Dr. Prakash Shah  
Curriculum Vitae  
Email address: prakash.shah@qmul.ac.uk

CURRENT POSITION

2013-present  Reader in Culture and Law  
Department of Law, Queen Mary, University of London  
(Lecturer from January 2002, Senior Lecturer from October 2005)

EDUCATION

1999. PhD on Studentship from the Department of Law, School of Oriental and African Studies  
Thesis: ‘Refugees, race and the legal concept of asylum in Britain’

1992. LLM (International Law)  
London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

1991. Bachelor’s Degree LL.B.  
London School of Economics and Political Science

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles
2015. “‘An ancient system of caste”: How the British law against caste depends on Orientalism’. In: Vol. 17 Theatrum Historiae, pp. 119-141.
2015. ‘The difference that religion makes: Transplanting legal ideas from the West to Japan and India’. In: Vol. 10, Issue 1, Asian Journal of Comparative Law, pp. 81-97.
2012. ‘The legal adaptation of British settlers in Turkey’. In: Transcultural Studies (with Derya Bayır).


2003. ‘Preliminary reflections on teaching about ethnic minorities in law’. In: Vol. 37, No. 1 The Law Teacher, pp. 18-35.


2002. ‘Why some British nationals are not European Union citizens’. In: Vol. 16, No. 2 Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Law, pp. 82-96.


Book Chapters


2009. ‘Activism in the European Court of Justice and changing options for Turkish citizen migrants in the United Kingdom’. In: Hailbronner, K., B. Tiryakioğlu, K. Schneider, and E. Küçük (eds.): Vatandaşlık, Göç, Mültecive Yabancılar Hukukundaki Güncel Gelişmeler


1999. ‘Cross-cultural conflicts of marriage and divorce involving South Asians in Britain’. In: Fons Strijbosch and Marie-Claire Foblets (eds.): Relations familiales Interculturelles/Cross cultural family relations. Oñati papers no. 8, Oñati, Spain: International Institute for the Sociology of Law, pp. 167-184 (with Werner Menski).


Review Articles

2019. ‘Secularism’s threat to tradition: A reading of Europe, India and the Limits of Secularism’. In: Sikh Formations, Published online, 1 February 2019.

2014. ‘Critiquing the Western account of India studies within a comparative science of cultures’ (review article of, “The Heathen in His Blindness...”: Asia, the West and the Dynamic of Religion and Reconceptualizing India Studies, by S.N. Balagangadhara). In: Vol. 18, No. 1 International Journal of Hindu Studies, pp.
2014. ‘Cultural difference as epistemic difference: A review of two books by S.N. Balagangadhara’ (review article of, “The Heathen in His Blindness...”: Asia, the West and the Dynamic of Religion and Reconceptualizing India Studies, by S.N. Balagangadhara), in Manushi.


Edited Books

Other publications
2017. ‘Does channel 4’s documentary provide the truth about Muslim marriage?’ In: Areo Magazine, 7 December 2017.
2017. ‘Hindu objections to Reza Aslan’s documentary are missing a crucial point’. In: DailyO, 15 March 2017.
History. Oxford University Press, pp. 311-312.

Book reviews


GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

February 2018-April 2019. British Academy Tackling the UK’s International Challenges 2017 grant (£30,214), Designed to fail? Foundations of the laws on caste in India, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and the United Nations. With Dr Sufiya Pathan and Dr Dunkin Jalki, SDM Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences (CIRHS), Ujire, Karnataka.


2010 (summer). British Institute in Ankara grant for pilot study on the socio-legal adaptation of British immigrants in Turkey (£1,000). With Dr. Derya Bayir.

2010 (summer). Nuffield Foundation grant pilot study on the socio-legal adaptation of British immigrants in Turkey (£8,000). With Dr. Derya Bayir.

June 2010. British Academy Conference Support Grant (£6,000).

Workshop on Legal Practice and Accommodation in Multicultural Europe, at the IISL, Onati, Spain.

2008-2010. L'Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR, France) Fieldwork grant (3000 €) to research legal cases on South Asian laws in France, the United Kingdom, Germany, United States and Australia from the perspective of socio-legal expertise as part of a larger project on Governance and Justice in Contemporary India.

July-September 2005. Chiba Prize (Beca Chiba, 1,500 €), International Institute for the Sociology of Law, Oñati, Spain to research religion and legal reconstruction among South Asian diasporas in Britain.

INVITED TALKS


2016. ‘The foundations of the caste system’. Invited Seminar, Indian Council for Historical Research, New Delhi, India, 9 November.

2016. ‘On culture’, invited lecture for the conference on “The cultural defence. In honor of the work of Alison Dundes Renteln”, University of Cagliari, 7-8 July.


2015. ‘Sacerdotal violence and the caste system: The long shadow of Christian-Orientalism’. International Seminar on the Enigma of Law held at the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad (in collaboration with Balvant Parekh Centre for General Semantics and Other Human Sciences, Baroda), 2-4 November.


2015. ‘Catch me if you can! Muslim translocal legal pluralism’. International Workshop on Legal Pluralism in Europe and the Ordre Public Exception: Normative and Judicial Perspectives, University of Trento, 16-17 April 2015.


2015. ‘Citizenship, caste and equality in Britain’. Cultural Encounters Seminar, Roskilde University, Denmark, 20 March 2015.

2015. ‘The difference that religion makes: Transplanting legal ideas from the West to Japan and India’. OP Jindal Global University, India, 26 February 2015.

2014. ‘Caste Legislation in the UK’. City Hindus Network, Queen Mary, University of London, 27 March.

2014. ‘Two theories of religion and Indian traditions in the Western legal systems’. Centre for Asian Legal Studies, National University of Singapore, 12 March.


2013. ‘Shariatization and Colonial Consciousness: Explaining Change in Muslim Law in the West’. Conference on Fundamentalism, Radicalism, Extremism, IRNRD and the Corvinus University, Budapest, 30-31 May.


2013. ‘The Dysfunctional Legal Effects of Secularization: South Asians and Muslim Law in England’. Lecture at the Global Legal Studies Center and Center for South Asia at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, 4 April.

2013. Address at the Workshop on Current Research Directions in Minority Rights, Senate House, University of London, 27 March.
2013. ‘Directions in Socio-Legal Research with Diverse Diasporas’. Marie Curie ITN CoHaB Summer School at the University of Northampton School of Arts, 22 March.

2012. Address at the Royal Academy of Belgium, Brussels, for the launch of Reconceptualizing India Studies by Prof. S.N. Balagangadhara, 14 December.


2012. ‘Possible directions for legal anthropology in the field of cultural diversity’. Address at Workshop on Applied Legal Anthropology, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle an der Saale, Germany, 12-14 September.


2012. Discussant, International Conference on Dharma and Ethics VI in Karnataka, India, organised by the Centre for the Study of Local Cultures, Kuvempu University and the Karnataka State Law University, 28-29 January.


2010. ‘Muslim women and marriage in trans-jurisdictional contexts’. Lecture at the Joint Seminar Series SOAS Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, and Department of Development Studies, SOAS, University of London, 20 October.

2010. ‘Muslim women and marriage in trans-jurisdictional contexts’. SOAS/Aga Khan University course on Gender and Identity in Muslim Contexts, London, 16 October.


2009. ‘Legal Pluralism in Europe: The Case of Britain’s Muslim Communities’. Lecture at the University of Westminster, 28 October.


2009. ‘The complexity of strategies in legal pluralism: The case of Britain’s ethnic minorities’. Exploratory Workshop on Rights, Legal Mobilization and Political Participation in
Europe, co-sponsored by the European Science Foundation and the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), Athens, Greece, 8-11 October.


2004. ‘A Convention on diasporas: A recognition of their socio-legal reality or a Trojan horse?’ UACES Workshop on Diasporas in Europe, SPIRE South-East Europe Unit, Keele University, 13 September.

CONFERENCES

Conferences and Panels Organized


2012. ‘The Sacred in a Secular State - The Funding Regime for Religious Cultural Heritage in Turkey’. Lecture by Dr Tugba Tanyeri Erdemir of the Middle East Technical University, Ankara at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London, 10 December 2012 (co-sponsored by GLOCUL, Queen Mary, IALS and Turkish Studies at SOAS).

