### Mitra Sharafi

UW Law School • 975 Bascom Mall • Madison, WI, USA • 53706-1399

□ mitra.sharafi@wisc.edu □ @mjsharafi □ office: (608) 265-8428

faculty page □ research website

#### **Professional status**

**Evjue-Bascom Professor of Law,** <u>University of Wisconsin Law School</u> and <u>Legal Studies</u> program, with <u>History</u> and <u>Center for South Asia</u> affiliation, *2022+* 

Research interests: South Asian legal history & socio-legal studies • history of forensic science • history of the legal profession & legal education • history of law books & publishing • legal pluralism • law & religion • law & minorities

## Previous academic appointments

2018-22	Professor, UW Law School and Legal Studies program
2014-18	Associate Professor, UW Law School and Legal Studies program
2007-14	Assistant Professor, UW Law School and Legal Studies program
2005-7	Research Fellow, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University, UK

## **Education**

2000-6	PhD, History, Princeton University
	Dissertation: "Bella's Case: Parsi Identity and the Law in Colonial Rangoon,
	Bombay and London, 1887-1927"
1998-9	Bachelor of Civil Law (LLM equivalent), Oxford University
	(Magdalen College)
1996-8	Bachelor of Arts (Law) (JD equivalent), Cambridge University
	(Sidney Sussex College)
1992-6	Bachelor of Arts (History), McGill University

### Selected research grants & fellowships

2020-21	Frederick Burkhardt Fellowship for Recently Tenured Scholars, American
	Council of Learned Societies: residential fellowship linked to the National
	Center for the Humanities, NC (class of 2018)
fall 2018	<u>Shelby Cullom Davis Center Fellowship</u> , History Dept., Princeton University:
	residential fellowship
2018-24	H. I. Romnes Faculty Fellowship: research funds (\$60,000) provided by the
	UW-Madison Office for the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate
	Education with funding from the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation

summer	National Endowment for the Humanities summer stipend award: <u>no. FT-</u>
2018	<u>259722</u> (\$6,000)
spring 2017	<u>UW Institute for Research in the Humanities Resident Fellowship</u>
fall 2011 &	Institute for Advanced Study Mellon Fellowship for Assistant Professors,
fall 2012	School of Historical Studies, IAS, Princeton, NJ (\$145,440)
2009-11	National Science Foundation <u>"Law &amp; Social Sciences"</u> research grant: Award
	no.SES-0850581 (\$87,212)
2007	South Asia Council's Dissertation Award Grand Prize (Canada)
2003-4	Social Science Research Council's <u>International Dissertation Research</u>
	<u>Fellowship</u>

# Scholarly publications

(most available electronically <a href="here">here</a>)

# Books

in progress	Monograph, Fear of the False: Forensic Science in Colonial South Asia
in progress	Monograph (or multi-article) project on non-European students (including
	South Asians) who studied law at the Inns of Court in London, c. 1860s-
	1960s
2014	Monograph, Law and Identity in Colonial South Asia: Parsi Legal Culture,
	<u>1772-1947</u> (New York: Cambridge University Press), with South Asian
	edition (Ranikhet, India: Permanent Black, 2017); winner of the <u>2015 J.</u>
	Willard Hurst Award for best book in socio-legal history, Law and Society
	Association (LSA)
2010	Lectures, Colonial Parsis and Law: A Cultural History: Government
	Fellowship Lectures 2009-2010 (Mumbai: K. R. Cama Oriental Institute)

# Articles (\* indicates peer-reviewed)

in progress	Article projects under way on (1) death investigation, (2) suicide and poison, (3) the history of law books, and (4) contract law, all in modern South Asia
2021	* <u>"Abortion in South Asia, 1860-1947: A medico-legal history,"</u> Modern Asian
	Studies 55:2 (2021), 371-428
2015	"South Asian Legal History," Annual Review of Law and Social Science 11,
	309-36
2010	*"The Marital Patchwork of Colonial South Asia: Forum Shopping from
	Britain to Baroda," Law and History Review 28:4, 979-1009
2010	*"The Slaves and Slavery of Marie Claire Chabert: Familial Black
	Slaveholding in Antebellum Louisiana," J. of Civil Law Studies 4:1, 187-215
2009	*"The Semi-Autonomous Judge in Colonial India: Chivalric Imperialism
	meets Anglo-Islamic Dower and Divorce Law," Ind. Econ. and Social Hist.
	Rev. 46:1, 57-81

