

**DEVENDRA SHARMA, PH.D.***CURRICULUM VITAE*

California State University, Fresno  
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Faculty Page:

<http://www.fresnostate.edu/artshum/communication/faculty-staff/faculty/sharma.html>

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**ACADEMIC &  
PROFESSIONAL  
APPOINTMENTS****California State University–Fresno, Fresno, CA**

Associate Professor, Department of Communication, 2012–present  
 Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, 2006–2012  
 Lecturer, Department of Communication, 2005–2006

**Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)**

Chief Creative Consultant, Action-Based Media Campaign and Research  
 Project on HIV/AIDS in Rural Bihar, India, 2007–2008

**Ohio University, Athens, OH**

Teaching Associate, 2002–2005  
 Research Associate, Spring 2005  
 Graduate member, Faculty Search Committee, 2003–2004

**Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India**

Lecturer and Communication Course Coordinator, 2001–2002

**Population Communication International (PCI), New York, NY**

Technical Advisor and Consultant, Participatory Community Performances  
 and Entertainment-Education Project in India, 2000–2005

**University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA****School of Cinematic Arts**

Fellow, Social Content Media, 2000

**Government of India, United States Agency for International  
Development (USAID), and Johns Hopkins University Center for  
Communication Programs (JHU/CCP)**

Performance and communication consultant, designer, performer, and  
 writer, 1999–2004

**Brij Lok Madhuri, New Delhi, India** [*a non-profit organization committed to using folk performance traditions for social justice*]  
Performance and communication consultant, designer, performer, and writer, 1999–present

**GUEST PROFESSOR & RESIDENT SCHOLAR-PERFORMER** **Théâtre du Soleil, Paris, France**  
Invited by Ariance Mnouchkine (world-famous theater director and founder of Théâtre du Soleil) to give a presentation on folk forms of India and their use for communication, and train resident actors to give a *Nautanki* folk theater performance, 2010

**Performing Diaspora, CounterPulse, San Francisco, CA, USA**  
Selected as one of 4 artist-scholars from across California to participate in a festival showcasing innovative performance pieces that experiment with traditional art forms. I wrote, directed, and performed in eight *Nautanki* folk theater shows, which communicated a controversial social issue concerning women's empowerment, immigration, and dowry, 2009-2010

**School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, United Kingdom**

Invited by Francesca Orsini (Professor at SOAS and 2013-14 fellow at Harvard University) to give a seminar and workshop on folk performance forms of India, 2013

**Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, India**

Invited as a visiting professor to teach a course on the relationship between indigenous theater and cinema, and direct a *Nautanki* (folk operatic theater) production with acting students at the institute, 2012

## EDUCATION

**Ohio University, Athens, OH**

Ph.D., Communication Studies, August 2006

Dissertation: Performing *Nautanki*: Popular Folk Performances as Sites of Dialogue and Social Change

**University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA**

**School of Cinematic Arts**

Social Content Media Production Leadership Fellowship, supported by Packard Foundation and Population Communication International, 2000

**Mass Communication Research Centre,**

**Jamia Millia , University, Delhi, India**

M.A., Communication Studies, 1993

**University of Delhi, Delhi, India**

B.Sc. (Honors), Botany, 1991

**Swami-Khera Akhara (traditional performance school),  
Mathura, India**

Trained as a Professional *Nautanki* Actor-Singer (folk musical theater tradition of India). More than 500 performances to date.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Books

**Devendra Sharma**, *The Nautanki Performance Tradition of Northern India: The Power of Indigenous Performance Forms in Constructing Community Identity* (tentative title). [Manuscript first draft completed during year-long sabbatical, 2011–2012] National School of Drama, Government of India, New Delhi, India

**Devendra Sharma**, *Speak My Language: Performance, Ordinary Culture, and Social Change* (tentative title). [work in progress]

Book Chapters

**Devendra Sharma** (2012). "Indigenous Performance Art Forms as Spaces for Social Reflection and Participatory Communication in Directed Social Change" in Srinivas R. Melkote (Ed.) *Development Communication in Directed Social Change: A Reappraisal of Theories and Approaches*. Singapore: Asian Media Information Centre, NanYang University. **I was invited to contribute the book chapter in this State of the Discipline edited book, bringing together articles from eminent scholars in the field of communication for social change.**

Lynn M. Harter, **Devendra Sharma**, Saumya Pant, Arvind Singhal, and Yogita Sharma (2007). "Catalyzing Social Reform Through Participatory Performances in Rural India" in Larry Frey and Kevin Carragee (Eds.) *Communication Activism: Media and Performance Activism* (pp. 285-314). Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press. The book was awarded as "**Outstanding Edited Scholarly Book of the Year**" by the Applied Communication Division at the National Communication Association Convention, San Diego, CA, 2008

Arvind Singhal, **Devendra Sharma**, Michael J. Papa, and Kim Witte (2004). "Air Cover and Ground Mobilization: Integrating Entertainment-Education Broadcasts with Community Listening and Service Delivery in India" in Arvind Singhal, Michael Cody, Everett M. Rogers, and Miguel Sabido (Eds.) *Entertainment-Education and Social Change: History, Research, and Practice* (pp. 351-376). Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates.

