

DEEPA DAS ACEVEDO

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CURRENT

Emory University School of Law, *Associate Professor* (June 2023–) (with tenure Nov. 2023–); *Affiliated Faculty*, Laney Graduate School (April 2025–)
India Center for Law and Justice, Seattle University School of Law, *Affiliated Faculty* (2019–)

EDUCATION

The University of Chicago Law School, *JD, 2016 honors*
The University of Chicago, Department of Anthropology, *PhD, 2013; MA, 2009*
Princeton University, Department of Politics, *AB, 2006 magna cum laude*

BOOKS

THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM OF INDIA (co-author Deepika Kinhal) (Oxford University Press)	<i>under contract</i>
• invited contribution to <i>Judicial Systems of the World</i> series, eds. David Law & Bryant Garth	
THE WAR ON TENURE (Cambridge University Press)	2025
• <i>10 Best Higher Education Books of 2025</i> , FORBES	
THE BATTLE FOR SABARIMALA: RELIGION, LAW, AND GENDER IN CONTEMPORARY INDIA (Oxford University Press)	2024
<i>Editor, BEYOND THE ALGORITHM: QUALITATIVE INSIGHTS FOR GIG WORK REGULATION</i> (Cambridge University Press)	2021
• <i>Honorable Mention</i> , Society for the Anthropology of Work 2021 Book Prize	

ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

(* indicates peer review) († indicates invited contribution)

<i>Extramural Absolutism</i>	2025
JOURNAL OF FREE SPEECH LAW 6(2): 321–366	
<i>The Past as a Colonialist Resource</i>	
DUKE LAW JOURNAL 73(7): 1373–1436	2024b
• Earlier draft selected for 2020 Stanford/Harvard/Yale Junior Faculty Forum	
<i>The War on Tenure</i>	
TENNESSEE LAW REVIEW 91(1): 1–52	2024a
<i>* † Deities' Rights?</i>	
JOURNAL OF LAW & RELIGION, 38(3): 450–468	2023b
<i>* Tenure as a Labor Protection</i>	
EMPLOYEE RIGHTS & EMPLOYMENT POLICY JOURNAL 26(2): 109–143	2023a
<i>* † From Mythic Saviors to #MeToo at the Indian Supreme Court</i>	
ASIAN JOURNAL OF LAW AND SOCIETY 8(2): 226–254	2021b
• 2023 Article Award, AALS Section on Law and South Asia	
<i>Essentializing Labor Before, During, and After the Coronavirus Pandemic</i>	
ARIZONA STATE LAW JOURNAL 52(4): 1091–1141	2021a
• reviewed May 7, 2021, in <i>JOTWELL: The Journal of Things We Like (Lots)</i>	

* <i>Just Hindus</i>	2020b
LAW & SOCIAL INQUIRY 45(4): 965–994	
* <i>Changing the Subject of Sati</i>	2020a
POLITICAL & LEGAL ANTHROPOLOGY REVIEW 43(1): 37–53	
• an earlier version won the Roy D. Albert Prize for best M.A. thesis in Anthropology	
† <i>Data Deficits in Municipal Rideshare Collaborations</i>	2019
ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY LAW JOURNAL 63(1): 69–92	
<i>Unbundling Freedom in the Sharing Economy</i>	
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW 91(5) 793–838	2018c
• Featured on Larry Solum's Legal Theory blog	
* † <i>Gods' Homes, Men's Courts, Women's Rights</i>	2018b
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW 16(2): 552–73	
† <i>Invisible Bosses for Invisible Workers, or Why the Sharing Economy is Actually Minimally Disruptive</i>	2018a
UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LEGAL FORUM 2017: 35–61	
<i>Sovereignty and Social Change in the Wake of India's Recent Sodomy Cases</i>	2017
BOSTON COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL & COMPARATIVE LAW REVIEW 40(1): 1–26	
* <i>Temples, Courts, and Dynamic Equilibrium in the Indian Constitution</i>	2016d
AMERICAN JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE LAW 64(3): 555–82	
* <i>Regulating Employment Relationships in the Sharing Economy</i>	2016c
EMPLOYEE RIGHTS & EMPLOYMENT POLICY JOURNAL 20(2): 1–35	
† <i>Celibate Gods and “Essential Practices” Jurisprudence at Sabarimala, 1991–2011</i>	2016b
in FILING RELIGION: STATE, HINDUISM, AND COURTS OF LAW 101 (eds. Daniela Berti et al)	
* <i>Divine Sovereignty, Indian Property Law, and the Dispute Over the Padmanabhaswamy Temple</i>	2016a
MODERN ASIAN STUDIES 50(3): 841–865	
* <i>Secularism in the Indian Context</i>	2013
LAW & SOCIAL INQUIRY 38(1): 138–67	