2012. ‘Unregistered marriages and alternative dispute resolution’. RELIGARE Project Expert Seminar, Queen Mary, University of London, 4 September.

2010. Workshop on Legal Practice and Accommodation in Multicultural Europe (with Prof. Marie-Claire Foblets, Catholic University Leuven), International Institute for the Sociology of Law (IISL), Onati, Basque Country, Spain (funded by the British Academy, the IMISCOE Network and the IISL, June 2010).
2007. ‘Interconnections between private international law and immigration law in the UK’. Faculty of Law, Ankara University, 4 October.
2007. Legal Practice and Cultural Diversity, Queen Mary, University of London, July.
2003. Workshop on Ethnic minorities and mental health law: towards a pluralist perspective, Queen Mary, University of London, 14 May.

Papers Presented
2017. ‘What can we learn from the Indian defence of varna?’ European Association for the Study of Religion conference, Leuven University, 18 September.
2017. ‘Certainty of caste: The UK debate’. British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS) conference, University of Nottingham, 19 April.
2011. ‘Cultural and legal logics of religion and secularisation in Europe’. CRONEM seminar, University of Surrey, 5 October.
2010. ‘Socio-legal adaptation of British immigrants in Turkey: A theoretical puzzle’. International Conference on Transnationalism and Migration (TRANSMIG) at CEIFO, University of Stockholm, 4-5 November (with Dr. Derya Bayir).
2009. ‘Are Western and Islamic laws irreconcilable?’ Lecture at the University of Copenhagen, 21 October and Workshop on Islamic Law in Minority Contexts: Perspectives on the marginal and the mainstream in Islamic Jurisprudence, SOAS, London, 17-18 December.
2009. ‘Inconvenient marriages, or what happens when ethnic minorities marry trans-jurisdictionally according to their self-chosen norms’. Conference on Human Rights Law as a Site of Struggle over Multicultural Conflicts, Utrecht University, 5-6 November and
at the Workshop on South Asian Culture à la barre: Talking expert in South Asian Diaspora, Paris, 20 November.
2008. ‘Ethnic and religious diversity in Britain: Where are we going?’ CRED/Laws Workshop, Equality and Diversity, Queen Mary, University of London. 12 September.
2007. ‘Sleepwalking to a multicultural law?’ CRONEM, University of Surrey, 19 February.

2002. ‘Preliminary reflections on teaching ethnic minorities and the law’. Association of Law Teachers Annual Conference University of Greenwich, 24-26 March and Socio-Legal Studies Association Conference, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, 3-5 April.

2001. ‘Expansion of legal power in the refugee field’. School of Law, University of Sussex, 10 May.


1996. ‘Containment of refugees’ political activism by the law’. Refugees: Rights and Realities conference, University of Nottingham, 30 November.


CURRENT TEACHING

Undergraduate courses
Cultural Diversity and Law
Law in Asia
Law and Religion

Graduate courses
Comparative Immigration Law
Cultural Diversity and Law
Law in Asia
Law and Religion

RESEARCH SUPERVISION

PhD Supervision
Esin Caliskan: Burdened Recognition: Alevis within the politico-legal framework of Turkey, the United Kingdom and the European court of human rights, passed 2019
Sarah Singer: Terrorism and Exclusion from Refugee Status in the UK, passed 2014
Latif Tas: Legal Pluralism and Dispute Resolution among Kurds in London, passed Feb 2013
Erica Howard: The EU Race Directive, passed April 2007
Ivan Leonidov: Comparative and International Legal Study on the Position of Irregular Migrants in the United Kingdom, Russia and South Africa, passed June 2005

Member of doctoral committee, University of Ghent, Belgium
Marianne Keppens, Thesis by publications
Garima Raghuvanshy, Mahabharata in the Indian traditions
Sarika Rao, *How European thought on Jews/Judaism conditions its understanding of Indian culture*

**MA by Research supervision:**
Latif Tas: *Legal Pluralism and Dispute Resolution among Kurds in London*, 2008-09
Pawusu Bangura: *Post-conflict Resolution in African Contexts*, 2005-06

**SERVICE**

**Administrative Positions**
Current: Co-Chair Law Postgraduate Exam Board; Member of Senate; Programme Coordinator for Law with History degree;
Former: Deputy Chair Law Undergraduate Exam Board; Overseas Recruitment; Library Liaison; Widening Participation; Director of the Centre for Culture and Law (GLOCUL).