Peer Reviewed  
Articles

**Devendra Sharma**, "Nautanki Performances: Creating Sites for Community Connection." *Text and Performance Quarterly* (2013, in review). This article is derived from a refereed academic paper awarded as one of the "**Top Three Contributed Papers in Performance Studies**" at

the National Communication Association Convention, San Antonio, TX, 2006.

Arvind Singhal, Michael J. Papa, **Devendra Sharma**, Saumya Pant, Tracey Worrell, Nithya Muthuswamy, and Kim Witte (2006). "Entertainment-Education and Social Change: The Communicative Dynamics of Social Capital." *Journal of Creative Communications*, 1(1): 1-18.

Arvind Singhal, Lynn M. Harter, Ketan Chitnis, and **Devendra Sharma** (2007). "Participatory Photography as Theory, Method and Praxis: Analyzing an Entertainment-Education Project in India." *Critical Arts*, 21(1): 212-227.

#### Research Report

Arvind Singhal, **Devendra Sharma**, Centre for Media Studies, Brij Lok Madhuri, and Saakar Foundation (2007). "Intervening with the Indigenous: An Action-Based Folk Media Campaign and Research Project on HIV/AIDS in Rural Bihar." Executive Campaign Research Report submitted to the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). New Delhi: UNAIDS.

#### Invited Article

**Devendra Sharma** (2011). "*The Magical Communication Strategy: Working with PCI to use Indigenous Live Community Performances in Combination with Mass Media for Positive Social Impact*" in *Population Communication International (PCI)–Media Impact's 2010 Annual Report*. New York: PCI–Media Impact.

### RESEARCH PROJECTS

#### Chief Creative Consultant & Researcher

Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) Project in India. Title: "Intervening with the Indigenous: An Action-Based Folk Media Campaign and Research Project on HIV/AIDS in Rural Bihar," 2007–2008. I designed community fairs, helped organize community folk performances, and created a music video to involve local communities in Bihar in combating HIV/AIDS. I also co-designed and co-directed research assessing the project's impact.

#### Consultant, Communication Designer, Writer, Trainer & Researcher

Folk Performance/Media Campaign in Uttar Pradesh, India. A project of the government of India in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University/Center of Communication Programs (JHU/CCP). Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), 1999–2004. I designed the folk performance component of this massive campaign and helped folk performers write over 15 folk scripts integrating messages about women's empowerment, reproductive rights, and health. I also co-trained 150 folk troupes to stage more than 10,000 performances in the village communities of Uttar Pradesh, one of the largest states of India (population of 200 million).

Community-Based Action Research in collaboration with the departments of Theater and Health Sciences at California State University—Fresno, West Fresno Health Care Coalition, and West Fresno Boys and Girls Club. This was a puppetry theater project that targeted the issues of healthy eating, self-image, and obesity in pre-adolescent children in West Fresno, CA, 2009. I directed graduate students in my research methods course to assess the impact of this performance for health project.

Researcher &  
Technical Advisor

Project Title: "'Taru' Radio Soap Opera and Community Performances for Social Change in Bihar, India." Funded by Janani (a local non-profit organization working in the field of health and women's empowerment), Packard Foundation, and Population Communication International (PCI), New York, NY, 2001–2004. "Taru" was an entertainment-education campaign to promote women's empowerment, gender equality, and family health. In this project, I used innovative methods such as participatory theater and participatory photography for social justice.

Sexual Assault Prevention Theater (SAPT) Program, Department of Health Sciences, California State University–Fresno, Fresno, CA, 2011

Consultant

Fresno County Department of Community Health—Black Infant Health Fetal-Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) Program, Fresno, CA, 2008 onward

Consultant &  
Researcher

"Indigenous Culture as a Strategy to Achieve Better Health"  
Saakar Foundation, Patna, India, 2007–present

**INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

***Performances, Seminars, Workshops, Lectures, and Panels***

Devendra Sharma, “Invited seminar and workshop on folk performance forms of India,” School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, United Kingdom, May 2013

Devendra Sharma, “Invited lecture, workshop, and performance on the Indian Performance Tradition *Nautanki* and its use for communication with resident actors at the Théâtre du Soleil” in Paris, France. Invited by Ariane Mnouchkine, world-famous theater director and founder of Théâtre du Soleil. Paris, France, May-June 2010.