SHORT PIECES († indicates invited contribution)

† <i>An Inter-Asian Approach to Religion-State Relations?</i>	in production
INTER-ASIAN LAW (eds. Matthew Erie & Ching-Fu Lin)	
† <i>Cultivating Attentiveness to Law in India through Legal Anthropology</i>	2024
SOCIO-LEGAL REVIEW 20(2): 25–51 (co-authored with Jahnavi Chamarthi, Emory '25)	
<i>Peopling Constitutional Law: Revisiting ‘Constitutional Ethnography’ in the Twenty-First Century</i>	
I-CONNECT (blog of the <i>International Journal of Constitutional Law</i>)	2023
• introduction to symposium, ed. Deepa Das Acevedo	
† <i>Disciplinary Deities and How to Please Them</i>	2023
LAW & SOCIAL INQUIRY 47(4): 1291–1311 (reviewing THE RESEARCH HANDBOOK ON MODERN LEGAL REALISM and THE ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF LAW AND SOCIETY)	
<i>What's Law Got To Do With It?: Anthropological Engagement with Legal Scholarship</i>	2023
LAW & SOCIAL INQUIRY 48(1): 1–13	
• introduction to special issue, ed. Deepa Das Acevedo	
<i>Sweet Old-fashioned Notions: Legal Engagement with Anthropological Scholarship</i>	2022
ALABAMA LAW REVIEW 73(4): 719–732	
• introduction to special issue, ed. Deepa Das Acevedo	
† <i>On the Familiar Pleasures of Estrangement</i>	2022

BUDDHISM AND COMPARATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL LAW 345–353 (eds. Tom Ginsburg & Benjamin Schonthal)		
† <i>Freedom at Work Inside and Outside the Gig Economy</i>		
THE ROUTLEDGE HANDBOOK OF THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF LABOR 233–42 (eds. Sharryn Kasmir & Lesley Gill)	2022	
<i>Autocratic Legalism in India: a Roundtable</i>		
JINDAL GLOBAL LAW REVIEW, doi: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s41020-022-00171-y	2022	
<i>(Im)mutable Race?</i>		
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LAW REVIEW ONLINE 116: 88–119	2021	
• reviewed October 28, 2021, in <i>JOTWELL: The Journal of Things We Like (Lots)</i>		
<i>A Tale of Two Courts</i>		
CORNELL LAW REVIEW ONLINE 105: 67–80	2020	
<i>Essentializing Labor Before, During, and After COVID-19</i>		2020
EXERTIONS: SOCIETY FOR THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF WORK		
† <i>Lumpy Work</i>		2020
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LAW REVIEW ONLINE		
<i>Introduction, Innovation in Legal Anthropology: an LSR Retrospective</i> (with Anna C. Offit)	2020	
LAW & SOCIETY REVIEW, https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/toc/10.1111/(ISSN)1540-5893.innovation-in-legal-anthropology		
† <i>Who Are Gig Workers?</i>		2019
THE REGULATORY REVIEW		
• One of the REVIEW's top-20 essays in 2019		
<i>Addressing the Retirement Crisis with Shadow 401(k)s</i>		2016
NOTRE DAME LAW REVIEW ONLINE 92: 38–54		
• Alvin D. Lurie Memorial Award, 2016, American College of Employee Benefits Counsel		
† <i>Secularism and Religion-State Relations in Modern India</i>		2015
BRILL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF HINDUISM, VOL. VI, 50–56 (ed. Knut Axel Jacobsen)		
<i>Developments in Hindu Law From the Colonial to the Present</i>		2013
RELIGION COMPASS 7(7): 252–62		

MEDIA († indicates invited contribution)

Appearances in: 11Alive, Spectrum TV, Keen on America (podcast), New Books Network (podcast), Political Philosophy (podcast), Tea for Teaching (podcast)

Expert Commentary: *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, *Al.com*, *Fortune*, *The Juggernaut*

