RAHEEL DHATTIWALA

M.Sc., D.Phil. Sociology (Oxford University)

Independent sociologist | Honorary research associate, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg

email: rdhattiwala@gmail.com | website: https://raheeldhattiwala.net

EDUCATION

2010-14. **University of Oxford, Oxford, UK**
Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology | Nuffield College | Funded by the Nuffield Doctoral Studentship Award (£ 54,000) | Book based on thesis titled, *Keeping the Peace: Spatial Differences in Hindu-Muslim Violence in Gujarat in 2002,* published by Cambridge University Press, 2019

2007-08. **University of Oxford,** Oxford, UK
Master of Science, Sociology | St. Hilda's College | 66%

1997-98. **Bhavan's Institute of Communication and Management,** Ahmedabad, India
Post-graduate Diploma in Journalism, 1998 | distinction | *Times of India* silver medal | Chief Minister's gold medal | Kulapati's cash prize

1994-97. **Gujarat University,** Ahmedabad, India
Bachelor of Science, Chemistry (special), 1997 | first class | Gold medal, organic chemistry | Chandresh Shah Gold Medal | Navnitlal Ranchhodlal Gold Medal | Dr G S Patel Cash Prize | Principal K N Shah Cash Prize

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024-27. **University of Heidelberg,** Germany: Honorary research associate, South Asia Institute.

2023-24. **University of Heidelberg,** Germany: Baden-Württemberg Fellow, South Asia Institute. Research and teaching.

2020-22. **University of Oxford**, UK: Postdoctoral Fellow/Scholar-At-Risk (UG teaching and research on collective violence) at the Dept of Sociology and Nuffield College.

2020. **International Institute of Information Technology, India:** Commissioned to design and teach a course intersecting sociology with IT: 'Thinking about social phenomena: constructing puzzles' (Jan-May 2020).

2018-20. **Independent scholar** (applied for a scholar-at-risk fellowship following censorship and restrictions on my research and employment opportunities by the govt of India).

2016-18. **University of Amsterdam**, The Netherlands: Postdoctoral research fellow, Group Violence project, Dept of Sociology; explaining de-escalation of violence in public spaces using video analysis of violence.

2014-16. **University of South Australia,** Adelaide, Australia: postdoctoral research fellow, International Centre for Muslim and non-Muslim Understanding; on inter-group (neighbour-on-neighbour) violence in India.

2013-14. **The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy,** Chennai, India: Public Policy Scholar; on the political phenomenon of Muslims voting for the BJP in Gujarat, in the aftermath of the BJP-orchestrated anti-Muslim pogrom.

2001-07. ***The Times of India*** (newspaper), Ahmedabad, India: Senior news correspondent**,** covered politics; religion; segregation; ethnic riots in Gujarat.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS *(latest first)*

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Raheel Dhattiwala, 'Neighbourliness and Situational Factors: Explaining Neighbour Behaviour in Attacks and Rescues of Sikhs in Delhi in 1984 and Muslims in Ahmedabad in 2002', *Sociology*, 57 (5): 1137-1155.

Weenink, Don, **Raheel Dhattiwala**, and David van der Duin, 'Circles of Peace. A Video Analysis of Situational Group Formation and Collective Third-Party Intervention in Violent Incidents', *The British Journal of Criminology,* 62, no. 1 (2022): 18-36.

Raheel Dhattiwala (Special Issue, by invitation), 'Mapping the Self: Challenges of Insider Research in a Riot-affected City and Strategies to Improve Data Quality', *Contemporary South Asia* 25, no. 1 (2017): 7-22.

Raheel Dhattiwala, 'The Ecology of Ethnic Violence: Attacks on Muslims in Ahmedabad in 2002', *Qualitative Sociology* 39, no. 1 (2016): 71-95.

Raphael Susewind and **Raheel Dhattiwala**, 'Spatial Variation in the "Muslim Vote" in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh, 2014', *Economic and Political Weekly* 49, no. 39 (2014): 99-110.

(Reprint) *Internationales Asienforum/ International Quarterly for Asian Studies* 45, no. 3-4 (2015).

