

Prof Tansen SEN

<https://cga.shanghai.nyu.edu/people/tansen-sen/>

Education

- PhD, Asian Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 1996
 - MA, History, Peking University, 1990
 - BA, Chinese Language and Literature, Beijing Languages Institute, 1987
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Professional Experience

2017 - PRESENT

Professor of History, NYU Shanghai and NYU

- Teach courses on China and transregional history
- Director of the Center for Global Asia at NYU Shanghai

1997 - 2017

Assistant - Associate Professor, Baruch College, CUNY

- Teach courses on world history, Asia, and religions
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Research Area/Topic/Discipline

Premodern China and India
Buddhism
Indian Ocean
Global Asia

Short Biography

Tansen Sen is Professor of history; the Director of the Center for Global Asia at New York University Shanghai; and Associated Full Professor at NYU. He is currently Nalanda Visiting Professor at ARI. He is the author of *Buddhism, Diplomacy, and Trade: The Realignment of Sino-Indian Relations, 600-1400* and *India, China, and the World: A Connected History*. He has edited *Buddhism Across Asia*, and co-edited *Travelling Pasts: The Politics of Cultural Heritage in the Indian Ocean World* and *Beyond Pan-Asianism: Connecting China and India, 1840s–1960s*.

Publications

Books

1. Sen, T. (Under contract). *Zheng He in Indian Ocean History, Culture, and Politics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. Sen, T. (2017). *India, China, and the World: A Connected History*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield. South Asian edition (2018): Oxford University Press.
3. Sen, T., and Mair, V. (2012). *Traditional China in Asian and World History*. Ann Arbor: Association for Asian Studies.
4. Sen, T. (2003). *Buddhism, Diplomacy, and Trade: The Realignment of Sino-Indian Relations, 600-1400*. Honolulu: Association for Asian Studies and University of Hawai'i Press. South Asian edition: Manohar, 2004. Paperback edition: Rowman & Littlefield, 2016. Chinese edition, forthcoming.

Refereed Article

(Select)

1. Sen, T. (2023). Inventing the “Maritime Silk Road.” *Modern Asian Studies*, 57.4: 1059–1104.
2. Sen, T. (2023). Covid Nationalism and Its Discontents in China. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 58.5: 14–19.
3. Sen, T., and Adhira Mangalagiri. (2022). Introduction: Methods in China–India Studies. *International Journal of Asian Studies*, 19.2: 169–185.
4. Sen, T. (2021). India’s Recognition of the People’s Republic of China. *China and Asia: A Journal in Historical Studies*, 3.2: 186–201.
5. Sen, T., Arunabh Ghosh, and Adhira Mangalagiri. (2021). General Introduction: China and India in the Age of Decolonization: An Analysis of the Nehru Papers, 1947–1964. *China and Asia: A Journal in Historical Studies*, 3: 177–182.
6. Sen, T. (2021). China–India Studies: The Emergence, Development, and State of the Field. *Journal of Asian Studies*, 80(2): 363–387.

Edited Journal Special Issue

1. Sen, T., and Adhira Mangalagiri (2022). Methods in China-India Studies. *International Journal of Asian Studies*.
2. Sen, T. (2012). Studies in India-China Interactions Dedicated to Professor Ji Xianlin. *China Report: Journal of East Asian Studies (Special Issue)*, 48 (1-2).
3. Sen, T., and Zhang, X. (2008). Yindu Huaqiao Huaren zhuan ti [Special Issue on the Overseas Chinese in India]. *Huaqiao Huaren lishi yanjiu* [English Title: Overseas Chinese History Studies], 84(3).
4. Sen, T. (2007). Kolkata (India) and China: Unexplored Links. *China Report: A Journal of East Asian Studies (Special Issue)*, 43(4).
5. Sen, T., Boucher, D., and Schmid, N. (2006). China at the Crossroads: A Festschrift in Honor of Professor Victor H. Mair. *Asia Major (Special Issue)*, 19(1-2).

Edited Book

1. Sen, T., and Engseeng Ho, (Ed.). (Under contract). *The Cambridge History of the Indian Ocean, Volume 1*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. Sen, T., and Brian Tsui, (Ed.). (2021). *Beyond Pan-Asianism: Connecting China and India, 1840s–1960s*. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.
3. Burkhard Schnepel and Sen, T. (Ed.). (2019). *Travelling Pasts: The Politics of Cultural Heritage in the Indian Ocean World*. Leiden: Brill.
4. Sen, T., and Sun Yinggang, (Ed.). (2016). *ZhongYin guanxi yanjiu de shiye yu qianjing* (Conceptualizing and Re-Examining India-China Connections). Shanghai: Fudan University Press.
5. Sen, T., (Ed.). (2014). *Buddhism across Asia: Networks of Material, Intellectual and Cultural Exchange, Volume 1*. Singapore and Delhi: Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and Manohar Publishers.
6. Wang, B., and Sen, T., (Comp.). (2011). *India and China, Interactions through Buddhism and Diplomacy: A Collection of Essays by Prabodh Chandra Bagchi*. London and New Delhi: Anthem Press.

