

## HARINI KUMAR

Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago  
1126 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street, Chicago, IL 60637  
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### EDUCATION

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- 2022 **University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL  
Ph.D. Candidate in Anthropology  
Dissertation: *Formations of Tamil Islam: Negotiations and Contestations in Contemporary South India*  
Committee: William T. S. Mazzarella (Chair), Hussein Ali Agrama, Julie Y. Chu, Alireza Doostdar
- 2013 **University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL  
M.A. Social Sciences  
Thesis: *Sound and the Self: Aural Piety, Sacred Landscapes, and the Murid Religious Subject*  
Advisor: William T. S. Mazzarella
- 2011 **University of Hyderabad**, India  
M.A. Communication, Graduated 1st Division with Distinction
- 2007 **Stella Maris College**, University of Madras, India  
B.A. English, Graduated 1st Class

### RESEARCH AREAS

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Anthropology of religion; Islam; place and space; kinship; gender; the senses and embodiment; practices of knowledge production; temporality; built environment; Tamil society; South Asia; digital cultures; ethnographic methods.

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### Book Reviews

- 2021 Forthcoming. Redding, Jeffrey.A. 2020. *A Secular Need: Islamic Law and State Governance in Contemporary India*. University of Washington Press. The Journal of Asian Studies.
- 2021 Forthcoming. Chakrabarti, Anindita and Sitharaman, Sudha (eds.). 2020. *Religion and Secularities: Reconfiguring Islam in Contemporary India*. Orient Blackswan. Asian Ethnology.

#### Public Scholarship

- 2020 Kumar, Harini. 2020. "Ethnographic Disruption in the Time of COVID-19." Anthropology News website, May 22, 2020. [10.1111/AN.1406](https://www.anthro.net/2020/05/22/ethnographic-disruption-in-the-time-of-covid-19/)
- 2020 Kumar, Harini. 2020. "Un/boxing Fulfillment: A Field Guide to Logistical Worlds." *Allegra Lab* (co-authored with Julie Chu, Kenzell Huggins, Jack Mullee and Heangjin Park). <https://allegralaboratory.net/un-boxing-fulfillment-a-field-guide-to-logistical-worlds/>

## **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

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### **External**

- 2020 American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Research Fellowship (on hold due to COVID-19)
- 2019 Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant

### **University of Chicago**

- 2021 Dean's Dissertation-Completion Fellowship
- 2021 Distinguished Graduate Lectureship Award for the course "Religion, Place, and Space," Department of Anthropology (declined)
- 2021 Dissertation Support Award, Center for International Social Science Research
- 2021 Committee on Southern Asian Studies Dissertation Writing Support Fellowship
- 2020 Martin Marty Center Junior Fellowship
- 2020 Mark Hanna Watkins Fellowship
- 2020 Committee on Southern Asian Studies Dissertation Writing Support Fellowship
- 2018 Orin Williams Fund, Social Sciences Division
- 2018 Lloyd and Suzanne Rudolph Field Research Award, Center for International Social Science Research
- 2017 Committee on Southern Asian Studies Pre-Field Grant
- 2015 Leiffer Fellowship for Prefield Research
- 2015 African Studies Language Fund

## **INVITED PAPERS & TALKS**

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- 2020 "Islamic Practice, Protest, and Gender in Urban South India"  
Islamic Practices and Urban Transformations Workshop, Sheffield University, UK
- 2020 "Debating a Mosque in the Tamil Country: Dravidian Places and Islamic Arguments"  
International Conference on Islamic Traditions and Practices in South India,  
Department of Historical Studies, The New College, Chennai, India
- 2020 "Tamil Islamic Culture: An Anthropological Perspective"  
Center for Islamic Tamil Cultural Studies, Jamal Mohamed College, Trichy, India

