

Dr. Safya Morshed, PhD, FHEA

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Summary: Safya is an economic historian of early modern South Asia. Her book project, called “The Evolutionary Empire: Demystifying State Formation in Mughal South Asia,” uses newly collected conflict and personnel data to study state formation in pre-colonial Mughal South Asia, an understudied region. She is currently part of a research team on the ERC funded project “Institutions and Entangled Commercial Cultures of International Trade,’ researching how globalisation caused institutional change in the early modern Global South. She has won multiple awards, including the Gino Luzzatto Dissertation Prize 2023. She aims to continue to research institutional change in the global south, with plans to apply for grants for future book projects.

Current Employment

Research Associate Manchester University, UK 2024-2027
‘Institutions and Entangled Commercial Cultures’ ERC funded Project

Previous Employment

LSE Fellow in Economic History, LSE, UK 2022-2024

Graduate Teaching Assistant in Economic History, LSE 2019-2022

Education

PhD in Economic History (Awarded 30th April 2023) 2018- 2023
London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK

MSc in Economic History 2016-2017
London School of Economics and Political Science, London, UK

McGill University, Montreal, Canada 2011-2014
BA in Economics with a Minor in Political Science

Publications

Morshed, Safya. “State of Forgiveness: Cooperation, Conciliation, and State Formation in Mughal South Asia (1556–1707).” *The Economic History Review* 77, no. 1 (2024): 60–89. [Link here](#)

Morshed, Safya. “The Evolutionary Empire: Demystifying State Formation in Mughal South Asia (1556–1707).” *European Review of Economic History* (2023) [Link here](#)

Works in Progress

Book Project (Near completion - Proposal Submission in Process): *Evolutionary Empire: Demystifying Mughal State Development in Mughal South Asia*

“Coping with the Periphery: Comparison of the Mughal, Ottoman and Qing States.” Co-authored with Dr. Yasin Arslantas and Dr. Ziang Liu. Planned Submission to *Journal of Global History*

“Social Mobility and state Decline in the Mughal State Apparatus in the 17th century”

“Climate, Conflict and the Mughal State – Reassessing Causes of Decline.”

Public Engagement Blog Posts

“What Rebel Forgiveness in the Mughal State teaches us about State Capacity” published in the EHS Blog, The Long Run: [Link here](#)

“Climate Change and Rebellion in Mughal India” published in the LSE Economic History Blog (2022) [Link here](#)

Awards

Gino Luzzatto Dissertation Prize, European Historical Economics Society (2023)

Teaching Award, LSE Economic History dept. (2022)

EHS Conference Poster Prize (2021)

LSE Research Festival Poster Competition Finalist (2020)

Funding

LSE Postgraduate Travel Fund (2022)

EHS Bursary (2022)

EHS Research Fund for Graduate Students (2021)

Radwan Travel and Discovery Fund (2021)

EHS Bursary (2020)

Invited Talks and Presentations

Economic and Environmental History Group Seminar, Wageningen University (2025)

Economic History Seminar, Paris School of Economics (2025)

Economic History Seminar, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (2024)

Lahore School of Economics (*upcoming*)

Historical Political Economy Series, Kings College London (2023)

Economic and Social History of the Premodern World Seminar Series at the Institute of Historical Research (IHR) (2022)

Rural and Environmental History Seminar, Wageningen University (2022)

Economic History of Developing Regions Virtual Seminar (2022)

Talk on ‘Conflict and State Development’ for the LSESU EH Society (2021)

Conferences and Seminar Presentations

Economic History Society Conference, University of Strathclyde (2025)

Asia Historical Economics Conference, Hong Kong University (2024)

Society for the History of War Conference, Cyprus Library (2024)

Economic History Society Conference, Northumbria University (2024)

Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference, University of Manoa (2024)

Society for the History of War Conference – National Library of Portugal (2023)
 Asia Historical Economics Conference Chulalongkorn University (2022)
 XIX World Economic History Congress, Paris (Two panels) (2022)
 EHS Conference New Researcher Session, Cambridge University (2022)
 Oxford Graduate Seminar in Economic and Social History, Oxford University (2021)
 LSE Graduate Economic History Seminar (2021)
 Social Science History Association Conference (Two papers), Philadelphia (2021)
 Indian Business and Economic History Conference, IMM Ahmadabad (2021)
 CAGE Summer School - Economic Growth and Development, Warwick University (2021)
 Sowing the Seeds Workshop, LSE (2021)
 EHS Conference Poster Presentation, Warwick University (2021)
 LSE Graduate Seminar series, LSE (2020)
 EHS Residential Training Course, Economic History Society (2020)
 South Asia Network seminar series, LSE (2018)

Conferences and Seminar Organiser

Asia Economic History Seminar series, LSE (Co-founded and Organised) (2018-2023)
 LSE Graduate Economic History Seminar (Co-organised) (Lent & Summer Term 2022)
 South Asia Through A Global Lens Workshop, LSE (Co-organised) (2021)

Teaching Experience

Lecturing Experience at University of Manchester

HIST 32022	‘Silk Roads: Eurasian Connections from the Mongols to Manilla, 1200-1800’	2025
	<p>Giving two lectures as part of a second-year economic history module in the History department of the University of Manchester. The lectures are on “The Great Divergence” and “The Environment”.</p>	

Teaching Experience at LSE

Postgraduate Taught Courses

EH401	‘Historical Analysis of Economic Change’ Taught three classes on the compulsory introductory MSc course in economic history. The course provides a survey of themes and methods in Economic history.	2022-2024
EH483	‘The Development and Integration of the World Economy in the 19th and 20th Centuries’ Taught two classes on a year-long survey course on economic history from 1800 to the present period. The course covers topics in historical geography as well as financial and business history.	2022-2023
EH430	Marked papers for a course on financial history.	2023

Undergraduate Courses

EH237	‘Theories and Evidence in Economic History’ Taught four classes on this course which teaches students how to conduct, evaluate and interpret research in economic history. Students are expected to undertake three small research projects over the full year course, including working with primary sources.	2022-2024
EH211	‘Africa and the World Economy’ Taught three classes on the Economic history of African states between 1500-2000 A.D, including a focus on North, South and Sub-Saharan African economic history. Topics include the impact of Islamic laws on trade, state-building and slavery.	2019-2022
EH102	‘Pre-industrial Economic History’ Taught two classes for a compulsory survey course for first-year students on Pre-industrial Economic History of Europe between 1000-1850 A.D	2020-2021

Dissertation Supervision

EH498/9	Supervised eight MSc dissertations where students are expected to conduct and write an independent research project in economic history.	2022-2023
EH390	Supervised five BSc dissertations where students are expected to conduct and write up and independent research project in economic history.	2022-2023

Additional Teaching Experience

Mentor for GTA Training Scheme programme Mentored three incoming GTAs on class teaching for the department.	2020-2022
Digital Disciplinary GTA (Assisted in coordinating Online Teaching), LSE	2020-2021

Professional Qualifications & Memberships

Fellow Higher Education Academy (FHEA), LSE Eden Centre	2020-2021
Associate Fellow Higher Education Academy (AFHEA), LSE Eden Centre	2019-2020
Economic History Society Membership	2018- 2023
Social Science History Association Membership	2021-2022
Economic History Association Membership	2021-2023

Reviewer for Journal

Economics of Transitions and Institutional Change (2022)

Other Work & Volunteer Experience

Research Assistant – EH237 Learning, Technology and Innovation Grant Completed a grant evaluation report on the new teaching methods for a course on theories and methods in Economic History.	2018-2018
Student Union Advisor, City University London	2015-2016

Skills and Languages

QGIS, OpenRefine, ABBYFineReader, STATA, and MS Access.

Languages include: English (fluent), Urdu (fluent), Farsi (intermediate reading), French (intermediate reading), Hindi (proficient in speaking) and Arabic (basic beginner)