

GAURAV J. PATHANIA

225, Roselawn Building, Eastern Mennonite University, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802

Mobile: +1-202-997-8359 Office: (540) 432-4435

Sociologist, Community Organizer, Anti-Caste Activist, Poet & Actor

gaurav.pathania@emu.edu | website: gauravjpathania.com

[ORCID ID](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Google Scholar](#)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2021-present Assistant Professor of Sociology & Peacebuilding,

[Eastern Mennonite University](#)

2020-24 Department of Sociology, [Georgetown University](#) [Summer School]

2020 Department of Sociology, Catholic University of America

2019 Department of Sociology, George Washington University

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENT

2026-28 Faculty Senate

2024 Interim Director, [Center for Interfaith Engagement](#), EMU

2022 Deputy Editor, [South Asia Research](#), SOAS, University of London, UK.

2019-22 Assistant Editor, [South Asia Research](#), SOAS, University of London, UK.

EDUCATION

PhD **SOCIOLOGY**, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) 2017

MPhil **EDUCATION**, JNU 2011

MA **SOCIOLOGY**, Center for the Study of Social Systems, JNU 2009

MA Public Administration, Kurukshetra University 2007

MA English Literature, Kurukshetra University 2005

CERTIFICATION

2024 Strategies of Trauma Awareness & Resilience ([STAR](#)) Training, Level -1
Eastern Mennonite University

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Sociological Theories, Introduction to Sociology, Social Movements, Globalization & Justice, Sociology of Health, Sociology of Education; Qualitative Research Methods

(Ethnography), Community Organizing, Caste, Race & Ethnicity, South Asian
Diaspora Social Movements

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE [ETHNOGRAPHY]

- 2022-24 **Researcher**, Understanding Privilege among South Asian Students, a project of Prof. Bonnie Zare, Virginia Tech University
- 2020-Present **Research Associate**, Documentary Project on South Asian American Community, Council on Global Social Issues, Commission on Global Social Work Education (CSWE)
- 2019 **Research Consultant** (with Prof. Brandon Vaidyanathan, P.I.)
[Mental Health Literacy and Support in Congregations](#)
The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
- 2018 **Visiting Scholar**, College of Education,
University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
- 2017 Research Associate, [Pullias Center for Higher Education](#), USC, LA
University of Southern California, Los Angeles
- 2016-2017 **Research Assistant** (with Prof. Sushrut Jadhav)
"[Discrimination, Distress and Higher Education in India.](#)" In collaboration with University College London and Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, India. *Supported by British Academy International Partnership and Mobility Grant*, UK ([mindsofcaste.org](#))

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

[The University as a Site of Resistance: Identity and Student Politics](#)

Oxford University Press, New Delhi (Global edition 2018)

Reviewed in:

[Contemporary Voice of Dalit](#) (2022)

[Contemporary South Asia](#) (2021)

[Theory, Culture and Society](#) (2021)

[Journal of Resistance Studies](#) (2020)

Featured in Media:

[The Hindu](#) (2019)

[The Caravan Reading List](#)

[Higher Education Reading List](#)

EDITED VOLUME [Forthcoming]

Zare, Bonnie & Gaurav Pathania. 2026. [Time is Power: Temporalities and Caste](#), USA [under-review with Oxford University Press]

EDITED ISSUE

Special Issue “On Caste and Education” for *SCOTTISH EDUCATIONAL REVIEW. 2026*

ARTICLES (Peer-Reviewed)

2026. Pathania, G. J. and Sat Pal Muman. “Maadhuri Hireker: Education, Emancipation and An Ambedkarite-Buddhist Woman’s Journey from India to the UK”, *CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion*, 7 (1): 27-50.

2025. Pathania, Gaurav J. छात्रों के प्रतिरोध की राजनीति: भारतीय विश्वविद्यालयों का समाजशास्त्रीय अध्ययन, *भारतीय समाजशास्त्र समीक्षा*, 12(2): 147–161.
<https://sagebhasha.com/Journal/TOC?JournalId=1>

2025. Zare, Bonnie, Pathania, Gaurav J. ‘To resist, first we must see’: Unlearning Caste Privilege among University Students, *Higher Education: The International Journal of Higher Education Research*. 89(6).