## **CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

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### **Panels Organized**

- 2020 "Embodied Religiosities: Theorizing Syncretism through the Body" (With Raffaella Taylor-Seymour)  
American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore (postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19)
- 2020 "Religion, Place and Political Practice"  
Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison (postponed to 2021 due to COVID-19)
- 2020 "Practices of Place-making in Modern South Asia" (With Sanjukta Poddar)  
Association of Asian Studies, Boston (cancelled due to COVID-19)

## **Papers Presented**

- 2021 “Charity as Ethical Critique: Muslim Women’s Religious Labor in South India”  
Society for the Anthropology of Religion Spring Virtual Conference
- 2021 “At the Border of the Sacred: Muslim Shrines as Spaces of Care in Coastal South India”  
Religion at the Borders Symposium, Elon University, North Carolina
- 2019 “Metropolitan Ambitions and Mofussil Belonging in a South Indian ‘Muslim town’”  
Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, Wisconsin
- 2019 “Dravidian and Islamic: Tracing Competing Narratives of a South Indian Mosque”  
Graduate Student Conference on The Vernacular and Cosmopolitan in South Asian Islam,  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
- 2018 “Flexible Temporalities: Tracing Competing Narratives of a South Indian Mosque”  
American Anthropological Conference Annual Meeting, San Jose, California

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **Instructor of Record (University of Chicago)**

- Summer 2021 Virtual Ethnographic Field Research Methods
- Summer 2021 Proposal Writing Seminar, Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship-Summer Research  
Training Program

### **Teaching Assistant (University of Chicago)**

- Autumn 2020 Global Studies I, Global Studies
- Summer 2020 Virtual Ethnographic Field Research Methods, Summer Session
- Autumn 2018 Islamic Art and Architecture, 1100-1500, Department of Art History
- Autumn 2018 Chicago Blues, Department of Anthropology
- Autumn 2016- Spring 2017 Self, Culture, and Society, Social Sciences Collegiate Division
- Autumn 2016 Colonizations, Social Sciences Collegiate Division

### **Pedagogical Training**

- Spring 2021 Course Design and College Teaching, Chicago Center for Teaching

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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- 2018- 2020 Dissertation research in Tamil Nadu, India (18 months)

- 2012- M.A. Thesis research in Chicago with a Senegalese migrant community (6 months)  
2013
- 2016- Department of Anthropology Media Lab, University of Chicago  
2018 *Research Assistant to Professor Julie Y. Chu*
- 2014- The Arts, Science & Culture Initiative, University of Chicago  
2015 *Graduate Fellow*
- 2012 Department of Communication, University of Hyderabad, India  
*Research Assistant to Professor P. Thirumal*
- 2011 Operation Eyesight International, Hyderabad, India  
*Research Assistant to Professor Usha Raman*
- 2010 Centre for the Study of Culture and Society (CSCS), Bangalore, India  
*Research Intern*

## **DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

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- 2017 Job Search Committee, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago  
*Student Representative*
- 2016 Student-Faculty Liaison Committee, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago  
*Member*
- 2016 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Trouillot Lectures, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago  
*Co-organizer*

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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- 2021 Neubauer Collegium, University of Chicago  
*Multimedia Production Manager, "Logistics in the Making of Mobile Worlds"*
- 2013 The Arts, Science & Culture Initiative, University of Chicago  
*Program Coordinator*
- 2007- International Collective in Support of Fishworkers (ICSF), Chennai, India  
2009 *Program Associate*

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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Member, American Anthropological Association  
Member, Association of Asian Studies  
Member, American Academy of Religion

## LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND TRAINING

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**Tamil:** Native

**Urdu:** Intermediate proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing

## REFERENCES

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**William T. S. Mazzarella**

Professor of Anthropology and Social Sciences in the College, University of Chicago  
Department of Anthropology  
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**Hussein Ali Agrama**

Associate Professor of Anthropology and Social Sciences in the College, University of Chicago  
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**Julie Y. Chu**

Associate Professor of Anthropology and Social Sciences in the College, University of Chicago  
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**Alireza Doostdar**

Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and the Anthropology of Religion, University of Chicago  
The Divinity School  
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