

CURRICULUM VITAE

MAHESH RANGARAJAN

DATE OF BIRTH: 22 April 1964

NATIONALITY: Indian

ADDRESS: Dept of History,
New Social Sciences Building,
North Campus,
University of Delhi,
Delhi - 110007,
India
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PRESENT STATUS: Professor

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS:

I.C.S.E., (Class X Board) St. Columba's School, New Delhi, 1980, First Division, scoring 75 per cent.

Indian School Certificate (I.S.C.), (Class XII Board) St. Columba's School, New Delhi, 1982, First Division, scoring 76 per cent.

B.A. History (Honours), Hindu College, Delhi University, 1985,
With a First Division and placed third in order of merit in the University, scoring 64 per cent.

B.A. in Modern History with Honours, Balliol College,
Oxford University, U.K. 1988 with a First Class.

M.A. in Modern History, Balliol College,
Oxford University, UK, 1993.

D.Phil. (Ph.D.) in Modern History, Nuffield College,
Oxford University, UK 1993.

Supervisor: Professor Tapan Raychaudhuri, St Antony's College, Oxford.
Thesis topic: 'Forest Policy in the Central Provinces'.

ACADEMIC PRIZES, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS HELD

1986:

Rhodes Scholarship (1986-89) for a BA (Hons.) in Modern History, Balliol College and then at Nuffield College, Oxford University, UK (1988-89).

1988:

Awarded Martin Wright Prize, Balliol College Oxford, UK.
Elected to a Studentship at Nuffield College (1988-91)

1991:

Charles Wallace Scholar and Beit Scholar, Nuffield College, Oxford University, U.K.

1994-1999:

Junior Fellow, Centre for Contemporary Studies, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, India.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

1988-92:

Tutored second year and final year B.A. with Modern History students at Nuffield College, University of Oxford in 1989, 1991 and 1992;
Delivered lectures on the paper, 'Imperialism and nationalism, South Asia', Faculty of Modern History in Hilary Term 1989 and Hilary Term 1990.

1993 -1994:

Assistant Editor, *The Telegraph*.

1995:

Visitor, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, May and June, 1995.

1994-99:

Junior Fellow, Centre for Contemporary Studies, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, India. Post held from 1 August 1994 to 31 July 1999.

1999:

Visitor, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, June, 1999.
--Researcher, Ranthambhore Foundation, New Delhi from 1 August 1999 to 30 November 1999 to work on a 30,000 word book length manuscript in India's Wildlife History (Submitted 30 November 1999 and published by Permanent Black in 2001).

2001-04:

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, hosted with the Mario Einaudi Centre for International Relations, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA.
I taught South Asian Environmental History, the post being jointly with the Mario Einaudi Center and courses cross-listed in Asian Studies.
This entailed being in residence from January to May for each of the three years 2002, 2003 and 2004.
I developed, taught and graded two courses, an undergraduate course at 300 Level, 'The environmental History of South Asia' and a Graduate Level seminar at 400 Level, 'Conservation, politics and history'.

2002:

Visitor, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, June 2002.

2005:

Visitor and Lecturer, MSc. Programme of Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bangalore, housed at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore. I have taught two papers, 'Ecological history of India' and 'Science, society and conservation'. I have been involved in the design and evaluation of the social science component of the Masters' Programme since the planning stages.

2006-07:

Guest Lecturer at the School of Environmental Studies, Delhi University September-November 2006 for a paper on Natural Resource conflicts in the MA Final Year. I was involved from the very

inception in the design of the syllabi for the joint MA/MSc in Environmental Studies in the School launched in 200-506.

2005-06 and 2006-07:

Visiting Professor, Dept. of History, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

BOOKS PUBLISHED

1996:

Fencing the Forest, Conservation and Ecological Change in India's Central Provinces, 1860-1914, Oxford University Press, Delhi and Oxford, 1996; OUP Paperback, 1999.