2025. Zare, Bonnie, Pathania, Gaurav J. and Shajahan, Muhammedshah. Invisibility of Caste in Everyday Campus Life: Indian American Students and their Understanding of Privileges, *Social Identities*, 31 (1): 1-17 doi:10.1080/13504630.2025.2460702

2023. Pathania, Gaurav J., Sushrut Jadhav, Amit Thorat, David Mosse, Sumeet Jain. “Caste Identities and Structures of Threats: Understanding Wellbeing in an Indian University Campus.” *CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion*, 4 (1): 3-23.
Brandeis University

2020. “Cultural Politics of Historically Marginalized Students,” *Critical Times*, 3(3). 534-550 (Duke University Press)

2018. Pathania, Gaurav J. and William G. Tierney. 2018. “An Ethnography of Caste and Class at an Indian University,” *Tertiary Education and Management*, 24(3): 221-231.
[European Higher Education Society]

2016. "Food Politics and Counter-Hegemonic Assertion among Marginalized Students at Indian Universities" *South Asia Research*, 36(2): 261-277 .

BOOK CHAPTERS

2023. Pathania, Gaurav J. and K. Kalyani. “Contextualizing the Emergence of Dalit Studies in Academia,” in Joao M. Paraskeva (ed.) *Critical Perspective on the Denial of*

Caste in Educational Spaces: Towards a Non-Derivative Curriculum Reason, Routledge: NY.

2022. Pathania, Gaurav J. and Nina Asher. “[Racialization of Caste: Internal Colonization of Education in South Asia](#)”, In J. Scott, M. Bajaj (eds.) *World Yearbook of Education 2023: Racialization and Educational Inequalities in Global Perspective*, Routledge: USA

2021. “[Regional Movements in Democracy: The Case of Telangana](#),” in P. D’Souza, H. Ahmed and S. Alam (eds.) *Companion on Indian Democracy: Resilience, Fragility, Ambivalence*, Routledge, UK.

2019. Thakur, Narender and Gaurav Pathania. “[Privatization and Shrinking Free Space in Education](#)” pp. 130-144 in Babu G. S. (ed.) *Education and the Public Sphere: Exploring the Structure of Mediation in Post-Colonial India*, Routledge: Delhi.

2018. “Counter-Hegemonic Assertions of Marginalized Students in Indian University Campuses in India,” pp. 207-231 in G. Wankhede and I. Reid (eds.) *Accessing Higher Education: Footprints of Marginalized Groups*, Aakar Books: Delhi.

2015. “Middle Class Resistance in Contemporary Urban India” pp.276-297 in L. Lobo and J. Shah (eds.) *The Trajectory of India’s Middle Class: Economy, Ethics & Etiquette*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing: UK.

RESEARCH ARTICLES [FORTHCOMING]

2026. Shreya Sunderram, Gaurav J. Pathania and Robert Robinson. Building Towards Black and Dalit Pedagogies, *Scottish Educational Review*.

2026 Pathania, Gaurav J. *Critical Pedagogy of Caste*, in Oxford Handbook of Education in Contemporary India.

2026. Demonizing Religion, Countering Tradition: Analyzing Dalit-OBC Student Activism in India,” In Jean Thomas and Khalil Parker (eds.) *Student Politics from the Lens of South Asia*, Orient BlackSwan. (book chapter- under review)

BOOK REVIEWS

2027: Not So Outrageous Idea of a Christian Sociology, Taylor & Francis (Forthcoming)

2026: **Hailing the State: Indian Democracy in Between Elections**, Duke University Press. (forthcoming)

2026: *Nepal In the Long 1950s*, Martin Chautari: Kathmandu. (forthcoming)

2025: Banu Mushtaq. [Heart Lamp](#), *CASTE: A Global Journal of Social Exclusion*, 6(2): 485-87.

2025: Jai Mohan Pandit & Bino Paul. 2023. [The Strategic Human Resource Management in Higher Education: Roadmap for Indian Institution](#), *South Asia Research*, 45(3): 1-4

2024: Sandhya Fuchs. [Fragile Hope: Seeking Justice for Hate Crimes in India](#), *Journal of Social and Cultural Anthropology*, 149 (2): 353-355.

2024: Shailaja Paik. [The Vulgarities of Caste](#), *CASTE-A Global Journal on Social Exclusion*, 5(3): 521-524.

