

## SOMA CHAUDHURI

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School of Criminal Justice  
560 Baker Hall  
East Lansing, MI 48824

### EMPLOYMENT

2008-Present: Assistant Professor, joint with Department of Sociology (51%) and School of Criminal Justice (49%), Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

### RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

2008-Present: *Core Faculty Member:*

Asian Studies Center, Michigan State University.

Center for Gender in Global Context, Michigan State University

Center for Advanced Study of International Development (CASID), Michigan State University

### EDUCATION

2008 Ph.D. Sociology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN  
Dissertation title: *Tempest in a Tea Pot: An Analysis of Witch Hunts in the Tea Plantations of India (1980 – 2006)* (Chair: Gary F. Jensen)

2005 M.A. Sociology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

2000 M.A. Sociology, Center for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. (Cum Laude)

1998 B.A. Sociology (Honors), Department of Sociology, Presidency College, Calcutta, India (Cum Laude)

### RESEARCH INTEREST

Violence (Collective violence and domestic violence); Social Movements; Witch Hunts; Gender;

Methodological expertise: Qualitative Methods; NVivo

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Books*

Chaudhuri, Soma. *Witches, Tea Plantations, and Lives of Migrant Laborers in India* (under contract with **Lexington Books, A division of Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc**) Under revisions

2009 Munshi, Surendra, Biju Paul Abraham, Soma Chaudhuri, *The Intelligent Person's Guide to Good Governance*. **New Delhi: Sage Publications India Pvt. Ltd.**

Reprinted in Hindi, *Sushashan*. **Rawat Publications** India, 2011.

### *Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals*

2012a Chakravarty, Anuradha and Soma Chaudhuri.\* Forthcoming. *Strategic Framing Work(s): How Micro-credit Loans facilitate Anti-Witch Hunt Movements*. **Mobilization an International Journal** Vol. 17 (2) (\*Equal Authors)

2012b Chaudhuri, Soma. Forthcoming. *Women as Easy Scapegoats: Witchcraft Accusations and Women as Targets in Tea Plantations of India*. **Violence Against Women**

2012c Chaudhuri, Soma, Merry Morash and Julie Yingling. Forthcoming. *Marriage Migration, Patriarchal Bargains and Wife Abuse: A Study of South Asian Women*. **Violence Against Women**

2010 Chaudhuri, Soma. *The Fight for Property Rights: How Changes in Movement Actors and History Brought about the Changes in Frames in a Single Movement*. **Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East** Vol. 30 (3)

2008 Holly J. McCammon, Soma Chaudhuri, Lyndi Hewitt, Courtney Sanders Muse, Harmony D. Newman, Carrie Lee Smith, Teresa M. Terrell *Becoming Full Citizens: The U.S. Women's Jury Rights Campaigns, the Pace of Reform, and Strategic Adaptation*. **American Journal of Sociology**, Vol.113 (4)

\*Honorable mention for Collective Behavior Social Movement Outstanding Article Award, American Sociological Association, 2009

### *Book Chapters/Conference Proceedings (peer reviewed indicated by \*\*)*

2013 Chaudhuri, Soma. Extending the Logic of Functional Explanations: A theoretical model to explain the victimization process during an Indian witch hunt. *Crime and Victimization in the Globalized Era*. Edited by K Jaishankar and Natti Ronel, under contract with CRC Press, Taylor and Francis\*\*

Chaudhuri, Soma. The case of witch hunts in the tea plantations of Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. *Conference proceedings. First International Conference of Criminology and Victimology*. Edited by K. Jaishankar and Natti Ronel (230-232)

- 2010 Chaudhuri, Soma. Crime and legal system in Tunisia. *Crime and Punishment Around the World. Volume 1: Africa and Middle East*. Edited by Mahesh K. Nalla. New York: Greenwood (374-377)

### *Book Reviews*

Chaudhuri Soma. Review of *Anatomy of the Red Brigades. The Religious Mind-Set of Modern Terrorists*. By Alessandro Orsini. University Press. (Forthcoming)  
**Mobilization: An International Journal** (Solicited)

- 2010 Chaudhuri Soma. Review of *The Snake Dance of Asian American Activism: Community, Vision and Power*, Liu, Geron and Lai, Lexington Books.  
**Mobilization: An International Journal**, Vol.15 (4):537-538 (Solicited)