Devendra Sharma, Resident Artist-Scholar. Selected as one of 4 artist-scholars from across California to create new performance pieces using traditional forms to communicate contemporary messages. CounterPulse, San Francisco, CA, May–October 2010 (final performances/presentations on October 28-31, 2010)

Devendra Sharma, "Mission Suhani." University-wide lecture and performance based on South Asian women trapped in fraud marriages to Non-Resident Indian (NRI) men and related social issues among South Asian Diaspora. University of California at Berkeley, Center for South Asia Studies, Berkeley, CA, May 2010

Devendra Sharma, Visiting Faculty at the Film and Television Institute of India. I was invited to teach a course on the relationship between indigenous theater and cinema, and direct a *Nautanki* (folk operatic theater) production with acting students at the institute. Pune, India, January 2012

Devendra Sharma, "Communication and Performance for Social Change." Invited campus-wide lecture at the University of California at Davis, Davis, CA, May 2010

Devendra Sharma, "Invited Performance of *Nautanki* 'Indal Haran' and Presentation on *Nautanki* folk performance form of northern India," South Asia Institute, University of Texas at Austin, TX, April 2013

Devendra Sharma, "Relevance of Traditional Performance Forms in Today's Society." Invited campus-wide lecture at Benaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India, January 2013

Devendra Sharma, "Indigenous Performance Traditions" Invited university-wide lecture, Comparative Indian Literature, Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India, July 2013

Devendra Sharma, "Invited performances of *Nautanki* 'Hanuman ki Ramayan' directed by Devendra Sharma," National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai, India (May 2013), Tilaknagar Industries, Maharashtra, India (June 2013), Prithvi Theater, Mumbai (June 2012)

Devendra Sharma, "Performance and Communication," Khalsa College, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India, August 2013

Devendra Sharma, "Workshop on Performance and Social Change" for the Institute of Home Economics, Delhi University, New Delhi, India, August 2013

Devendra Sharma, "Invited TEDx Talk on 'Engagement through Entertainment,'" organized by the international non-profit community organization, TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design). TEDx Conference, California State University, Fresno, CA, April 2013

Devendra Sharma, "Shakespeare adapted into *Nautanki*." Currently writing, composing, and designing a new *Nautanki* opera based on Shakespeare's

"As You Like It" as a collaborative effort combining Western and Non-Western performers and performance traditions. [work in progress]

Devendra Sharma, "Lecture on Folk Theater Forms of India and their use for Communication," and "Performance of *Nautanki* Sultana Daku based on the issue of post-colonialism." Invited by Hindi Sangam, a community-based non-profit organization. Portland, OR, April 2011

Devendra Sharma, "Role of Traditional Media in Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities." Invited lecture for the National Conference on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Institute of Home Economics, Delhi University, New Delhi, India, November 2011. I presented with many esteemed leaders, including the former President of India and former Defense Secretary of India.

Devendra Sharma, "Workshop on *Nautanki* Folk Theater of India" for Gillo, an non-profit organization bringing together professionals, scholars, and actors to produce educational, media, and arts activities for children. Mumbai, India, February 2012

Devendra Sharma, "Setting the Tone: Diffusion of Innovations as Interactive Performance." I presented at a symposium titled "Celebrating the Scholarship and Mentorship of Everett M. Rogers: Fifty Years of the Diffusion of Innovations Book," attended by communication scholars from around the globe. I was invited to contribute to the symposium's panels and deliberations on mentorship and diffusion of innovations. Ohio University, Athens, OH, March 2011

Devendra Sharma, "Performance of Folk and Theater Music from India." Symposium on the famous Indian poet, *Agveya*. University of California–Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, February 2011

Devendra Sharma, "Folk Theater Workshop" for The Company Theater, Mumbai, India, January–February 2012

Devendra Sharma, "JIYO! Providing Opportunities for Community Folk Artists." A seminar, exhibition, and performance focused on the situation of traditional community arts in a global world. I was invited to talk about improving the living conditions of community performing artists, artisans, and craftsmen in South Asia, and give a folk performance. The workshop was attended by the Indian National Minister for Education and Human Resources, and top scholars, performers, and intellectuals from South Asia, Europe and America. Sponsored by the Asian Heritage Foundation, New Delhi, India, March–April 2010

Devendra Sharma, "India's Folk Performance Forms and their Communicative Impact for Social Justice." Invited university-wide lecture

at the Indian Institute of Technology–Delhi, New Delhi, India, December 2010

Devendra Sharma, "Folk Theater and Communication." Invited campus-wide presentation at the Foundation for Liberal and Management Education (FLAME), Pune, India, January 2010

Devendra Sharma, "Borderlands: A Conversation about Immigration & the Arts." I was invited to be a panelist for a symposium about issues affecting folk artists in trying to communicate important messages to contemporary audiences. The panel was a joint effort by the California Institute of Integral Studies, Alliance for California Traditional Arts, and CounterPulse. San Francisco, CA, November 2010