1999:

---Ed., *The Oxford Anthology of Indian Wildlife, Volume I, Hunting and Shooting*, Oxford University Press, Delhi and Oxford.

---Ed., *Volume II, Watching and Conserving*
Oxford University Press, Delhi and Oxford.

2000:

Co-authored with VK Saberwal and A Kothari,
Towards Coexistence, People, Parks and Wildlife,
Orient Longman, Delhi, 2000.

2001:

India's Wildlife History: An Introduction
Permanent Black in association with the Ranthambhore Foundation,
Delhi, 2001, Paperback, 2006.

2003:

Vasant Kabir Saberwal and M Rangarajan, Ed.,
Battles over Nature, Science and the politics of conservation,
Permanent Black, Delhi, 2003, Paperback, 2006.

2007:

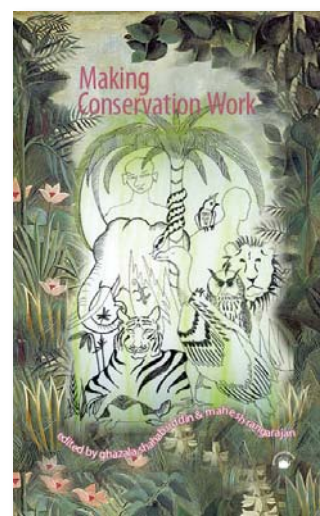
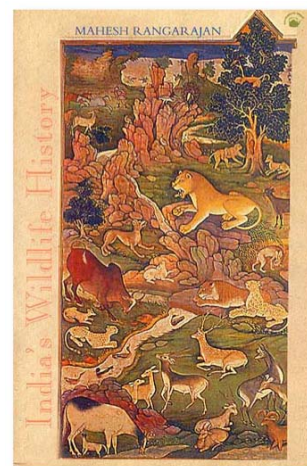
Edited, *Environmental Issues in India: A Reader*,
Delhi: Pearson Longman, January 2007.
International edition due in July and Hindi version by October. Editions
in six other Indian languages are planned with fund for the translations
being raised from the World Wide Fund or Nature India (WWF-N-
India).

-- Ghazala Shahabuddin and Mahesh Rangarajan edited, *Making Conservation Work, Securing biodiversity in this new Century* (Delhi: Permanent Black, June 2007)

PAPERS PUBLISHED: (IN JOURNALS/BOOKS)

1994:

-'Imperial Agendas and India's Forests: The Early history of Indian forestry, 1800-1878', *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, Vol. 21(1994), pp. 147-167.



1995:

-‘Human-wildlife conflicts’,
Seminar, No. 426(1995), pp. 19-22.

1996:

-‘Environmental Histories of South Asia: A Review essay’,
Environment and History, Vol. 2 (1996) pp. 129-144.

-‘The Politics of Ecology: The debate on people and wildlife in India, 1970-95’,*Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 31(1996), pp. 2391-2410.

‘The proposed Forest Act and shifting cultivation’ in Walter Fernandes, ed., *Drafting a People’s Forest Bill, Towards a Forest-Dweller-Social Activist Alternative*, Indian Social Institute, Delhi, 1998, pp. 121-129.

-‘Of nature, power and people’,
Seminar, No. 438(1996), pp. 24-26.

-, With Ashish Kothari, Neema Pathak and Nina Singh, ‘Changing India’s conservation laws’,
Lokayan Bulletin, Vol. 12(1996), pp. 35-40.

1997:

-‘The politics of Transition’,
Seminar, No. 449(1997), pp. 41-44.

-With V Patidar, ‘India, First past the post system on a grand scale’, in *IDEA Handbook on Electoral System Design*, IDEA, Stockholm, 1997, pp. 33-35.

1998:

-‘The Raj and The Natural World, The campaign against ‘dangerous beasts in colonial India’,
Studies in History, Vol. 14(1998), pp. 266-299.

