

CHHAYA GOSWAMI

| Historian | Research Team Lead| Head Department of History|

Maritime Networks | Socio- Economic History | Trade and Violence | Commodities

CONTACT INFORMATION

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CAREER SNAPSHOT

Teaching Experience: A committed assistant professor with over 10 years of experience in Teaching, Academic Administration, Examination and Evaluation and Course Designing.

- ♦ Expert in delivering lectures to graduate & post graduate students on South Asian History from antiquity to contemporary times, Landmarks in Global History early modern to modern times.
- ♦ Excellent constructive and effective pedagogic teaching methods that promote a stimulating learning environment.
- ♦ Demonstrated expertise in developing curriculum to accommodate different learning styles & maximizing students' comprehension
- ♦ Proficient in utilizing technology in teaching methods viz., audiovisual equipment and PPT presentations, cutting edge field research.
- ♦ Adept in inspiring and motivating lesser privileged students for higher qualifications and generating employment opportunities for them.

Research Experience: Researching on Maritime and Socio-Economic History of Kachchh, west coast of India, the Arabian Gulf region and East Africa and the western Indian Ocean rim.

- ♦ More inclined to write about the ethnography and ecosystem of trade in various commodities and the exchange system that paved way to the emergence of sophisticated consumerism and globalization.
- ♦ Widely wrote on the circularities of the high value and plantation commodities such as ivory, pearls, cloves, gum copal, textile, dates, coffee, tea and arms, which brought about the substantial shifts in the lives and economies of the Gulf of Kachchh, East Africa and the Persian Gulf.
- ♦ Cutting-edge field research, background historical research and interviews as well as wrote summaries for an Oral history project "Crafts and Artisans of Kachchh"

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- ♦ Proficiency in managing Research & Administrative functions; adept at analyzing, gathering, writing, evaluating and producing detailed reports on a variety of projects.

EDUCATION

- ♦ Ph.D. in History (Date of Submission December 2002- Date of Viva July-2003), Department of History, University of Mumbai.
Dissertation title: "Kutchi Traders in the Indian Ocean, c.1800-1880"
- ♦ Master of Arts in History (1996), Department of History, University of Mumbai
- ♦ Bachelor of Arts in History (1994), V.G. Vaze College affiliated to the University of Mumbai

CERTIFICATIONS- For Teaching

- ♦ NET (National Eligibility Test for Lectureship), University Grants Commission (UGC)2000
- ♦ SET (State Eligibility Test for Lectureship), Maharashtra, UGC 1999

WORK & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

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| • S K Somaiya College, University of Mumbai -June 2017 till date |
| • Bhavans College, University of Mumbai |
| ♦ Khalsa College, University of Mumbai |
| ♦ Elphinstone College, University of Mumbai |
| ♦ V.G. Vaze College, University of Mumbai |
| ♦ Elphinstone College, University of Mumbai |
| ♦ SNDT College, SNDT University |
| ♦ Elphinstone College, University of Mumbai |
| ♦ St. Xavier's College, University of Mumbai |
| ♦ V. G. Vaze (Kelkar) College, University of Mumbai |
| ♦ Elphinstone College, University of Mumbai |

RESEARCH GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS-INDIA:

- ♦ 2014 DIN Scholarship on Maritime Studies
- ♦ 2012 ICHR Foreign Travel Grant to McGill University, Montreal, Canada.
- ♦ 2002-2003 INDAL Scholarship, Asiatic Society of Bombay
- ♦ 2001-2002 Heras Scholarship, Heras Institute of Bombay, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai

RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS, GRANTS & PROJECTS

Recent projects:

Ministry of Education awarded a funded project -Indian Knowledge System Research Center. September 2023

Researching as a research consultant and resource on the Documentary of the Khoja Heritage Project titled Unveiling the Legacy East African Indians' Contribution to East Africa. Project chair- Dr. Hasnain Walji, Houston, the USA and Iqbal Devji, Ontario Canada. May 2023.