2008	"Justice in Many Rooms since Galanter: De-romanticizing Legal Pluralism
	through the Cultural Defense," Law & Contemp. Problems 71, 139-46
2007	"A New History of Colonial Lawyering: Likhovski and Legal Identities in the
	British Empire," Law & Social Inquiry 32:4, 1059-94
2003	* "The Slave Ship Manuscripts of Capt. Joseph B. Cook: A Narrative
	Reconstruction of the Brig Nancy's Voyage of 1793," Slavery & Abolition 24:1,
	71-100

# **Book chapters**

in progress	"South Asians at the Inns of Court: Empire, Expulsion, and Redemption circa 1900" in Jacob Cogan and Kenneth Mack, eds., <i>In Between and Across: Legal History without Boundaries</i> (Oxford University Press), Festschrift in honor of Hendrik Hartog
in progress	"Parsi Legal Culture, Constitutionalism, and the Rule of Law"
2019	"The Imperial Serologist and Punitive Self-Harm: Bloodstains and Legal
	Pluralism in British India" in Ian Burney and Christopher Hamlin, eds., <u>Global</u>
	Forensic Cultures: Making Fact and Justice in the Modern Era (Baltimore:
	Johns Hopkins University Press), 60-85; winner of the 2020 LSA Article Prize
2018	"Indian Law" in Markus Dubber and Christopher Tomlins, eds., Oxford
	<u>Handbook of Legal History</u> (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 839-57
2017	"Parsi Life Writing: Memoirs and Family Histories of Modern Zoroastrians" in
	A. Hintze and A. Williams, eds., Holy Wealth: Accounting for This World and
	the Next in Religious Belief and Practice. Festschrift for John R. Hinnells
	(Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz), 251-77
2015	"Law and Modern Zoroastrians" in M. Stausberg and Y. Vevaina, eds., The
	Wiley Blackwell Companion to Zoroastrianism (Malden, MA: Blackwell), 299-
	312
2012	"Two Lives in Law: The Reminiscences of A. J. C. Mistry and Sir Norman
	Macleod, 1884-1926" in D. Y. Chandrachud, Anoop V. Mohta and Roshan S.
	Dalvi, eds., A Heritage of Judging: The Bombay High Court through 150 Years
	(Mumbai: Maharashtra Judicial Academy), 258-83
2007	"Judging Conversion to Zoroastrianism: Behind the Scenes of the Parsi
	Panchayat Case (1908)" in J. R. Hinnells and A. Williams, eds., Parsis in India
	and the Diaspora (London: Routledge Curzon), 159-80

# Other scholarly work

2020	"Mixing Legal Systems in the British Empire," University of Wisconsin Legal
	Studies Research Paper No.1591, 1-10 (unpublished)
fall 2017	"Hijacking Law," Law & Social Inquiry 42:4, 1240-7, essay responding to
	symposium review essays on my 2014 book by Assaf Likhovski, Bhavani
	Raman, Winnifred Sullivan, and Sylvia Vatuk

2016	Book review of David Arnold, Toxic Histories: Poison and Pollution in
	Modern India (Cambridge University Press, 2016), Law and History Rev.
	34:4, 1071-3
2007	Encyclopedia articles: "Insurance" and "The Nancy" in Toyin Falola and
	Amanda Warnock, eds., Encyclopedia of the Middle Passage (Westport, CT:
	Greenwood Press), 230-1, 286-7

# Other writing

# Op-eds and magazine articles

2020	"Pandemic or poison? How epidemics shaped Southasia's legal history,"
	Himāl Southasian (April 20)
2018	"The History of Poison & Stereotypical Narratives," Madras Courier (Nov.12)
2017	"Many think Parsis are a model minority. Are they?" [title not approved by
	author], Times of India (Sept.20)
2016	"Why the US can't claim to have been India's colonial cousin in its struggle
	against the British," Scroll.in (July 4)
2015	"Snoop Dogg feels the bite of Parsi legal culture," Scroll.in (July 3)
2015	"The Changing Face of the Legal Profession," Star Tribune (Minneapolis)
	(Feb.16)