Devendra Sharma, "Agra Bazaar." Performed as Narrator and presented songs of Nazir Aqbarabadi, a famous Indian poet. The performance was based on the *Chattisgarhi* folk musical theater form of India. National Center for Performing Arts Annual Festival, Mumbai, India, August 2010

Devendra Sharma, "Mission Suhani." Folk performances to communicate messages related to social issues such as immigration, intercultural conflict, and women's empowerment among the South Asian diaspora community. Invited by Inner Eye Art, San Ramon, CA, November 2010

Devendra Sharma, "Relating to Your Students: Pronunciation in Different Languages." Workshop for faculty, students, and staff, California State University–Fresno, Fresno, CA, May 2011

Devendra Sharma, "TALKS! From India to the Bay Area." I was invited to be a panelist for a discussion on issues affecting the South Asian community in the San Francisco Bay Area, focusing on South Asian cultural traditions and women's empowerment. CounterPulse, San Francisco, CA, September 2009

Devendra Sharma, "Indian folk forms and their use for communication." Invited campus-wide lecture and presentation at the University of California–Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, April 2009

Devendra Sharma, "Food For Thought: Why It's Healthy To Collaborate." Invited to speak about establishing strong community partnerships and developing a program to help prevent obesity and inform pre-adolescents about healthy lifestyle choices in West Fresno. Organized by the Jan and Bud Richter Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning, and Center for the Scholarly Advancement of Learning and Teaching (CSALT), California State University–Fresno, Fresno, CA, October 2009



Devendra Sharma, "*Nautanki* Opera: Using *Nautanki* and other folk forms to communicate contemporary social messages." Invited presentation at the Henry Madden Library, California State University–Fresno, Fresno, CA, October 2009

Devendra Sharma, "Using Communication and Performance for Social Change." Invited university-wide lecture at the University of Delhi, New Delhi, India, August 2009

Devendra Sharma, "Gandhi's favorite peace songs." Invited presentation for "Stop the Hate Week," California State University–Fresno, Fresno, CA, October 2008

Devendra Sharma, "Socio-economic, Cultural, and Communication Aspects of Contemporary India." Sequoia Book Club, Fresno, CA, September 2008

Devendra Sharma, "HIV/AIDS in India." Invited lecture at the Fresno Art Museum, Fresno, CA, March 2008

Devendra Sharma, "Sultana Daku." Director and actor of folk performances with San Francisco Bay Area South Asian community organization "Naatak." Project covered internationally by BBC World News, Voice of America, Oakland Tribune, The Collegian, Hindustan Times, "Aaj Tak," and many other newspapers and television channels in India and the USA, Redwood City and Hayward, California, March 2008

Devendra Sharma, "Using Performance and Communication for Social Justice." Campus-wide lecture at the Central Valley Cultural Heritage Institute, California State University–Fresno, Fresno, CA, February 2008

Devendra Sharma, "Using Theater and Communication for Social Change." Invited campus-wide lecture at the University of Delhi, New Delhi, India, August 2007

Devendra Sharma, Resource Person, "Workshop on Aligning Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) for Demand Generation and Behavior Change" for the National AIDS Control Program (NACP) Phase III. Organized by the National AIDS Control Organization (NACO)–India, Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and Centre for Media Studies (CMS), India, June 2007

Devendra Sharma, "Guest Lecture at Arts and Humanities Honors Seminar," California State University–Fresno, Fresno, CA, Spring 2007

Devendra Sharma, "Guest Lecture on Persuasion" in the Communication 7 (Persuasion) class of a fellow colleague, Dr. Mary Hussian. California State University–Fresno, Fresno, CA, Spring 2007

Devendra Sharma, "Gandhi's favorite peace songs." Invited presentation for "Stop the Hate Week." California State University–Fresno, Fresno, CA, October 2006

Devendra Sharma, "Folk Performance Forms of India: With Pandit Ram Dayal Sharma." Sponsored by California State University–Fresno and Central California Society of India (CCSI), Fresno, CA, May 2006

Devendra Sharma, "Folk Songs of India." Invited presentation at "Say it Loud," a performance event of the Department of Communication, California State University–Fresno, Fresno, CA, April 2006

Devendra Sharma, Producer, Director, & Presenter, "*Charkula and Holi*: Two documentary films based on community folk performance traditions in India." Screened at *Cineculture* film club of California State University–Fresno, Fresno, CA, January 2006

Devendra Sharma, "Workshop on Participatory Theater for Social Change." for the Departments of Theater and Communication at Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI, March 2005

Devendra Sharma, "Telling Stories, Saving lives: The Importance of Using Indigenous Media and Folk Performances as a Communication Strategy for Social Change." Invited campus-wide lecture and workshop at the University of California–Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA, February 2003

Devendra Sharma, "Entertainment-Education for Social Change." Invited lecture at Population Communication International, United Nations Plaza, New York, NY, September 2002

