Curriculum Vitae

Rianka Roy, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Wake Forest University royr@wfu.edu | riankaroy.com

Education

2024 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Connecticut, USA

Dissertation title: The Counter-Conduct of Labor: How Indian Tech Workers Organize in India and the US

2021 M.A., Sociology, University of Connecticut, USA

Thesis title: Privilege, Precarity and Pandemic: Indian Tech Unions' Online Activism in Hyperdigital Times

2019 Ph.D., Media, Communication and Culture, Jadavpur University, India

Dissertation title: Social Media Surveillance in Digital Capitalism and the Rise of Networked States: A Study of Digital Labor, Privacy, Security and Identity

2011 M.Phil., English, Jadavpur University, India

Thesis title: The Culture of Conflict: User Freedom and Administrative Control in Social Networking Sites

- 2008 M.A., English, Jadavpur University, India
- 2006 B.A., English, Jadavpur University, India

Graduate Certificates (at the University of Connecticut)

- 2023 Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, University of Connecticut
- 2024 Human Rights, University of Connecticut

Research Interests

Labor and Labor MovementsGlobal and Transnational SociologyInternational MigrationQualitative MethodsRace and EthnicityDigital SociologyGender and SexualityCritical Theory

Graduate Awards*, Fellowships, Grants and Scholarships (at the University of Connecticut)

- 2024* Arnold and Sandra Dashefsky Student Award for Excellence, Department of Sociology, UConn
- 2023* Outstanding Graduate Student in Research, Department of Sociology, UConn
- 2023 CLAS Fellows Fund Scholarship (\$3000)
- 2023 CLAS Summer Grant Writing Fellowship (\$3072.50)
- 2023 Graduate School Summer Dissertation Fellowship (\$2000)
- 2023 Department of Sociology, Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant (\$250).
- 2022 Human Rights Institute Graduate Student Research Grant (\$2,500)
- 2022* Michael A. Dunphy Graduate Student Award (\$250)
- 2022 CLAS Graduate PhD Fellowship (\$500)
- 2022 Department of Sociology, Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant (\$1000)
- 2021* The Democracy Lab's 'Meanings of America' Contest, honorable mention (\$100)
- 2021 Conference Participation Fellowship (\$1,000)
- 2021 Policy Exception Grant (\$1,000)
- 2021 Department of Sociology Predoctoral Fellowship (ongoing)
- 2020 Global Affairs Award during COVID-19 (\$500)
- 2019 Department of Sociology, Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant (\$250).

External Awards*, Grants and Fellowships

- 2024 Laura Bassi Award (partial editorial support)
- 2023 **British Sociological Association (BSA) Bursary** for the Work, Employment Society Conference, Glasgow, UK (~\$350 for registration)

- 2022 American Sociological Association (ASA) Student Forum Travel Award, Los Angeles (\$250 and complimentary registration)
- 2022 Wood/Raith Summer Research Fellowship (\$4,000)
- 2022* **Honorable mention,** Graduate student conference on the Global South, George Mason University
- 2019 College and University Teachers' Conference Travel Grant, University Grant Commission, Government of India (approx. \$2,000)
- 2019 Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$400), Modern Language Association
- 2019 Publication award, Researchers@Work blog, The Centre for Internet & Society, India
- 2017* **Best Conference Paper Award** for "Reading Memes as Social Texts: The Scope of Digital Ephemera and Mass Empowerment," Department of English and the Department of Computer Science, St. Xavier's College, Jaipur, India
- 2016* **Best Published Paper Award** for "Information for All and Privacy for None: The Dominance of Surveillance and the Status of Privacy on Social Networking Sites" (*Contemporary Discourses*)

Publications

Ongoing projects

- **Roy, Rianka.** "Praxis of Compliance: Feminist Solidarity for Women Tech Workers in India during Covid-19." Under review.
- **Roy, Rianka.** "Lateral Revitalization: Organizing Strategies in Indian Tech Workers' Unions." Under review.
- Roy, Rianka. "Ideal and Aspiring Citizens: Indian Tech Workers Organizing in India and the US." Under review.

Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Roy, Rianka, Bandana Purkayastha, and Elizabeth Chacko. 2024. "We Cannot Go There, They Cannot Come Here': Dispersed Care, Asian Indian Immigrant Families, and the COVID-19 Pandemic." Social Sciences 13(5): 252. https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci13050252
- Purkayastha, Bandana, **Rianka Roy**, Anandhi S., and Deepa Ebenezer [equal authorship]. **Forthcoming.** "Gendered Inclusions and Exclusions: Lessons from Media Discourses during the Pandemic." *Journal of Social and Economic Development*.
- Purkayastha, Bandana, and **Rianka Roy**. **Forthcoming**. "Water, Water, everywhere...But for Whom?" *Contexts*.
- Purkayastha, Bandana, and **Rianka Roy. 2023.** "Hidden in Plain Sight: 'Neutral' Enclosures for High-Skilled Immigrants during COVID-19." *Sociological Forum* 38(4): 1176–1197. https://doi.org/10.1111/socf.12965.
- **Roy, Rianka. 2022.** "Politics through Precarity: Tech Workers' Unions in India during the COVID-19 Pandemic." *Journal of Contemporary Asia* 54(1): 110–132. https://doi.org/10.1080/00472336.2022.2110925
- Roy, Rianka. 2022. "Immigrant Workers' Movements in the US: Where are High-skilled 'Nonimmigrants'?" Sociology Compass 16(6): e12985. https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.12985
- Desai, Manisha, and **Rianka Roy. 2022.** "Intersectional Coloniality: The Sociological Praxis of Savitribai Phule and the Women Activists of Satya Shodhak Samaj (Truth Seekers Society)." *The American Sociologist* 53: 395-413. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12108-022-09536-1
- **Roy, Rianka. 2021.** "Precarious Privilege: Globalism, Digital Biopolitics and Tech-Workers' Movements in India." *The European Legacy* 26(7-8): 675-691. https://doi.org/10.1080/10848770.2021.1962641
- Roy, Rianka. 2021. "Working from Home: Women in the Indian Tech-industry through the Pandemic." Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics 44(1): 56-67. https://jcla.in/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/JCLA-44.1-Spring-2021 Rianka-Roy.pdf

Book Chapters

- **Roy, Rianka. 2024.** "Humanitarian Organizations as Gendered Organizations." *Handbook on Humanitarianism and Inequality*, edited by Silke Roth, Tobius Denskus and Bandana Purkayastha. Edward Elgar.
- **Roy, Rianka. 2023.** "Don't Panic! Reach Us: Indian Tech Unions' Social Media Narratives during the Pandemic." In *Media Narratives during the Pandemic*, edited by Shubhda Arora and Keval Kumar. Routledge.
- **Roy, Rianka,** Josef Ma, and Simon Cheng. **2023.** "Digital Divide and Youth Development in the Early Twenty-first Century." *The Palgrave Handbook of Global Social Problems*.
- **Rianka Roy,** and Manisha Desai. **2022.** "Krantijyoti Gyanjyoti Savitribai: The Light of Revolution and Knowledge." Pp. 111-128 in *Deconstructing the Margins: Neglected Social Theorists of Color*, edited by Korey Tillman, David Dickens and C.C. Herbison. Lexington Books.
- Desai, Manisha, **Rianka Roy**, Asmita Asaavari, Ruth Hernandez-Rios, and Koyel Khan. **2022**. "Writing on Self, together: Collective Autoethnography as Praxis of Solidarity and Collective Care during the Pandemic." Pp. 88-98 in *Global Feminist Autoethnographies during COVID-19: Displacements and Disruptions*, edited by Melanie Heath, Akosua K. Darkwah, Josephine Beoku-Betts, and Bandana Purkayastha. Routledge.

Book Review

- **Roy, Rianka. 2023**. The Opportunity Trap: High-Skilled Workers, Indian Families, and the Failures of the Dependent Visa Regime by Pallavi Banerjee. Gender & Society 37(3): 472-474.
- **Roy, Rianka. 2021.** Planning in the 20th Century and Beyond: India's Planning Commission and the NITI Aayog by Santosh Mehrotra and Sylvie Guichard. Contemporary South Asia 29(1): 115-116.

