SHALINI GROVER

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ACADEMIC PROFILE

Social anthropologist and gender expertise with senior research and teaching experience across the UK, India and Asia. Research spans care economies, marriage and kinship, transnationalism, colonial and postcolonial histories, race, caste and gender inequality, all with a sustained regional focus on South Asia. Former Associate Professor in Anthropology and Assistant Professorial Research Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science and currently Associate Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, UK. Current book program includes a single-authored Cambridge University Press monograph and a co-edited volume with Rutgers University Press in print.

SELECTED CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Assistant Professorial Research Fellow, International Inequalities Institute, LSE (2020–2024); subsequently Affiliated Anthropologist and Visiting Fellow (2024–2026).
- Former Associate Professor in Anthropology at O.P. Jindal Global University (2017–2018) and Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi (2015–2016), following Senior Fellow and Post-Doctoral Fellow appointments at IEG.
- Single-authored monograph in print with Cambridge University Press: 'Caregiving at the Centre of Empire and the Contemporary World, 1930–2023;' two co-edited volumes also in print with Rutgers University Press and Zubaan.
- Principal Investigator on LSE Research and Impact Support and British Academy/Leverhulme and ICSSR-funded research projects.
- Convener, Ayah and Amah International Research Network (2022–2026); central role in developing and delivering interdisciplinary Global Economies of Care activities at LSE (2020–2024).
- Teaching, supervision and mentoring experience at LSE, SOAS, O.P. Jindal Global University, CEPT University, Ambedkar University and Royal Holloway; PhD supervision, advising and examination experience.
- Invited research presentations and academic engagements at Oxford, LSE, SOAS, Edinburgh, UCL, Uppsala, Oslo, Malaya, Kyoto and other international institutions.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024–2026| Affiliated Anthropologist and Visiting Fellow
International Inequalities Institute and Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics and Political Science

2020–2024| Assistant Professorial Research Fellow (initially Research Fellow)
International Inequalities Institute and Department of Anthropology, London School of Economics and Political Science

2019–2020| Visiting Fellow in Anthropology and Gender
Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, UK

2017–2018 | Associate Professor in Anthropology and Gender
Liberal Arts and Humanities, O.P. Jindal Global University, NCR Delhi

Jan–Apr 2018 | Visiting Teaching Fellow/
Faculty of Design, CEPT University, Ahmedabad

Jun–Jul 2016 | Visiting Lecturer
Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, University of Malaysia/Malaya

2007–2016 | Associate Professor in Anthropology and Gender (2015–2016); Senior Fellow (2011–2013); Post-Doctoral Fellow (2007–2010)
Unit of Social Change and Social Structure, Institute of Economic Growth, University of Delhi Enclave

2014–2019 | Honorary Research Fellow
School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh

Note: Resigned from the permanent Associate Professor position at O.P. Jindal Global University following family relocation to the UK in December 2018.

BOOKS

Single-Authored Monographs

Grover, Shalini. In Print. Caregiving at the Centre of Empire and the Contemporary World, 1930–2023. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Grover, Shalini. 2018. Marriage, Love, Caste, and Kinship Support: Lived Experiences of the Urban Poor in India. Revised edition. London & New York: Routledge. First edition: Social Science Press, 2011.

Edited Volumes

Grover, Shalini and Kaveri Qureshi. November 2026. Divorce Portals and The Postdivorce in Asian Contexts (for the series, 'The Politics of Marriage and Gender: Global Issues in Local Contexts'). New Brunswick and New Jersey: Rutgers University Press. Foreword by Janet Carsten.

Grover, Shalini, Thomas Chambers and Patricia Jeffery. In Print. Intimate Livelihoods: Feminised Domestic-Care Labour, Surrogacy and Sex Work in India. Delhi: Zubaan Press.

RESEARCH FUNDING, AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

2023–2024 | LSE Research and Impact Support Grant — Forgotten Histories of Racialized Colonial Networks in South India (1947–1970): Impacts on Contemporary Labour Markets (Principal Investigator)

2021–2022 | British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant — Domestic-Care Labour in Globalizing India (Principal Investigator, with Co-I Thomas Chambers)

2011–2013 | Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) — Divorce in Middle Class Delhi (Principal Investigator)

2007–2010 | Sir Ratan Tata Foundation — Marriage amongst the Urban Poor in India (Research grant)

2007 | ESRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship, University of Edinburgh — Offered; declined in favour of Sir Ratan Tata Foundation award

2004 | ASA/Radcliffe-Brown Trust Fund — PhD research

2003 | Charles Wallace India Trust Grant — PhD research

1992–1994 | Commonwealth Scholarship — University of Cambridge BA

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP & RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

2022–2026 | Convener, Ayah and Amah International Research Network

Convened an international and interdisciplinary research network examining histories and contemporary legacies of racialised domestic-care labour, connecting scholarship across anthropology, history, gender, labour and migration.