Inducted as one of the Board of Advisors of the Khoja Heritage Project Ontario, Canada May 2023.

Principal Investigator Research Project (Started May 2022- Completed May 2023)- 'Unsung Heroes of Maharashtra' a research project on the Nationalist Movements and its Participants from Maharashtra region on the Digital repository of the National Archives -Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav- initiative of the Government of India (Ministry of Culture). Submitted 400 stories in two phases based on the archival documents.

Research Project (Since 2022 Ongoing)- Bagged a funded book project from Global Bhatia Benevolent Foundation titled 'Bhatias in Eastern Arabia and East Africa: Transregional Identity, Settlement, Capital and Trade Network'.

*Ministry of Heritage and Culture -National Record and Archives Authority of Oman twice invited to present research findings on Muscat and India trading relations in Kuwait and Oman in 2017-2018.

* Since 2012 -2024 till date- **International Digital Archives Project Research Archival Research Director, Maharashtra State Archives, Mumbai and National Archives, Delhi, in collaboration with the principal investigator Dr. James Onley American University of Sharjah. Previous collaborators Qatar National Library and funded by the Qatar Foundation,** Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar and University of Exeter. The project aims to digitize c.25,000 historical records on the Arabian Peninsula, Iran, and Iraq from c.1630s-1920s. In the past, the project was titled as Qatar Unified Imaging Project (QUIP) and it was funded by Principal Investigators: Tammie Moe (VCUQ) and James Onley (Exeter). Since November 2012 to present. Details: Supervising a team of 4 archival researchers working in the Maharashtra State Archives in Mumbai, cataloguing the entire holdings on the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and Iran.

Details: Supervising a team of archival researchers working in the Maharashtra State Archives in Mumbai, cataloguing the entire holdings on the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, and Iran.

- ♦ 2017 Researcher, Barker Langham (museum consultancy firm), London, April 2017-till date
- ♦ 2014 Researcher, Barker Langham (museum consultancy firm), London, April 2014
- ♦ 2013- Collaborative researcher, University of Vanderbilt. Project: *Many Faces of Lalludas Diwan Language and Genre in Early Modern Gujarat*. Principal Investigator: Dr. Samira Sheikh, University of Vanderbilt, Tennessee, USA (July 2013 Research collaboration)
- ♦ 2012-2013 Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Warwick, UK, February 2012-February 2013. Project: *Local Knowledge Global Markets: Crafts and Craftsperson of Bhuj (Kachchh)*. An oral history project funded by the European Research Council. Principal Investigator: Professor Maxine Berg.

Details: Conducted background historical research for the project; conducted local interviews in Gujarati and Kachchhi in Bhuj, Mandvi, Mundra and many villages in the region; and wrote summaries of these interviews in English. These recorded interviews and summaries are now available here

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/ghcc/eac/oralhistoryproject/resources/completedinterviewpages/>

LANGUAGE SKILLS

- ♦ Native reading, writing speaking command over Gujarati and Kachchhi
- ♦ Fluent reading, writing and speaking command over English Hindi, Marathi.

HONOURS & AWARDS

- ♦ 2015 Pandit Hiralal Gupta Prize for the best book by a woman historian during the period 2010-2014 at the 76th session of Indian History Congress held at Malada, Bengal 27-29 December. The title of the book -*The Call of the Sea: Kachchhi Traders in the Indian Ocean, c.1800-1880*, Orient Black Swan.
- ♦ 2007 J.C. Jha Memorial Prize for best research paper at the 67th Session of Indian History Congress held at Calicut, 8-10 March 2007, in section III: Modern India (awarded for the paper 'The Ivory Trade at Zanzibar and the Role of the Kutchis')

- ♦ 2003 Prof. P. S. Gupta Memorial Prize for best research paper at the 64th Session of Indian History Congress held at Mysore, 28-30 December 2003, in section III: Modern India & section IV: Countries other than India (awarded for the paper 'The Slave Trade at Zanzibar and the Role of the Kutchis')

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

- ♦ Recipient of Visiting Senior Research Fellowship -University of Glasgow, Scotland 2019.
- ♦ Recipient of Senior Visiting Fellowship, UCL, Qatar November 2018
- ♦ Honorary University Fellow, University of Exeter, UK, December 2014 – 2015

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

- ♦ 2011 *The Call of the Sea, Kachchhi Traders in Muscat and Zanzibar, c.1800-1880*, New Delhi: Orient Black Swan, ISBN 978 81 250 4204 4
- ♦ 2016 *Globalization Before its Time: The Gujarati Merchants From Kachchh*, New Delhi: Penguin Books India Ltd. Penguin Random House. Allen Lamb. ISBN 978 80 143 42512 0

Additional information- the book is a part of Penguin multi-volume 'Story of Indian Business' Please visit the link below to read the academic review of the book.

<http://thewire.in/47969/review-tracing-the-roots-of-gujarats-kachchhi-traders/>

Edited Book: 2019 (co-edited with Prof. Edward A. Alpers) *Trans-regional Trade and Traders: Situating Gujarat in the Indian Ocean*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi. ISBN 9780199490684

Forthcoming-

2023-2024 (Co-editors Prof. Tirthankar Roy and Prof. Ghulam Nadri) **Merchants in the Business History of India: Community, Enterprise, and Politics since the 17th Century.** Oxford University Press.

Forthcoming 2023-2024 (Co-editor Iqbal Akhtar) Rahe Nazat: Religious and Social Dynamics of Mercantile Communities in the Western Indian Ocean. Brill Publication.

Research Articles and Chapters:

*2024 'Transoceanic Trading Network of Japan and Bombay: Rethinking on Asian Capitalism', in Sushila Narsimhan and Parul Bakshi (ed) 'Geographies of Exchange Between India and Japan, New Delhi ISBN 9391897959 pp. 27-44

*2023. 'Coffee Corridor Mocha, Muscat and Mandvi' in Pasha A K (ed) *India and the Gulf Region—Geopolitics, Security, Energy, Diaspora and Maritime Security*, Atlantic Publisher, New Delhi, pp. 96-122.

2023 The Memons: Enterprising Mercantile Community of Kachchh in Anil, Kumar and Sinha, Manish (eds.) *History Past and Present*, University of Magadh Bodhgaya ISSN 22313893.

*2022 *Bohras*: 'A Historical Profile of the Mercantile Community', in a journal *History Past and Present*, University of Magadh- Bodhgaya, ISSN 2231-3893.

* 2019 Goswami, Chhaya. "[Kachchhis in East Africa](#)." Ed. David Ludden. In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Asian History*. Oxford University Press. New York Article published April 2019. Doi

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277727.013.33>.<https://oxfordre.com/asianhistory/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277727.001.0001/acrefore-9780190277727-e-332>:

Additional information-scholarly article for the series on Asian History by Oxford Research Encyclopaedia.

*2018 *The Duars: The Trading Gateways of Assam*, in Tripathi, Alok, *History of North-Eastern India*, Sharda Publication, New Delhi.

* 2016 *Malam-Ni Pothis: Exploring the Essence of the Navigational Manuals*, in Himanshu Prabha Ray, *Bridging the Gulfs*, New Delhi, Manohar.

- ♦ 2015 'Mundra: A Tale of Walled Port Town', in *Port Towns of Gujarat*, edited by Sara Keller and M N Pearson (New Delhi: Primus, 2015)
- ♦ 2014 'India and Zanzibar: Strengthening Development Partnership', in *Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary: Diplomatist Magazine*, New Delhi (March 2014)
- ♦ 2012 'British Naval Supremacy in the Western Indian Ocean', in *Sea Power*, Maritime 111History Society, Mumbai (2012)
- ♦ 2012 'The Trade of Muscat and the Role of Kachchhi Traders', in *Indian Trade Diaspora in the Arabian Peninsula*, edited by Prakash Jain and Kundan Kumar (New Delhi: New Academic Publishers, 2012)
- ♦ 2011 'Khojas: A Historical Overview to Settlements Overseas', in *Gujarat and the Sea*, edited by Lotika Varadarajan (Vadodara, Gujarat: Darshak Itihas Nidhi, 2011)
- ♦ 2011 'Pearl, Pearlery and the Indian Pearl Traders in the Persian Gulf', in *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress, 71st Session, Malda 2011* (New Delhi: Indian History Congress, 2011)
- ♦ 2009 [Le Négoce de Matières Premières de Zanzibar et les Affaires Commerciales des Négociants Kutchs et Occidentaux \(XVIII-XIXème\)](#)

Chaya Goswami (traduit en français par Dolon Gupta) 'The Commodity Trade of Zanzibar and the Kachchhi Enterprise', in *Synergies Inde*, vol. 4 (2009): <http://gerflint.fr/Base/Inde4/inde4.html>

- ♦ 2008 'India and Africa: Unique Historical Bonds and Present Prospects, with special Reference to Kutchi Settlement at Zanzibar', *Working Paper No. 5*, Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai (May 2008): www.mu.ac.in/arts/social_science/african_studies/goswamiwp.pdf
- ♦ 2007 'The Ivory Trade at Zanzibar and the Role of the Kutchis', in *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress, 67th Session, Calicut 2007* (New Delhi: Indian History Congress, 2007)
- ♦ 2005 'The Materialist Conception of History', in *Historiography Past and Present*, edited by K.K Shah and Meherjyoti Sangle (Jaipur: Rawat Publications, 2005)
- ♦ 2004 'The Slave Trade at Zanzibar and the Role of the Kutchis', in *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress, 64th Session, Mysore 2003* (New Delhi: Indian History Congress, 2004) ISSN-2249-1937 2249-1937

Recent Public Talks:

Delivered a Public Talk on Merchants, Merchandizes and Markets: Transoceanic Trading Networks of Kachchhis	Digital Platform	Maritime Mumbai Museum Society, Museum Society of Mumbai and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sanghralay	6/3/2021	Invited
Gave a talk on Between the Bazaar and the Ocean: Fluid Economic Spaces of Bombay.	Digital platform	Asiatic Society of Mumbai	12/9/2020	Invited
Gave a talk on Bombay: The Maritime Trading Highway of the Indian Ocean	Digital platform	Asiatic Society of Mumbai	30/7/2020	Invited
Gave a live talk as a Resource Person on Unconventional Archives: Tapping the Untapped	Digital platform	CAPP, Kaash Foundation and Directorate of Archaeology, Maharashtra	28/5/203020	Invited
Gave a public talk on Accessing the Archival Sources and Research	Digital platform	Satish Pradhan Dnyan Sadhana College, Thane	17/5/2020	Invited

PEER REVIEWER

- ♦ Historia Critica Magazine, Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Los Andes (Colombia).
<https://revistas.uniandes.edu.co/index.php/hiscrit/issue/view/617>
- ♦ PLOS ONE Journal San Francisco, California, and Cambridge.
<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/>
- ♦ Cambridge University Press (US) 2017.
- ♦ Oxford University Press, (New Delhi) 2022, 2021 -2017.
- ♦ *Journal of Arabian Studies* (London: Taylor & Francis / Routledge) 2022, 2014-2015
- ♦ *Gujarat and the Sea*, edited by Lotika Varadarajan (Vadodara, Gujarat: Darshak Itihas Nidhi, 2011)

Cutting edge Museum visits and research:

- ♦ **2021: Invited by Mumbai Maritime Museum to develop a Gallery on Maritime Trade of Mumbai- Bombay. This project is in the pipeline.**