- 2009 Chaudhuri Soma. Review of *Textures of Struggle: The Emergence of Resistance Among Garment Workers in Thailand* by Piya Pangsapa. **Work and Occupations: An International Sociological Journal**, Vol. 36 (4): 432-433 (Solicited)

- 2009 Chaudhuri Soma. Review of *Erotic Journeys: Mexican Immigrants and Their Sex Lives* by Gloria Gonz`alez-L`opez. **Sociological Inquiry**, Vol. 29 (4): 528-529

- 2008 Chaudhuri, Soma. Review of *The Path of the Devil. Early Modern Witch Hunts* by Gary Jensen. **Feminist Teacher**, Vol. 18 (3): 240-241

### **WORK IN PROGRESS**

Collecting Sensitive Data: Negotiating Gender, Ethnicity and Class in the field

(De)mobilizing Violence: Social Capital, Group-based Violence and Prospects for Social Reconstruction, *with Anuradha Chakravarty*

Analysis of Incidents of Witch Hunts (1980-2005), *with Gary Jensen and Tia Steven*

### **RESEARCH GRANTS**

- 2012 *Asian Studies Center*, Michigan State University, (Strategic Partnership Grant, awarded \$6000)

- 2011 *The Center for Advanced Study of International Development Grant*, Michigan State University, with Merry Morash (awarded \$3600)
- The Center for Advanced Study of International Development Grant*, Michigan State University, (IDGP grant, awarded full amount of \$7500)
- Asian Studies Center*, Michigan State University, with Merry Morash (Strategic Partnership Grant, awarded \$3600)
- Center for Gender in Global Context*, Michigan State University, with Merry Morash (Strategic Partnership Grant, awarded \$3620)
- 2009 *The Center for Advanced Study of International Development Grant*, Michigan State University, with Anuradha Chakravarty, University of South Carolina Columbia (\$4000)
- Humanities Arts Research Program (HARP) Scholarship Development Grant, Michigan State University (submitted for \$25,000; Not funded)
- 2007 *Dissertation Enhancement Grant*. Graduate School, Vanderbilt University (\$2000)
- 2006 *College of Arts and Sciences Graduate School Summer Research Award*. Vanderbilt University (\$4000)
- 2005 *College of Arts and Sciences Graduate School Summer Research Award* Vanderbilt University (\$4000)

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2011 Accommodation Scholarship to attend the Rethinking Development Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca
- Paper “*The Role of rumor and conspiracy against women scapegoats: The case of witch hunts in Indian tea plantations.*” selected for plenary session for the section on Crime of Culture, at South Asian Society of Criminology and Victimology, Jaipur, India
- 2010 Special Travel Award for paper presentation at the Moral Panics Conference. London, by International Studies and Program, Michigan State University (\$808)
- 2009 Honorable mention for *Collective Behavior Social Movement Outstanding Article Award*, American Sociological Association
- Academic Fellow* for The Foundation for the Defense of Democracy, University of Tel Aviv, Israel

Who's Who Members in Sociology

2007 *Graduate School Travel Grant*. Vanderbilt University (2 grants, \$500 each)

Dissertation Fellow of the Vanderbilt Center for Ethics, Social Science Group, Vanderbilt University, (Spring and Summer semester) (\$2500)

2006 *Dissertation Fellow of the Vanderbilt Center for Ethics*, Vanderbilt University, (Fall) (\$1000)

*Summer Research Fellow Center for the Study of Religion and Culture*, Vanderbilt University. (\$4000, Declined)

2000 Qualified *University Grants Commission National Eligibility Test*, Eligibility for Lectureship in Sociology, India

1998 *National Scholarship*, Department of Human Resource Ministry, Government of India, for B.A. Honors Examination

MENTIONS:

2007 *First Alternate for Robert Penn Warren Center for Humanities Graduate Student Fellowship*

*Alternate for The College of Arts and Sciences Social Science Dissertation Fellowship*

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (2008 onwards)**

2012 American Sociological Association Annual Meetings. Denver, CO.  
*Spirits of resistance: Analyzing the effects of development through witch hunts in tea plantations in India.*

2011 1st Annual Conference Cornell Conference on "Rethinking Development."  
*Development's malcontent: Witchcraft accusations, tea plantation economy, and lives of migrant laborers.*

Collective Behavior Social Movement Workshop, Thematic Session, Las Vegas,  
*Collaborating and successfully pursuing disparate goals by two or more social movement organizations*

South Asian Society of Criminology and Victimology, Jaipur, India  
*The Role of rumor and conspiracy against women scapegoats: The case of witch hunts in Indian tea plantations*

\*Paper selected for plenary session for the section on Crime of Culture.

