

SOMA CHAUDHURI

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DOCTORAL EDUCATION

Ph. D.: Doctoral Candidate, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University.
Dissertation title: *Tempest in a Tea Pot: An Analysis of Witch Hunts in the Tea Plantations of India (1980 – 2006)*.
Dissertation committee chairperson: Professor Gary F. Jensen
Date of completion: May 2008 (expected)
Proposal Defended: May, 2006
Cleared Special Area Exam on “Deviance and Witch Hunts,” November, 2005

PRE-DOCTORAL EDUCATION

M.A.: Sociology, Vanderbilt University, 2005.
M.A.: Sociology, Center for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. 2000. (Cum Laude)
B.A.: Sociology (Honors), Department of Sociology, Presidency College, Calcutta, 1998. (Cum Laude)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTEREST

Primary Field: Deviance and Social Control; Witch Hunts; Gender in the developing world; South Asia; Qualitative methods.
Secondary Field: Social Movements; Political Sociology; Good Governance; Property Rights for Women in India.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2008:
Instructor, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University. (Summer)
Contemporary Social Problems (Sociology 102) Scheduled.

2007:
Instructor, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University. (Summer)
Contemporary Social Problems (Sociology 102)

2002 – present:
Teaching assistant, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University,

Self, Society and Social Change; Women, Gender and Globalization; Introduction to Sociology; Prison life; Criminology; Introduction to Social Research; Marriage, Family and Intimate Relationships; American Social Movements; Delinquency and Juvenile Justice; Religion, Science and the Paranormal; Sociological Perspectives.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2004 – 2005:

Research assistant to Holly McCammon, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University.

Project on *Women's Rights Activism and Changes in Married Women's Property Acts & Jury Rights Laws*

2001 – 2003:

Research assistant to Surendra Munshi and Biju Paul Abraham. Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, India

Project on *Good Governance in Democratic Societies in Cross-cultural Perspective.*

PUBLICATIONS

2008 Holly J. McCammon, Soma Chaudhuri, Lyndi Hewitt, Courtney Sanders Muse, Harmony D. Newman, Carrie Lee Smith, Teresa M. Terrell *Becoming Full Citizens: The U.S. Women's Jury Rights Campaigns, the Pace of Reform, and Strategic Adaptation.* 2008. **American Journal of Sociology**, vol.113, no. 4 *Forthcoming.*

2007 Soma Chaudhuri, Review of *Path of the Devil*, **Feminist Teacher**, vol.18, no.2 Winter Issue, *Forthcoming.*

WORK IN PROGRESS

Papers

Soma Chaudhuri, *Stepping out of the “antarmahaal”*: Frames, social composition and married women’s property rights in India.

Jaita Talukdar and Soma Chaudhuri, *Women, Depression and Anti-Depressants: Extending a social structural model to explain the use of Anti-Depressants.*

Book Manuscript

Surendra Munshi, Biju Paul Abraham, Soma Chaudhuri, *Good Governance* (Book under contract, **Sage Publications**).

AWARDS AND HONORS

2007: *Graduate School Travel Grant*. Vanderbilt University (2 grants, \$500 each)

Dissertation Fellow of the Vanderbilt Center for Ethics, Social Science Group,
Vanderbilt University, (Spring and Summer semester) (\$2500).

2006: *Dissertation Fellow of the Vanderbilt Center for Ethics*, Vanderbilt University,
(Fall) (\$1000).

Summer Research Fellow Center for the Study of Religion and Culture,
Vanderbilt University. (\$4000, Declined)

2000: Cleared *University Grants Commission National Education Test, Eligibility for
Lectureship*, India, July.

1998: *National Scholarship*, Department of Human Resource Ministry, Government of
India.

MENTIONS:

2007: *First Alternate for Robert Penn Warren Center for Humanities Graduate Student
Fellowship*.
*Alternate for The College of Arts and Sciences Social Science Dissertation
Fellowship*.

RESEARCH GRANTS

2007: *Dissertation Enhancement Grant*. Graduate School.
Vanderbilt University (\$2000).

2006: *College of Arts and Sciences Graduate School Summer Research Award*.
Vanderbilt University (\$4000).

2005: *College of Arts and Sciences Graduate School Summer Research Award*.
Vanderbilt University (\$4000).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2007: Annual Conference on South Asia. University of Wisconsin, Madison. October 2007.

Tea leaves and witches: A study of witch hunts in the tea plantations of north Bengal.

American Sociological Association Annual Meetings. August, 2007, New York, New York.

Stepping out of the "antarmahaal": Frames, social composition and married women's property rights in India.

Women, Depression and Anti-Depressants: Extending a social structural model to explain the use of Anti-Depressants. (With J. Talukdar)

Gender Unbound. An international, inter-disciplinary conference in the area of law, gender, and sexuality. July 2007 at Keele University, Staffordshire, UK.

Witches and Midwives: Analysis of Contemporary Indian witch hunts.

Southern Sociological Society Annual Meetings. April, 2007, Atlanta, Georgia. (Session on Deviance)

Deconstructing the Myth of the Midwife: Why midwives are not "suitable scapegoats" for witch hunts?

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2002 – 2007: Guest Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University,
Self, Society and Social Change

Women, Gender and Globalization (Topic: Women's Movements in India)

American Social Movements (Topic: American Militia Movement)

Social Problems (Topic: Section on Population and Environment)

Delinquency and Juvenile Justice (Topic: Delinquency in India)

Religion, Science and the Paranormal (Topic: Modern Witch Hunts: The case for witch hunts in the tea plantations of India)

2007: *"Final Year Challenges. Views from the End: What Experienced Grad Students Wish they had Known When they Started Grad School."*

SWS-S/SSS, Atlanta, Georgia, April.

Applying for Research Grants and Final Year Dissertation Fellowships.
With Emily Tanner Smith. Sociology Brownbag, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University, March.

2006: “*Teaching in the American Classroom*,” Panel discussant.
Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University, November 2006.

“*Dissertation Research Topic*.”
Sociology Brownbag, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt
University.

2005: “*Born into Brothels*.” Panel discussant.
Belcourt Theatre, Nashville, TN, USA. March 2005.

“*Witches, Spells, and the Evil Eye: An analysis of Witch attacks in
contemporary India*.”
The Power, Politics and Social Movement Colloquium, Vanderbilt
University, April.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND POSITIONS

2007-present: Graduate Assistant, *Homicide Studies. An Interdisciplinary & International
Journal*.

2004 – 2006: Assistant Editor, *Work and Occupations. An International Sociological
Journal*.

REVIEWER

Journal of Men Studies.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association
Southern Sociological Society