

Bio with Hyderabad - Aloka Parasher-Sen

Immediately after getting my Doctoral degree, the trajectory of my career as a Historian and my sojourn in Hyderabad became intrinsically intertwined. A natural instinct for a historian is to dwell into the immediate historical past of the city one comes to inhabit. This being primarily defined by its documented extant history going back only to the middle ages, led me to take up research on Hyderabad's hinterland, surrounded as it was with settlements that went back to early centuries of the Common Era. These were marked by such a variety of economic, cultural and social life that it then became relevant for me to systematically take up projects on unraveling this deep diversity. It was not surprising then that my own personal experiences in the city were equally marked by engagements with people from different social and cultural backgrounds, which quite unconsciously made Hyderabad a home never to be abdicated.

Equally enigmatic was the natural landscape of the city that automatically drew me into to become a member of the Society to Save Rocks and the Centre of Deccan Studies. Thus Hyderabad impacted me in a way that transformed the engagement with my own research. I began my career with writing on themes of an all India nature and gradually shifted to writing on a pan-regional level with the Deccan in special focus. I currently draw my academic strength in redefining how one engages with the Historian's craft by focusing on local history, the history of place and time that is often available to us only in a fragment. A fast changing Hyderabad in the last three decades of my life here only strengthened by resolve to retrieve all these fragments of the past as this is what I firmly believe characterizes the city as the home for many, inclusive in ways that only the past can reveal and how that is integrated in the lived-in experiences of people whom we warmly call Hyderabadis.

September 15, 2013

Aloka Parasher-Sen

A Conventional Bio-data follows:

ALOKA PARASHER-SEN

Brief Bio-data

ALOKA PARASHER-SEN has been teaching at the University of Hyderabad, India since 1979 where she is currently Professor of History and Dean School of Social Sciences. She has widely traveled on academic assignments and was DAAD Fellow, (1986-87) and occupant of the Rotating Chair in India Studies (2007-08) at the South Asia Institute of the University of Heidelberg, Germany, a Fulbright Scholar and Visiting Professor (1992) at the University of California, Berkeley, USA and most recently, the first occupant of the Saroj and Prem Singhmar Chair in Classical Indian Polity and Society (2008-2011) Department of History and Classics, University of Alberta, Canada. Apart from this she has presented her work at International Seminars and Conferences in the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, the Netherlands, the Cech Republic, Hong Kong and Japan.

She graduated with History Honors [1973] from Delhi University and did her graduate [1974] and doctoral studies [1978] from the School of Oriental and African Studies,

University of London. She was awarded the Career Award in Social Sciences and Humanities in Social Sciences and Humanities for Young Scientists the University Grants Commission, New Delhi [1989-1991] and nominated Member Indian Council for Historical Research, New Delhi by the Government of India [1994-97] and nominated Member of the National Commission/Research Council for History of Science (2007-2009), Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi. She has also been nominated as expert to serve on Academic Bodies of various Universities and Research Institutions.

She serves on the Editorial Board on the *Journal of Deccan Studies* since its inception brought out by the Centre of Deccan Studies, Hyderabad. She was Partner, heading the Andhra Pradesh team, in a major Ford Foundation funded Project in collaboration with the French Institute Pondicherry on making a Digital Historical Atlas of South India [2004-2007]

Her major publications are in the main area of her interest in social history, namely, early Indian attitudes towards foreigners, tribes and excluded castes. Her other work is on different aspects of the social, economic, cultural and religious history and archaeology of the Deccan. She has extensively published on these special areas of her interest. Her research articles have been published in peer reviewed Journals of international repute like, *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, *Indian Historical Review*, *Studies in History*, *Social Science Probing*, *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, *The International Journal of Technology Knowledge and Society*, *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh*, *Religioni e Società (Journal on Sociology of Religions)*, *South Asia*, *Journal of South Asian Studies* among others. She has also been invited to contribute entries to the for the *International Encyclopedia of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity*, Macmillan, Michigan, USA, to the *Encyclopedia Britannica (South Asia)*, New Delhi, to the *Encyclopedia of Religion* published by the Kannada University Hampi, *Brill's Encyclopedia of Hinduism*, Vol. 3, E. J. Brill, Leiden

She is author and editor of more than 7 books/monographs. Her major writings among others include *Mlecchas In Early India* (1991); *Social and Economic History of Early Deccan -- Some Interpretations* (1993); *Deccan Heritage*, Co-Editor (with Harsh K. Gupta and D.Balasubramanian), Universities Press, Orient Longman, Hyderabad, 2000, *Kevala-Bodhi*, *The Buddhist and Jaina History of The Deccan* (2003) *Subordinate And Marginal Groups In Early India Up To 1500 AD*, Oxford in India Readings Themes in Indian History (2004; 2nd Paperback edition 2007). She has edited Two Special Issues On Buddhism And Jainism for *Deccan Studies* -- Vol. III, No. 1, January-June 2005 and No. 1, January-June 2007.