

Erin P. Riggs

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Education

State University Of New York Binghamton, NY	Anthropology	Ph.D. (May 2020)
State University Of New York Binghamton, NY	Anthropology	M. A. (May 2015)
University Of California Berkeley, CA	Anthropology and Geography	B. A. (May 2013)

Graduate advisor: Randall McGuire, Binghamton University.

Research Interests

- Contemporary Archaeology.
- Historical Archaeology.
- Displacement and Resettlement.
- Built Landscapes and Domestic Architecture.
- Oral History.
- Materiality.
- The Welfare State.
- GIS (Geographic Information Systems).

Awarded Research Support

- National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, \$30,000 (July 2023-December 2023)
- Fulbright-Nehru Research Fellowship, \$17,400 (Sep 2017-May 2018).
- Critical Language Scholarship, Recipient, 9 week program in India to study Punjabi (Summer 2015 and 2016).
- SUNY Binghamton's Provost's Doctoral Summer Fellowship, total \$16,000 (Summer 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017).

Publications

Publications

- 2023: Riggs, Erin. "Book Review: The Right to Be Counted: The Urban Poor and the Politics of Resettlement in Delhi". *The Journal of Development Studies*.
- 2021: Riggs, Erin. "Book review: Alfredo González-Ruibal, *An Archaeology of Resistance: Materiality and Time in an African Borderland*". *The Medieval History Journal*.
- 2020: Chakravarthy, Sumedha; Riggs, Erin. Post-Independence Homescapes in Delhi: Mohan Rakesh's *Andhere Band Kamre* and a Nouveau Middle Class amidst Persistent Inequality. *Journal of South Asian History and Culture* (2021, Aug. 10).
- 2020: Jat, Zahida; Riggs, Erin. Proximity Through Dwelling: Living in Evacuee Properties After the Partition of India and Pakistan. *Journal of Social Archaeology* (2020, Sep. 2).
- 2018: Riggs, Erin; Jat, Zahida. The 1947 Partition of India and Pakistan: Migration, Material Landscapes, and the Making of Nations. Reprinted in 'The New Nomadic Age - Archaeologies of Forced and Undocumented Migration'. Equinox Publishing, United Kingdom.
- 2016: Riggs, Erin P., and Zahida Rehman Jat. "The 1947 Partition of India and Pakistan: Migration, Material Landscapes, and the Making of Nations." *Journal of Contemporary Archaeology* 3, no. 2 (2016).

Working Publications

- 2023, single author book, in press. "A Contemporary Archaeology of Post-Displacement Resettlement: Delhi's 1947 Partition Refugee Homescapes". To be included in the Routledge *Archaeologies of the Contemporary World* Book Series. Routledge, United Kingdom.
- 2023, oral history collection volume. "10,000 Memories: A Lived History of Partition, Independence and WWII in South Asia". Self-published by the 1947 Partition Archive. Co-editors: Bhalla, Guneeta Singh; Kumar, Amardip; Hassan, Fakhra; Nahvi, Fahad; Das, Udayan; and Riggs, Erin.
- 2023, journal article, under review. Riggs, Erin; Anena Mazumdar; Sumedha Chakravarthy. Colonial Durabilities: A View from India in Five Objects. *Journal of Contemporary Archaeology*.

In Preparation

- Under contract, edited volume. Varma, Supriya; Riggs, Erin. “Historical Archaeology of South Asia.” To be included in Contributions to Global Archaeology Book Series. Springer, Cham Switzerland.
- Chapter in edited volume, under preparation by the Coalition for Archaeological Synthesis Migration Group. Riggs, Erin. “Refugees as a Valuable Resource: 1947 Partition In-Migrants Positive Impacts on Delhi’s Homescapes”.
- Research article, in preparation. Riggs, Erin. “Residential Jaali: An enduring icon of Indian architecture and a reflection of changing times.”

Conference Papers

- “Negotiating the Centrality of Regional Identity in Real Time: Punjabi, Bengali, and NWFP-ness among Partition Refugees in Delhi”, Society of American Archaeology, 2023.
- Riggs, Erin; Mazumdar, Anena; Chakravarthy, Sumedha. “Postcolonial Retrospect: A View From India in Five Objects”, Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory Meeting, 2022.
- Riggs, Erin. “Oral History as Future-Oriented Archaeological Heritage”, World Archaeology Conference, 2022.
- “Partition Refugee Housing as Emergent Heritage”, Society of Historical Archaeology Meeting, 2021.
- “Evacuee Property Precarity in Post-Partition Delhi”, Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory Meeting, 2021.
- “Usable Aid: Refugee Resettlement in Post-Partition Delhi”, Society of Historical Archaeology, 2020.
- “Refugees as a Productive Force, National Belonging as Mutable: The Case of 1947 Partition Refugee Resettlement”, Society of American Archaeology Meeting, 2019.
- “Delhi’s Refugee Resettlement Housing: Reconstructing National Belonging After the 1947 Partition of India and Pakistan”, Society of Historical Archaeology Meeting, 2019.
- “Engaging Students in Archaeology and Heritage Preservation at the Community College Level: Parkland’s Approach”, The Illinois Archaeological Survey Annual Meeting, 2018.
- “A Contemporary Archaeology of 1947 Partition Resettlement in Delhi”, Central and South Asia Fulbright Conference, 2018.
- “Materializing nationhood: the many roles of built landscape management policy in post-Partition India and Pakistan”, Society of American Archaeology Meeting, 2017.
- “De-polarizing Archaeology’s Views on Cultural Pride: the Case of Houses and Plants in Castroville”, Society of Historical Archaeology Meeting, 2017.
- “Violence and Place: An Archaeological Consideration of the San Bernardino Shooting Memorial”, Radical Archaeology Theory Symposium, 2016.
- “The Many Functions and Meanings of Flora Within the Lives of Two American Immigrant Families”, Society of Historical Archaeology Meeting, 2016.
- “Innovative Applications of Archaeological Perspectives: An Analysis of Home Front Material Culture within the Context of Individual vs. Municipal Investments in Oakland, CA”, E. Riggs, A. Reagan, M. Riggs, Society of American Archaeology Meeting, 2015.
- “Curbed Boundaries: An Analysis of Home Front Material Culture within the Context of Individual vs. Municipal Investments in Contemporary Oakland, CA”, E. Riggs, A. Reagan, M. Riggs, Society of Historical Archaeology Meeting, 2015.
- “The Un-Internable; The Enduring Material Legacies of the Domoto Family”, Society for Historical Archaeology Meeting, 2014.

Invited talks

- “Creators and Editors of 10,000 Memories: A Lived History of Partition” talk at the University of Chicago South Asian Institute, 2023.
- “Archaeology of the Now: Delhi’s Partition Resettlement Colonies” talk at the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, 2023.
- “Book Launch: the 1947 Partition Archive’s 10,000 Memories: a Lived History of Partition” panel including Kamaldeep Sandhu, Fakhra Hassan, Udayan Das, and Erin Riggs, 2023.
- “Is ‘Displacement’ Debilitating? An Archaeology of Post-Partition Resettlement in Delhi” talk given at Oxford University’s India Oxford Initiative, 2022.
- “Public Memory vs. Patterned Landscapes in Post-Partition Delhi” talk given at the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies at UIUC, 2022.

- “Indiaspora and 1947 Partition Archive: History and Witness Accounts of the Partition” panel including Jasbir Bhalla (Partition survivor), Guneeta Singh Bhalla (Founder of the 1947 Partition Archive), and Erin Riggs (researcher) for Diya TV, 2020.
- “A Contemporary Archaeology of Partition Refugee Resettlement in India” talk given at the Anthropology Department of University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, 2018.
- “Contemporary Archaeology and Refugee Resettlement” talk given to the Central Illinois Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, 2018.
- “Place and Perspective: The 1947 Partition Through Oral History and Archaeology”, keynote talk given at UC Berkeley’s Oral History Center Summer Institute, 2018.
- “Dwellings that Define: A Contemporary Archaeology of 1947 Partition Refugee Resettlement”, talk given at Jawaharlal Nehru University’s Centre for Historical Studies, 2018.
- “Contemporary Archaeology of 1947: Partition Resettlement in Delhi”, talk given at Shiv Nadar University as a part of their Early Career Research Scholar’s Colloquium series, 2018.
- “Cityscapes as Archaeological Evidence: The Material Legacy of 1947 Partition Resettlements in Delhi”, talk given at Ambedkar University as a part of a United States India Education Foundation’s International Education Week event, 2017.

Advising and Teaching

- Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (August 2021-current)
 - Ph.D. advisor of Anena Mazumdar and Hwajung Kim
 - MA advisor of Ella Goulding (co-advised with Helaine Silverman)
 - Dissertation committee member for Adalyn Coker
 - Courses taught include ANTH 160: Historical Archaeology of the Americas, ANTH 456: Contemporary Archaeology, ANTH 221: Archaeology of South Asia and ANTH 420: Heritage: Global Case Studies
 - Faculty affiliate of CHAMP (the Collaborative for Cultural Heritage Management and Policy) and CSAMES (the Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies)
 - Listed on the University list of Excellent Teachers: Spring 2021, Fall 2022, and Spring 2023
 - Mentored interdisciplinary student research projects including honors project on statistics and archaeology (UIUC, 2023) and graphics design thesis on immigrant experiences of home and belonging (San Jose State, 2023)
 - Guest lecturer in Anthropology 460: Heritage Management and Urban Planning 504: Urban History and Theory
- Part Time Faculty of Anthropology/Archaeology at Parkland College (during the 2016-2017, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 academic years)
 - Courses taught include ANT 200 (Introduction to Archaeology), ANT 101 (Introduction to Anthropology), and ANT 220 (Archaeological Field School).
 - Received Parkland’s IDEAs Grant funding to develop an ESRI online, GIS storymap project.
 - Received stipend from the Center for Global Studies to redevelop material for ANT 101.
- Teaching Assistant for six undergraduate Anthropology courses offered at SUNY Binghamton spanning all four subfields of Anthropology: Buried Cities and Lost Tribes, Introduction to Prehistoric Archaeology, Forensic Anthropology, Linguistic Anthropology, and Anthropology of Sex and Sexuality. (Fall 2013-Spring 2016).
 - Led two 10-25 student discussion sections for four of these courses.

Professional Service

- Peer reviewer for the Journal of Contemporary Archaeology, Material Culture Review, and the Bar Publishing Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory book series.
- Steering Committee member of CHAT (the Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory group) (2021-ongoing)
- Advisory Board member for the Spurlock Museum of World Cultures at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (Fall 2023-ongoing)

- Department committee appointments including: the Diversity and Departmental Community Committee (2020-2021) Courses and Curricula Committee (2022-ongoing)
- Co-hosted an oral history training workshop with Guneeta Singh Bhalla at the South Asian Institute of Chicago, 2023.
- Co-hosted public interview of Timothy Ingold with Dede Fairchild Ruggles during the “40 Years of Theory: Philosophy with the People In” event at the Unit for Criticism Interpretive Theory, 2023.
- Co-chaired the session, ‘Seeing Migrant and Diaspora Communities Archaeologically: Beyond the Cultural Fixity/Fluidity Binary’ with Julia Jong Haines, Amerind Seminar semifinalist symposia, Society of American Archaeology Meeting, 2023.
- Led a two day undergraduate student workshop on contemporary archaeology at Christ University (Bangalore, India), 2022.
- Co-organized a round table on ‘Ethical Approaches to Historical Archaeology in South Asia’ held at the Theoretical Archaeology Group meeting at Stanford University, 2021.
- Co-chaired the session, ‘Historical Archaeologies of South Asia’ with Shobhna Iyer, Society of Historical Archaeology Meeting, 2020.
- Co-chaired the session, ‘Archaeologies of Immigration and Refugee Resettlement’ with Randall McGuire at the Society of American Archaeology Conference, 2019.
- Project consultant for the 1947 Partition Archive (ongoing).
- Panelist for United States India Education Foundation’s special session for Indian students, ‘Opportunities for Women in Higher Education in the U.S.’ (Spring 2018).
- Oral History Program Intern the 1947 Partition Archive.