

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dilip Simeon
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Date of Birth: 1950; India

Academic qualification: PhD; 1993: University of Delhi. Dissertation: The Labour Movement in South Bihar, 1928-1939

Residential Academic Fellowships: Universities of Sussex, Surat, Chicago, Princeton, Leiden, Gottingen, and London.

Addressed seminars at campuses in Illinois; Chicago; Cornell; Syracuse; Michigan; Brown; Binghamton; Columbia; the New School of Social Research, (New York); and Amsterdam

Professional Experience: 1974-94: Lecturer/Reader in the Department of History, Ramjas College, University of Delhi

Additional academic assignments:

2016 –2024: Guest Lecturer at the Young India Fellowship Diploma Course; and Foundation Courses for undergraduates at Ashoka University; Sonipat, Haryana

2014 – October-December: Centenary Visiting Fellow, with the Department of Development Studies; School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. During this time I also addressed meetings at Kings College, London; and at two colleges in Oxford

2014 – May-July: Visiting Professor at Centre for Modern Indian Studies, (CeMIS) George August University, Gottingen

2012, February-March: Visiting Professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, (EHESS) Paris

2008. Presented a research paper on Gandhi’s Charisma to the Biography Institute of the University of Groningen and The International Institute for Social History; Amsterdam

2005 - 2008: Senior Fellow at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Delhi

2002 - 2005: Director of the Aman Public Charitable Trust, an initiative on peace and conflict. Currently a Trustee

1997-2002: Senior Research Fellow, OXFAM (India) Trust, New Delhi

1996: Senior Visiting Fellow, The International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden

1994-95: Visiting Fellow, Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University; N.J.

1993: Rockefeller Fellow on Culture and Consciousness in South Asia, the University of Chicago

1992-93: Visiting Fellow, Centre for Social Studies, Surat

1990: Visiting Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, the University of Sussex, Brighton

Courses Taught

Post-Graduate - Modern Indian History, European History

Undergraduate - Soviet History, Modern Indian History, and European History

Diploma - Young India Fellowship, Ashoka University, 2016-2022; Foundation Course on Great Books to the undergraduate course, 2022-23; 2023-24

Languages Spoken and Written: English, Hindi.

Other Assignments:

2014, October-December: Addressed meetings on labour history and Indian politics at School of Oriental and African Studies and Kings College, University of London; and at Somerville and Wolfson Colleges, University of Oxford

2012-2013: Participant and member of the organizing committee of the Delhi Historical Materialism Conference, April 2013, held in Jawaharlal Nehru University

2012 – 2015: Addressed refresher courses for senior officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) at the IAS Academy in Mussoorie. There have been ten interactions, the last in 2015. These have included lectures and discussions about law, justice and politics in contemporary India. I have also addressed probationers twice.

2012 February-March. Addressed four seminars on themes related to my research on contemporary violence and on labour history at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris. I also addressed a public conversation titled *Writing Political Fiction* at the Centre for South Asian Studies attached to EHESS; and delivered a public lecture on Indian Maoism at a function organized by the IISG, Amsterdam.

2005-2008: Senior Research Fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Delhi; researching violence and modernity

2004: Invited to the 35th anniversary of the Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton University; where I summarised my ongoing research on political violence

2003: Invited to a discussion at Lake Como, Italy, on *Disputing a New World Order: The*

Position of Europe in the Transatlantic Context, September, 2003; by the German Federal Agency of Civic Education.

2002-2005: Director of the Aman Trust, an NGO that envisages a pro-active role for civil society by recognising the reality of conflict and developing the potential for non-violent conflict resolution. I have managed Aman's Peace and Conflict Studies Course in 2003 & 2004, in collaboration with Jamia Hamdard University, Delhi

2001 Invited by Documenta und Museum Fridericianum, Kassel, and the Prince Claus Fund to address an international symposium on Transitional Justice on May 9. The address (at the Habitat Center) was entitled *A Finer Balance: An Essay on the Possibility of Reconciliation*.