-‘The role of administration in extermination: Fresh evidence on the cheetah in India’, *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society*, Vol. 95(1998), pp. 328-32.

-‘Troubled Legacy: A brief history of wildlife preservation in India’
Occasional Paper, No. 34, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi.

-‘Gandhi’s notion of *ahimsa* and the human-nature relationship’,
Seminar, No. 466(1998), pp. 96-98.

-‘Production, desiccation and forest management in the Central Provinces’ in RH Grove, S Sangwan and V Damodaran, ed., *Nature and the Orient, Essays in the Environmental History of South and South East Asia*, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1998, pp. 575-95.

-‘Saffron King, Regional Knights’,
Seminar, No. 465 (1998).

-‘The South in the ascendant’,
Seminar, Vol. 461(1998), pp. 30-34.

1999:

-‘Remaking the Map of India’,

Seminar, No. 473(1999), pp. 39-41.

-‘One, two, many Indias?’

Seminar, No. 480(1999), pp. 26-29.

2000:

-‘India’s environmental future-beyond utopia and doomsday’,

In Romila Thapar, ed., *India: Another Millennium?* Penguin, Delhi, 2000, pp. 293-306.

-‘Beyond state and market, The Indian environment debate’,

In Neera Chandhoke ed., *Mapping Histories, Essays in Presented to Prof Ravinder Kumar*, Tulika, Delhi, 2000, pp. 365-87.

--‘Hindutva’s accursed problem’,

Seminar, No. 485(2000), pp. 37-40.

2001:

-‘From princely symbol to conservation icon, a political history of the lion in India,’ In Nariaki Nakazato and Mushirul Hasan, ed., *The Unfinished Agenda, Nation-building in South Asia*, Manohar, Delhi, and pp. 399-442.

2002:

-‘Five nature writers: Corbett, Anderson, Ali, Sankhala and Krishnan’, In Arvind Mehrotra ed., *Illustrated History of Indian Writing in English*, Permanent Black, Delhi, Permanent Black, pp. 351-365.

-‘Polity, Ecology and landscape: fresh writing on South Asia’s past’,

Studies in History, Vol. 17, no. 1 (2002), pp. 135-148.

2003:

‘Parks, Politics and History, Conservation Dilemmas in Africa’,

Conservation and Society, Vol. 1, no. 1. (2003), pp. 77-98.

2004:

‘The Raj and the natural world, The war against ‘dangerous beasts’ in colonial India’, in John Knight ed., *Wildlife in Asia, Cultural Perspectives*, Routledge Curzon Press, London, 2004, pp. 207-232.

2005:

Polity in Transition: India after the 2004 general elections’,

Economic and Political Weekly, Volume 40, no. 32, 6 August 2005, pp. 3597-3605.

-‘Fire in the Forest’, *Economic and Political Weekly*, 19 November 2005, Vol. 40, pp. 4888-4890.

2006:

-‘Partners in conflict’, *Seminar*, January 2006.

--, ‘Battles for nature? Contesting Wildlife conservation in 20th century India’ in Nathan Stoltzfus, Christoph Mauch and Douglas Weiner ed., *Shades of Green, Movements to save the planet*, Rowman and Littlefield.

--with Ghazala Shahabuddin, ‘Relocation from Protected Areas: Towards a Historical and Biological Synthesis’, *Conservation and Society*, Volume 4, no. 3 (2006), pp. 359-378.

--'Ideology, the environment and policy: Indira Gandhi',
IIC Quarterly, Vol. 33, no. 1 (2006), PP. 50-64.

-- Madhusudan, M. D., Shanker, K., Kumar, A., Mishra, C., Sinha, A., Arthur, R., Datta, A.,
Rangarjan M., Chellam, R., Shahabuddin, G., Sankaran, R., Singh, M., Ramakrishnan, U. & Rajan,
P. D.; 'Science in the wilderness: the predicament of scientific research in India's wildlife reserves',
Current Science 91 (2006) : 1015-1019.

