

Dr. Shweta Sinha Deshpande

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Executive Summary

Dr. Shweta Sinha Deshpande, currently working as an Assistant Professor at Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Symbiosis International University, Pune has been involved with archaeological and associated research for the past decade contributing to the field through an analytical approach that is interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary.

The thrust of her research has been focused on understanding the interactions between individuals and cultures both modern and ancient. Her extensive research both as an archaeologist as well as an academician has led her to conclude that the key to effectively deal with current social issues is through education based on an understanding of the often unrealized cultural baggage that stakeholders carry. She has used this realization to teach innovative courses such as Understanding India, The Idea of Art and Comparative Religion to the undergraduate students at SSLA. She has been instrumental in developing and promoting an undergraduate programme in Anthropology at SSLA.

Dr. Sinha Deshpande's extensive research experience includes archaeological excavations at Bronze Age and Early Historic sites where she analyzed excavated cultural artefacts to identify their 'utilitarian identity and their socio-cultural context'. This extensive research experience led to her PhD thesis titled "A Study of the Cultural Interactions in Central and Western India during the Third and Second Millennium BC". Her many articles, both individual and co-authored, all focus on driving home the point that excavated material such as pottery fragments for example, are not just mute objects to be collected and statistically analyzed but can tell a lot about social conditions, stratification, economic status, trade and cultural influences of the period they belong to. This focus on the larger context of the finer details has resulted in a recent paper titled "Evolving India's Big History" accepted and to be published in "Anthology of Big History" edited by Dr. Barry Rodrigue at the University of Southern Maine.

My research interests span the understanding of interactions between individuals and cultures both modern and ancient. I am currently working on Migration, religion as well as the contemporary dating and marriage phenomenon within the global and Indian context.

Biographical data

Name: *Dr. Shweta Sinha Deshpande*

Address: *A/001 Bhatnagar Avenue Apartments, Viman Nagar, Pune 411014*

Year of birth: *1975*

Designation: *Deputy Director, Assistant Professor,*

Address: *Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, 3rd Floor, Symbiosis Campus. S. No 227,
New Airport Road, Viman Nagar, Pune 411014*

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(Residence): *9371059469*

Email address: shweta@ssla.edu.in / deputydirector@ssla.edu.in

Work experience

- April 2016 – Present: Deputy Director, SSLA
- March 2016 – Present: Faculty head for SSLA International cell
- 2011 – August 2015: Faculty head for SSLA International cell
- 2015 – 2017 - Member Academic Council, Symbiosis International University.
- July 2013 – November 2013- Additional duties as *Incharge SSLA*
- June 2011-Present – **Assistant Professor**, Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, Symbiosis University, Pune, Maharashtra.
- 2009-2012 – **Visiting Faculty**, Symbiosis Centre for Liberal Arts, Symbiosis University, Pune, Maharashtra.
- 2009- May 2011 – **Lecturer** / Assistant Professor in Proto-history, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune, Maharashtra.
- 2008-2009 – **Assistant Professor**, Child Development Cell, Yashwant Rao Chavan Academy for Development Administration (YASHADA), Pune, Maharashtra.

- 2006-07 Ceramic Analyst, Girawad Excavations, Deccan College Post Graduate & Research Institute & Research Institute for Humanity & Nature, Kyoto, Japan
- 2003 Research Associate, Cambay Project, Deccan College Post Graduate & Research Institute & National Institute of Ocean Technology
- 2002-03 Ceramic Analyst, Mudvi Excavations, Pune, Deccan College Post Graduate & Research Institute
- 2002 Ceramic Analyst, Kasba Peth Excavations, Pune, Deccan College Post Graduate & Research Institute
- 2001-02 Ceramic Analyst, Bagor Excavations, Deccan College Post Graduate & Research Institute & Univ. Of Pennsylvania
- 2000-01 Research Scholar, American Institute of Indian Studies
- 1999-2003 Ceramic Analyst, Gilund Excavations, Deccan College Post Graduate & Research Institute & Univ. Of Pennsylvania

Editorial experience

- 2011 – **Editor** for Farmana Reports (Indus Projects) Occasional Papers.
- 2010 – **Primary Editor** for Ancient Asia Vol.II, Journal of the Society of South Asian Archaeology (SOSAA), Reesha Books, Mumbai.
- 2007 – **Editor** for Proceedings of the First Conference of SOSAA Bombay University.
- 2006 – **Primary Editor**, Ancient Asia Vol. I, Journal of the Society of South Asian Archaeology (SOSAA), Reesha Books, Mumbai.
- 2004 – **Associate Editor**, Monsoon and Civilization, Roli Books, Delhi
- 2002 – **Assistant Editor**, Origins of Pottery and Agriculture, Roli Books, Delhi
- 2001 – **Assistant Editor**, Monsoon and Civilization I (abstracts), Roli Books, Delhi

Publications

❖ **Books**

- (Currently being written) *Technology During the Chalcolithic Period in South Asia*, for the Infinity Foundation, Philadelphia, USA

- 2011 *Gazetteer of Indian Archaeological and Historical Sites: Vol. 1, Gujarat*, (with V.S. Shinde) Aryan International Publishers
- ❖ **Articles: National Journals and Book Chapters**
- (In Press) ‘Study Material on the Harappan Culture’, Department of Anthropology, IGNOU
- (In Press) ‘Chalcolithic Crafts and Technology in the Indian Subcontinent’ in Rajiv Malhotra et al. edited *History of Science and Technology* (www.indianscience.org)
- 2015, Craft and Technologies of the Chalcolithic People of South Asia: An Overview. *Indian Journal of history of Science*, 50.1, 42-54
- 2014, The Deccan Chalcolithic, in Dilip K. Chakrabarti and Makkhan Lal Edt. *History of Ancient India, Volume II Protohistoric Foundations*. Vivekananda International & Foundation Aryan Books International
- 2014, Chalcolithic Madhya Pradesh, in Dilip K. Chakrabarti and Makkhan Lal Edt. *History of Ancient India, Volume II Protohistoric Foundations*. Vivekananda International & Foundation Aryan Books International
- 2013 ‘A Study of Chalcolithic in Malwa Plateau: A Chronological Reassessment’ in P. Raga and V.S.Shinde edited *Art and Archaeology of Madhya Pradesh and Adjoining Regions*
- 2009 ‘A Study of the Chalcolithic Cultures in the Malwa Plateau: A Chronological Reassessment’, in Saundaryashri: *Studies in Indian History, Archaeology, Literature & Philosophy* S. Soundara Felicitation Volume, Sharada Publications
- 2007 – ‘A Preliminary Report On The Excavations at Mudvi (Solapur District, Maharashtra) in 2002-2003’ (with V.S. Shinde and others) in *History and Heritage* Vol. 1, Agamkala Prakashan, Delhi
- 2006 – ‘Development of Urbanisation in the Mewar Region of Rajasthan, India in the Middle of 3rd Millennium BC’ (with V.S. Shinde), *Ancient Asia*, No. 1, pp.103-122
- 2006 – ‘Basic Issues in Harappan Archaeology: Some Thought’ (with V.S. Shinde), *Ancient Asia*, No. 1, pp.63-72.
- 2006 – ‘The Interaction Networks of Pre/Early Harappan Gujarat’, *Puratattva*, No. 36, pp. 30-44
- 2005 – ‘The Geomorphological and Archaeological Investigations Along the Gulf of Cambay:’ (with V.S. Shinde, et al.), *Journal of Indian Ocean Archaeology* No. 2

- 2004 – ‘New Light on the History of Pune City: The Results of Accidental Discovery and Rescue Excavation Work’ (with V.S. Shinde), *Puratattva*, No 33, pp 52-62
- 2001-02 – ‘The Ceramic Assemblage in Protohistoric Mewar (Rajasthan) with Special Reference to Gilund and Balathal (with V.S. Shinde & G. L. Possehl), *Puratattva*, No 32, pp. 5-24
- 2001-2002 – ‘A Report on the 2nd International Workshop of the ALDP (Asian Lake Drilling Programme Workshop) (with V.S. Shinde) on Monsoon and Civilization, held in Pune, India, between 15-19 January, 2001, *Indian Archaeological Studies*, No.23, pp. 117-119
- 1998-99 – ‘Chalcolithic Social Organization in Central India: A Case Study of Balathal, *Puratattva*, No. 29, pp. 50-59
- ❖ **Articles: International Journals and Book Chapters**
- (In Press) ‘India: Evolving a Big History’, in B. Rodrigue, L. Grinin, A. Korotayev ed. *From Big Bang to Global Civilization: A Big History Anthology*, University of California Press.
- (In Press) ‘Mesolithic Bagor: Independent Beginnings of Sedentism and Ceramics, a Prelude to the Ahar Culture of South East Rajasthan, India’.
- 2014 - ‘Chalcolithic Pottery from Gilund, Rajasthan’ in V.S Shinde et.al edited *Gilund Excavation Report*, University of Pennsylvania Press.
- 2010 – ‘The Bronze Age Civilization of South Asia: An Overview (with V. S. Shinde) in *Ancient High Tin Bronzes: Production Technology and Regional Characteristics International Scientific Meeting*, Japan 2010
- 2008 – ‘Exploration in the Ghaggar Basin And Excavation at Ghirawad, Farmana (Rohtak district) and Mitathal (Bhiwani district) Haryana, India (with V.S. Shinde and others) in *Occasional Papers 3*, Linguistics, Archaeology and Human Past, Kyoto, Japan
- 2005 – ‘Gujarat between 2000 and 1400 BC’ (with V.S. Shinde), *South Asian Studies* 21, pp. 121-134
- 2004 – ‘Human Response to Holocene Climate Changes in Western India between 5th and 3rd Millennium BC’ (with V.S. Shinde) in *Monsoon and Civilization*, Luster Press, Singapore pp. 383-406

- 2003 – ‘South Indian Chalcolithic’ (with V.S. Shinde) in *The Encyclopaedia of Prehistory*, Vol. 8: *South and Southwest Asia* edited by Peter N. Peregrine and Melvin Ember, Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, pp.344-360
- 2003 – ‘Central Indian Chalcolithic’ (with V.S. Shinde) in *The Encyclopaedia of Prehistory*, Vol. 8: *South and Southwest Asia*, edited by Peter N. Peregrine and Melvin Ember, Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers

Research experience

❖ Ongoing:

- 2015 March – Present: Minor Research Project Grant, Symbiosis International University. *Evolving new belief icons in Contemporary India: Two case studies*
- 2015 – Present: Collaborative research on “*Love and Marriage “across two cultures”*” with DePaul University, Chicago

❖ Complete:

- 2006-07 Ceramic Analyst, Girawad Excavations, Deccan College Post Graduate & The Research Institute & Research Institute for Humanity & Nature, Kyoto, Japan
- 2003 Research Associate, Cambay Project, Deccan College Post Graduate & Research Institute & National Institute of Ocean Technology
- 2002-03 Ceramic Analyst, Mudvi Excavations, Pune, Deccan College Post Graduate & Research Institute
- 2002 Ceramic Analyst, Kasba Peth Excavations, Pune, Deccan College Post Graduate & Research Institute
- 2001-02 Ceramic Analyst, Bagor Excavations, Deccan College Post Graduate & Research Institute & Univ. Of Pennsylvania
- 2000-01 Research Scholar, American Institute of Indian Studies
- 1999-2003 Ceramic Analyst, Gilund Excavations, Deccan College Post Graduate & Research Institute & Univ. Of Pennsylvania

Conference participation and papers presented

- 2016, October 19-22nd invited to present paper at the 2016 Joint American Folklore Society/International Society for Folk Narrative Research Conference, Miami, Florida on “An Accidental Deity: A New Religious Icon for the Modern Age,”
- 2016, May 17th (with Dr. Nila Ginger Hofman) "Co-teaching across geography: a learning experience across cultures" at the Future of Liberal Arts and Science Education Conference, organised by SSLA, Symbiosis International University, Lavale, Pune
- 2016, April 25th (with GianMario Besana, Rositsa Leon, Nila Ginger Hofman, Richard Farkas, and Pero Maldini) - **COIL experiences enhanced by organically emerged mobility components at 10th Anniversary COIL Conference: *COILing Across a Decade: Reflections and New Directions*, at CUNY (City University New York) Graduate Center, 365 5th Ave., NYC,**
- 2015, October 23rd – October 31st, Visit, Department of Anthropology, Liberal Arts, DePaul University, Chicago.

Delivered presentations and lectures on:

- *27th October, 2015 Changing ‘Perspectives’ of Indian Archaeology Over the Last Hundred and Fifty Years* at the American Institute of Archaeology, Paper presented at the AIA Public Lecture series, The DePaul Art Museum. The Lecture was part of a series of the National Archaeology Week celebrations, Archaeological Institute of America (AIA)
- *Love and marriage across two Cultures: India & the US. The Indian Wedding Industry or Industrialization / Commercialization of the Indian Wedding*
- November 1st, 2015 – November 4th, 2015, Invited to State University of Albany, New York.

Delivered presentations and lectures on:

- *Effects of Globalization on the Idea of Love and marriage in India*
- *Appropriating the Past to Build the Future*
- 2014, March 18th, Paper presented at IISER, Institute of Reconciling Boundaries: Possible Avenues of Research across Disciplines
- March 2014, Paper presented at IISER, *Institute of Reconciling Boundaries: Possible Avenues of Research across Disciplines*
- XXVIIth Annual Conference of Indian Society for Prehistoric and Quaternary Studies, Deccan College, Pune, 27-30 December

- Monsoon and Civilization (2nd Asian Lake Drilling Programme Workshop), Pune, India, 15-19 January 2001

Mewar Through the Ages, Institute of Rajasthan Studies, Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur, 9-11 August 2002.

Paper Presented: *The Ceramic Assemblage in Protohistoric Mewar (Rajasthan) with special reference to Gilund and Balathal*”.
- History of Science and Technology (HST workshop), Nainital, Organised by Infinity Foundation, Philadelphia, USA December 2005

Paper Presented with Dr. V.S. Shinde: *Technology during the Chalcolithic period in South Asia*
- International Conference “*Journey/Festival of Folktales*”; Bhasha Foundation (The Centre for the Preservation of Regional Languages), Bachpan (Society for Children’s Literature & Culture) & SIU. November 2011

Paper Presented: “*Seeing beyond: identification of folklore in the archaeological context*”
- National Seminar on Anthropology and Human Development: Issues and Challenges Organised by Department of Anthropology, University of Pune, India, March 2013

Paper presented: *Development and Inequality, a Global Challenge*
- International Relations Conference on India and Development Partnerships in Asia and Africa: Towards a New Paradigm

Organized by Symbiosis International University, Pune, India, December 2013

Education

- Ph.D. 2003. “A Study of Cultural Interactions in Central and Western India during the Third & Second Millennia BC”, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute, Pune
- NET complete in 1999
- M.A. (1996-98), Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology with Dissertation Study of Chalcolithic Social Organization in Central India with special reference to Balathal, Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute
- B.A. Honours History (1993-96), Miranda House, Univ. of Delhi, Delhi

Currently conducting courses on:

➤ **Major Specialization in Anthropology:**

- **What is Anthropology**
- **Socio-Cultural Anthropology 1**
- **Socio-Cultural Anthropology 2**
- **Introduction to Archaeology: Theory and Techniques**
- **Anthropology Today: Its applications**
- **Anthropology of Globalization, Development and Consequential Urbanization**
- **Identity, Ethnicity, Nationality, and Fundamentalism**
- **Shifting Homelands: Ideology, Migration and Conflict**

➤ **History of Man: From Ape to Alexander and Beyond, A Study in World Cultures**

During this course we'll try and stitch together various strands of information collected over the years through interesting facts from books, movies, news clippings and often history classes themselves, to understand humanity to give meaning to globalization in its true sense. Here, you might not be able to see the minute details and the individual objects may be blurred but the larger picture will help connect the narrow alleys. The journey would include a travel back in time connecting it to contemporary social, political and economic scenarios with humanities changing and evolving forms of expression.

➤ **Understanding India: What is India? Unravelling the Mystery**

This course attempts to 'discover' the amalgam of traditions and people that makes up India today with its past glory and continuing deep rooted traditions both of which today depict the nation that it is. These traditions today, thought to be entirely home grown are often like the very name 'INDIA' actually a product of a series of interactions with merchants and invaders who were drawn to the nation by its immense wealth and aura of mystery that has always enveloped this region.

➤ **The Idea of Art; Art, Art History and Aesthetics**

An artist's or an artisans / craftsman's creation while reflecting his personal perception of an object or an event is always affected by the needs of society, his own

experiences and often the social scenario. Over time this has led to the creation of different styles or schools of art right from the prehistoric to the present with variations in form, style, schemes & perception of representation. The course will highlight some aspects of Art, Aesthetics and Art History through audio - visual medium geared towards an understanding of this form of human expression.

➤ **Religion: Their Greater Similarities and Finer Differences (A Course in Comparative Religions)**

An understanding of the world's religious traditions is crucial in helping us to appreciate not just the varied forms of belief and practice that we encounter at home, abroad and in the media, but also the influence that religion has on world affairs and politics. By exploring the religious concepts and principles underpinning a wide range of worldviews and lifestyles, this course in *Comparative Religions* will enhance your knowledge and understanding of ideas and events, past and present, around the world in its holistic contexts.

➤ **Shifting Homelands: Ideology, Migration and Conflict**

This course will engage in analysing the phenomena of mobility within and without (international) political and territorial borders through legal and illegal forms due to the classical push and pull factors of climate and culture to the concept of migration not as a sedentary bias but as a normal component of social relations including the determinants, assimilation and conflicts involved. The course aims at engaging in a multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary understanding of Migration often understood and closely associated as a 'problem' (Castles, 2010) (in both its cause and effect) leading to conflict, violence, social transformation and change throughout history.