- 2010 Moral Panics in the Contemporary World, Brunel University, London.  
*Why women make good witches? Moral entrepreneurs, Credible Scapegoats, and Moral Panics*
- American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA  
*De(mobilizing) Violence: Social capital, group-based violence and prospects for social reconstruction* with Anuradha Chakravarty
- Making, negotiating and breaking the patriarchal bargain: South Asian women, marriage migration and domestic violence*, with Merry Morash and Julie Yingling
- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington DC  
*Social capital, group-based violence and prospects for social reconstruction* with Anuradha Chakravarty\*\*
- Southern Sociological Society Annual Meetings, Atlanta, GA  
*Microcredits and anti-witch hunts campaigns*, with Anuradha Chakravarty
- 2009 American Society of Criminology Annual Meetings, Philadelphia, PA.  
*In search of a "credible" witch: Contemporary witch hunts in the tea plantations of India*
- American Sociological Association Annual Meetings. San Francisco, CA  
*Innovations in using framing processes in repressive settings: The anti witch hunt movement, microcredit loans and frames*
- Southern Sociological Society Annual Meetings. New Orleans, LA  
(Session on Framing Movements)  
*Using frames as the dependent variable: How changes in history, movement actors, and participants, influence the changes in frames in a single movement*
- 2008 American Sociological Association Annual Meetings. Boston, MA.  
*In Search of the Deviant: Women, witches and Tea Plantations*
- Southern Sociological Society Annual Meetings. Richmond, Virginia. (Session on Qualitative Methods)  
*So how were you hunted? Going Beyond the Methods Textbook and into the Field*

\*\*Presented by co-author

**SELECTED INVITED COLLOQUIUMS, LECTURES, PANELS AND WORKSHOPS  
(2010 onwards)**

2013 Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives, Michigan Traditional Arts Program (MSU Museum) and Labor Education Program (MSU School of Human Resources and Labor Relations).

*Organizing in a precarious world of work: The Self Employed Women's Association in India*

2012 International Inequality and Development (Soc. 832), Department of Sociology, Michigan State University, March, Guest Lecture.

*Exploring the connection between violence against women and economic empowerment development programs.*

2011 CASID-GENCEN Friday Forum, Michigan State University, November.

*Witchcraft accusations, tea plantation economy, and lives of migrant laborers*

Qualitative Field methods (Soc 985), Department of Sociology, Michigan State University, October. Guest Lecture. *Analyzing qualitative data, using software*

Women's Studies Centre, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, August.

*Women's empowerment, and violence against women*

Panel on Feminist Research and Theory, Michigan State University, April.

*How does the researcher's identity influence research and theory?*

Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, January. Invited colloquium *Microcredits and anti-witch hunts campaigns*

Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar, January. Invited Speaker for Popular Lecture Series. *The problem of witch hunts among the tea plantation workers in North Bengal*

2010 Social Science History Association, November. Invited paper presentation on panel *Modernity and its others: Global and Comparative Perspectives*

CASID-GENCEN Friday Forum, Michigan State University, September.

*Gender and Development: Self Help Groups and violence against women*

**TEACHING (SELECTED COURSES)**

*Graduate Courses*

Classical Sociological Theory; Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change; Social Movements

*Undergraduate Courses*

Juvenile Justice; National Diversity and Social Change; Visual Sociology

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES AND CITATIONS**

2011 Quoted in *Aajkal* (Bengali local newspaper published in Kolkata, India) on how to prevent witch hunts in Dooars. Printed on August 15, 2011.

2010 Interviewed by Voice of America Bangla on Michigan's South Asian Islamic population and their political successes, Aired on November 29, 2010.

2009 Quoted in *The Big Green*, Volume 7, Issue 5, January 1, 2009. *Second Life Sexuality*. The saucy "reality" of a virtual world.