2007:

- 'Reviving the Congress', *Seminar*, January 2007.

-- 'Retreating elephant, vanishing tiger, the environmental legacies of India and China', in Ira Pande
edited, *India at Sixty*, Delhi: Harper Collins, May 2007.

- 'The Problem: Reorienting conservation,' *Seminar*, September 2007.

- IN PRESS, 'Colonialism, Ecology and Environment, Departures and beginnings' IN PRESS
Nandini Gooptu and Douglas Peers ed.,
India and the British Empire. Oxford History of the British Empire Companion Series, Oxford: OUP.

- IN PRESS, 'Environmental Histories of India: Of states, landscapes and ecologies', in Terry Burke
and Ken Pomeranz edited, *Environment and World History*, Berkeley: University of California Press.

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES (Select List only)

1989, 1990, and 1991:

Organised Day long Workshops on 'Imperialism, Ecology and Politics' at Nuffield College, Oxford,
UK for students working in related subjects. Graduate students as well as senior scholars presented
work in progress papers.

1992:

--Presented a paper entitled 'Production, desiccation and forest management' in the Conference on
the Environmental History of South and South East Asia held at Nistads, New Delhi, India, March
1992.

--Presented a paper entitled 'Baigas, Gonds and the British, Imperial Agendas in the Central
Provinces' at the Conference on South Asia's Environmental History held at Bellagio, Italy in
February, 1992.

1996:

Participated in the Sephis Conference held at Zanzibar, Tanzania on
'Liberalisation, Equity and Exclusion: A Debate among Historians', and presented a paper titled,
'Beyond State and market: The Indian environment debate'.

1997:

--Presented a paper titled 'The Raj and the Natural world, the campaign against 'Dangerous beasts
in colonial India', at the Seminar On 'Animals in Asia' held at the International Institute of Asian
Studies, Leiden, The Netherlands.

2000:

--'Contesting Wildlife conservation in 20th century India' at a conference in Florida State University, Tallahassee, 2-4 Dec. 2000 organised by the Florida State University and the German-American Historical Institute.

2002:

--'Conservation concerns, vanishing species and imperial debates in late 19th c. India' in conference on 'The Environmental History of Asia', Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, organised by the university in association with Sussex University, UK in December 2002.

--Co-organiser with Dr VK Saberwal and Dr. Amita Baviskar, Conference on 'Political environmentalisms,' Dept. of Sociology, the Delhi School of Economics, 6 December 2002.

2003:

--June 2003. Paper on 'Contesting conservation in 20th century India: a comparative historical view' at the African Studies Seminar, chaired by Prof. William Beinart, St Antony's College, Oxford.

2004:

--'Colonialism, ecology and environment: departures and beginnings'
At the conference in Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford organised by Nandini Gooptu and Douglas Peers under the rubric 'The Oxford History of the British Empire', 24-26 August 2004.

--May 2004. Chair of session on Colonialism and conservation. American Society of American History (ASEH) Annual Conference, Brown University, USA.

2005:

'Polity in transition: Indian politics and the 2004 general elections',
The Prof. AL Basham Memorial Lecture, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, 31 January 2005.

Co-organiser of the one day workshop with the College Lecturers on the new BA Concurrent course paper, 'Environmental Issues in India, Dept. of History, Delhi University, 10 September 2005.

2006:

--Talk entitled, 'On displacement and alternative strategies, South Asia & Region' on 19 October 2007 in 'Landscapes of Meaning, South Asia-Australia connections: environment and people', Wednesday 18th - Friday 20th October, 2006, University of Technology, Sydney.

'Nehru, nature and the Nation', a paper read at the conference on the Environment and Livelihoods, Dept. of History, University of Kolkata, 6-8 March 2006.

--Co-organiser of the conference on 'Making Conservation Work' with Dr Ghazala Shahabuddin, Council for Social Development, May 2006.