**Services to the profession**
**Peer Review College:** Arts and Humanities Board (AHRB) from 2017-.

**Referee for grant applications:** for various British and European funding bodies including the British Academy, the Arts and Humanities Board (AHRB), the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), and the Austrian Science Fund, Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO), and the European Research Council (ERC), Research Foundation - Flanders (Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek - Vlaanderen (FWO), Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF); European Commission Horizon 2020 programme (CULT-COOP-05-2017: Religious diversity in Europe - past, present and future).


**Book series editorships:** Minority Protection (Brill); Annotated Legal Documents on Islam in Europe (Brill); Comparative Science of Cultures: Asia and Europe (Springer); Cultural Diversity and Law (Routledge); RELIGARE (Routledge).

**Expert evidence:** Regularly consulted as an expert on legal issues pertaining to South Asian laws, Muslim laws, and ethnic minorities in Britain.

**Email group moderation:** ‘Pluri-legal’ http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/PLURI-LEGAL concerned with accommodation by European legal systems of ethnic, religious and diasporic minorities; ‘Migrationlaw’ http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/MIGRATIONLAW part of the Migration and Law Network (founding member).
Membership of professional and other associations. **Current:** Society of Legal Scholars; Migration and Law Network (founder and co-convenor); Immigration Law Practitioners’ Association; Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants; British Association of South Asian Studies; Minority Research Network (UK); Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. **Past:** Past memberships: Socio-Legal Studies Association; Royal Anthropological Institute; Discrimination Law Association; Statetwatch.

Phd theses examined:
Jaai Kunchur, Reformation of the Indian constitution on the basis of social democracy principles proposed by Dr B R Ambedkar. University of Aberdeen, 8 November 2019.
Sonia Zaman Khan, Democratic Transition and the Caretaker Government in Bangladesh: A Culture of Mistrust. SOAS, 1 June 2013.
Anne J. Griffiths, Judicial use of Customary Law in the Criminal Justice Process in the Northern Territory of Australia. SOAS, 10 March 2005.

External examining: SOAS-Tower Hamlets Leadership Training course (2010-14)

**TRAINING**
Online marking, October 2019
PhD Supervisor Refresher, 1 March 2017
Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Research Grant Development Programme, 2014-2015
Anti-Bribery Training, January 2014
Staff Appraisal, October 2013
PhD Student Supervision Training, 21 November 2012
Fair Selection and Interview Skills, May 2011

**MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**
2017. Interviewed for a video 'British caste law: A solution in search of a problem' by Rosan Sapkota, businessman and Nepali community activist on the background and impact of the British law on caste, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Bo1M7-E4qE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Bo1M7-E4qE)

2017. Advised on and interviewed for the film Bharat ek Chetna (rough translation: India: a vision), made by Dr. Manish Pandit and premiered at a GLOCUL film screening event at Queen Mary, 19 July 2017, [https://vimeo.com/226264636](https://vimeo.com/226264636)

2017. Invited presentation on 'The background to and consequences of the British law on caste discrimination', at the Roundtable on 'Deconstructing Caste', University of Birmingham, 14 July 2017, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tM5a3HZ8ruo&t=48](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tM5a3HZ8ruo&t=48)

Other media engagement includes: La Vie (France); Focus (Germany); Weekend Avisen; BBC Radio 4’s Sunday Programme; Radio 4’s Law in Action and Today programmes; BBC World TV; Franfurter Allgemeine Zeitung; Asian Voice; Confluence; BBC Asian network and Channel 4’s Dispatches; SBS World News (Australia); Congressional Quarterly Global Researcher; BBC Radio 4, 'Beyond Belief' programme.