Devendra Sharma, "Communicating Health Messages and Promoting Women's Empowerment through Entertainment-Education." Invited lecture at Population Foundation of India, New Delhi, India, July 2002

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

### ***Refereed Papers Presented at Academic Conferences***

Devendra Sharma, "Community Performance Traditions as Sites for Connection and Holistic Social Change." Accepted Refereed Paper. Performance Studies Division, National Communication Association Convention, Washington, D.C., 2013 [will be presented in November 2013]

Devendra Sharma, "Giving Voice to a Marginalized Performance Tradition in Contemporary Society." Accepted Refereed Paper. Performance Studies Division, National Communication Association Convention, New Orleans, LA, 2011

Devendra Sharma, "Encoding/Decoding: Indigenous Performances as Tools of Change in the Discourse of HIV/AIDS." Accepted Refereed Paper. Health Communication Division, National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, IL, 2009

Devendra Sharma, "Tap Your Feet, Move Your Body, Perform Your Story, and Organize Yourself! Non-traditional Approaches of Analyzing Global Health Communication Interventions." Accepted Refereed Paper. Health Communication Division, National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, IL, 2009

Devendra Sharma, "Communicating for Social Impact: Performances for Community Friendships and Social Change in India and USA." Accepted Refereed Paper. Global Communication and Social Change Division, International Communication Association Convention, Montreal, Canada, 2008

Devendra Sharma, "Folk Performances in the Service of Community: Applying *Nautanki* to Strengthen Community and Cultural Connection." Accepted Refereed Paper. Performance Studies Division, Western States Communication Association Convention, Broomfield, CO, 2008

Devendra Sharma, "*I Have to Watch Friends*: Use of Global Media to Construct and Articulate Self-Identities by Young Indian Women." Accepted Refereed Paper. Media Studies Interest Group, Western States Communication Association Convention, Broomfield, CO, 2008

Devendra Sharma, "*Nautanki* vs. Mass Media: Exploring the Role of Community Folk Performances in the Age of New Media Forms and Technology." Accepted Refereed Paper. Performance Studies Division, National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, IL, 2007

Devendra Sharma, "Community Folk Performances as Sites of Dialogue and Social Change in India." South Asia Conference, University of California—Berkeley, CA, 2007

Devendra Sharma, "*Nautanki* Performances: Creating Sites for Community Connection and Social Action." **Top Three Contributed Papers in Performance Studies** at the National Communication Association Convention, San Antonio, TX, 2006

Devendra Sharma, "This is an Alien Land: Increasing Alienation of Folk Performing Forms from the Indian Cultural Landscape in Post-Colonial Times, and probable future directions." National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, IL, 2004

Devendra Sharma, "Mutual Diffusion: Balancing the Cross-Fertilization of Ideas with the Preservation of Cultural Identity." Accepted Refereed Paper. National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, IL, 2004

Devendra Sharma, "Using Folk Performances to Communicate Health Messages: A Case Study in Rural India." Accepted Refereed Paper. International Communication Association Convention, New Orleans, LA, 2004

Devendra Sharma, "Drawing Lessons from the Entertainment-Education Experience in India for the Global African Experience." Entertainment-Education and Global African Experience Conference, Ohio University, Athens, OH, 2004

Devendra Sharma, "The Politics of Popular: Intended and Unintended Politics Connected with the Use of Terms Folk versus Popular, and their Different Interpretations in Different Cultural and Intellectual Contexts." Accepted Refereed Paper. Midwest Chapter for the Society for Ethnomusicology Conference, University of Kentucky, KY, 2004

Devendra Sharma, "Performing *Swang* and *Nautanki*: Dialogic of Space, Sound, Body, and Language." National Communication Association Convention, Miami Beach, FL, 2003

Devendra Sharma, "Adapting *Swang-Nautanki* to New Conditions: Applying folk performances as a Communication Strategy for Social Change." Refereed Paper. 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI, 2003

## **GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS**

Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS): "Intervening with the Indigenous: An Action-Based Folk Media Pilot Campaign Research Project on HIV/AIDS in Rural Bihar, India." Role: Chief Creative Consultant and Researcher, 2007–2008 [\$118,590]

Artist/Scholar in Residence: One of four artist-scholars from across California selected for a grant to create a performance piece on contemporary social issues. Supported by *CounterPULSE* (a non-profit organization promoting activists and artists) San Francisco, CA, 2010 [\$19,400]

Artist/Scholar in Residence: One of thirteen artist-scholars selected from across California for a grant to create a performance on contemporary social issues. Supported by *CounterPULSE* (a non-profit organization promoting activists and artists), San Francisco, CA, 2009 [\$6,225]

Franklin Research Grant: Funding awarded to conduct research in the British Library for my book about indigenous performance traditions of

South Asia and their connection to community engagement. Awarded by the *American Philosophical Society*, 2012 [3,500]