Conference Proceeding

Roy, Rianka. 2021. "Post-Secular and Post-Democratic India: A Study of the Digital Dissolution of the State." Pp. 593-604 in *Aftershocks: Globalism and the Future of Democracy*, edited by Ivan Lopez. Aragonese Association of Sociology and University of Zaragoza, Spain.

Public Media

- **Roy, Rianka. 2023.** "Masks of Privilege: Indian Tech Workers Facing Covert Carcerality." *Doing Sociology*, December 5. https://doingsociology.org/2023/12/05/masks-of-privilege-indian-techworkers-facing-covert-carcerality-rianka-roy/
- **Roy, Rianka. 2023.** "Women's Employment and Poverty." CSW68 Women and Poverty Brief. US Women's Caucus at the UN. https://www.uswomenscaucus.org/2023/09/12/csw-68-brief-womens-employment-and-poverty/
- Roy, Rianka. 2023. "Gender, Technology and Empowerment: Reflections on the 67th Commission on the Status of Women." *Labor Tech Research Network*, June 22. https://medium.com/@labortechresearchnetwork/gender-technology-and-empowerment-reflections-on-the-67th-commission-on-the-status-of-women-68d2df4d50bf
- Roy, Rianka. 2022. "The Gender Digital Divide: Economic Access and Employment for Women." CWS67 Gender and Technology Brief. US Women's Caucus at the UN. https://www.uswomenscaucus.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Gender-Digital-Divide.pdf
- **Roy, Rianka. 2021.** "When Work Comes Home: Pandemic Realities for Indian Women in Tech." *Feminism in India*, January 22. https://feminisminindia.com/2021/01/22/when-work-comes-home-pandemic-realities-indian-women-tech/
- **Roy, Rianka. 2019.** "Information Offline: Labour, Surveillance and Activism in the Indian IT&ITES Industry." *Researchers @ Work (R@W)*, Center for Internet and Society, January 1. https://medium.com/rawblog/information-offline-labour-surveillance-and-activism-in-the-indian-it-ites-industry-903c71567d1a

Invited Lectures and Panels

Aug 2023 Panel: How to Conduct Research Internationally and Navigate the US Academy as an International Academic, SWS Summer Meeting, Philadelphia.

Mar 2023 "Indian Women in Tech: Workplace, Communities and Unions." Women's and Gender Studies Lecture Series, International Women's Day Panel—"Gender and Technology: The Digital Divide and Women in Tech." Eastern Michigan University. Jan 2023 "Milestones in Graduate School." Proseminar for the first-year graduate students in Sociology, University of Connecticut (Coordinator: Andrew Deener) "Creating Bridges rather than Building Walls: Feminist Activism." Mini Mar 2022 conference organized by the Sociologists for Women in Society (East) at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting (virtual) Feb 2022 "Tech Industry in India and Indian Tech Workers." Undergraduate course on India Studies, Department of Sociology, University of Connecticut (Course coordinator: Manisha Desai) Oct 2021 "Doing Interdisciplinary Research: Opportunities and Challenges." School of Liberal Arts and Culture Studies, Adamas University, Kolkata, India (virtual). "Writing across Disciplines: Paradigms and Practices." Department of English, Oct 2021 Banaras Hindu University, Benares, India (virtual). "Human Rights for Posthumans: Social Media, Surveillance and Privacy." Apr 2021 Department of Mass Communication, St. Xavier's University, Kolkata, India (virtual). Feb 2021 "Tech Industry in India: A Tale of Hope and Resistance." Undergraduate course on India Studies, Department of Sociology, University of Connecticut (Course coordinator: Manisha Desai) Feb 2021 "Social Media Surveillance: Who is Watching us in the Digital Age?" Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Jagran Lakecity University, Bhopal, India (virtual). **Conference Presentations** Apr 2024 "Covert Carcerality: How Racialized Tech Workers' Privilege Disguises Coercion." British Sociological Association Annual Meeting (Virtual). Jan 2024 "Privilege as Evidence of Inequality: Queering the Methodologies of Studying High-Skilled and High-Wage Indian Tech Workers." Roundtable at Sociologists for Women in Society, Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico. "Logging into In-Person Protests: How Indian Tech Workers' Unions Grapple Sep 2023 with Remote Work," Work, Employment and Society, British Sociological Association, Glasgow, UK. Jul 2023 "Unseen by All: The Invisibility of High-Skilled Temporary Indian Immigrants in the US during Covid." Loreto College, Department of Geography, Kolkata, India. (Second presenter: Bandana Purkayastha) "'Online is Just a Backup': Shortcomings of Virtual Protests for Tech Workers' Jun 2023 Unions in India." International Sociological Association (RC 44), World Congress of Sociology, Melbourne, Australia. Jun 2023 "To Wear or Not to Wear: Hijab, Feminists, and Fundamentalists." International Sociological Association, World Congress of Sociology, Melbourne, Australia. (First presenter: Manisha Desai) Feb 2023 "Seeking Change for Dignity: High-skilled Indian Immigrant Women's Activism in the US." Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore, US. Jan 2023 "Expanding the Diversity Framework: High-Skilled Indian Women Immigrants Organizing in the US." Roundtable at SWS Winter Meeting, New Orleans, US. "Politics, Insularity and Comparative Precarity: Why Indian Tech Workers Tend Aug 2022 to Avoid Unions" Paper Session at ASA Annual Meeting, Labor and Labor Movement Section, Los Angeles, US. Aug 2022 "Fighting Precarity with Politics: How Indian Tech Unions Mobilized during the

