

# Dr Alka Raman

Department of History, University of Manchester  
[www.alkaraman.com](http://www.alkaraman.com)

## Current Appointment

2023-2025 **Hallsworth Fellow**, Department of History, University of Manchester

## Education

- 2017-2021 **PhD in Economic History**, Department of Economic History, London School of Economics and Political Science. Thesis: *'Learning from the Muse: Indian Cotton Textiles and British Industrialization'*, funded by LSE PhD Studentship, no revisions, awarded on 30 September 2021
- 2016-2017 **MSc Economic History (Research)**, with Distinction, London School of Economics and Political Science
- 2001-2003 **M.Phil in Diplomatic Studies**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
- 1999-2001 **MA Political Science**, Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi
- 1996-1999 **BA (Honours) Political Science**, Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi

## Publications

### Papers

"Indian cotton textiles and British industrialization: Evidence of comparative learning in the British cotton industry in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries," *The Economic History Review*, Vol 75, Issue 2, May 2022, pp. 447-474

"Indian cotton textiles and the evolution of spinning technology in the British cotton industry in the eighteenth century," *Technology and Culture*, accepted for publication

### Papers in progress

"Before Arsenic: Indian Techniques of Painting on Cotton Cloth with Indigo before 1730," in preparation for submission to *History of Science* in 2023

"From Garthwaite to Morris: Indian textile designs and the growth of textile manufacturing in Britain, 1720-1880," in preparation for submission to *Journal of Global History* in 2023

### Book

*From Muse to Machines: How Indian Cottons led to British Industrialization*, book manuscript in progress for submission to Cambridge University Press in 2023

### Reviews

Review of *'Weaving Histories: The Transformation of the Handloom Industry in South India, 1800-1960,'* by Karuna Dietrich Wielenga, for *Technology and Culture*, Vol 63, No. 1, January 2022, pp. 261-262

Review of *'The English East India Company's Silk Enterprise in Bengal, 1750-1850,'* by Karolina Hutkova, for *Business History*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/00076791.2021.2001055>

Review of *'The Wardle family and its circle: textile production in the Arts and Crafts era'* by Brenda King, *The Economic History Review*, Volume 73, No. 1, February 2020, p. 330-331

Review of *'Indian cotton textiles in West Africa: African agency, consumer demand and the making of the global economy, 1750-1850'* by Kazuo Kobayashi, *The Economic History Review*, Volume 73, No. 3, August 2020, p. 876-877

Review of *'Merchants: The Community that Shaped England's Trade and Empire, 1550-1650,'* by Edmond Smith, for *Business History*, <https://doi-org.gate3.library.lse.ac.uk/10.1080/00076791.2022.2039443>

Review of *'The Story of Work: A New History of Humankind,'* by Jan Lucassen, for *The Economic History Review*, forthcoming

## Employment

- 2022-2023 **Guest Lecturer**, Department of Economic History, London School of Economics and Political Science
- 2022-2022 **ESRC Fellow**, Department of Economic History, London School of Economics and Political Science
- 2021-2022 **Postan Postdoctoral Fellow in Economic History**, Economic History Society, in affiliation with Institute of Historical Research and Victoria and Albert Museum, London
- Jan-Mar 2021 **Lecturer**, new course 'Indian Cotton Textiles in Britain: Imitation, Innovation and Industrialisation' at V&A's postgraduate programme in History of Design
- Apr, Dec 2021 **Lecturer**, 'Indian Cottons and the British Calico Printing Industry' at Winterthur/University of Delaware Art Conservation Program workshop on Textile Conservation
- Jan 2021, 2022 **Lecturer**, 'From Muse to Machines: Indian Cotton Textiles and British Industrialization' at British Design History 1530-1930, Winterthur Museum Program in American Material Culture
- 2019-2021 **Writing Advisor**, Department of Economic History, LSE
- 2017-2019 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Department of Economic History, 'Latin America and the Global Economy' LSE

## Academic Grants

- 2021-2022 **Postan Postdoctoral Fellowship**, Economic History Society [£24,000 per annum]
- 2017- 2021 **PhD Studentship** [full tuition + bursary], Department of Economic History, LSE [£18,000 bursary + £6000 tuition fees per annum]
- 2019-2020 **Dissertation Fellowship Award**, Winterthur Museum, Delaware, USA [bursary \$7000]
- 2018 **Residential Training Workshop**, Economic History Society [fully funded 3-day workshop]
- 2017, 2018, 2019 **Radwan Travel and Discovery Fund** Grant for archival research, LSE [£1200 each]

## Awards and Recognitions

- 2022 **Seal of Excellence**, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Horizon 2021, European Research Agency
- 2019 **New Researcher Award for Best Poster**, Economic History Society Annual Conference, Belfast
- 2019 **Judge's Award for Best Poster**, Research Festival, LSE
- 2018, 2019 **Students-led Teaching Excellence Award**, LSE

## Select Presentations

- May 2022 **Symposium on Economic History and India**, The Economic History Review (invited speaker)
- May 2022 **Roundtable on The Origins of the Great Divergence**, Early Modern Science, Technology and Institutions Conference, Manchester University (invited speaker)
- Jan 2022 **Economic and Social History of the Early Modern World**, Seminar Series at IHR, 'The Evolution of Cotton Spinning Technology: Indian Cottons and Mechanisation in the British Cotton Industry' (invited speaker)

## Select Administration and Organization

- 2022 **Member**, Panel of Judges, Economic History Society Annual Conference Poster Competition

2022 **Member**, V&A's Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) Selection Panel for Doctoral Candidates