New Work Tour Support Program: Selected as one of ten artists from across California to pitch to sponsors at an Artist Information Exchange conference for possible funding for professional touring and presenting of new performing arts projects. Supported by *California Presenters*, Carmel, CA, 2011 [Awaiting result]

Master-Apprenticeship Grant: Funding to teach an apprentice in the *Nautanki* (folk theater) performance art form for one year. Supported by the *Alliance for California Traditional Arts* (ACTA), 2010 [\$3,000]

Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant, School of Communication Studies, Ohio University, Athens, OH, 2005 [\$2,000]

Friends of India Foundation Research Grant, Athens, OH, 2005. Project Title: "Indigenous Performances for Community Connection in India and America" [\$1,000]

Graduate Student Senate Research Grant, Ohio University, Athens, OH, 2005 [\$500]

Graduate Student Senate Travel Grant, Ohio University, Athens, OH, 2003 [\$300]

## **AWARDS & HONORS**

Awarded "Top Three Contributed Papers in Performance Studies" at the National Communication Association Convention, San Antonio, TX, 2006

Outstanding Doctoral Student, School of Communication Studies, Ohio University, Athens, OH, 2005

Exemplary Syllabi Award. Selected from nationwide faculty nominees for the Ernst A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty, New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE), 2011. My COMM 264M Syllabus (Seminar in Strategies and Applications of Communications Research) was awarded as a noteworthy example of community-based teaching and learning for its application of communication literature to improve communities and emphasis on student participation in field-based research projects.

Nominee for Provost's Award for Research, Scholarship, or Creative Activities, California State University—Fresno, CA, 2011

Selected by *California Presenters* for their New Work Tour Support Program. Ranked as one of the top ten applicants from across California.

Presented to tour sponsors at the 2011 Artist Information Exchange conference in Carmel, CA, 2011

Honored by the Mayor and City Council President of Hillsboro, Oregon, for bringing expertise in Indian performance traditions and their use for communication to Oregon, April 2011

Honored by the Rotary Club for spreading awareness about Indian folk forms in India and abroad, Sonapat, Midtown, India, September 2011

Selected for Madden Library's Exhibit of Faculty Publication, California State University—Fresno, CA, 2008

Honored as a performance expert to perform and speak about improving the living conditions of community performing artists, artisans, and craftsmen in South Asia in an international seminar, exhibition, and performance titled "JIYO! Providing Opportunities for Community Folk Artists," focused on the situation of traditional community arts in a global world. The seminar was attended by the Indian National Minister for Education and Human Resources, eminent politicians, administrators, scholars, performers, and intellectuals from South Asia, Europe, and America. Sponsored by the Asian Heritage Foundation, New Delhi, India, March–April 2010

University-wide Nominee for the Ernst A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty, New England Resource Center for Higher Education (NERCHE), 2010. This award gives national recognition to faculty members who connect teaching, research, and service to community engagement.

Interviewed by the University Journal, California State University—Fresno about Dr. Sharma's community-engaged development and entertainment-education research and performance work, which was highlighted on California State University—Fresno's website in Spring 2013.

Selected as one of 10 faculty university-wide to deliver a TEDx Talk at California State University—Fresno's TEDx Conference in Spring 2013. TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) is an international non-profit community organization devoted to "Ideas Worth Spreading."

Terry Conry and Lynn John Student Conference Award, School of Communication Studies, Ohio University, Athens, OH, 2004

Social Content Media Leadership Fellow, University of Southern California, Packard Foundation, and Population Communication International, 2000 [a specially designed leadership fellowship in the fields of media and communication for social change]

Top Two Student Films, Mass Communication Research Centre, Jamia Millia University, Delhi, India, 1993. I wrote and directed “Rehna Nahin Des Birana hai” (a 16 m.m. film based on the plight of *Swang-Nautanki* folk performing artists in India), which was elected to participate in the Tokyo International Student Film Festival by Jamia Millia University.

**PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICE**

Reviewer, Text and Performance Quarterly, 2013

Reviewer, Performance Studies Division, Western States Communication Association, 2008

Reviewer, Standard Research Grants Competition, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2009

Reviewer, Journal of Family Communication, 2010

Reviewer, Popular Communication Division, International Communication Association, 2003–2004

Advisory Board Member, Sexual Assault Prevention Theater program, Department of Health Sciences, California State University–Fresno, 2011

Advisor, Arts and Humanities College Students Performance Club (Bulldog Performance Council), California State University–Fresno, 2007–present

Member, Advisory Group for creating the Center for the Music of Americas, College of Arts and Humanities, California State University–Fresno, 2006–2007

Member, Advisory Group for preparing National Endowment for Humanities Grant, College of Arts and Humanities, California State University–Fresno, 2006–2007

Member, Advisory Group to plan Indic Studies Center, College of Arts and Humanities, California State University–Fresno, 2006–2007