COVID-19 Pandemic." Paper Session at Mini Conference, ASA Labor and Labor

Movement Section, Los Angeles, US.

Jun 2022 "The Local Turn in Transnational Movements: How Indian Tech Unions Organize." Alternative Futures and Popular Protest, University of Manchester (Movements@Manchester) (virtual). May 2022 "Local Networks, Global Reflections: Solidarity in Indian Tech Unions," Global South Graduate Student Conference. George Mason University (virtual) Mar 2022 "Retelling Precarity: Analyzing Indian and Asian Indian Migrant Worker Experiences during COVID-19 Pandemic across Space and Occupational structure." Boston Migration Workshop, Boston University (Soma Chaudhuri [first presenter], Elizabeth Chacko, Deepa Ebenezer, Bandana Purkayastha, Rianka Roy, Paromita Sanyal, S. Anandhi and Jaita Talukdar) (virtual) "Empowering Women the Neoliberal Way: Women's Tech Groups in India." Jan 2022 Roundtable at Sociologists for Women in Society (virtual). "Precarity, Marginality and Solidarity: Indian Women-in-Tech during the Sep 2021 Pandemic." Feminism(s) in the Age of Covid-19 and beyond. University of Luxembourg, Faculty of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences (virtual). "Scholars Denied: The Theoretical Praxis of Savitribai Phule and the Women Aug 2021 Activists of Satya Shodhak Samaj (Truth Seeker Society)." Scholar Activism and the History of Sociology: Celebrations, Critiques and Futures Past (sponsored by the ASA section on the History of Sociology and Social Thought) (Manisha Desai [first presenter] and Rianka Roy) Apr 2021 "Between Nations and Rights: Transnational Tech Workers in India through the Pandemic." Session: Working for 'America': Transnational Workers during the Pandemic. Southern Sociological Society (virtual). "Compliance, Resistance and Solidarity: Women-in-tech in India during the Jan 2021 **COVID-19 Pandemic.**" Roundtable at *Sociologists for Women in Society* (virtual). "Social Distance and Digital Resistance: What Hyperdigitalization Brings to Aug 2020 Indian Tech-Workers During the COVID-19 Pandemic." Panel: South Asia Communication Association. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference (virtual). "Women in Tech Jobs: Cultural Anxiety and Workplace Heteronormativity in Jan 2020 India." Roundtable at Sociologists for Women in Society. San Diego, US. Jan 2020 "Colonial Crisis and Digital Dilemma: Encoding Bengali as a Second Language." Panel: Digital Approaches to Second Language Writing, organized by Modern Language Association. Seattle, US. "Digital Biopolitics and Surveillance at Workplace: Indian Tech-workers' Jan 2020 Perspectives." Panel: Being Human, Technology and New Media, organized by Modern Language Association. Seattle, US. "Silencing Dissent: Precarious Condition of Digital Workers in India and Jul 2019 Communication Policies in IT-ITES Companies." Working group: Political Economy. International Association for Media and Communication Research and Universidad Complutense. Madrid, Spain. "Precarity of Liminality: Globalism, Culture and Tech-Workers' Movements in Jul 2019 India." Aftershocks: Globalism and the Future of Democracy, International Society for the Study of European Ideas. University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain. "Post-Secular and Post-Democratic India: A Study of Digital Dissolution of Jul 2019 State." Aftershocks: Globalism and the Future of Democracy, International Society for the Study of European Ideas, University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain.

