

Dr Joppan GEORGE

Education

- PhD. (History) Princeton University, 2019
 - M.A. (History) Princeton University, 2013
 - M.A. (Film Studies) Jadavpur University, 2008
 - B.A. (History) Delhi University, 2005
-

Professional Experience

JULY 2022 – JULY 2024

Research Fellow, ARI, NUS

- Preparation of my first monograph, *Airborne Colony: Ballooning and Aviation in India, 1889-1939*.

AUGUST 2019 – AUGUST 2021

Postdoctoral Fellow, IIAS, Leiden University

- Preparation of articles based on my dissertation for publication.
-

Research Area/Topic/Discipline

History of Science and Technology; Colonialism; Environmental History; Modern South Asia; Global History

Short Biography

I am a Research Fellow in the Science, Technology and Society Cluster in the Asia Research Institute, NUS. Trained as a historian of modern South Asia, I study the transformations of colonial society under the impact of science and technology. Currently, I am finalising the manuscript of my first monograph, *Airborne Colony: Ballooning and Aviation in India, 1889-1939*. In it, I investigate the culture and politics of colonial aviatic practices in South Asia. By focusing on the new ways of moving, seeing, and knowing engineered through a series of specific deployments of balloons and airplanes, my book traces the powers of these imperial technologies to further claim and control the colony through survey and surveillance. With the altitude gained by the colonial agents in airplanes, I examine how their attitude to governance changed in the last phase of colonialism. This book project revises and expands my doctoral dissertation that won the 2019 Brooke Hindle Postdoctoral Dissertation Fellowship awarded by the Society for the History of Technology.

I earned a PhD in History from Princeton University (2019) under the academic supervision of professors Gyan Prakash and Emily Thompson, and MA degrees in History (2013), and in Film Studies (2008).

Sep 2023

Besides the history of colonial aviation, I am interested in environmental history, colonial epistemologies, history of media technology, and literary translations.

Publications

Refereed Articles

“Gujranwala, 14 April 1919: Terror from Air and Airmindedness in Late Colonial India,” (under review) *Journal of Transport History*.

“Princely Airs: Legal Cartography of Aerial Sovereignty in Colonial India, 1919-1932”, (under review) *Modern Asian Studies*.

“Everest from on High: British Imperial Aerial Expedition to the Himalayan Frontiers, 1932-34,” *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*, Vol.4, Issue 1, Spring 2018, pp.187-227.

The Many Passages of Sound: Indian Talkies in the 1930s, *Bioscope: South Asian Screen Studies*, Vol.2, Issue 1, 2011, pp. 83-98.

Awards/Grants and Distinctions

The Brooke Hindle Postdoctoral Fellowship in the History of Technology awarded by the Society for the History of Technology, 2019.

Graduate Fellow, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, 2016-2017

PIIRS-Mellon-Sawyer Seminar Fellowship, Princeton University, 2016 Spring

Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Summer Research Grant, 2-14, 2013

Hagley Museum and Library Exploratory research Grant, 2012