Raheel Dhattiwala and Michael Biggs, 'The Political Logic of Ethnic Violence: The Anti-Muslim Pogrom in Gujarat, 2002,' *Politics & Society* 40, no. 4 (2012): 483-516.

BOOK

Raheel Dhattiwala, *Keeping the Peace: Spatial Differences in Hindu-Muslim violence in Gujarat in 2002* (2019), New Delhi/Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (reviewed in the *American Journal of Sociology; Studies in Indian Politics; Asian Studies*; and Indian media inc. *Indian Express; The Wire; The Print; Scroll*)

BOOK CHAPTER

Raheel Dhattiwala, 'Next-door Strangers: Explaining 'Neighbourliness' in a Riot-affected City', in R. Hassan (ed.) Indian Muslims: Struggling for Equality of Citizenship (2016): Melbourne University Press.

BOOK REVIEWS

Raheel Dhattiwala, Review of *Gujarat under Modi: The Blueprint for Today's India,* by Christophe Jaffrelot. *Journal of Asian Studies* 84 (4) (2025): 1109–1112 (by invitation).

Raheel Dhattiwala, Review of *Narrow Fairways: Getting By and Falling Behind in the New India,* by Patrick Inglis. *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews,* 50 (4) (2019): 330-332 (by invitation).

PUBLIC POLICY

Raheel Dhattiwala, 'The Puzzle of the BJP's Muslim Supporters in Gujarat', public policy report, The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy, no. 5 (2014).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Raheel Dhattiwala, *Weeping Willows: The Purdah Dilemma.* Book project.

Jeroen Bruggeman and **Raheel Dhattiwala**, 'Help Your Enemies and Betray Your Neighbors: Exceptional Relations in India'. Research article.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS *(selected)*

2023-24. Baden-Württemberg Fellow 2023, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, Germany.

2022. Marie Curie European Research Fellowship, awarded 'Seal of Excellence' (proposal on anti-Sikh violence in India, 1984) | 91.8/100; shortlisted but eventually disqualified because of new Brexit funding rules.

2020-22. IIE-Scholar Rescue Fund, New York, USA and Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA), London, UK: Two-year scholar-at-risk fellowship, to pursue research on ethnic riots in any country outside of India—awarded following censorship of my research by the Indian government and universities in India.

2014-15. Public Policy Fellowship of The Hindu Centre for Politics & Public Policy, India, INR 200,000.

2010-13. Nuffield Sociology Doctoral Studentship, University of Oxford, £54,942.

2008-09. 'Open Space Fellow' for Ahmedabad city, Centre for Communication and Development Studies, India and Ford Foundation, INR 240,000.

2005. Scholar of Peace media fellowship, Women in Social Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP), New Delhi, and Ford Foundation.

EXPERIENCE AS TEACHER, SUPERVISOR, AND PhD EXAMINER

2022. **University of Oxford (UK):** *Sociological Theory* undergraduate teaching: 'Ethnicity, race, and nationalism'; 'Governmentality and totalitarianism'; 'Organized crime and violence'.

2022. **University of Pennsylvania (US):** PhD thesis examiner on the exam committee of David Sorge, doctoral candidate. Thesis title: 'Three Essays in the Sociology of Violence: Repertoire Paralysis, Localized Diffusion, and Emotional Interventions in De-escalation' (chair: Prof Randall Collins, Emeritus Prof of Sociology, UPenn).

2021. **University of Oxford (UK):** Convened doctoral workshops on transparency and ethics in qualitative methods.

2020. **IIIT-Hyderabad (India):** Commissioned to design and teach a master's course (45 students), titled 'Explaining social phenomena: constructing puzzles', to motivate critical thinking and argument.

2016. **University of Amsterdam (Netherlands):** Teaching seminars and supervision of several master's theses on collective violence; migration and ethnicity; urban studies.

2013-20. Workshops in qualitative methods for conflict-affected regions: University of Oxford, UK (2013); University of Adelaide, Australia (2015); University of Amsterdam, Netherlands (2016-2018); Ashoka University, India (2017).