1999-2000 Addressed meetings on conflict in South Asia in OXFAM House, Oxford; local chapters of OXFAM in Oxford and London; Quaker Peace Service, London; the Peace Studies department at Bradford University; and the London School of Economics

1998: Toured Sri Lanka in a three-member team to report on OXFAM's programmes in that country and advise on the peace-building role of humanitarian agencies.

1997-2002: Senior Research Fellow to OXFAM (India) for the Violence Mitigation & Amelioration Project (VMAP). My work required advocacy with civil society and officials on conflict issues. I designed strategy, organised workshops and set up a team that worked towards mitigating the effects of conflict on civilians. The project built on experience gained in the campaign for communal harmony in north India during 1984-93. Over five years it covered psychological issues, refugees, caste, law, and religious tolerance. In May-June 2000, I interacted with like-minded institutions in the UK, including INCORE (Derry), Responding to Conflict (Birmingham), the Department of Peace Studies (Bradford) and Oxfam GB

1998: As founding member of the Association of Indian Labour Historians, helped organise its First Conference in New Delhi; attended by Indian and international scholars

1997: Participated in a conference on Indian industrial labour, hosted by Professors Jan Breman (Centre for Asian Studies, Amsterdam) and Jonathan Parry (London School of Economics), in Amsterdam

1997 Research Consultant for *A Season Outside*, a documentary film on non-violence directed by Amar Kanwar and produced by the Dalai Lama's Foundation for Universal Responsibility. The film won awards at the Mumbai International Film Festival (1998); and the San Francisco Golden Gate Festival, 1999. In November, I interacted with college audiences in Kerala and Tamilnadu after viewings of the film.

1995: Addressed seminars at the Universities of Illinois & Chicago; a Science Studies workshop at Cornell; and a seminar on Labor and Ethnicity at the Anthropology Department at the University of Syracuse. Invited to speak on communalism under a Distinguished Lecture Series at Brown University. Addressed seminars at Amsterdam University and the South Asian Labour Workshop at Amsterdam.

1993: Addressed academic seminars at New York University; Binghamton; Columbia; the New School of Social Research and the Universities of Illinois, Chicago, and Michigan

1992: Invited by the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India to lecture new recruits to the Foreign Service on the history of the Second World War and its aftermath.

1987-88: Elected to the Academic Council of the University of Delhi. Chaired the Delhi University Teacher's Association sub-committee on Accountability and Academic Reforms and drafted its Report

Publications, Lectures and Research Papers

Book (Forthcoming): *Closing the Circle*, a collection of published articles on contemporary history and politics, from 1972 till 2019

Book (published, fiction): *Revolution Highway: A novel about the Naxalite movement*; Penguin Books, 2010. Published in Hindi by Rajkamal Prakashan, in 2014

Book: *The Politics of Labour Under Late Colonialism: Workers, Trade Unions and the State in Chota Nagpur, 1928-1939*, Manohar Publications, New Delhi 1995

May-June 2023: [Militant capitalism, bad infinity, and the longing for total revolution](#); Paper presented to the International Conference on 200 years of socialism; hosted by the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Bergen, Norway; as part of the Annual Global Research Programme on Inequality

January 2023: Research article on justice (self-published): [The Lady Vanishes](#)

2017: [The search for new time](#); Address to the Champaran Centenary conference, Patna

2017: Research article: [The Bolshevik Heritage](#); in Economic & Political Weekly, November 4, vol 52, # 44; Special Issue

2016: [Satyagraha: An answer to modern nihilism](#); Keynote address to the Eighth East-West Conference; Ramjas College, March 17-18.