- ✦ **2021- Invited by a Private Maritime Museum Consultant to the Vasant Sheth Foundation to collaborate on maritime historical findings and convert it into the tangible objects. This project is in the pipeline.**
- ✦ **March 2019 and February 2020- Visited the New National Museum, Doha Qatar. I have done the archival research for a Maritime Gallery of this prestigious Museum.**
- ✦ **October 2018 – Visited and did the field research at Sur Maritime Shipbuilding, Oman.**
- ✦ **November 2018- Attended and did the field research at a state sponsored Dhow festival- Qatar.**
- ✦ **July 2017. Visited and researched at a maritime section of the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts, USA.**
- ✦ **December 2017- Visited and researched in Kuwait City at a private Maritime Museum which has the artifacts related to the Pearls and Pearl trade.**

Faculty Development Program

- ✦ **-Organized and convened a Six-day International Faculty Development Program on Historian's Compass and Tools: A Faculty Development Program on Research Methodology in collaboration with Centre of Academic and Professional Development and Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Maharashtra 25-30 May 2020.**

Conference:

Organized and co-convened a two day multidisciplinary International Conference Renegotiating Globalized Identities: A SAARC Dialogue, 1st and 2nd March 2024.

Organized and convened a two-day International Conference on “Merchants in the Business History of India: Since the 17th Century”. 14-15 December 2019, Mumbai. This conference was organized in collaboration with the faculties of London School of Economics and Georgia State University.

Organized and convened a two-day International Conference on “Transregional Trade and Traders: Situating Gujarat in the Indian Ocean” 11-12 December 2015, Surat. This conference was organized at the initiative of Shri Hasmukh Shah, the then Chairman of Darshak Itihas Nidhi, Baroda

Scholarly Services

Member of Board of Studies Homi Bhabha University- Elphinstone College for the syllabus designing of SYBA History Course Paper II 2020-2021.

Member of Board of Studies Punjab and Sindh University- H R College for the syllabus designing of Foundation Course of FYBCOM 2020-2021.

FDP

-Organised and convened a Six-day International Faculty Development Program on Historian's Compass and Tools: A Faculty Development Program on Research Methodology in collaboration with Centre of Academic and Professional Development and Department of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Maharashtra 25-30 May 2020.

PAPERS PRESENTED (* invited)

- **Invited to a round table discussion on Reconceptualizing Civilization, School of Civilization, Somaiya Vidya Vihar University 16 March 2024**
- **The Indian Embassy Muscat invited to deliver a public lecture on Mandvi, Muscat and Mumbai Trajectories of Settlements and Nodes of Entrepreneurship' in the lecture series From Mandvi to Muscat 25 November 2023**
- *** Invited at Cambridge University to present a paper in a closed conference titled 'Before the Capitalist Hegemony' - 9 and 10 December 2022 at CRASSH -Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities. <https://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/36584/>**
- ***On 12 December 2022, Oxford Centre for Global History, University of Oxford, had organized Dr Chhaya Goswami's special talk on Pirates of the Gulf of Kachchh: Capital, Power, and Violence. <https://www.capitalismsoftheindianocean.com/chhaya-goswami>.**
- ***Invited as a panelist to present on *Navigating Faith and Sailing: Sikotar Mata, Seafarers, Culture* workshop on Shared Cultural Heritage Across the Indian Ocean organized by India International Centre-Delhi 9-10 February 2023.**
- **Invited as a speaker to a two day international conference to speak on Transoceanic Trading Network of Japan and Bombay- Kizuna India-Japan Study Forum of MOSAI in collaboration with India International Centre, New Delhi:
Title: Discovering India-Japan Civilizational Ties and Southeast Asia Connectivities
Date: February 10-11, 2023 Place: Seminar Room 1-3, Kamaladevi Complex, India International Centre, Max Muller Marg, New Delhi-110004**
- **Invited as a delegate to a two day national conference Jaladhipuryatra organized by the Council of the World Affairs Archaeological Survey of India under the Project Mausam initiative. October 2022**
- ***Invited as a panelist for Dr. Yamini Dand Shah's book Abstract Oralism by, 23 June 2022..**
- ***Invited as a panelist of a Book Launch of Dr. Ruby Maloni's book Route to European Hegemony organized by the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, 12 February 2022.**
- ***Presented a paper on Connecting the Unconnected: Circularities of East African Ivory and Indian capital in the Western Indian Ocean at a three-day international conference**

(Invited) on Oceanic Circularities: The Indian Ocean in the Modern World, organized by Georgetown University, Qatar, 16-18 February 2020.