Discussant/Presider/Organizer

Chicago, US.

Organizer & Presider

Jul 2019

Apr 2021 Paper session: "Working for 'America': Transnational Workers during the Pandemic." Southern Sociological Society. (Virtual)

"Weaving Words on Social Media: How the Language of Politics is constructed in Digital India." Panel: Linguistics and Social Media II, Modern Language Association.

Jan 2021 Paper session: "Persistence in the Digital World: Rights, Movements, Knowledge

and Humanities." Modern Language Association, 2021. (Virtual)

(Session selected for inclusion in the 'MLA Presidential Theme' by Judith Butler.)

Discussant

Aug 2021 Panel: "Women Empowerment and Gendered Communication in India." South

Asia Communication Association. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass

Communication. (Virtual)

Jul 2021 Talk: "Pan-Africanism." Department of Political Science, Surendranath College for

Women, Kolkata, India (Virtual)

Aug 2020 Panel: "Enhancing Media in South Asia and its Diaspora." South Asia

Communication Association. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass

Communication. (Virtual)

Additional Research Experience

In the US

• Co-PI, with Bandana Purkayastha and Anjana Narayan (2023-2024)

To conduct life-story interviews for the project "Walking a Fine Line: Being a Hindu American Woman against the Grain of Hindu Nationalism."

Funding agency: Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative (amount: \$7,000)

Deliverables: Podcast series and publications.

• Research Assistant; PI: Bandana Purkayastha (Summer 2021, Summer 2023, Fall 2023)

Produced content analysis of news reports on migrant workers' precarity during COVID. Interviewed high-skilled migrant workers in the US.

Funding agency: Social Science Research Council

Output: Three publications and two conference presentations with the PI.

• Research Assistant; PI: Manisha Desai (Spring 2020, Summer 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Summer 2022)

Prepared literature review on gender, transnational feminism, colonial and postcolonial feminists in India, history of Dalit feminist activism in the nineteenth century, Hindutva and Muslim women in India.

Output: Two publications and two conference presentations with the PI.

In India

• Project Fellow; PI: Nilanjana Gupta (August 2012- March 2013)

Designed questionnaire, conducted interviews, completed ethnographic fieldwork in India, on social media surveillance on Indian tech workers

Funding agency: University Grants Commission, at School of Media, Communication and Culture, Jadavpur University

Output: One publication and one conference presentation with the PI

• Project Supervisor; PI: Sukanta Chaudhuri (March 2011- July 2012)

Collected manuscripts and metadata, prepared transcription guidelines, supervised encoding and quality of output for 'Bichitra'—an online variorum of Rabindranath Tagore's writing at the School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University.

Funding agency: Ministry of Culture, Government of India

Output: bichitra.jdvu.ac.in

• Project Fellow; PI: Sukanta Chaudhuri (April 2009-February 2011)

Digitized manuscripts and rare books and journals; collected metadata

at the School of Cultural Texts and Records, (a digital archive) Jadavpur University in two projects on: **a.** Bengali street literature and **b.** early Bengali theatre

Funding agency: British Library Endangered Archive Program.