2020–2024 | Global Economies of Care Theme, International Inequalities Institute, LSE

Played a central role in developing and delivering the theme's interdisciplinary program: consolidating cross-disciplinary perspectives; coordinating funded-project objectives; arranging member meetings, online public events and international workshops; contributing to teaching and knowledge exchange; media dissemination; impact assessment and program monitoring.

EDUCATION

1999–2006 | PhD, Anthropology, University of Sussex
Successful viva with no corrections. Thesis: Poor Women's Experiences of Marriage and Love in the City of New Delhi: Everyday Stories of Sukh aur Dukh. Supervisors: Geert De Neve and Filippo Osella. Examiners: Patricia Jeffery and Katy Gardner.

1996–1997 | MSc, Gender Studies, London School of Economics and Political Science

1992–1994 | BA Law, Christ's College, University of Cambridge
Affiliated BA; converted to MA Cambridge in 1999.

SELECTED JOURNAL ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS & REFERENCE WORKS

Chambers, Thomas and Grover, Shalini. 2026. Mai kya hūṇ? (what am I?): Masculinities, Paid Domestic Labour and Care Work in Delhi and Gurgaon, India. Gender, Place and Culture. 1-17.

Grover, Shalini and Schliewe, Sanna. 2024. Trailing Spouses (India). In Ledeneva Alena, Teague Elizabeth, Matijevic Petra, Moise Marco Gian, Majda Piotr and Toqmadi Malika (Editors) Global Encyclopedia of Informality. London: University College London Press (UCL), pp. 406-409. Open Access

Grover, Shalini. 2024. 'Love Unturned': Female Solidarity and Friendships among Lower Caste Middle-Aged Women in India. In, Chaudhry Shruti, Gorringe Hugo and Govinda Radhika (Editors) Gender in South Asia and Beyond: A Festschrift in Honour of Patricia Jeffery. Delhi: Zubaan.

Grover, Shalini. 2023. Family-Arranged Marriages in Globalizing India: Shifting Scripts of Desire, Infidelity and Emotional Compatibility. In, Berta, Peter (Editor) Arranged Marriage: The Politics of Tradition, Resistance and Change. New Brunswick and New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, pp. 159-175.

Chambers, Thomas and Grover, Shalini. 2022. Masculinities and Paid Domestic-Care Labour in India. Working Paper (no. 94). International Inequalities Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). London: UK.

Chakraborty, Satya Sikha and Grover, Shalini. 2022. Care-Work for Colonial and Contemporary White Families in India: Racialized Romanticization of the Ayah. Journal of Cultural Dynamics. 34 (4): 297-319.

Grover, Shalini. 2022. Placement Agencies for Care-Domestic Labour: Everyday Mediation, Civilizing Missions, Regimes of Punishment and Training in Globalized India. Modern Asian Studies. 56 (6): 1901–29.

Grover, Shalini. 2019. Streamlining Paid Domestic Labour in Postcolonial India: The New Female All-Rounder in Master-Servant Expatriate Relationships. In, Sinha Nitin, Varma Nitin and Jha Pankaj (Editors) Servants Past, Late-Eighteenth to Twentieth Century South Asia Volume 11. Delhi: Orient Blackswan.

Grover, Shalini. 2018. Conjugality and Marital Dissolution in Historical Perspective. In, Srivastava Sanjay, Arif Yasmeen and Abraham Janaki (Editors) Critical Themes in Indian Sociology. Delhi: Sage Publications. 50th Anniversary Commemorative Volume of Contributions to Indian Sociology.

Grover, Shalini. 2018. English-speaking and Educated Female Domestic Workers in Contemporary India: New Managerial Roles, Social Mobility and Persistent Inequality. Journal of South Asian Development. 13 (2): 186-209.

Grover Shalini, Chambers, Thomas, Jeffery, Patricia (Editors). 2018. Introduction to the Special Issue: Portraits of Women's Paid Domestic-Care Labour: Ethnographic Studies from Globalizing India. Journal of South Asian Development. 13 (2): 1-18.

Grover, Shalini. 2018. Who is an Expatriate? Euro-American Identities, Race and Integration in Postcolonial India. In, Schliewe Sanna, Chaudhary Nandita and Giuseppina (Editors) Cultural Psychology of Intervention in the Globalized World. USA, Charlotte: Information Age Publishing, pp. 283-297.

