

YOGESH SNEHI

Assistant Professor in History

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Dr Yogesh Snehi's major teaching and research interests focus on popular culture. He tends to comprehend the social formation of Punjab through an understanding of Popular Sufi Shrines and investigate the long term processes of region formation, debates on identities and growth of communalism. He problematizes the prevalent communal reductionism of historiography in contemporary Punjab and offers a critical insight into local and regional processes of social formation. His research provides a methodology to theorise the 'popular' which is people-oriented and appreciates the organic relationship between various identities.

Snehi pursued his graduation, post-graduation and doctorate from Panjab University, Chandigarh. His doctoral work engaged with post-formation comparative dynamics of development and female education in Himachal Pradesh and Haryana. Through an interdisciplinary understanding of state development priorities, colonial debates on sexualities and social reform, education and female literacy, and a case study of state units of Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti (BGVS) and their role in the National Literacy Mission (NLM), he investigated complex debates on social history, state developmentalism and its implications on the notion of empowerment.

PAST EMPLOYMENT

Before joining Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) in March 2011, Snehi worked as an Assistant Professor at DAV College, Amritsar (Punjab) from July 2006 to March 2011. He has also briefly served as a Lecturer at DAV College, Abohar (Punjab). He has taught courses in Economic History and Society in Medieval India, Nationalism in India and History of Modern Punjab. At AUD he offers courses on Sufi Shrine in South Asia; Devotion, Diversity and Dissent in Medieval India; The Making of Modern Punjab; Identity Formation and Communalism in Modern South Asia.

SELECT PUBLISHED ARTICLES

1. 'Diversity as Counter-hegemony: *Reet* and Gender Relations in Himachal Pradesh' in *Recognizing Diversity: Society and Culture in the Himalaya* edited by Chetan Singh, Shimla: Indian Institute of Advanced Study co-published with Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2011, pp.75-97.
2. An entry 'British Colonialism: Punjab' in *An Encyclopedia of Infanticide*, edited by Brigitte H. Bechtold and Donna Cooper Graves, Lewiston NY: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2010, pp. 37-38.
3. 'Historicity, Orality and Lesser Shrines: Popular Culture and Change at the *Dargah* of Panj Pirs at Abohar' in *Sufism in Punjab: Mystics, Literature and Shrines* edited by Surinder Singh and Ishwar Dayal Gaur, New Delhi: Aakar, 2009, pp.402-429.
4. 'Conjugality, Sexuality and *Shastras*: Debate on the Abolition of *Reet* in Colonial Himachal Pradesh' in *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, Vol-2 (2006), pp.163-197.
5. 'State and Child Justice: Stories of Delinquent Juveniles' in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol.39, No.41, 9 October 2004, pp.4512-4515.
6. 'Hindutva as an Ideology of Cultural Nationalism' in *Social Change: Issues and Perspectives*, Vol.33, No.4, December 2003, pp.10-24.
7. 'Female Infanticide and Gender in Punjab: Imperial Claims and Contemporary Discourse' in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol.38, No.41, 11 October 2003, pp.4302-4305.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

1. 'From Feudalism to Democratic Institutionalism: State Developmentalism and Changing Economic Formation in Himachal Pradesh' in *The Character and Trajectory of the Indian*

Economic Formation in an Era of Globalisation edited by Tom Brass, Kumar Sanjay Singh and Simon Chilvers, New Delhi: Aakar.