ENGAGEMENT WITH POLICY

2013-14. Public Policy Fellow, The Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy. Investigated the political puzzle of victims of mass violence (Muslims) voting for their perpetrators (the BJP). Outcomes were documented as a policy report for the Hindu Centre and a co-authored article in the *Economic & Political Weekly.*

2008-09. Awarded the Open Space Fellowship by Ford Foundation and the Centre for Communication and Development Studies (CCDS India) for a social outreach experiment based on Gordon Allport's contact hypothesis. Outcomes were documented in the *Times of India; The Australian;* and the annual CCDS report.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS (INTERNATIONAL)

2023. *'Saviours and attackers: Neighbour relations in ethnic pogroms in India'*, South Asia Institute, University of Heidelberg, May 2023.

2020-22. '*Neighbour relations and behaviour during anti-minority pogroms in India',* European Sociological Association annual meeting; Oxford University Department of Sociology; Oxford Conflict and Peace Workshop; Oxford University Transitional Justice Research; University of Edinburgh; Virtual Coffee Hour meeting of the Peace, War, and Conflict section, American Sociological Association.

2019. '*Populism and Collective Violence'*, working group at the American Political Science Association annual meeting, Washington D.C., USA.

2017. *'Video analysis of violent interactions'*, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands; University of Jyväskylä, Finland.

2016. *'Video analysis of violent interactions'*, Annual Conference of Criminology, New Orleans, USA
'Next-door strangers: Explaining 'neighbourliness' between Hindus and Muslims in a riot-affected city', Annual meeting of the British Association of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, UK.

2015. '*Explaining 'neighbourliness' between Hindus and Muslims in a riot-affected city*', National University of Singapore, Singapore.
'The 'insider' as ethnographer: Balancing distance and involvement in a conflict-affected city', The 9th International Convention of Asia Scholars (ICAS9), Australia.

2014. *'Cooperation and Protection in a Peaceful Neighbourhood'*, Revisiting the Working Class Neighbourhood in Modern South Asia, CeMIS, University of Göttingen, Germany.

2012. *'The Ecology of Ethnic Violence: Attacks on Muslims in Ahmedabad in 2002'*, Oxford University Graduate Research in Progress; Wisconsin-Madison South Asia conference, USA.
'The Political Logic of Ethnic Violence: The Anti-Muslim Pogrom in Gujarat, 2002', American Sociological Association, Denver, USA; South Asia in Transition, University of Oxford.

INVITED TALKS

2024. *'India Votes 2024: The World's Largest Democracy?':* Harvard University, The Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute.

2021. *'Ethnographic fieldwork in conflict-affected regions':* University of Oxford.

2019. *'Explaining Violence':* Hyderabad Literary Festival, India.

2018. *Innovative methods of studying residential segregation in India'*, International Institute of Asian Studies, Leiden University, Netherlands.

2015. Workshop convenor: *'Ethnographic fieldwork in conflict-affected regions':* Adelaide University, Australia.

2015. '*Mixed neighbourhoods and contact: Explaining 'neighbourliness' through cognitive maps,* 7th INDAS International Conference, Japan.

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS

Reviewer for *Oxford University Press; Social Forces; Ethnic and Racial Studies*; *Contemporary South Asia; South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies; Politics, Groups, and Identities.*

Editorial committee member at the Oxford Transitional Justice Research Centre, University of Oxford, 2020-21.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

English *(fluent)*; Hindi *(fluent)*; Gujarati *(fluent);* Urdu *(intermediate);* Dutch *(basic)*

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

2013-26. Interviews and columns in *National Public Radio; Deutsche Presse-Agentur; The Australian; Neue Zürcher Zeitung; Bergens Tidende; The Hindu; Wire; Scroll;* panel expert on BJP and the Muslim vote in Gujarat, *NDTV;* research on Gujarat violence was subject of documentary on illiberal democracies, *Freedom for the Wolf* (2017)

2019. Interviews and reviews of my book in *American Journal of Sociology; Studies in Indian Politics; Asian Studies* (Japanese); *The Wire; Indian Express; Scroll.in; The Print; Malayala Manorama*