Advisor, Sikh Student Association Club, California State University–Fresno, 2006–present

Member, International Committee, College of Arts and Humanities, California State University–Fresno, 2012–present

Member, University Academic Senate, California State University–Fresno, 2010–2011

Member, Personnel Committee, Department of Communication, California State University–Fresno, 2012–present

Designated as EEO for Teacher Education Search, Department of English, California State University–Fresno, 2012–2013

Member, Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Humanities, California State University–Fresno, 2009–2011

Chair, Co-Chair, and Member, Curriculum Committee, Department of Communication, California State University–Fresno, 2007–2011

Appointed as Reviewer, Undergraduate Program in Interior Design, College of Arts and Humanities, California State University–Fresno, 2009

Member, Faculty Search Committee, Department of Communication, California State University–Fresno, 2006–2008

Member, Scholarship Committee, Department of Communication, California State University–Fresno, 2006–2007

Respondent, Undergraduate Communication Conference, California State University–Fresno, 2006 and 2007

Advisor, Dog Days, Department of Communication, California State University–Fresno, 2006

Judge, Peach Blossom Festival, California State University–Fresno, 2006–2011

Advisor, Graduate Expo, Department of Communication, California State University–Fresno, Fall 2005

Graduate Student Member, Faculty Search Committee, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, 2004

Social Chair, Graduate Student Club, Department of Communication Studies, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, 2003–2004

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Member, Performance Division, National Communication Association, 2002–present

Member, Performance Division, Western States Communication Association, 2007–present

Member, International Communication Association, 2003–present



Member, Central States Communication Association, 2004–2005

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### Graduate

Performance and Communication  
 Communication for Social Change  
 Performance for Social Change (as visiting faculty)  
 Folk/Popular Performance Traditions of India (co-taught as visiting faculty)  
 Nautanki/Swang/Saangit/Raasleela Performance Traditions of India (co-taught as visiting faculty)  
 Performance for Social Justice/Activism  
 Strategies and Applications of Communication Research

### Undergraduate

Participatory Theater for Social Change (as visiting faculty)  
 Performance for Social Change (as visiting faculty)  
 Social Influence and Attitude Change  
 Argumentation Analysis and Advocacy  
 Communication and Persuasion  
 Communication and Planning Change in the Social System (Diffusion of Innovations)  
 Communication Research Methods  
 Fundamentals of Public Communication  
 Persuasion  
 Public Speaking  
 Elements of Television Production, and Still Photography  
 Introduction to Radio Production

## TRADITIONAL COMMUNITY NAUTANKI PERFORMANCES

<u>Actor &amp; Singer</u>	"Amar Singh Rathore" "Indal Haran" "Dahiwali" "Harischandra Taramati" "Raja Gopichand" "Sultana Daku" "Laila Majnun" "Puran Mal"
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## PERFORMANCES FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SOCIAL JUSTICE (produced by various institutions)

	<u>Production Title (Hindi)</u>	<u>Social Theme</u>
<u>Director, Actor, &amp; Singer</u>	"Mission Suhani"	Women's Empowerment, Immigration, Dowry
	"Sultana Daku"	Resistance against Colonialism
	"Beti ka Byah"	Dowry Eradication
	"Naya Savera"	HIV-AIDS Prevention
	"Behkani Muskani"	Women's Empowerment
	"Lulu Pulu"	Environment Protection
	"Pati No.1"	Boy-Girl Equality
	"Vichitra Dhokha"	Combating Caste Oppression
	"Padho Likho aur Bano Hoshiyar"	Literacy
	"Ghar Ghar ki Kahani"	Unemployment
"Ek Tha Gadha"	Political Corruption	
"Hanuman ki Ramayan"	Ethics Education for Children	
<u>Actor, Singer, &amp; Music Composer</u>	"Mehngai ki Maar"	Poverty Eradication
	"Jangi Ram ki Haveli"	Political Satire
	"Lakh ki Naak"	Political Corruption
	"Bhon Bhon-Khon Khon"	Communal Harmony

## URBAN PROSCENIUM THEATER PERFORMANCES

<u>Actor &amp; Singer</u>	"Agra Bazaar" – I have performed in more than 50 shows of this landmark production directed by Habib Tanvir, a renowned theater director of India and a pioneer in creating modern theater pieces inspired by indigenous theatrical traditions. Produced by Naya Theatre.
	"Sharvilak" – a production of the National School of Drama (NSD)'s Touring Theater Repertory in India. Directed by Bansi Kaul. NSD is India's

preeminent theater school.

"Haru-Heet," "Meghdoot," & "Ram Lila" – Directed by Mohan Upreti, a professor of theater music in India, and a renowned theater director integrating traditional theatrical forms in modern theater.

"Naya Gokul" – Directed by J.N. Kaushal and produced by National School of Drama, India.