Interviewed by ABC News Lansing on the relationship between rise of crimes in Lansing and changes in weather patterns, March 19, 2009.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE**

### *PhD Dissertation Committee Member*

Defended Ali Mohammad (Criminal Justice)

Ongoing Naomi Glogower (Sociology)  
Breanne Grace (Sociology)  
Rachel Johansen (Sociology)  
Juyoung Song (Criminal Justice)  
Tia Stevens (Criminal Justice)  
Julie Yingling (Criminal Justice)  
Kimberly Underwood (Sociology)

### *Masters Thesis/Second Year Papers Committee Member*

Sociology Eric Beasley (defended 2009)  
Shikha Bista (Ongoing)  
John Clements (defended 2010)  
Naomi Glogower (defended 2009)  
Breanne Grace (defended 2009)  
Paula Miller (defended 2011)

### *Independent Studies with Graduate Students*

Eric Beasley and Naomi Glogower- Deviant Behavior and Social Control- Spring 2009

### *Undergraduate Thesis Advisor and Mentor for Capstone Paper*

Fall 2010 Mark Baynai (Peace and Justice Studies)-*Cyber Bullying and Its Problems among School children in USA*

Fall 2008 Shabana Lakdawala (Peace and Justice Studies) - *Dalit Social Movement in Tamil Nadu*

*Departmental Service (Sociology), Michigan State University*

- 2010-2012 Organized invited speaker, Dr. Nilika Mehrotra, CSSS, JNU. Event sponsored by GenCen and Department of Sociology, MSU.
- Faculty committee member on Graduate Education
- Subject matter faculty committee member on Culture, Gender and Family; Theory; Urban Migration and Race
- 2009-10 Faculty panel member at TA workshop for incoming graduate students
- Faculty committee member on Graduate Education
- Subject matter faculty committee member on Culture, Gender and Family; Theory; Urban Migration and Race
- 2008-09 Faculty committee member on Graduate Education and Curriculum
- Subject matter faculty committee member on Gender and Family; Theory; Urban Migration and Race

*Departmental Service (Criminal Justice), Michigan State University*

- 2011 Panel on Domestic Violence, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of the School of Criminal Justice
- Co-Organized reception for visiting scholar for GenCen Strategic Partnership (Dr. Banu Kavakli Birdal, Bogazici University, Turkey)
- 2010 Organized Dae Chang International Scholar Lecture (Invited scholar Gary Jensen, Vanderbilt University).

*Service to the University*

- 2012 GenCen Advisory Committee, Representative from College of Social Sciences (Elected for two year term 2012-2014)
- 2011 Advisory Council Member for South Asia, Asian Studies Center, MSU (Elected for two year term 2011-2013)
- Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change (GenCen) Fellowship Award review committee for Dissertation Completion and Writing Fellowships
- Faculty Advisory Committee, Center for Integrative Studies, Michigan State University (2010-2012)
- Faculty member for selection of teaching awards for Graduate Students and Faculty for CIS
- 2010 Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change (GenCen) Fellowship Award Committee for Dissertation Completion and Writing Fellowships

Faculty Advisor for Tom's Shoes, a nonprofit campus club of undergraduate students

*Service to the Profession*

- 2009 Submitted Special Session panel on Sociology of Witch hunts, for American Sociological Association Meetings 2010
- 2007—2008 Graduate Assistant, *Homicide Studies. An Interdisciplinary & International Journal*.
- 2004—2006 Assistant Editor, *Work and Occupations. An International Sociological Journal*.

*Reviewer (2008-present)*

American Journal of Sociology; American Sociological Review; Asian Journal of Criminology; Gender & Society; Homicide Studies; International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice; Journal of Men Studies; Journal of Urban Affairs; Mobilization: An International Journal; Poetics: Journal of Empirical research on Culture, the Media and the Arts; Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change; Qualitative Sociology; Violence Against Women

Reviewer for Social Science Research Council (SSRC) International Dissertation Research Fellowship competition 2012

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

- Participant, Workshop on Nvivo 9, May 2 to May 6, 2011  
Participant, *Write Winning Grants*, MAES, January 6, 2011

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Society of Criminology (sectional member: *Women and Crime*)  
American Sociological Association (Sectional member: *Collective behavior/social movements; Sociology of development; Crime, law and deviance, Methodology*)  
Sociologists for Women in Society  
Southern Sociological Society

**REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST**