Abigail McGowan

Professor, Department of History
Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
University of Vermont
Wheeler House, 133 South Prospect St., Burlington, VT 05405
Abigail.McGowan@uvm.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. History, 2003 University of Pennsylvania M.A. History, 1999 University of Pennsylvania

B.A. Asian Studies, 1993 Carleton College

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2020-present	Professor of History, University of Vermont
2016-present	Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont
2015-2016	Interim Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont
2010-2020	Associate Professor of History, University of Vermont
2004-2010	Assistant Professor of History, University of Vermont
2003-2004	Lecturer, Department of History, University of Virginia

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Home Improvements: Housing Reforms and Home Ideals in Late Colonial India (manuscript under consideration with Duke University Press)

2009 Crafting the Nation in Colonial India (New York: Palgrave)

Edited books

2010 Towards a History of Consumption in South Asia, eds. Douglas Haynes, Abigail McGowan, Tirthankar Roy and Haruka Yanagisawa. (Delhi: Oxford University Press)

Guest-edited journal issue

2022 "Readings on Textiles from 75 Years of Marg," Marg, vol 73, no. 4, August-September.

Journal articles

2021 "Mothers and Godmothers of Crafts: Female Leadership and the Imagination of India as a Crafts Nation, 1947-1967." *South Asia.* 42 no 2: 282-297.

2019 "The Materials of Home: Studying Domesticity in Late Colonial India." Part of the roundtable "Unsettling Domesticities: New Histories of Home in Global Contexts." *American Historical Review.* 124 no. 4: 1302-1315.

2016 "Domestic Modern: Redecorating Homes in Bombay in the 1930s." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians.* 75 no. 4: 424-446.

- 2016 "Khadi Curtains and Swadeshi Bedcovers: Textiles and the Changing Possibilities of Home in Western India, 1900-1960." Modern Asian Studies. 50 no 2: 518-563.
- 2013 "Ahmedabad's Home Remedies: Housing in the Remaking of an Industrial City, 1920-1960." *South Asia.* 36 no. 3: 397-414.
- 2013 "Convict Carpets: Jails and the Revival of Historic Carpet Design in Colonial India." *Journal of Asian Studies.* 72 no. 2: 391-416.
- 2006 "An All-Consuming Subject? Women and Consumption in Late-nineteenth- and Early-Twentieth-Century Western India." *Journal of Women's History.* 18 no. 4: 31-54.

Articles in edited collections

- Forthcoming, "Leisure and Consumption," in *The Cambridge History of the Modern Indian Subcontinent,* vol. II: 1830-2022, eds. David Gilmartin, Prasannan Parthasarathi, and Mrinalini Sinha. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.) (Projected publication date 2024.)
- Forthcoming, "Designs for Living: Art Deco and Modern Life in Interwar Bombay," in *Art Deco and the City: An Anthology of Writings on Modern Bombay,* eds. Mustansir Dalvi and Atul Kumar (projected publication date 2024).
- 2023 "The Fabric of the New: Mediating Architectural Change in Late Colonial India," in *Textile in Architecture: From the Middle Ages to Modernism*, eds. Didem Ekici, Basile Baudez and Patricia Blessing (London: Routledge): 85-102.
- 2022 "Unsettling Chairs: Designing Seating in Mid-century Bombay," in *From the Frugal to the Ornate: Stories of the Seat in India*, ed. Sarita Sundar (Mumbai: Godrej): 290-305.
- 2021 "Consuming the Home: Creating Consumers for the Middle Class House in India, 1920-1960," in *Making the Indian Consumer: The Politics of Advertising and Identity Formation in 20th Century India*, eds. Bhaswati Bhattacharya and Henrike Donner (New Delhi: Routledge): 139-158.
- 2019 "Selling Home: Marketing Home Furnishings in Late Colonial Bombay," in *Bombay before Mumbai: Essays in Honor of Jim Masselos*, eds. Prashant Kidambi, Manjiri Kamat, Rachel Dwyer (London: Hurst, New York: Oxford University Press): 117-145.
- 2017 "John Lockwood Kipling's Influence" in *John Lockwood Kipling: Exploring Art and Design from Bombay to the Punjah*, eds., Julius Bryant and Susan Weber (New Haven: Yale University Press): 488-511.
- 2015 "Crafts as Art in Late Colonial India: Artisans, Creativity, and Colonial Policy, 1880-1920," in Traditional Arts of South Asia: Continuity in Contemporary Practice and Patronage, ed. Crispin Branfoot (London: Saffron Press): 56-77.
- 2015 "Modernity at Home: Leisure, Autonomy and the New Woman in India," in *Visual Homes, Image Worlds: Essays from Tasveer Ghar, the House of Pictures*, eds. Sumathi Ramaswamy and Christiane Brosius (New Delhi: Yoda Press): 276-291.
- 2010 "Introduction" (co-authored with Douglas Haynes) in *Towards a History of Consumption in South Asia* eds. Haynes, McGowan, Roy and Yanagisawa. (Delhi: Oxford University Press): 1-25.
- 2010 "Consuming Families: Negotiating Women's Shopping in Early Twentieth Century Western India" in *Towards a History of Consumption in South Asia* eds. Haynes, McGowan, Roy and Yanagisawa. (Delhi: Oxford University Press): 155-184.

- 2008 "Educating Artisans as Colonial Modernity: Industrial Education in Late Nineteenth Century Western India," *Claiming Power from Below: Dalits and the Subaltern Question in India*, eds. Manu Bhagvan and Anne Feldhaus (Delhi: Oxford University Press): 84-100.
- 2003 "Crafts and Development," in *South Asian Folklore: An Encyclopedia* eds. Margaret Mills, Peter Claus, and Sarah Diamond. (New York: Routledge.)
- 2003 Biographical entries on Colin Mackenzie, Verrier Elwin and Edgar in *South Asian Folklore: An Encyclopedia*, eds. Mills, Claus, and Diamond. (New York: Routledge.)

Online publications

2010 "Modernity at Home: Leisure, Autonomy and the New Woman in India," posted on www.tasveerghar.net in March 2010.

Book reviews

- 2014 Ahmedabad: Shock City of Twentieth-Century India by Howard Spodek (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2011) and Ahmedabad: From Royal City to Megacity by Achyut Yagnik and Suchitra Sheth (New Delhi: Penguin Books India, 2011), Journal of Asian Studies, 73 no. 1: 278-280.
- 2009 Performing Pasts: Reinventing the Arts in Modern South India by Indira Viswanathan Peterson and Davesh Soneji, eds. (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2008), History: Review of New Books, 37 no. 4: 151
- 2006 Alchemies of Violence: Myth of Identity and the Life of Trade in Western India, by Lawrence A. Babb (New Delhi: Sage Publications, 2004), Journal of Asian Studies, 65 no. 1: 205-206.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Fulbright-Nehru Research Award, United States-India Educational Foundation, Jan-June 2019

College of Arts and Sciences, Faculty Research Support Award, Jan-June 2019

College of Arts and Sciences International Travel Award, June 2018

College of Arts and Sciences, Small Grant Research Award, June 2017

College of Arts and Sciences International Travel Award, January 2017

Engaged Practices Innovation Grant, UVM Provost's Office, "Identifying Study Abroad Opportunities in the Sciences." August-December 2016

Peter J. Seybolt Faculty Research Award in Asian Studies, summer 2015

Coor Collaborative Fellowship, UVM Humanities Center (with Megan Cope, Chris Burns, Vicki Brennan and Nicole Phelps.) "Visualizing Ideas in the Digital Humanities." Jan-Dec 2015

Lattie R. Coor Programming Grant from the UVM Humanities Center to sponsor the "Bombay History Workshop." January 2015

Enhancing Excellence through Interdisciplinary Experiential Engagement Grant for "Mapping Worlds: Geo-Visualization and Spatial Thinking across the Disciplines" (with Meghan Cope and Beverley Wemple). February 2013

Nomination for the Kroepsch-Maurice Award for Excellence in Teaching, UVM, 2012

Lattie Coor Research Assistant, University of Vermont, 2012

Faculty Research Support Award, University of Vermont, 2010-2011

Nomination for the Kroepsch-Maurice Award for Excellence in Teaching, UVM, 2010

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute Participant, "Buddhist traditions of Tibet and the Himalaya," summer 2009

Lattie F. Coor Faculty Development Award, University of Vermont, summer 2009

Humanities Center Research Assistant Grant, University of Vermont, 2008-2009
Dean's Fund, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont, summer 2008
Dean's Fund, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont, summer 2007
A.W. Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2001-2002
Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad grant (India and England), 1999-2000
Ford Workshop on the Problematics of Identities and States, University of Pennsylvania, Predissertation Grant (India), Summer 1998
Fulbright Fellow, India, 1994-1995

INVITED RESEARCH TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- May 2023 "Fine Furniture for Particular People': Design, Retail and Relationships in Bombay, 1934-1960." Invited paper for conference "Rethinking the Business History of South Asia: Social History, Ethnohistory and Capitalism on the Indian Subcontinent," Dartmouth College, USA.
- April 2023 "Art Deco Era of Mumbai." Invited lecture for webinar, "Art Deco Influence and Evolution in Mumbai and Malaysia." Department of Architecture, Faculty of Built Environment, University of Malaya
- Mar 2023 "To 'Solve the Problems of Our Coming Times': Design for Self-Sufficiency in India, 1947-1970." Paper presented at the Association of Asian Studies, Boston, MA
- Jan 2023 "Indoor Deco." Invited lecture for Art Deco Mumbai and the Bombay Research Centre at the Asiatic Society of Bombay, Mumbai, India
- Oct 2021 "Design for Sociability: Furnishings for Home Drinking in Wealthy Bombay, 1930s-1960s." Paper presented at the workshop "The Ideal Home: Design, Housing, and Market Capital in Modern South Asia, University of Vermont, USA.
- Oct 2019 "Designing Labor: Design Pedagogies and Artisanal Work in India, 1947-1970." Paper presented at the Society for the History of Technology conference, Milan.
- July 2019 "Designing Labor: Design Pedagogies and Artisanal Work in India, 1947-1970." Paper presented at the workshop "Writing Global Histories of Technology from a Local Perspective: Cases from the South," Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany.
- Jan 2019 "The Commerce of Design: Design Firms and Modern Indian Home Interiors, 1930-1965." Paper presented at the Seminar "Design, Culture and History—The Idea of Objects in Modern and Contemporary India," KR Cama Oriental Institute, Mumbai
- Sept 2018 "Mothers, Godmothers and Czarinas of Crafts: Women and the Imagination of India as a Crafts Nation, 1947-1962." Paper presented at the workshop "Women, Nation-Building and Feminism in India," University of Cambridge, UK
- July 2018 "'At Home with Handicrafts': Marketing Crafts in Post-Independence India, 1947-1965." Paper presented at the World Economic History Congress, Boston
- Mar 2018 "Materiality, Spaces and the Domestic in Late Colonial India." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington, D.C.
- Nov 2017 "For That Modern Indian Look": Craft Heritage in Modern Interiors, 1945-1965." Paper presented at the conference "Peripatetic Empires: Mobility, Visuality and Travel in British India and Africa," Rutgers University
- Oct 2017 "For That Modern Indian Look': Craft Heritage in Modern Interiors, 1945-1965." Paper presented at the 46th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison

McGowan 5

- Oct 2017 "Tradition in Practice: Engaging Tradition in Modern Indian Architecture, 1880-2000." Invited lecture, Bard Graduate Center, New York, NY
- Sept 2017 "Kipling's Legacies: Imperial Echoes in Nationalist Craft Development in India." Paper presented at the symposium "John Lockwood Kipling: The Legacy," Bard Graduate Center for Decorative Arts, New York, NY
- June 2017 "A Home for Us: Community Housing in Late Colonial Bombay." Invited lecture, School for Environment and Architecture (SEA), Mumbai
- Jan 2017 "The Image of Home: Textual Imaginings of Domestic Space in Mid-Century Bombay." Paper presented at the "Paper in Asia Symposium," Dartmouth College
- Jan 2017 "Selling Home: Marketing Home Furnishings in Late Colonial India." Paper presented at the conference "Power, Public Culture and Identity: Towards New Histories of Mumbai," University of Mumbai
- Jan 2017 "Mid-century Modern in India: Interiors, 1930-1960," Gallery talk for the exhibition "Design: The India Story," Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, Mumbai
- Nov 2016 "Selling Home: Marketing Home Furnishings in Late Colonial India." Paper presented at the North American Conference on British Studies, Washington, DC
- June 2016 "Domestic Modern: Redecorating Homes in Bombay in the 1930s." Invited lecture, Godrej Archives, Mumbai
- June 2016 "Domestic Modern: Redecorating Homes in Bombay in the 1930s." Invited lecture, University of Mumbai, Department of History
- Oct 2015 "A Place for Hospitality: Guests in the Imagination of the Interwar Home in Western India." Paper presented at the 44th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Mar 2015 "Domestic Modern: Redecorating Homes in Bombay in the 1930s." Paper presented at the Bombay History Workshop, University of Vermont
- Nov 2014 "Home Life as City Life: The Urban Domestic in Interwar Bombay." Paper presented at the conference "The City in South Asia and Its Transnational Connections," University of Oregon
- Oct 2014 "Home Life as City Life: The Urban Domestic in Interwar Bombay." Paper presented at the 43rd Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison.
- Apr 2014 "Domestic Modern: Redecorating Homes in Bombay in the 1930s." Paper presented at the conference "The Long Indian Century: Historical Transitions and Social Transformations," Yale University
- Dec 2013 Chair and participant in roundtable on Douglas Haynes's *Small Town Capitalism in Western India*, American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.
- Dec 2013 "Domestic Modern: Redecorating Homes in Bombay in the Long 1930s." Paper presented at the conference "The Long 1930s in South Asia: Appropriations and Afterlives," University of Leiden, The Netherlands
- Nov 2012 "Khadi Curtains for the Modern Home: Textiles and the Remaking of Domestic Space in Western India, 1900-1960." Paper presented at the conference "Textile Trade and Consumption in the Indian Ocean World," McGill University
- July 2012 "Consuming Domesticity: Creating Consumers for the Middle Class House in India, 1920-1960." Paper presented at the conference "Politics, Spaces and Social Relations of Consumption: Urban India in the Twentieth Century," Georg-August-University, Göttingen, Germany
- Apr 2012 "Housing the Modern Self: Environmental Determinism, Architectural Reform and the New House in India, 1920-1960." Paper presented at the conference "Objects and Bodies in South Asia," University of Pennsylvania

- Oct 2011 "Ahmedabad's Home Remedies: Housing Ideals for an Industrializing City, 1920-1950."

 Paper presented at the 40th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Apr 2011 "Modern Ideal Homes for India: Reimagining Middle- and Working-class Housing, c. 1920s-1950s." Paper presented at the conference "Stories and the Visual: Identity-Narratives Through Key Moments of Change," North Carolina Center for Asian Studies
- Jan 2011 "Visualizing Domestic Comfort for the Colonial Indian Middle Class." Paper presented at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting, Boston.
- Jan 2010 "Intimate Materials in a Globalizing Era: Textiles in the Making of the Modern Indian Home, 1900-1960." Paper presented at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting, San Diego
- Mar 2009 "Convict Carpets: Jails and the Revival of Historic Carpet Design in Colonial India." Invited lecture, Center for South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Oct 2008 "Convict Carpets: Jails and the Revival of Historic Carpet Design in Colonial India." Paper presented at the 37th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- July 2008 "Crafts Development in Colonial India." Invited lecture, Center for Environmental Planning and Development, School of Interior Design, Ahmedabad, India
- July 2007 "Fashion is a Crazy God': Shaping Middle Class Consumption in Colonial Western India." Paper presented at the conference "Exploring the 'Middle Classes' in South Asia," University of Sussex, England
- Oct 2006 "Weaving Heirlooms: Reviving Carpet Production in Colonial Western India." Paper presented at the conference "The Art of Exchange: Circulation of Visual Culture in Colonial India," Columbia University
- Oct 2006 "Shopping as Seduction: Consumption and Gender Anxiety in Early Twentieth Century Bombay." Paper presented at the 35th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Dec 2005 "Consuming Families: Negotiating Women's Shopping in Early Twentieth Century Western India." Paper presented at the conference, "Towards a History of Consumption in South Asia," Pune, India
- Oct 2005 "An All-consuming Subject? Women and Consumption in Late Nineteenth Century Western India." Invited lecture, Area and International Studies, University of Vermont
- Oct 2005 "Private Goods in the Public Eye: Design Books for Crafts in Late Nineteenth Century India." Paper presented at the 34th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Nov 2004 Panel chair, "Does the Economic History of South Asia Have a Future? Alternative Narratives of Economic Change, Part II." New England Conference of the Association of Asian Studies
- Nov 2003 "Envisioning India through Crafts: Remaking Society in Colonial India, 1850-1922." Invited lecture, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Department of Art.
- Aug 2003 "Crafting Consumers: The Making and Remaking of Artisanal Consumption in Colonial India, 1880-1920," Paper presented at the Third International Convention of Asia Scholars, Singapore
- Oct 2002 "Consuming Traditions in Colonial India: Continuity and Change as Consumer Strategies, 1880-1920." Paper presented at the 31st Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin

- June 2002 "Indian Crafts in Colonial Display and Policy, 1880-1920." Paper presented at the conference "The Traditional Arts of South Asia," De Montfort University, Leicester, England
- Apr 2002 "Imagining the Economy through Education." Paper presented at the 54th Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, Washington, DC
- Oct 2001 "Ways of Seeing: Crafts and the Discipline of Design in Western India, 1851-1900." Paper presented at the 30th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Sept 2000 "Education for Industry, New and Old: The Place of Technical Education in Industrial and Artisanal Development in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Western India." Invited lecture, Department of History, University of Mumbai

COMMUNITY LECTURES

- Jan 2023 "Developing Crafts: Conversation with Monisha Ahmed." Talk sponsored by the Marg Foundation at Artisans' Gallery, Kala Ghoda, Mumbai
- Jan 2023 "Chairs as Social History: Seating for Sociability in mid-century India." Talk sponsored by the Godrej Archives at Title Waves Bookstore, Bandra, Mumbai
- Feb 2020 "Housing Community, Housing Heritage: The Origins of Community Housing in Late Colonial Bombay." Workshop presented at the KHAKI Heritage Lab, Mumbai.
- Nov 2019 "India: Democracy under Siege." Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Havenwood Heritage Heights, Concord, NH.
- May 2019 "Beyond the Façade: Panel Discussion of Art Deco in Bombay." Chatterjee and Lal Gallery, Mumbai
- Mar 2019 "Designing History: Kamdar, Ltd. and the Practice of Design in Bombay." Lecture to INDUS, Mumbai
- Feb 2019 "Crafting the Nation." Public lecture at the Kala Ghoda Arts Festival, Mumbai
- Oct 2018 "At Home with the World: Globalization, Fashion, and the 19th Century Home." Gallery talk, Fleming Museum, University of Vermont
- June 2017 "India's 21st Century: Global Power, Domestic Struggles, Future Possibilities," Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Havenwood Heritage Heights, Concord, NH
- Feb 2017 "India's Histories: Alternative Stories from the Fleming Collection." Gallery talk, Fleming Museum, University of Vermont
- Jan 2017 "India in the Making of Modern Design: Remaking Homes in Mid-century Bombay," Global Village, University of Vermont
- Nov 2016 "Indira Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto: Women as Leaders in India and Pakistan," Vermont Humanities Council Fall conference, Burlington, VT
- April 2016 "India's 21st Century: Global Power, Domestic Struggles, Future Possibilities," Rutland Area Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Godnick Adult Center, Rutland, VT
- Mar 2015 "India Rising?" Vermont Humanities Council, Rutland Free Library, Rutland, VT
- Jan 2012 "The Kashmir Dispute: Historical Origins, Current Prospects." Vermont Humanities Council, Kellogg Hubbard Library, Montpelier, VT
- Nov 2011 "India Today: From Puppet to Puppeteer." Harbour Ridge Club Odyssey Program, Palm City, Florida
- Aug 2010 "Kashmir: Political Flashpoint in a Nuclear Age." ILEAD Summer Lecture Series, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

McGowan 8

Sept 2009 "The Kashmir Dispute: Historical Origins, Current Prospects." Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Burlington, VT

April 2007 "India: The High Price of an Economic Miracle." Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Burlington, VT

UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2017 2019	E-vale C-valinte University of Warrant First V-value C-variation
2017-2018	Faculty Coordinator, University of Vermont First Year Learning Communities
2017-2018	Chair, First Year Read Committee, University of Vermont
2016-2018	Member, University of Vermont First-Year Advisory Committee
2016-2018	Member, Collective Bargaining Team, University of Vermont
Spring 2015	Member, Search Committee for the Director of the Office of Fellowships
	Advisor
2014-2015	Director of Strategic Action Plans and Initiatives, College of Arts and Sciences
2014-present	Member, Humanities Center Advisory Board
2014-2016	Member, Pre-Health Advisory Committee
2013-14	Member, Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences
2013-2017	Member, First Year Read Committee, University of Vermont
2013	Co-organizer of the four-day workshop "Mapping Worlds: A Faculty Workshop
	on New Geo-Spatial Technologies"
2012-2013	Member, History Department Search Committee, Latin American History
2011-2014	Graduate Director, Department of History, UVM
2011-present	Steering Committee, Faculty Women's Caucus
2009-10, 11-13	Chair, Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, UVM
2009-2010	Chair, President's Commission on the Status of Women, UVM
2008-2010	Member, President's Commission on the Status of Women, UVM
2008-2010	Member, Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, UVM
2008-2010	History Department Liaison, Writing in the Disciplines Program
2007-2008	Member, Faculty Senate, UVM
2005-2010	Member, Graduate Committee, Department of History, UVM
2005-2008	Member, Academic Standing Committee, UVM
2005-2006	Member, History Department Search Committee, Environmental History
	·

TEACHING AREAS

Modern South Asia; South Asian visual and material culture; history of the Himalayas; British colonialism; historiography.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2020-present	Fulbright grant review committee
2019-2021	Member, Joan Kelly Memorial Prize Committee, American Historical
	Association
2017-2019	South Asia Materials Project, Executive Committee

McGowan 9

Reviewer of manuscripts for Art History, Bloomsbury Press, ASIA Network Exchange, Contemporary Studies of Society and History, Journal of Contemporary History, Journal of Asian Studies, Journal of Historical Research in Marketing, Journal of Material Culture, Journal of Modern Craft, Journal of Women's History, History Compass, Modern Asian Studies, Museum History, Princeton University Press, Routledge, South Asia, and Yale University Press.