"Khel" – Directed by Anjum Masood and produced by University of Delhi.

"Surya Dhara" – Directed by Rita Ganguli and produced by National School of Drama, India.

"Tash ke Patte," "Panchtantra," "Aisop ki Kahaniyan," "Milap," "Pavan Jhakora," "Ghadiyal ke Moohn Me Suraj," "Idgaah," "Saket," & "Jasma Odan" (Directed by Mohini Mathur, produced by National Bal Bhawan Theater Repertory for children, India)

## **SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND COMMUNITY-ENGAGED MEDIA WORK**

### Screenwriter & Actor

"The Last Holi" – Feature film directed by Shyam Benegal (one of the most renowned film-makers of India) about the controversial issue of land acquisition and its cultural, political, and social dimensions. The film is a musical in which the story is told through *Nautanki* and *Rasiya* songs and performances. In addition to writing the script, I am playing the character of a folk/indigenous singer. Scheduled for filming in 2014.

### Director, Writer, & Editor

Folk music video promoting HIV/AIDS awareness for the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), India, 2007

"My Script, My Show" – Documentary film on a participatory theater workshop and performances in the village communities of Bihar, India, based on the issues of health, women's empowerment, dowry, and gender equality, 2005

"Taru has changed my life" – Documentary film based on the personal story of a young woman in India describing her efforts for progressive social change in her community. Funded by Population Communication International, New York, NY, 2004

"Taru comes to Abirpur" – Documentary film on the use of community performances and mass media for development and social change, funded by Population Communication International, New York, NY, 2003

"Alha, Holi, Charkula, and Ranjha" – Short films on four folk traditions of

India. Produced for Zee TV (one of India's premier television channels), 2001

"Mausam" – A series of four entertainment-education films on meteorology. Funded by the University Grant Commission of India, 2000

"Sangharsh" – A musical television soap opera to promote literacy. Telecast on *Doordarshan* (the national television channel of India), 1998

"Music videos based on women's empowerment" – Produced by the Human Resource Ministry, Government of India. Telecast on *Doordarshan* (the national television channel of India), 1997

Director & Anchor

"Lok Birsa" – A 26-episode television series based on community performance traditions from different parts of India, 2001. Telecast on ETV (one of the premier television channels of India), 2001

"Abhang" – A 26-episode television series based on devotional music traditions from different parts of India. Telecast on ETV (one of the premier television channels of India), 2001

Director, Writer,  
& Actor

"Rehna Nahin Des Birana Hai" – 16 m.m. Feature Film based on the situation of the *Nautanki* community performance tradition and its artists in the changing cultural landscape of India. Selected by Jamia Millia University, India to participate in the Tokyo International Student Film Festival, 1993

"Pak Mohabbat" – Televised *Nautanki* opera. Telecast on ETV (one of the premier television channels of India), 2001

"Rehna Yahin, Des Hamara Hai" – A feature film in Broadway style that showcases *Nautanki*, a popular musical theater tradition of India. The film tells a cross-cultural story through a fusion of Eastern and Western culture and music, and conveys messages about the political, cultural, and social issues that have put *Nautanki's* rich tradition and legacy on the endangered map. [work in progress]

Actor

"Samvidhaan: Making of the Indian Constitution" – Television series directed by Shyam Benegal (one of the most renowned film-makers of India) on the political, social, and cultural aspects surrounding the formation of India's constitution after independence. Filming complete. Scheduled to be telecast on *Doordarshan* (the national television channel of India) in 2014.

"Tamso Maa Jyotirgamaya" – Television film directed by Shyam Benegal (one of the most renowned film-makers of India) about India's journey to becoming electrically self-sufficient. Broadcast on *Doordarshan* (the

national television channel of India), 2000

"Khilati Kaliyan" – Television series on literacy written by Safdar Hashmi (one of the most well-known political theater directors of India, who pioneered participatory theater techniques in India, similar to Augusto Boal), and directed by Guruvir Singh Grewal. Telecast on *Doordarshan* (the national television channel of India), 1988

Music/Theater Performer

*Doordarshan* (the national television channel of India), 1977–present

All India Radio (the national radio of India), 1988–present

Cultural/Social Reporter

"Parakh" – Prime-time weekly television political-cultural program. Produced by Vinod Dua. Telecast on *Doordarshan* (the national television channel of India), 1993–1994

"First Edition" – Breakfast television show. Produced by Dilip Padgaonkar. Telecast on *Doordarshan* (the national television channel of India), 1995

"India This Week" – Prime-time weekly television news magazine. Produced by Ramesh Sharma. Telecast on *Doordarshan* (national television channel of India), 1995

Newsreader

All India Radio (national radio of India), 1993–1998

Anchor

Music and Cultural Programs, Yuvvani (national youth radio station of India), 1988–1994

Consultant

National Geographic Channel, India, 2000