- *Invited as a panelist of Digital Museum Web Series on Seafaring to present a paper on Kachchhi Traders of the Mughal India. historians Prof. Dr. David Abulafia and Prof. Dr. Himanshu Prabha Ray were the co-panelists and Jibunnessa Abdullah and William Darymple were the presenters. 19 November 2020.
- ♦ *2019 “Voyaging the Arabian Gulf” in Two-Day Conference on India’s Evolving Maritime and Coastal Domain: Perspectives from Gujarat 27-28 February 2019. Organised by School of National Security Studies Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.
- ♦ *2019 Heterogeneity, Plurality and Mobility: The Mercantile Communities of the Gulf of Kachchh at 2nd International Conference organized by the Khoja Studies 30-31 January 2019, University of Mumbai.
- ♦ *2018 ‘Crisis and Convalescence: Post 1860 Oman’ at 7th International Conference on “Omani British Relations 7-8 October 2018, Muscat.
- ♦ *2018 ‘Social Obligations of the Kachchhi Commercial Firms’ at 5th AAS in Asia conference on *Asia in Motion: Geographies and Genealogies*, organized by Ashoka University and supported by Yale University on 5-8 July, Delhi
- ♦ *2017 Exploring the Trading Network of Oman, at a 6th International Conference on Oman’s Relations with the Indian Ocean Countries, Kuwait.
- ♦ *2017 Piracy in the Gulf of Kachchh, XVI WHA, Northeastern University, Boston, the USA. June 2017.
- ♦ *2017 Indian Investments and the Clove Trade, at a conference on Crossing the Borders, Delhi University, February 2017
- ♦ *2016 ‘Sailing the Indian Ocean: The Seafarers of Kachchh’ at IGNCA, Project Mausam, Delhi, 22 June 2016.
And also at CSMVS Museum October 2016.
- ♦ *2015 ‘Indian Plantation Investments and the Slave Trade at Zanzibar’. This presentation was a part of the panel formed on the theme Global Impact of Slave Trade and Slavery – a comparative approach 3-7 August, at the World Economic History Congress Kyoto, Japan
- ♦ 2014 ‘Kachchhi Capitalists and the Ivory Trade of Zanzibar’, presented at the 2014 IOWC conference on *Trade in Animal and Animal Products in the Indian Ocean*, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, 23-24 October 2014.
- ♦ *2014 ‘Trade and Piracy in the Gulf of Kachchh’, 2nd Monsoon Series Lecture, presented at the Maritime History Society, Navy Nagar, Mumbai, 18 July 2014
- ♦ 2014 ‘Exploring the Nature of Piracy in the Gulf of Kachchh: Alexander Walker’s Perception’, presented at the international seminar on *Trading Circuits, Mobile Cultures: Port-Cities and Littoral Societies of the Indian Ocean*, at K.R. Cama Oriental Institute, Mumbai, 12 January 2014
- ♦ 2013 ‘Canvassing the Distinctive Features of the Diaspora of the Kachchhi Mercantile Communities: Nineteenth Century Kachchh, Muscat and Zanzibar’, presented at the *India and its Diaspora: A Comparative Perspective* conference organized by Organization of

Diaspora Initiatives, New Delhi in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru University (CAS/SIS) and the India International Centre, New Delhi on 29-30 March 2013

- ♦ 2012 ‘The Textiles of Kachchh and the East African Market’, presented at the 2012 IOWC conference on *Textile and Consumption in the Indian Ocean*, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, 2-4 November 2012. Recipient of the Foreign Travel Grant from the Indian Council of Historical Research (Delhi)
- ♦ 2012 ‘Mundra: A Tale of Walled Port Town’ presented at an international Conference on *Port Towns of Gujarat*, organized by Darshak Itihas Nidhi, Daman, Gujarat, India, 15-16 December 2012