2015: Research article: [The Philosophy of Number](#); in *Communalism in Post-colonial India Changing Contours*; by Mujibur Rehman (ed); Routledge India (2015)

2014: Research article: *The Broken Middle*, in Economic & Political Weekly, November, 2014

2013: Research article: *The Abyss of Modernity: Questioning Political Violence*, NMML Occasional Paper 8, 2013

2013: Research article: [The law of killing: a brief history of Indian fascism](#); in Jairus Banaji, (ed) *Fascism: essays on Europe and India*; Three Essays Collective, Gurgaon

2012: Research articles: A Hard Rain Falling (on political violence in India), *Economic & Political Weekly*, July 14; Closing the Circle (on the concept of revolution), in *Frontier*, v 45, online version August 11; and Les armées des purs: la question du fascisme indien; published in the French journal *la Revue des Livres* n° 7 (September October 2012)

2010: Article, Permanent Spring, on insurrectionary violence in India, *Seminar* # 607

2009: Two essays for Delhi University's internet-based lecture series; entitled Armies of the Pure: India's Communal Politics; and The Legacy of Mahatma Gandhi

Review article on militant Islam (*The Terrorist in Search of Humanity: Militant Islam and Global Politics* by Faisal Devji); in *Biblio*, January-February 2009

2008. Research paper: A New Kind of Force: Examining Charisma in the Light of Gandhi's Moral Authority; presented to the Conference on Charisma of the Biography Institute of the University of Groningen and The International Institute for Social History; Amsterdam November 6 - 7, 2008. Published in Jan Willem Stutje (ed) *Charismatic Leadership and Social Movements: The Revolutionary Power of Ordinary Men and Women* Berghahn Books (2012)

August 2008: Lectured visiting students from the Center for South Asia; International, Comparative & Area Studies; Stanford University, on Gandhi and his legacy.

July 2008: Lectured American teachers on a Fulbright-Hays research trip named In Search of Gandhi's India. The lecture was titled *Gandhi's Ahimsa: A Riposte to Modern Nihilism?*

2006. Lecture: The Political Implications of the Heidegger Controversy; at the seminar on *Contemporary Political Theory: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*; Department of Political Science, University of Pune

2006. Three-part lecture on Truth and Politics, at the Philosophy Society, St Stephen's College, Delhi, in the Gandhi Lecture Series. To the Literary Society of the same college, a lecture on the literature of war

Article: Calibrated Indifference: Understanding the structure of informal labour in India; in S. Bhattacharya and J. Lucassen (eds); *Workers in the Informal sector: Studies in Labour History 1800-2000*; Macmillan India Ltd, New Delhi, 2005

2004. Article: The Currency of Sentiment: An Essay on Informal Accumulation in Colonial India, in E. Krieke and W.C. Jordan, (eds), *Corrupt Histories*, University of Rochester Press, Rochester, 2004

Review article of *Dynamics of Contention*; by Doug McAdam, Sidney Tarrow and Charles Tilly; in the *International Review of Social History*, 49; CUP, April 2004

2003. April: Seminar paper: The Brains of the Living: A discussion on political violence;

presented to a seminar in Patna under the auspices of Oxfam's Violence Mitigation and Amelioration Project.

2001. Public lecture: A Finer Balance: An Essay on the Possibility of Reconciliation, to a symposium by Documenta und Museum Fridericianum. In 2002 published in *Experiments with Truth: Transitional Justice, Truth and Reconciliation*; by Hatje Kantz publishers, Germany

Paper: Calibrated Indifference: the structure of informality in Indian labour; delivered to a conference on informal labour at El Colegio de Mexico, hosted by the Centre des Estudios Asia y Afrika, and the Association of Indian Labour Historians

2000. Essay on Subaltern Studies in the new edition of *The International Encyclopedia on the Social and Behavioral Sciences*

2000. Article: Strike-breaking or the Refusal of Subalternity ? An Essay on Ethnicity, Class and Gender in Chota Nagpur, presented to the Second Conference of the Association of Indian Labour Historians; Delhi

1999. Seminar paper: The Currency of Sentiment: An Essay on Informal Accumulation in Colonial India delivered to a seminar on Corruption at the Davis Center, Princeton.