--'Indira Gandhi and the environment', Conference on 'Nature in the Raj: Colonial Environments and Indigenous Knowledge, Nehru Memorial Museum (NMML) and Library, Delhi, September, 2006. I was a co-organiser of the conference organised by the NMML with Sussex University and the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

--Papers read on 'Displacement and conservation from Indian Protected Areas,' ('Biodiversity', 17th December) and on 'Colonialism, Ecology and Environment: the Indian experience' ('Environmental History', 16th December) at panels in the International Society for Ecological

Economics (ISEE) with host its Ninth Biennial Conference entitled "Ecological Sustainability and Human Well-being", , New Delhi, December 15-18, 2006. The papers from the latter panel are being prepared for a co-edited book.

2007:

Co-organiser and chair of the one day follow- up workshop with the College Lecturers on the new BA Concurrent course paper, 'Environmental Issues in India, Dept. of History, Delhi University, 10 January 2007.

Academic editorial positions

1995-2000:

Corresponding Editor, *Environment and History*, Cambridge-based refereed journal. Member of the founding team headed by Dr. Richard H. Grove.

2001 onwards:

Co-editor of the book series with Dr. K. Ullas Karanth on *Nature, Culture, Conservation* published by Permanent Black. By September a total of 15 books will have been published. Many, though not all, are works with historical and sociological themes. (Details are available at <http://permanent-black.blogspot.com>)

2003-2006:

Member, Editorial Advisory Board, *Conservation and Society*

I was a founding member of the team that founded this inter-disciplinary refereed journal founded 2003. The journal is now published once every quarter from Bangalore by A Tree. Editor in chief: Prof Kamaljit Bawa, University of Massachusetts at Boston. (The journal is free on the web at: www.conservationandsociety.org).

2007-2009:

Associate Editor, *Conservation and Society*.

BOOKS IN PROGRESS

-- (Forthcoming):

Mahesh Rangarajan and K. Sivaramakrishnan Ed.,
Perspectives on the Environmental History of India: Volume I, From Earliest times to the Company Raj
Perspectives on the Environmental History of India: Volume II: Colonialism, Modernity and the Nation.
(Proposal Submitted to the publishers, Permanent Black, Delhi, December 2005; Final script due in September 2007).

--(Forthcoming)

Co-edited volume with the proposal currently under review with William McNeill, Jose Padua and Juan Martinez Alier, *Environmental history and environmental economics*, Delhi: OUP. The editors aim to submit the MS subject to approval by reviewers by September 2007.

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Reader on Environmental Issues: follow up, 2007

The WWF-N, India has agreed to co-host with Pearson Longman two follow-up workshops on the Reader in late 2007.

One will be a workshop for on-going work on ecology, society and history in Delhi for students and senior scholars with works in progress.

The other is for a workshop with those teaching the subject in Hindi. The latter will be held when the Hindi version of the Reader presently under preparation is nearing completion.

Relocation and Conservation, 2007-08

Consequent to the debate on the subject in the issue of *Conservation and Society* (Vol. 4, no. 3, 2007), in association with Dr. Ghazala Shahabuddin, we are inviting more scholars across regions and disciplines to join in the debate. At the end of 2007, we hope to assess how to revise these papers (and commission fresh writing if necessary) for an edited volume.

Conservation in changing Landscapes, 2008

In association with Dr. Harini Nagendra of Indiana University, Bloomington, Dr Shahabuddin and I plan to organise a conference on the above theme. The idea is to integrate perspectives from natural and social scientists and carry forward the debates. The conference will aim to yield a special section of an international refereed journal as well as a co edited book and will take place some time in 2008.

The social history of hunting and wildlife conservation in India, 2008

I would hope to complete a monograph length manuscript of about 120,000 words by late 2008. About half has already been published in the form of papers and several related spin-off papers have been published. The idea will be to consolidate and complete the book, which will cover the story from the mid 19th century to the present day.
