

OLIVER GODSMARK

School of Humanities, Law and Creative Arts (University of Derby)

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EDUCATION

2010-2013	PhD History (University of Leeds)
2008-2009	MA Modern History (University of Leeds)
2005-2008	BA (Hons) History (University of Leeds)

Favourite university module

Gandhi and Gandhism – a module on Gandhi's career and experiences in Britain, South Africa and India, as well as Gandhian political ideology and philosophy, taught by Dr Talat Ahmed and Professor William Gould.

Favourite history book

I'm perhaps cheating a little here(!), but Vikram Seth's novel, A Suitable Boy, which is a work of historical fiction, got me really interested in the relationship between state and society in early postcolonial India, and subsequently shaped my postgraduate research interests.

EMPLOYMENT

2020-present	Senior Lecturer in History (University of Derby)
2019-2020	Lecturer in History (University of Derby)
2018-2019	Leverhulme Trust Postdoctoral Research Fellow (University of York)

2016-2018	Lecturer in International History (University of Sheffield)
2015-2016	Lecturer in Colonial/Imperial History (University of Exeter)
2014-2015	Lecturer in Imperial History (University of Kent)
2013-2014	Lecturer in Modern History (Loughborough University)

Like many early career academics, my initial career involved moving around the country to take up temporary posts at several different institutions. I gave up a three-year postdoctoral fellowship at York early to take up a permanent appointment closer to home in the East Midlands, and I've been at Derby ever since!

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- 'Global Maoist Optics among Diaspora: The Indian Workers' Association during India's food "crisis", 1965-69', *The Journal of Global History* (2026).
- 'Fragmented Sovereignty, *ḍakaitī* (Banditry) and "Criminal Tribe" in a "Minor" State of Late Colonial India', *The Historical Journal* 66 (2023).
- '"*Civis Indianus Sum*"? Ambedkar on Democracy and Territory during Linguistic Reorganisation (and Partition)', *Modern Asian Studies* 54 (2020).
- 'Searching for Synergies, Making Majorities: The Demands for Pakistan and Maharashtra', *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 42 (2019).
- Citizenship, Community and Democracy in India: From Bombay to Maharashtra, c. 1930-1960* (Routledge, 2018).
- 'Citizenship, Reservations and the Regional Alternative in the All-India Services, c. 1928-1950', *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies* 38 (2015).

These publications reflect the gradual evolution of my research interests. Much of my early research traced how ideas about citizenship, democracy and sovereignty evolved during India's gradual transition from colonial rule to independent statehood. More recently, I have moved towards researching

the global activism of the Indian diaspora in Britain. I'm particularly interested in how organisations representing the diaspora engaged with radical left politics during the Cold War, as well as their colonial heritage. Whilst these interests might seem quite distinct, what links them is a wider concern with decolonisation and its ongoing legacies and impacts. This focus is equally apparent in my teaching and public engagement activities.