Output: EAP 127 and EAP 261 collections at the British Library

Teaching Experience

Instructor of record

- Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 1001)—Fall 2021, Spring 2022
- Society in Global Perspective (SOCI 1701)—Summer 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023

Teaching Assistant

- Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 1001)—Christin Munsch (Fall 2019, Spring 2020)
- Introduction to Sociology (SOCI 1001)—David Embrick (Fall 2019)

Assistant Professor

• Department of English, Surendranath College for Women, University of Calcutta, India (August 2015–June 2022, final two years on study leave)

Community and Committee Representations

Internal: Graduate Student Member

- Dean's Graduate Advisory Committee, CLAS UConn (2020-2021; 2023-2024)
- Pipeline to Publication Workshop Committee, Department of Sociology, UConn (2022-23)
- Graduate Program Committee, Department of Sociology, UConn (2021-2022, 2022-2023)
- Qualitative Research Workshop Organizing Group, Department of Sociology, UConn (2020-2021)
- Teaching Workshop Committee, Department of Sociology, UConn (2020-2021)
- Undergraduate Program Committee, Department of Sociology, UConn (2019-2020)

External

- Junior Scholar Representative (elected), South Asian Sociologists, American Sociological Association
- Instructor/Fellow, 'My Story Our Future: South Asian American Youth Voices of Connecticut' oral history workshop series for K-12 students organized by India Cultural Center, Greenwich Historical Society, and UConn Asian and Asian American Studies Institute (Fall 2023)
- Co-Chair, Social Justice Award Committee, Labor Tech Research Network (2023-2025)
- Delegate, Sociologists for Women in Society, to the 67th and 68th Commissions on the Status of Women, United Nations, New York (2023; 2024)
- Member of Briefs Committee on the 67th and 68th Commissions on the Status of Women, US Women's Caucus at the UN. (2022; 2023)
- Graduate student member, Membership Committee, Labor and Labor Movements, ASA (2022-23)
- Graduate student member, International Committee, Sociologists for Women in Society (2022-)
- Graduate student member, Cheryl Alyn Miller Awards Committee, Sociologists for Women in Society (2020-)
- Graduate student member, Academic Justice Committee, Sociologists for Women in Society (2020-2021)
- Resource Person at workshop for economically-disadvantaged children and adolescent girls on cyber security, Community Radio, Jadavpur University and UNICEF Youth Radio Reporter Project (2018).

Editorial and Reviewer Service

Managing Editor

• *Qualitative Sociology* (2023-2024)

Associate Editor

• Sanglap: Journal of Literary and Cultural Inquiry (2019-2021)

Reviewer

- *Capital & Class* (2022)
- Contemporary South Asia (2020)

- Feminist Theory (2022)
- Gender, Work & Organization (2024a, 2024b)
- International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education (2020)
- Journal of Autonomous Intelligence (2023)
- New Media & Society (2023)
- Palgrave Handbook of Global Social Problems (2021, 2022)
- *Social Media and Society* (2019, 2021, 2022)
- Social Problems (2024)
- Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (2020)

Professional Development, Trainings and Workshops

Aug 2023	Motivations for Migration, Institute for Humane Studies, online (by
	invitation)
Apr 2023	Interdisciplinary Workshop, Voices 4 Workers in Tech (V4WT), Center
	of Governance and Human Rights, University of Cambridge (by invitation)
Apr 2023	Immigration and Freedom: Research Discussion, Institute for Humane
	Studies (<u>by invitation</u>)
Mar 2023	A Responsible Singularity: Tech Ethics and Unpredictable Change,
	Institute for Humane Studies, Virginia (by invitation).
Oct-Nov 2020	UConn Statistical Consulting Services, training on Exploratory Data Analysis
	and Linear Regression on R.
Aug 2020	Digital Humanities Summer School, University of Oxford
May 2020	Introduction to R, Harvard University on Edx
Dec 2016	Contemporary Cultural Studies. Global Initiatives Academic Networks and
	School of Media, Communication and Culture, Jadavpur University.
Languages known	
Native proficiency	English, Bengali, Hindi
Beginner	Italian, Tamil, Sanskrit
Deginner	imimi, imini, Smithit

Updated: June, 2024