1999. Article: Work and Resistance in the Jharia Coalfield; in *The Worlds of Indian Industrial Labour* by Johnathan Parry, Jan Breman & Karin Kapadia (eds), Sage Publications, New Delhi

1998. Article: Outer Space and Inner Agency: Reflections on the realm of the Outside in the labour movement, presented to the Conference of the Association of Indian Labour Historians; Delhi, March

1998. Article: (The witness withdrew): An Outline of the Social Physics of Coal Mining In Colonial India, ca 1900-1947, in *The Modern Worlds of Business and Industry: Cultures, Technology, Labor*; by Karen Merrill (ed), Brepols, 1998, for the Davis Center for Historical Studies, Princeton University

1997. Review article of Jan Breman's *Footloose Labour: Working in India's Informal Economy*, (Cambridge University Press, 1996); in *Biblio*, vol. 3(1), Jan-Feb 1997.

Review Essay of recent books on Indian labour history, in *International Labor and Working Class History*, Center for Studies of Social Change, New York.

Article: The Futility of Common Sense: An Essay on Ahimsa, in a volume of essays entitled *India's Quest*, edited by Rukmini Sekhar, marking fifty years of Indian Independence

1996. Research Article entitled Coal and Colonialism: Production Relations in an Indian Coalfield ca 1895-1947, in Shahid Amin & Marcel van der Linden (eds); *"Peripheral" Labour? Studies in the History of Partial Proletarianization; International Review of Social History 41, Supplement 4*, CUP, 1996

1995. Paper presented to the Davis Center, Princeton in January 1995, published in 1998 (see above)

1994. Article: Tremors of Intent: Perceptions of the Nation and Community in Contemporary India, in *On India: Oxford Literary Review*, vol 16(1-2), by Ania Loomba & Suvir Kaul (eds).

1993 Article: The Great TISCO Strike and Lockout of 1928, on events in the steel city of Jamshedpur, in the *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 1993 (2 & 3).

Article: Ethnic Identities and the Labour Movement: the Case of Chota-Nagpur, in a desktop publication, Fall 1993, by the Institute on South Asia, University of Chicago.

1988. Article: A Historical View of Economic Categories, *Mainstream*, June 11, 1988

1986. Paper: Communalism in Modern India: A Theoretical Examination, in *Social Science Probings* vol. 4 (1); *Patriot*; *Mainstream*; and *India Week*, London

1982. Article: Jharkhand: Community or Proletariat? in Nirmal Sengupta, *Fourth World Dynamics*, Authors Guild Publications, Delhi, 1982

1982. Translation of the Hindi story, Ek Mazdur ki Maut by Manmohan Pathak; English rendering, The Death of a Worker; in *Fourth World Dynamics*

1981. Article: Industry and Workforce in Chota Nagpur: An Outline of the Structural Characteristics, (1920's and '30's); published in *Human Futures*, Winter, 1981.

Miscellaneous publications

Articles and book reviews on Indian history, communalism, affirmative action, Soviet & Eastern European history, Palestine and questions of political violence and the law in newspapers and periodicals such as *Economic & Political Weekly*, *The Times of India*, *The Hindustan Times*, *Outlook*; *The Illustrated Weekly of India*, *Inside Asia*, *Imprint*, *Pioneer*, *The Sunday Observer*, *Communalism Combat*, *Tehelka*, *Outlook*, *Mail Today*, *The Telegraph*, *Biblio*, *Book Review*, *Hardnews* and the *Navbharat Times*.

Research and Writing Plans:

- 1/. Research for a philosophical work on ideology and nihilism
- 2/. (Forthcoming) - Two collections of published articles; one on history and politics in newspapers & magazines; the other a collection of academic essays

Other: 1995-ongoing: Addressed meetings and seminars on history, communal politics, the relevance of Gandhi, and militarism. Interviews and TV appearances on Indian Maoism

1990: Addressed meetings in London, Bradford and Brighton; a conference on democracy at the Trans-National Institute (The Hague) & the European Nuclear Disarmament Conference in Helsinki-Talinn

1975-2022: Addressed meetings and seminars in the University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University and the academic societies of various colleges. Associated with an academic reform campaign

1984-1993: In the aftermath of the anti-Sikh carnage in Delhi in 1984, worked with other citizens on a campaign for communal harmony and justice (Sampradayikta Virodhi Andolan.) Worked with students, teachers and women's groups; involved in public speaking and lobbying with political personalities and state officials.