Trainees, IIPA Delhi (Jan 13).
- **2007:** Keynote Lecture, 'Region, Modernity and History Writing: Narratives from Western Ghats', Pavanatma College (Jan 16).

Workshops, FDPs & Discussant Roles

- **2025:** Discussant & Session Moderator, "Impact of Climate Change on Health and Gender", International Seminar on Climate Education for Sustainable Future, IHE & Ramjas College, DU / Education International Asia-Pacific, IIC (Aug 29).
- **2025:** Resource Person, 3-Day Workshop on UGCF-NEP 2020 History Courses, Department of History, University of Delhi (Oct 14–16).
- **2025:** Resource Person, Workshop on 'Doing South Asian Environmental History: Methods', Farook College, Kozhikode (March 18).
- **2024:** Discussant, 2nd Annual Workshop of the South Asian Global History Network, Department of History, University of Delhi (March 8–9).
- **2023:** Short-Course Instructor, 'Critical Environmental Histories', IMPSS, M.G. University, Kerala (April–June).
- **2023:** Resource Person, National Workshop on 'Writing History: Sources and Methods', UC College, Aluva (Feb 4–5).
- **2021:** Short-Course Instructor, 'Introduction to Environmental History', IMPSS, M.G. University, Kerala (July–Aug).
- **2021:** FDP Coordinator, 1-Week FDP on 'Historiography and Research Methodology', Hansraj College & MHRFDC (April 19–24).
- **2020:** Short-Course Instructor, 'Marxism and Critical Geography', Dialectical Research Forum, Kalady (Oct).
- **2012:** Participant, Summer School on 'Indian Ocean World and Eurasian Connections', Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (July 25–30).

ORGANISATION OF CONFERENCES & ACADEMIC EVENTS

- **2026:** Convenor, 7th National Undergraduate History Conference: "*Experience, Agency and Everyday Life in History*", Hansraj College (March 28).
- **2025:** Convenor, 6th National Undergraduate History Conference: "*Doing Oral Environmental History*", Hansraj College (April 14).
- **2024:** Organiser, One-Day Workshop on "*Gender and Historical Thinking*", Hansraj College (Oct 5).
- **2024:** Convenor, 5th National Undergraduate History Conference: "*Animals in History*", Hansraj College (April 13).
- **2023:** Convenor, 4th National Undergraduate History Conference: "*New Directions in Urban History: Culture, Climate, and Environment*", Hansraj College (Feb 25).
- **2022:** Convenor, 3rd National Undergraduate History Conference: "*Climate Change and Critical History*", Hansraj College (March 20).
- **2021:** Convenor, 2nd National Undergraduate History Conference: "*Dissent in History*", Hansraj College (Feb 20).
- **2021:** Organiser, One-Day National Workshop on "*Decolonisation and Studying the History of Contemporary India*", Hansraj College (Feb 13).
- **2019:** Convenor, 1st National Undergraduate History Conference: "*Grassroot Politics and Writing History*", Hansraj College (March 13).

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT & BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

- **Convener, Syllabus Committee (2018–2023), Department of History, University of Delhi:** Designed and revised curricula for courses including *Global Environmental Histories*, *Politics of Nature*, *Nature in Human History*, *Environmental History of the Indian Subcontinent*, and *The Making of Contemporary India (1950–1990s)*.
- **Convener (2022), NEP UG History Courses Revision Committee**, Department of History, University of Delhi.
- **Board of Studies Member:**
 - Department of History, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady (2022–2025)
 - Department of English and Media Studies, CHRIST (Deemed to be University), Delhi-NCR (2022–2024)
 - Multidisciplinary Programme in Social Sciences (IMPSS), M.G. University, Kottayam (2020–2024)
 - School of Social Sciences, M.G. University, Kottayam (2014–2016)
- **Distinguished Scholar (2020–2024):** Multidisciplinary Programme in Social Sciences (IMPSS), M.G. University, Kottayam.

RESEARCH SUPERVISION & PEER REVIEW

Ph.D. Supervision	1 Doctoral Student in Environmental History (Department of History, University of Delhi); 1 Co-Supervision in Environmental History (University of Calicut, Kerala).
RAC Member	Research Advisory Committee member at University of Delhi (1 student) and Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady (2 students).
UG Guidance	Supervisor for 4th-year Undergraduate Honours Dissertations, Hansraj College.
Peer Reviewer	Book proposals reviewer for Oxford University Press (Delhi) and Sage Publications . Journal reviewer for <i>Economic and Political Weekly (EPW)</i> .
Examiner	External Ph.D. and M.Phil. Examiner for Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), University of Delhi, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, and M.G. University.

INSTITUTIONAL & ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

- **Teacher-in-Charge, Department of History, Hansraj College:** 2024–25, 2020–21, 2018–19, 2012–13.
- **Deputy Superintendent of Examinations (2023–24)**, Hansraj College.
- **Convener, Timetable Committee:** Arts and Commerce (2020–22), Member (2022–24).
- **Convener, Environmental Awareness Society (Haritima):** 2022–24, 2019–20, 2018–19.
- **Convener, Creative Writing Society (2025–26).**
- **Member, Apex Committee for Online Education (2020–21).**
- **Faculty Editor, Hansraj History Journal (2019–2024).**
- **Coordinator / Advisor, Enabling Unit & Equal Opportunity Cell (EOC):** Multiple terms (2010–2014, 2017–2019).
- **School Management Committee Member (Educationalist):** Kerala School, Mayur Vihar Phase III, Delhi.

PODCASTS & PUBLIC DIGITAL HUMANITIES

- **Podcast Host:** *Second Nature* — Academic discussions on environmental history, space, and political ecology ([YouTube Channel](#)).
- **Featured Public Lectures:**
 - *The Urbanisation of Backwaters*, Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR, 2020).
 - *Critical Geography and Rethinking the History of Urbanisation*, SSUS Kalady (2021).
 - *Capitalism and the Idea of Nature & The Production of Social Space*, Dialectical Research Forum.