# Interviews, podcasts and coverage of my research

2021	Interview: "Mitra Sharafi on her studies at McGill and career as a legal
	historian," Chronos: Magazine of the Department of History and Classical
	Studies 7 (2021), 1-2 (McGill University)
2021	Three short videos with The Swaddle (via Instagram): (1) Why were anti-
	abortion laws poorly enforced in colonial India? (2) How did epidemics create
	an opportunity for murder by poison? (3) Why was poison stereotyped as the
	'woman's weapon'? Plus interview: "Dr. Mitra Sharafi on Anti-Abortion Laws
	and Forensics in Colonial India" (March 2022)
2020	Writing History from the Courtrooms: In Conversation with Mitra Sharafi,
	online interview with Uponita Mukherjee for Borderlines (Comparative Studies
	of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East website) (August 12)
2020	How the taboo on Hindu widow remarriage led to liberal abortion norms in
	colonial India, excerpt from 2020 Modern Asian Studies article on abortion in
	Scroll.in (August 9)
2019	Flash Forward podcast with Rose Eveleth: <a href="Mailto:CRIME: CSI++">CRIME: CSI++</a> , conversation about
	my Imperial Serologist book chapter (30:50-42:30)
2018	XQs XI: A Conversation with Mitra Sharafi, online interview with Tapsi Mathur
	for Chapati Mystery (Feb. 9)
2018	AHA Member Spotlight: Mitra Sharafi, American Historical Association (AHA)
	website (July 3)

2017	A Court for Poor Wives, excerpt from my 2014 book in Bombaywalla:	
	Historical Works (Oct. 10)	
2016	<u>Podcast interview</u> on my 2014 book with Ian Cook, New Books in South Asian Studies (March 2)	
2015	article on <i>BBC News</i> online: Soutik Biswas, <u>Parsi matrimonial courts: India's</u> only surviving jury trials (Sept. 24)	
2005-18	interviews and articles on my research on Parsi legal history in Parsi community magazines <u>Parsiana</u> and <u>Hamazor</u>	
Blogposts		
2016-21	Regular contributor to the <u>Legal History Blog</u> (approx. 2-3 posts per week); monthly guest blogger for March 2015	
2014+	My South Asian Legal History Resources website (est. 2010), including blogposts publicized on Twitter (@mjsharafi)	
2014	<u>Death and Legal History on Sunday Afternoons,</u> Cambridge University Press' 1584 blog	
Selected presentations		
2022	Speaker on panel (virtual), "The Future of <i>Roe v. Wade</i> ," UW Law School (May 18)	
2022	Lecture (virtual): "Planted poison and wrongful convictions in colonial South Asia," NYU South Asia lecture series (April 6)	
2021	Paper (virtual): "Planted Poison and Wrongful Convictions" at Global Forensic Histories workshop (March 19)	
2020	Plenary address (virtual): "Interdisciplinary Studies and Forensics: Why history matters" (live video talk available <a href="here">here</a> at 1:11:05+), 1 <sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Crime Studies, O. P. Jindal Global University, Delhi (Oct.28)	
2020	Lecture (virtual): "Imperial Truth Mechanics: Law and Forensic Science in Colonial India" (pre-recorded video talk available <a href="here">here</a> ), "Empires of Law in Colonial South Asia" event (Q&A with Tanya Agathocleous), Rutgers British Studies Center (Oct.12)	
2018-20	Paper: "South Asians and West Africans at the Inns of Court: Empire and Expulsion circa 1900," Boston College Legal History Roundtable (Oct.2, 2018); The Victoria Colloquium, University of Victoria, British Columbia (Jan.31, 2019); Georgetown Legal History Colloquium (Nov.5, 2019); and UW Law School (Feb.12, 2020)	
2019	Conference talk: "Poison and Falsity in Indian Forensics," Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison (Sept.19) and UW History Dept. (Oct.28)	
2018-19	Paper: "Abortion in South Asia, 1860-1947: A medico-legal history," "The Future of Asian Studies Symposium: Law and Religion in Asia," Rutgers	