Grover, Shalini. 2017. Jural Relations of Middle-Class Marriage and Women as Legal Subjects in the Imaginary of "New India." The Australian Journal of Anthropology. 28 (3): 249-393.

Grover, Shalini. 2017. Revisiting the Devyani Khobragade Controversy: The Value of Domestic Labour in the Global South. In 'Voices' from Asian Feminist Activism, Asian Journal of Women's Studies. 23 (1): 121-128.

Grover, Shalini. 2014. Purani aur nai shaadi: Separation, Divorce and Remarriage Amongst Delhi's Urban Poor (reprint). In, Ravinder Kaur and Palriwala, Rajni (Editors) Marrying in South Asia: Shifting Concepts, Changing Practices in a Globalizing World. Delhi: Orient

Grover, Shalini. 2011. Purani aur Nai Shaadi: Separation, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Lives of the Urban Poor in New Delhi. Asian Journal of Women's Studies. 17 (1): 67-99.

Grover, Shalini. 2009. Lived Experiences: Marriage, Notions of Love, and Kinship Support Amongst Poor Women in Delhi. Contributions to Indian Sociology. 43 (1): 1–33.

HONOURS & PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Associate Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (RHS).

2022: Chaired the Hackney Museum discussion marking English Heritage's Blue Plaque for the Ayah's Home, 26 King Edward's Road, London, commemorating Indian and Chinese ayahs and amahs who travelled from the colonies to work.

SELECTED MEDIA & IMPACT WRITING

2025: 'India's Emergency at 50', LSE South Asia Centre blog.

2023: 'Male Domestic-Care Workers Face Employer Apathy', The Wire.

2020: 'Can Covid-19 Be A Gamechanger? Those Who Serve on the Frontline and Servant Loyalty During the Indian Mutiny of 1857', Sociological Review, Solidarity and Care.

2017: LSE South Asia blog essay on the revised edition of Marriage, Love, Caste, and Kinship Support.

2016: 'Remembering Badi Nani', The Hindu, Opinion/Open Page.

2015: With Ellina Samantroy and Nupur Dhingra Paiva, 'New India's Inflexible Workforce – Caring is but Women's Work', Kafila.

2012: 'Do we over Idealise the Concepts of Family and Motherhood?', Tehelka, Opinion.

BOOK REVIEWS

2025: Shirin Rai. Depletion: The Human Costs of Caring (review), 2024, New York: Oxford University Press.

2015. Kenneth Bo Nielsen and Anne Waldrop. Women, Gender, and Everyday Social Transformation in India (review), 2014, London and New York: Anthem Press. Gender and Development. Volume 23: 2. July.

2015. Pallavi Aiyar. Punjabi Parmesan. (review, "Changing Equations"), 2013, New Delhi: Penguin. The Book Review. Volume xxxix (4) April: p20.

2014. Raka Ray and Seemin Qayum. Cultures of Servitude: Modernity, Domesticity, and Class in India (review), 2009, New Delhi: Oxford University New Delhi. Contributions to Indian Sociology. 48 (2): 284-286

2012. Livia, Holdven. Hindu Divorce: A Legal Anthropology (review), 2008, England: Ashgate, Asian Journal of Women's Studies. 18 (2): 124-127.

2007. Prem Chowdhry. Contentious Marriages, Eloping Couples: Gender, Caste, and Patriarchy in Northern India (review, "The Right to Choose If, Who and When to Marry"). Delhi: Oxford University Press, Economic and Political Weekly. XL11 (24): 2269–71.

PEER REVIEW / INDICATORS OF ESTEEM

Referee for American Ethnologist; Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute (JRAI-MAN); Contemporary South Asia; Contributions to Indian Sociology; Families, Relationships and Societies; Feminist Studies; Gender, Work & Organization; Indian Journal of Gender Studies; Journal of South Asian Development; Gender, Place & Culture; Modern Asian Studies; Population and Development Review; International Review of Social History; South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies / South Asia History and Culture; Oxford University Press; and Journal of Family and Relationships.

TEACHING, SUPERVISION & EXAMINATION

LSE, 2020–2024 — Masters supervision and methods workshops for the MSc Inequalities; selective doctoral mentoring.

SOAS, 2020 — Teaching Fellow, Department of Development Studies. 'The Working Poor and Development': third-year BA tutorials, ethnographic methods, coursework marking, course revision and lecture contributions.

O.P. Jindal Global University, 2018 — 'Community Service Learning': second-year BA anthropology teaching and first-year mentoring.