<i>What Academic Tenure is Really About</i> (TIME: MADE BY HISTORY)	Oct. 1, 2025
<i>What the Charlie Kirk Fallout Reveals About Professors' Job Security—And Yours</i> (BARRON'S)	Sept. 25, 2025
<i>Sublimating the Grief of the Left Behind</i> (INSIDEHIGHERED)	Apr. 1, 2025
<i>The Extraordinariness of Extramural Absolutism</i> (INSIDEHIGHERED)	Nov. 5, 2024
<i>In the Battle for Tenure, Words Matter</i> (INSIDEHIGHERED)	May 15, 2023
† <i>India turns 75: Fast facts about the unusual constitution guiding the world's most populous democracy</i> (THE CONVERSATION)	Aug. 12, 2022
<i>Hijab ban: How courts have weaponised the Essential Religious Practices doctrine</i> (SCROLL)	Feb. 28, 2022
† <i>The Unique Goals and Challenges of Indian Secularism</i> (THE HINDUSTAN TIMES)	Jan. 29, 2020
† <i>The Battle for Sabarimala</i> (FOREIGN AFFAIRS)	Apr. 4, 2019

WORKS-IN-PROGRESS

Transformative Temple Entry Jurisprudence?

Invited contribution to EXPLORING SOVEREIGNTY AND CHARISMA: ENGAGEMENTS, CONTESTATIONS AND FABULATIONS FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH (eds. Filippo Osella, R. Santhosh, J. Devika) *in production*

Tenuring Diversity (co-authored with Mallika Das) *in draft*

Paid Protests (co-authored with Alison Dundes Renteln) *in draft*

The Death of Pickering *in draft*

Ethnography and the Legal Imagination *in draft*

AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS

Advance Grant (with Ken Carter, Emory University)	
<i>The Law & Society Association</i>	2025–27
* <i>To develop and administer a public scholarship bootcamp benefiting LSA members</i>	
Visiting Fellow	2025–26
<i>The University of Chicago, Forum on Free Inquiry & Expression</i>	
Research Impact Faculty Fellowship	2025
<i>Emory University</i>	
* <i>I was selected as one of two inaugural fellows in a campuswide competition</i>	
Laurence S. Rockefeller Visiting Faculty Fellowship	2024–25
<i>Princeton University Center for Human Values</i>	
* <i>My employer, Emory Law School, did not permit me to accept this fellowship</i>	
Public Scholarship Advancement Grant	2023–24
<i>Emory University Center for Faculty Development and Excellence</i>	
Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship	2023–24
<i>U.S. Department of State</i>	
Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism, and International Affairs	2020–21
<i>American Council of Learned Societies</i>	
Senior Fellowship (5 months)	2020–21
<i>M.S. Merian–R. Tagore International Centre of Advanced Studies</i>	
Franklin Research Grant	2019–20
<i>American Philosophical Society</i>	
Research Grants Committee Small Grant	2019–21
<i>University of Alabama</i>	
Social Sciences Dissertation-Year Fellowship	2012–13
<i>Mellon Foundation</i>	
* <i>This grant required me to relinquish all other grants for AY2012–13, including the three immediately below</i>	
Martin Marty Center Junior Fellowship	2012–13
<i>UChicago, Divinity School</i>	
Dissertation Fellowship	2012–13
<i>UChicago, Committee on Southern Asian Studies</i>	
Graduate Fellowship	2012
<i>UChicago, Nicholson Center for British Studies</i>	
Dissertation Fellowship	2011
<i>UChicago, Committee on Southern Asian Studies</i>	
International Dissertation Research Fellowship	2010–11
<i>Social Science Research Council</i>	
Doctoral Student Research Fellowship	2010–11

<i>Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (declined)</i>	
Graduate Aid Initiative Award	2007–12
UChicago, Social Sciences Division	

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

<i>Associate Professor</i> (pre-tenure), University of Alabama School of Law	August 2022–May 2023
<i>Assistant Professor</i> (pre-tenure), University of Alabama School of Law	July 2018–July 2022
<i>Visiting Fellow</i> , American Bar Foundation	2020–21
<i>Visiting Fellow</i> , Centre for Policy Research (New Delhi)	Summer 2019
<i>Sharswood Fellow</i> , Penn Law	2016–18
<i>Starr Prize Lecturer</i> , UChicago, Anthropology	2012
<i>Lecturer</i> , UChicago, College	2010–12
<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , UChicago, College; UChicago, CSRPC	2008–10