2. 'Politics of Language, Identity or Ecology: Reorganisation, State and the Emergence of Himachal Pradesh' in *Region Formation in Contemporary South Asia* edited by Kumar Sanjay Singh and Simon Chilvers, New Delhi: Aakar.
3. 'Dissenting the Dominant: Caste Mobility, Ritual Practice and Popular Sufi Shrines in Contemporary Punjab' in *Devotion and Dissent in Indian History* edited by Vijaya Ramaswamy (Professor, Centre for Historical Studies, JNU, Delhi).
4. Five entries in an encyclopaedia *India Today [Two Volumes]: An Encyclopaedia of Life in the Republic* edited by Roger D. Long and published by ABC-CLIO, California (USA), 2011.
 - a. Special Economic Zones
 - b. Right to Information
 - c. Female Foeticide
 - d. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
 - e. National Alliance of People's Movement

SELECT CONFERENCE PAPERS

1. 'Identity , Practices and Historiography: Exploring Popular Spaces in Modern and Contemporary Social Formation of Punjab' at Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla during first tenure as an Associate of the UGC Inter-University Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences on 22 June 2010.
2. 'Becoming 'Langurs': Religiosity, Gender, Hypermasculinity' at an International Seminar on *Religion and Social Identity in Punjab* organised by Department of Sociology, Panjab University in association with Manchester University (U.K.), at ICSSR, Chandigarh from 18-19 February 2010.
3. 'Understanding Popular Sufi Centres in Punjab' at an International Conference on *Pre-Colonial Punjabi Consciousness and its Continuities* jointly organised by Punjab Research Group (UK) and Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Punjabi University, Patiala on 19 December 2009.
4. 'On the Margins of Sufi Discourse: Popular Sufi Centres and their role in Indian Historiography' at an International Seminar on *Exploring the Margins* organised by History Association, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi from 3-5 September 2009.
5. 'Colonialism and the Ideology of Female Education in Punjab' at 41st *Punjab History Conference*, Punjabi University, Patiala from 14-16 March 2009.
6. 'Diversity, Pluralism and Syncretism: Reflections on the Nature of 'Panj Pir' Tradition in Punjab at a State-level Seminar on *Exploring Historical Perspectives on Pluralistic Society and Polity in Punjab* organised by DAV College, Abohar on 25 October 2008.
7. 'Invasions, Martyrdom and the 'Other': Representation of Muslims in the Curricula and Popular Textbooks on Pre-Partition Punjab' at a National Seminar on *Trends in Modern Historiography of Punjab* organised by Department of History, Panjab University, Chandigarh from 30 Nov.- 1 Dec. 2006.
8. 'From Infanticide to Foeticide: Gender and Sex Ratios in the Malwa Region of Punjab' at a State level Seminar on *Malwa Region in Emerging Scenario- In Social, Economic, Political, Historical and Cultural Perspective* held at DAV College, Abohar on 28 January 2006.

CURRENT RESEARCH ENGAGEMENTS

Yogesh Snehi is currently working on two edited volumes. The first book *Contemporary Amritsar: Society, Economy, Polity* relates to an understanding of varied dynamics of a city in the post-partition scenario and draws case studies on significant themes of politics, literature, economy, cinema, society, etc. which have a bearing on contemporary social formation of Amritsar. His second co-edited book is on *Modernity and Changing Social Fabric of Punjab and Haryana* and intends to locate

the changing social formation of this region in the context of Modernity. Published by IAS, Shimla this book brings together discussions and debates on the notion of modernity and responses to it from the colonial milieu to post-liberalization phase. He is also working on a Monograph on 'Popular Sufi Shrines in Contemporary Punjab.'

PROFESSIONAL DISTINCTIONS

1. Awarded a Fellowship for working on a project 'Popular Sufi Shrines in Contemporary Punjab: Marginality, Identities and Dissent' at Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla vide IIAS communication dated 28 January 2011.
2. Awarded a Fellowship for working on a short-term project (September 2010- February 2011) on 'Replicating Memory, Creating Images: Pirs and Dargahs in Popular Art and Media of Contemporary East Punjab.' The Fellowship has been awarded by the *Cluster of Excellence – Asia and Europe in a Global Context: Shifting Asymmetries in Cultural Flows* (at Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany), on the theme "Circulation of Popular Images and Media in Muslim Religious Spheres".
3. Awarded an Associateship at *the Inter-University Centre for Humanities and Social Sciences*, Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla. Availed the first spell of Associateship from 01-06-2010 to 30-06-2010.