CEPT University, 2018 — Visiting Teaching Fellow, 'Theories of Design Anthropology': fourth-year BA teaching integrating ethnographic methods and design theory.

Ambedkar University, 2013–2014 — BA/MA teaching: 'Us and Them: Representations and Lived Realities of Stereotyping' and 'Population, Labour, Kinship and Demography' (11 teaching hours weekly).

Royal Holloway, 2000 — 'South Asia Development': teaching and supervision of third-year undergraduates.

2013–2016 — Second PhD Supervisor, Sanna Schliewe, Aalborg University, Denmark.

2017 — PhD Viva Examiner, IIT Humanities, New Delhi (Paro Mishra).

2015 — Advisor to three PhD students, Delhi School of Sociology, University of Delhi.

SELECTED KEYNOTES, INVITED TALKS & CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

3rd March, 2027 (Zoom): Invitation extended by Dinah Hannaford, Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Houston on 'The Future of Care: What Demographic Change Means for All of Us.'

5th February, 2026: Thomas Coram Research Unit, UCL https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ioe/events/2026/feb/caregiving-centre-empire-and-contemporary-world-order-1930–2023 (Talk on my forthcoming book by Cambridge University Press)

12th July, 2024: Department of Anthropology, LSE: Marriage and Carcerality Workshop. (Key endnote for the workshop)

May 20th, 2024: Global Knowledge Exchange at LSE, III: (with Nitin Varma, Humboldt University, Berlin)

13th March, 2024: LSE, III, Ambedkar Centennial Conference: 'Social Justice, Gender, Caste and Religion'.

8th March, 2024: SOAS, University of London: 'International Women's Day Re-Thinking Economics: Understanding the Care Economy'.

19th February, 2024: University of Oxford, Modern South Asian Studies Seminar: 'Towards an Anthropology of Answers: The Lost Trajectories of the Racialized Colonial Domestic Workers in South India and beyond'.

7th February, 2024: University of Lincoln, Global and Transregional Studies Research Group: 'Towards an Anthropology of Answers: The Lost Trajectories of the Racialized Colonial Domestic Workers in South India and beyond'.

April 26th, 2023: Birkbeck, Department of History, Classics and Archaeology: 'Paid to Care'.

30th January, 2023: University of Oxford, ODID: 'Christian Identities in Domestic Service: The Church, Class and Gender'.

5th May, 2022: (Zoom British Academy Workshop, LSE and Oxford Brookes): 'Globalized Male Domestic-Care Labour of the Past and Present'. Global Economies of Care, III, LSE.

29th, September, 2021: (Zoom Panel by the Global Women's Assembly for Climate Change): 'Feminist and Care Economies of People and the Planet'.

25th March, 2021 (Zoom Workshop with University of Edinburgh): 'Post-Divorce Intimacy in Contemporary Asia. Global Economies of Care', III, LSE.

1st December, 2020 (Zoom): 'Covid and Policy Impacts on Domestic Workers: Continental Perspectives on Argentina, India and the United Kingdom'. Global Economies of Care, III, LSE.

12th November, 2020 (Zoom): 'Care-work for Colonial and Contemporary White Families in India: A Historical-Anthropological Study of the Racialized Romanticization of the Ayah'. With the History Department, Brooklyn College (CUNY), USA.

7th November, 2020 (Zoom): Oxford Brookes University: 'From the Local to the Global: Care Chains, Ageing and Futurity through the Indian Ayah.'

3rd November, 2020 (Zoom): Department of Social Policy, LSE: 'From the Local to the Global: Care Chains, Ageing and Futurity through the Indian Ayah'.

12th February, 2020: University of Wolverhampton. (Invited as a Panel Expert and Steering Committee Member): 'Marriage and Mating in the Indian Diaspora in the UK'.

27th January, 2020: SOAS, Seminar for the Labour, Activism and Development Studies Series,: 'How is Labour Gendered and Racialized and What Can We Do About It'?

1st, February, 2018: Department of Liberal Arts, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad, India: Gave the Keynote for the Inaugural Panel: 'Examining Kinship and Family in South Asia'.

May, 2018: CEMFOR, Centre for Race, Uppsala University, Sweden: 'Who is an Expatriate in India? Race, Integration and Identity in Globalizing India.

March, 2017: University of Edinburgh, Centre for South Asian Studies: 'A 'Pay-As-You-Go' Care-Domestic Economy: Placement Agencies, Formalization, and Training in Globalized India'. Symposium on Gender in South Asia.

February, 2017: Humboldt University, and ZMO Berlin, at CSDS, New Delhi: 'Social Mobility in an Unequal Gendered Labour Market: Educated Female Domestic Workers and Transnational Employers in Postcolonial India'. Conference on, Servants Past, University of Delhi, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS).

September, 2016: SASNET (Swedish South Asian Studies Network), University of Lund, Sweden: 'Marriage, Divorce, and Modernization from 1970 to Present-Day India'. Conference on, Modern Matters: Negotiating the Future of Everyday life in South Asia (for the panel, Staging Marriage and Modernity among the Middle Classes in South Asia).

July, 2016: Wageningen University and Universitas Gajah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. 'Liberalisation's Educated Female Domestic Workers: Transnational Employers, Social Mobility, and Intersectionality in Postcolonial India. Conference on, 'Gender, Household Labour Relations and (Post) Colonialism, 1800-Present,'

June, 2016: University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: 'Who is an Expatriate: Euro-American Identities, Race and Integration in Postcolonial India. Seminar at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and Gender Institute.

May 2016: University of Oslo, Norway: 'From 'Indissoluble Sacrament' to 'Ambiguity:' Marriage, Divorce, and Modernization from 1970 to Present-Day India'. Seminar at the Centre for Development and Environment.

September, 2015: American Embassy (USA), New Delhi: 'Raising Awareness on Racialized Terms Such As 'ayah' and Punitive Measures by Foreign Nationals and Embassies on 'Blacklisting' Domestic Staff. Discussions towards making ethical guidelines for good labour practices.'

January, 2014: Kyoto University, Japan: 'Labor Relations with Western Expatriates: Domestic Workers as Ayahs, Maids, and Nannies in India's Globalizing Economy. Conference on, 6th Next-Generation Global Workshop, 'Revising the Intimate and Public Spheres and the East-West Encounter'.

November, 2012: Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore: 'The Legal Divorce Phenomenon: The Changing Family in Modern India'. Conference on, 'Marriages in Asia, Trends, Determinants, and Implications'.

June, 2011: Asia Research Institute (ARI), National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore: 'Parental Negotiation and Young People's Agency: Modern Courtship, and Love Marriages in New Delhi. Conference on, 'Transitioning to Adulthood in Asia.'

EARLIER INTERNATIONAL & SOUTH ASIA PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (1994–2000)

Feb-April 2000: Researcher: Briefings in Gender and Development at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

Compiled information and conducted a gender training programme. Wrote an annotated bibliography on Men, Masculinities, and Development.

Oct-Dec 1999: Consultant: The Commonwealth Secretariat, Gender and Youth Affairs Division, London.

Assisted in designing the Commonwealth Gender website.

Dec 1998-Sept 1999: Researcher: United Nations Environment and Development Committee.

Wrote the report Gender and Sustainable Consumption: Bridging the Policy Gaps that examined the gender dimensions of consumer behaviour and linkages with sustainable development. Organised a seminar at the 7th UN International Conference on Sustainable Development (April 1999) for the purpose of lobbying the findings of the report. Also compiled a database and expert committee of resource persons working on gender and consumption.

July-August 1998: Researcher: Action Aid Asia Regional Office, India.

Wrote a poverty situational analysis of the South Asian region (by reviewing secondary sources) for the purposes of policy and funding interventions for Action Aid.

April-June 1998: Trainer: Women's Policy Research and Advocacy Unit, Bangalore.

Facilitated an Advanced Gender Training Programme for men and women in the Education Department of the Government of Karnataka, Bangalore.

Jan-March 1998: Researcher: Singamma Sreenivasan Foundation, Bangalore.

Wrote a literature review that analyzed four documents on the status of women for the conference 'Strengthening Women's Participation in Governance at the District Level'. The conference was aimed at strengthening techniques on gender issues and how gender should be incorporated into the Human Development Report for the state of Karnataka (South India).

May-Dec 1995: Researcher: Centre for Social Research (CSR), New Delhi.

Participated in research study Breaking the Barriers: Mobilization of Rural Women in Uttar Pradesh.

Feb-May 1995: Consultant: United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) New Delhi.

Reviewed project documents for funding and assisted in preparations for the Fourth UN Conference on Women, Beijing 1995.

Oct-Dec 1994: Paid Student Volunteer: United Nations Volunteers, Sub-Regional Programme for South Asia, New Delhi, India.

Wrote a report on the work and activities of the Ruchika Platform School, an NGO assisting child labourers with informal education in Orissa. This first assignment was aimed at developing insights into NGO work in South Asia.

LANGUAGES

Spoken: English, Hindi and Norwegian. Conversational understanding: Urdu and Punjabi.