

Riya Sharma

contact@riyasharma.com | rsharm50@uic.edu

EDUCATION

Current	PhD candidate (ABD) in the Department of Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Dissertation: "Scaling Up Trust: Radical Legacies, Cooperative Practices, and Countercultural Aspirations in Organic Markets of India"
2021	MA Anthropology, University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC)
2019	MPhil Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi Dissertation: "A Critique of Ethical Consumption: Values and Practices"
2017	MA Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
2015	BA English (Honors), St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2026	"Eating Traditional Foods the Traditional Way": Constraining commodification in millet markets of India." <i>Food, Culture & Society</i> https://doi.org/10.1080/15528014.2026.2738236 (online first)
Submitted	"Markets of Resistance: Cooperative countercultures, organic farming, and small-scale organic food markets in southern India," <i>Dialectical Anthropology</i>

Edited Collection

Forthcoming	Special issue on "Conjuring Alternative Worlds: Cooperatives, Social Movements, and the Future of Food and Climate" in <i>Dialectical Anthropology</i> , co-edited with Molly Doane and Caitlyn Dye (accepted)
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GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

External

2026	Honorable Mention, Student Research Paper Award (Graduate category), Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society
2023 - 2024	American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Fellowship (~\$11,000)
2017 - 2019	Junior Research Fellowship, University Grants Commission of India

University of Illinois Chicago

2025	Graduate Student Council Conference Travel Award, UIC (\$500)
2025	Conference Travel Award, Department of Anthropology, UIC (\$500)
2023	Award for Graduate Research, Graduate College, UIC (\$3,000)
2022	Charles Reed Award, Department of Anthropology, UIC (\$1,000)
2020	Provost's Graduate Research Award, UIC (\$4,000)

University of Delhi

2018	Travel grant from Kyoto University for the 11th Next-Generation Global Workshop
2016	Shri Shiv Lal Sawhney Scholarship, University of Delhi
2015	Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Scholarship, University of Delhi
2015	Sardar Sahib Memorial Prize, St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi

CONFERENCES

Panels Organized

2026	"Vernacular Markets" [Co-organized with Benjamin Bernard-Herman] American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting: St. Louis, MO, November 20 (accepted)
2025	"Conjuring Alternative Worlds: Cooperatives, Social Movements, and the Future of Food and Climate." [Co-organized with Molly Doane] American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting: New Orleans, LA, November 24

Papers Presented

2026	"Alt Food, Inc.": Consolidating a national market for organic and traditional foods in India." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting: St. Louis, MO, November 20 (accepted)
2025	"Cooperative Countercultures and Markets of Possibility: Insights from Southern India." American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 24 November
2024	"Against the Grain": Re-learning Tradition and Modernizing Millets for India." Diets and Local Food Systems in Asia, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, September 12-13.
2023	"Scaling Up Trust: Organic Certification and Farmers' Cooperatives in Southern India." American Institute of Indian Studies Junior Fellows Conference, UChicago Center, Delhi, December 21.
2022	"In Green We Trust: Consciousness, Credibility, and Certification at a Farmers Market in Delhi." Chicago Ethnography Conference, April 2.

- 2022 “Belonging in the “Organic World”: Trust and Exclusivity at a Farmers/Lifestyle Market in Delhi.” University of Chicago South Asia Graduate Student Conference XIX, March 3-4.
- 2019 “What is Sustainable about Organic Farming?: An Anthropological Reading.” Entangled Natures: A Conference on Human Ecology, Ambedkar University Delhi; New Delhi, India, 14 February.
- 2018 “The Self and Other of Fair Trade: Reflections on Advertisements for Cafédirect Coffees.” 11th Next-Generation Global Workshop, Kyoto University Asian Studies Unit; Kyoto, Japan, November 10.

Invited lecture

- 2023 “An Anthropologist Among Social Workers: Managing debts of time, labor, and theory in ethnographic fieldwork” for the Consumer Culture Lab, Indian Institute of Management—Udaipur, 31 March.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

- Present Research Assistant to Dr. Molly Doane, Department of Anthropology UIC. “Affective Scales of the Anthropocene: Gardening the city”
- 2021-2022 Research Assistant to Dr. Anna Guevarra, Global Asian Studies Program, UIC. “Dis/Placements: A people’s history of Uptown Chicago”
- Summer 2020 Research Assistant to Dr. Molly Doane, UIC
“Cultivating Wellbeing: The Social and Ecological Effects of Urban Gardening in Chicago.”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses taught as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Illinois Chicago

Spring 2021	Introduction to Economic Geography	(25 students x 3 sections)
Fall 2020	Introduction to Economic Geography	(25 students x 3 sections)
Spring 2020	Concepts in Geography	(25 students x 3 sections)
Fall 2019	Introduction to Economic Geography	(25 students x 3 sections)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- Peer Reviewer for *Consumption and Society* journal (Bristol University Press), 2025
- Coordinator, South Asia Reading Group, UIC Institute for the Humanities, 2023-2024
- Organizing committee, Second City Anthropology Conference, UIC, April 2022.
- Commissions Editor for [The New Ethnographer](#) blog, April – November 2020
- Student Representative, Gender Sensitization Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Delhi, 2018-2019

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Anthropological Association
European Association of Social Anthropologists
Community Economies Research Network

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING

Community Economies Institute Summer-Winter School, Researching Postcapitalist Possibilities, led by Dr. Katherine Gibson and Dr. Lucie Sovova, July 2025
Graduate course on Teaching the Social Sciences, University of Illinois Chicago (UIC), 2022
Graduate course on Managing Research Data, UIC, Spring 2022
UIC IRB's Training and Exemption for Human Subjects Research
National Eligibility Test for Assistant Professor of Sociology (UGC-NET, India), August 2017

LANGUAGES

English (near native), Hindi (native), Telugu (limited spoken proficiency)