2018-19	University (Oct.26, 2018); also presented as a lecture at Stanford Law School (Feb.14, 2019) and Center for South Asia, UW–Madison (March 14, 2019) Paper: "Truth, Adversarialism, and Forensic Experts in the Indian courtroom, 1879-1940," Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Research, Princeton University (Nov.16, 2019). Also presented as conference talk at "Legal Histories of the British Empire" conference, University of the West Indies, Barbados (July 13, 2018); and as a lecture at Drexel University (Dec.7, 2018)
2018	Lecture: "Fear of the False: Forensic Science in Colonial India," Indiana Bloomington Arts & Humanities Festival: <u>India Remixed</u> , Indiana U. Bloomington (Feb.15); and American Bar Foundation seminar series (Feb.21)
2017-18	Paper: "Forensic Experts in Colonial India: Handwriting Analysis as a Suspect Science," Yale Law School Legal History Forum (Dec.5, 2017), "Legal Histories of Policing and Surveillance" workshop, Center for Law and History, Stanford University (April 20, 2018). Also presented as a lecture at Dept. of History, Syracuse University (April 6, 2018)
2017	Paper: "Corruption and Forensic Experts in Colonial India," Baldy Center Distinguished Speaker lecture series, SUNY-Buffalo Law School (March 3) and "Law in Global History: Beyond Imperial Frames" workshop, Dept. of History, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada (April 21). Also presented as a lecture at Center for South Asian Studies, University of Michigan (Feb. 17); Dept. of History and Sociology of Science, University of Pennsylvania (March 13); UW Institute for Research in the Humanities (April 10); and Dept. of History, Washington University, St. Louis (April 12)
2017	Prison teaching lecture: "India's histories: from empires to independence," Missouri Eastern Correctional Center (MECC), Pacific, Missouri (April 12)
2016	Lecture with paper: "The Imperial Serologist and Punitive Self-Harm: Bloodstains and Legal Pluralism in British India," <i>University of California</i> Irvine Law Review symposium and UCI Socio-Legal Workshop, Irvine (Aug.26)
2016	Mini-plenary conference panel talk: "Mixing Legal Systems in the British Empire," LSA annual meeting, New Orleans (June 4)
2015-16	Paper: "Blood Testing and Fear of the False in Colonial India," Legal History Workshop, University of Minnesota Law School (Oct.1, 2015); and UW Law School (Feb.10, 2016). Also given as a lecture at Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi (Aug.21, 2015); UW Center for South Asia weekly lecture series (Feb.11, 2016); and UW History of Science Brownbag lecture series (Feb.12, 2016). And presented as a workshop talk at "Locating Forensic Science and Medicine" conference, U. of Notre Dame Global Gateway, London (July 24, 2015)

Selected chair, discussant & reader roles

2022	Chair-discussant for panel, "The Social and Political Histories of Forensic Science in the British Empire," Legal Histories of Empire conference, Maynooth University, Ireland (July 1)
2017-21	Chair-discussant (and organizer) of "New Books in South Asian Legal Studies" panel, sponsored by South Asia CRN 22, annual LSA conferences in 2017 (Mexico City), 2019 (Washington, DC), 2020 and 2021 (both virtual)
2021	Chair-discussant on panel, "Medicolegal Forms and Practices in India," virtual LSA conference (May 28)
2020	Commentator on book event (virtual): Nurfadzilah Yahaya, Fluid Jurisdictions: Colonial Law and Arabs in Southeast Asia (Cornell University Press, 2020), National University of Singapore (Oct.22)
2020	Reader on Author-Meets-Reader panel (virtual) for Stefan Kirmse, <i>The Lawful Empire: Legal Change and Cultural Diversity in Late Tsarist Russia</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2019), virtual LSA conference (May 31)
2019	Chair-discussant of panel, "Infanticide and Illegitimate Pregnancies in Premodern Europe and the Modern Americas," ASLH (Boston, Nov.22)
2018	Chair-discussant of panels, "Legal Histories of the British Empire" and "Age in Empire," LSA, Toronto (June 7-8)
2018	Book panel commentator on George Gadbois' <i>Indian Supreme Court: The Beginnings</i> with Sugata Bose, Mark Tushnet, and Vasujith Ram, Harvard Law School (March 26)
2017	Chair-discussant of panel, "Law, Identity, and Citizenship in Modern India," ASLH, Las Vegas (Oct.28)
2017	Plenary panel commentator on "New Imaginings for Sociolegal Studies: A Plenary in recognition of Lawrence Friedman," LSA, Mexico City (June 22)
2017	Commentator on papers at "Entanglements of Law and Religion in South Asia" workshop, Yale University (April 28)
2016	Chair of "Pedagogy Roundtable on Undergraduate Legal Studies Teaching: Issues and Challenges," Midwest Law & Society Retreat (Nov.19)
2016	Chair of panel, "Law and Accidents in South Asia" at launch of Bhopal digital archive (Oct.19)
2016	Reader on Author-Meets-Reader panel for Srimati Basu, <i>The Trouble with Marriage: Feminists confront law and violence in India,</i> LSA, New Orleans (June 2)
2015	Roundtable panelist, "Tracing the past into the present: How living descendants affect the substance, methods, and ethical stakes of legal history" with Barbara Welke, chair, ASLH, Washington, DC (Oct.30)
2015	Commentator on student papers at "Race, Law & History Pro-Seminar," University of Michigan Law School (April 20)

# Teaching & mentoring awards

2021 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award, UW–Madison

### Courses taught

(Legal Studies syllabi available here)

2008+ UW Legal Studies & History (undergraduate, spring):

- History of Forensic Science (2014+)
- o <u>Legal Pluralism</u> (2008+)

# 2008-13 UW Legal Studies (undergraduate, spring):

- <u>Law & Colonialism</u> (2009-13)
- o <u>Lawyers & Judges in the British Empire</u> (2008)

#### **UW** service

#### 2010+ Law School:

- Tenure & Promotions committee [2014-20, excluding spring 2017 and fall 2018; chair (2015-16, 2021-22)]
- Ad Hoc Committee on Student Evaluations of Teaching (SET), chair (2019-20)
- o Appointments committee (2010-11, 2013-14, 2017-18)
- Student Awards committee (spring 2019)
- Institute for Legal Studies (ILS) committee (2014-18)
- Faculty anchor person and regular semester-long host for <u>ILS Law & Society Graduate Fellows</u> program (2016-22)
- Study Abroad committee: director for India (2017+)
- South Asia Legal Studies Working Group, organizer (2014+)

### 2014+ Legal Studies program:

- Legal Studies core faculty steering committee (2014+)
- Awards committee chair (2015-16)
- Diversity, Climate and Inclusion committee (2018-20, 2021-22), including as chair (2019-20)

#### spring 2019 History Dept:

Hiring committee for South Asia search (non-voting member)

#### 2014+ Center for South Asia:

 Advisory Board (2014-19, excluding spring 2017 and fall 2018), including Annual Conference committee, Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) award committee Annual Conference on South Asia committee: chair for 44<sup>th</sup> (2015) and 45<sup>th</sup> (2016) conferences, 50<sup>th</sup> ACSA Special Planning Committee (spring 2022-fall 2023)

### 2014+ UW campus level:

- Named Awards Arts & Humanities committee (2019-20, 2021-22)
- Nominating Committee for Rhodes, Marshall, and Mitchell Scholarships (2017-18, 2019-20)
- Future of Asian Studies committee (2014)

#### Other service

2021	National Center for the Humanities: 2020-21 Class Gift Campaign co-chair
2020+	Otago Centre for Law and Society, University of Otago, NZ: International
	Advisory Board member
2016-18	Law and Social Inquiry: editorial board member
2016+	American Journal of Legal History: editorial board member,
	2020 Alfred L. Brophy Article Prize committee member
2015+	Oxford Legal History book series: editorial board member
2009+	American Society for Legal History (ASLH):
	<ul> <li>Sutherland Prize committee (for best article on the legal history of</li> </ul>
	Britain or the British empire), 2021
	<ul> <li>Small Grants for Digital Legal History (new program for graduate</li> </ul>

- students during pandemic): selection committee member (2020)
- J. Willard Hurst Summer Institute in Legal History faculty director (2017, 2019); selection committee member and Wisconsin representative (2009-15)
- Peter Gonville Stein Book Award committee chair, new prize for best book on non-US legal history (2016-18)
- Nominating Committee (2017-20)
- o Board of Directors (2012-15)
- o Program Committee member (2009) and co-chair (2013-14)

## 2005+ Law and Society Association (LSA):

- o Trustee, <u>Class of 2021</u> (2019-21)
- o Governance committee, chair (2018-19, 2019-20)
- Program committee (2016-17)
- International Prize committee (2014)
- South Asia <u>Collaborative Research Network</u> 22: organizer (2005-22)
- o J. Willard Hurst Book Prize committee member (2015-16)

### Conferences organized

2021 Global Forensic Histories workshop (virtual), with co-organizer Binyamin Blum; sponsored by UC Hastings Law, UW Law School's Institute for Legal Studies & ASLH (March 19 & 26) 2011 Comparative Legal Histories workshop: Colonial/Postcolonial India and Mandatory Palestine/Israel, co-organized with Assaf Likhovski and Renisa Mawani, Stanford Law School (June 6) 2010 Legal History and Religion workshop, UW Law School (Sept.24) 2007-21 1st-15th Annual South Asia Legal Studies workshop, with co-organizer Sumudu Atapattu, UW Law School (October) Peer reviews 2013+ Book proposals (some with sample chapters) reviewed for: Cambridge University Press (2) • Manchester UP • Princeton UP (2) 2010+ Book manuscripts reviewed for: Ashgate • Cambridge UP • Cornell UP (2x)• Oxford UP India 2008+ Grant, workshop & fellowship applications reviewed for: School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study (5) • Law & Humanities Junior Scholars Workshop (4) • National Humanities Center (5) • National Science Foundation (2) • Soc. Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada • Canada Research Chair Program 2006+ Article manuscripts reviewed for: Am. Hist. Rev. • Austr. Feminist LJ • Am. J. of Comparative Law • Eng. Historical Review • History Compass • Indian Economic and Social History Review • Itinerario • J. of Colonialism and Colonial History • J. of Law, Culture and the Humanities (2) • J. of Legal History • Law and History Review (2) • Law & Social Inquiry (5) • Modern Asian Studies (5) • ShariaSOURCE • South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies (2) Archival & Special Collections research experience 2018 Training: "C-85. Law Books: History & Connoisseurship," Rare Book School, taught by Mike Widener and Ryan Greenwood (Yale Law School, June 10-15) 2003+ India: Bombay High Court (Mumbai) • First Dastoor Meherjirana Library (Navsari) • Godrej Archives (Mumbai) • K. R. Cama Oriental Institute Library (Mumbai) • National Archives of India (Delhi) • Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (Delhi) • Parsi Panchayat Archives (Mumbai) • Tata Central Archives (Mumbai) • University of Bombay Archives (Mumbai) • Bhikaji Unwalla Zoroastrian Library (Udwada) • N. M. Wadia Trust (Mumbai) • Wadia Ghandy and Co. (Mumbai) 2003+ **UK**: Ancient Iran and India Trust (Cambridge) • British Library (London) • Highland Council Archives (Inverness) • Honourable Society of the Inner Temple (London) • Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn (London) • Honourable Society of the Middle Temple (London) • National Archives (London) •

National Library of Wales (Aberystwyth) • Privy Council Office (London) • Royal Society of Medicine (London) • University of Cambridge Archives (Cambridge) • University of Glasgow Archives and Special Collections (Glasgow) • Wellcome Library Archives and Manuscripts (London) • World Zoroastrian Organization Archives (London)

2003+

Other locations: Kings College Dublin Archives (Dublin) • Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.) • Musée Guimet (Paris) • Public Records Office Victoria (Melbourne) • Riesenfeld Rare Books Research Center, University of Minnesota Law Library (Minneapolis)

## **Current professional memberships**

American Historical Association • Asian Law and Society Association • ASLH • Association for Asian Studies • LSA

### Languages

English (native speaker) • French (advanced) • Gujarati and German (intermediate reading knowledge) • Hindi, Latin and Persian (basic knowledge)

[updated on 7 July 2022]