Book Chapter

Select

1. Sen, T. (2026). Authority and Control in the Maritime Interactions between China and South Asia, 1200-1840. In Maria Adele Carrai and Surabhi Ranganathan (Ed.), *The Cambridge History of International Law, Volume 2* (339–369). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. Sen, T. (2026). The Politics of Constructing the History of China’s Foreign Relations in the PRC. In Kristin Stapleton, Xin Fan, and Els van Dongen (Ed.), *SAGE Handbook of Interpreting Chinese History* (29–55). Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.
3. Sen, T. (2025). Jiaergedu Huaren yiminshequ de simiao yichan (Temple Heritage of the Chinese Migrant Community in Kolkata. Chinese translation of Temple Heritage of a Chinese Migrant Community: Movement, Connectivity, and Identity in the Maritime World). In Zhu Mei and Niu Junkai (Ed.), *Yazhou shi daolun* (Introduction to Asian History) (127–155). Beijing: Shehui kexue wenxian chubanshe.
4. Sen, T. (2024). China’s Ascendancies and the China–India Experience. In Mayfair Yang (Ed.), *Anthropology of Ascendant China: Histories, Attainment, and Tribulations* (pp. 29–48). New York: Routledge.
5. Sen, T. (2023). South Asia and the Mongol Empire. In Michal Biran and Hodong Kim (Ed.), *The Cambridge History of the Mongol Empire, Volume 1*. (pp. 1458-1485). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
6. Sen, T. (2022). Giraffes and Elephants: Circulation of Exotic Animals in the *Longue Durée* History of the Indian Ocean World. In Burkhard Schnepel and Julia Verne (Ed.), *Cargoes in Motion: Materiality and Connectivity in the Indian Ocean* (pp. 113-144). Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press.

Op-Eds

Select

1. Sen, T. (2025). Who was Atchew: The First Chinese in India? Parts 1-4.
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a932d29c7f964fefbd4437b2ac4c8546>
2. Sen, T. (2022). The Materiality of Friendship: Kongfuzi as a Source for China-India Interactions during the 1950s, Parts 1-4.
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/20b8d81ad58a4146ba24d1e0a832183c>
3. Sen, T., and Michael O’Sullivan (2021). Vernacular Capitalism and Intellectual History. JAS Author Interview, Number 10, 27 May.
https://www.asianstudies.org/michael-osullivan-on-vernacular-capitalism-and-intellectual-history/?fbclid=IwAR3XZPVllkJBlAyhT_8gNyqEPehJbDGWND4yu_waqucrbjPwlhaUY1Df51E

4. A, Ghosh and Sen, T. (2021). Know thy Neighbour: The Study of Chinese History in India is in Crisis. *Indian Express*, January 20.
5. Sen, T. (2018). Is China's Secret Superstar Aamir Khan the Second Coming of India's Tagore? *South China Morning Post*, January 28.
6. Sen, T. (2018). Nation States Have Failed Us: To Improve Relations, China and India Must Allow Their Peoples to Interact Freely. *The Times of India*, January 6.
7. Sen, T. (2017). The "Indo-Pacific" is Really Nothing New, Just Ask the Fish. *South China Morning Post*, December 30.

Awards/Grants and Distinctions

Select

Sen, T. (Project Director). Global Asia Studies Hub, Henry Luce Foundation, US\$ 450,000 (2026 – 2029)

Sen, T. (Member), Andrew Mellon Foundation, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (2024-2025).

Sen, T. (Applicant), Florence in Global Asia. NYU Mega Grant Seed Funding, US\$ 35,000 (2025-2026).

Sen, T. (Project Director), Arunabh Ghosh, Gal Gvili, China and India in an Age of Decolonization: An Analysis of the Nehru Papers, 1947–1964. National Endowment for the Humanities, Collaborative Scholarly Digital Projects, US\$ 244,623 (2023-2026). Terminated by the order of President Donald Trump in April 2025.

Sen, T. (Co-applicant and member), Chinese Global Orders. British Academy, Global Convening Programmes, £ 1,500,000 (2023-2026).

Sen, T. (Lead Applicant), Asia and the Mediterranean World: An International Conference at NYU Florence, Global Opportunity Grant and Global Research Initiative, NYU, US\$ 46,000.

Sen, T. (Project Director), The Port City Environments in Global Asia: BRI, Boost Funds, NYU Shanghai, RMB 400,000.

Sen, T. (Project Co-Director), David Ludden, and Mark Swislocki, The Port City Environments in Global Asia, Asia Initiative Grant, Henry Luce Foundation, US\$ 450,000. (2018–2021); US\$ 450,000 (2021-2024).