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

<i>Summer Associate</i> , Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher (Los Angeles)	2015
<i>Summer Associate</i> , Reed Smith (Chicago)	2014, '15
<i>Student Ombudsperson</i> , The University of Chicago (Chicago)	2014–16

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Service

Political and Legal Anthropology Review (Editor-in-Chief 2024–); *Law & Society Review* (Associate Editor 2021–22; Advisory Board 2023–25; 2020–21); *Law & Social Inquiry* (Advisory Board 2021–24); *JOTWELL*-Work Law (Contributor 2020–)

Peer Reviewer

University of California Press; *Cambridge University Press*; *Wolters Kluwer*; *Law and Society Review*; *Law & Social Inquiry*; *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*; *Current Anthropology*; *American Anthropologist*; *American Ethnologist*; *Journal of Law and Religion*; *Asian Journal of Law and Society*; *Journal of Religion, Law and State*; *Indian Journal of Constitutional and Administrative Law*; *Religions*; *Interdisciplinary Journal for Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society*; *Direito GV Law Review*; *International Journal of Human Resource Management*; *Canadian Labour & Employment Law Journal*

Committee Service

Emory University (Chair, Faculty Council Policy Review Committee 2025–26; Member, Senate Policy Review Committee 2025–26; Member, Ad Hoc Executive Orders Committee; Member, Studies in Sexuality Board 2023–); *Emory Law* (Member, Academic Standing Committee 2025–26; Faculty Advisor, FedSoc 2025–; Member, Teaching Awards Committee 2024–25; Member, AI Appointments 2023–24); *ABF/JBP Access to Justice Scholars Program* (Mentor); *Hong Kong University Centre for Interdisciplinary Legal Studies* (Member, Advisory Board); *Alabama Law* (Member, Appointments 2021–22; Member, Curriculum 2019–21; Member, Colloquium, 2018–19); *Law and Society Association* (Member, Board of Trustees, 2021–24; Chair, Budget & Finance, 2022–23; Member, Budget & Finance, 2024–26; Member, International Research Collaboratives, 2020–21; Member, International Activities, 2019–21; Conference Ombudsperson, 2019–23; Co-chair, CRN 8: Labor Rights, 2018–21); *American Anthropological Association* (Conference First Responder, 2024; Labor seat, Members Programmatic, Advisory, Advocacy Committee, 2021–24); *Association for Political and Legal Anthropology* (Member, Governing Board, 2022–24; Member, Graduate Student Paper Prize, 2022–24; Member, Events, 2022; Member, Nominations, 2022); *Association of American Law Schools* (Chair, Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation Section, 2021–22; Secretary, Law and South Asia Section, 2021–22; Chair, Law & Anthropology Section, 2020–21; Secretary, Scholarship Section, 2020–21)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, American Association of Law Schools Annual Meeting, American Bar Foundation, American Society of Comparative Law Annual Meeting, Annual Conference on South Asia (UW-Madison), Association for Political and Legal Anthropology, Colloquium on Scholarship in Employment and Labor Law (COSELL), Columbia University Law School, Cornell India Law Center, Emory University Ethnographic Forum, Emory University School of Law, Hunter College, Indiana University Maurer School of Law, IntLawGrrls!, Kannur University Department of Anthropology, Labor Law Research Network (LLRN) Conference, Law and Social Science Network (LASSNET), Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Marco Biagi Conference, Michigan Young Scholars' Conference, National University of Singapore, New York University Law School, Philadelphia Bar Institute, Princeton University, Seton Hall University School of Law, Society for the Anthropology of Religion, Southeastern Association of Law Schools (SEALS), St Louis University Law School, the University of Chicago (Forum on Free Inquiry and Expression), the University of Chicago Law School, University of Alabama Law School, University of Southern California Gould School of Law, University of Toronto CrimSL, University of Virginia Law School, Wake Forest Law School, Washington & Lee University

MEMBERSHIPS

Association of American Law Schools, Law & Society Association, American Anthropological Association, Association for Political and Legal Anthropology, American Society of Comparative Law

FIELDWORK

Bengaluru, India	4 months	2023-24
New Delhi, India	5 weeks	2019
Philadelphia, USA	6 weeks	2017
Philadelphia, USA	4 months	2016
Kerala, India	8 months	2010
Kerala, India	6 weeks	2009