2024: Rahul Sagar, To Raise a Fallen People: The Nineteenth-Century Origins of Indian Views on International Politics, *South Asia Research*, 44 (3)

2022: Chinnaiah Jangam. Dalits and the Making of Modern India, *CASTE-A Global Journal on Social Exclusion*, 3(1) : 217-220 April.

2017: [Jeremy A. Rinker](#). [Identity, Rights, and Awareness](#), *Peace and Change: A Journal of Peace Research*, 45(4): 616-619.

2017: Leona Rittner; W. Scott Haine and Jeffrey H. Jackson. [The Thinking Space: The Cafe as a Cultural Institution](#), Ashgate: UK. *Cafe Dissensus Everyday*, June 18.

2015: Romila Thapar. [The Public Intellectuals in India](#), Aleph Book Company, New Delhi. *South Asia Research*, 37(2): 232-235.

2014: Gautam Pingle. [The Fall and Rise of Telangana](#), Orient BlackSwan, New Delhi. *South Asia Research*, 34(3): 270-273.

2013: G. B. Nambissan & S. S. Rao (eds.) [Sociology of Education in India](#), Oxford University Press, *Economic and Political Weekly*. XL VIII(50): 29-31.

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

2024 EMU Goes Hollywood, *Crossroads*, EMU. August.

2024, Interview with *The Weather Wane*, 71 (14)

2024 'ORIGIN' movie, out in Theaters now, features EMU Professor, *The New Virginian*, January 23. 2024

2024. Unveiling the layers: Remarkable Story of Resilience and Success, *The Global Indian*, January 13.

2023. The Academician Who Portrays Baba Saheb in 'Origin,' Hollywood's First Movie Centered on Ambedkar, *Mooknayak*, December 7.

2023 Who is Gaurav J Pathania? Professor Plays Dr. Ambedkar in Ava DuVernay's ORIGIN, *Statesman*, September 15

2023 ORIGIN: A Film on Race and Caste Featuring BR Ambedkar makes Waves in Hollywood, *Hindustan Times*, September 14

2023 Caste Discrimination is Rampant in Indian Higher Education: Study Exposes Deep Rooted Prejudices, *The Mooknayak*, May 22

2023 Gaurav Pathania: Boston Globe Trotter, *The Weather Wane*, 70 (2)

2023 The American Dream is Not Possible without Higher Education for All, *Hindustan Times*, September 2.

2023 Why Seattle Banned Caste-Discrimination, *PBS Newshour*, February 28

2023 Caste Should not be Part of the American Dream, *Boston Globe*, February 17

2022 Celebration of Ambedkar at EMU Professor Gaurav Pathania, *Peace & Development*, Eastern Mennonite University, April 12

2022 Black History is more than Slavery, *Peace & Development Blog*, Eastern Mennonite University, February 21, 2022

- 2021 [Telangana Lost its Anti-Caste Doctor: Dr. Kolluri Chiranjeevi \(1947-2021\)](#), *Dalit Dastak*, March 25, 2021
- 2020 [Missing from National Education Policy, Issues of the Marginalized](#), *Indian Express*, September 6
- 2018 [History, Ideology and the Contemporary Student Politics](#) *The Quint*, October 10, 2018
- 2020 [Saffron Scissors](#), *Frontline*, August 14
- 2020 [Dalit Dastak](#), *BlackHole* (Poetry Recitation), April 13
- 2020 [Pehchaan](#) students' magazine, Ahmedabad University, February
- 2019 [Is Campus Activism Losing its Sting](#), *Open Magazine*, November 29
- 2019 [Resistance Studies Initiative](#), @ [University of Massachusetts, Amherst](#), October 30
- 2018 [Dalit Diaspora in the United States](#), interview with *Dalit Dastak*, a YouTube Channel
- 2018 [Massachusetts University Honors Ambedkar](#), *The Quint*, June 9, 2018

LITERARY WRITINGS [*SOCIOLOGY OF LITERATURE*]

2024. [My Pen-My Words](#), *CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion*, 5 (2): 332-34
2024. [Deceiving Frames](#), *Phoenix*, 67: Eastern Mennonite University
2021. [Reflection](#), *CASTE-A Global Journal on Social Exclusion*, 2(2): 379-380 (Poem in Hindi and English)
2021. [“Inverted Question Mark”](#) *The Awakened*, a journal of Boston Study Group. Vol. 1(1) Spring.
2020. [“Blackhole”](#) *CASTE-A Global Journal on Social Exclusion*, 1(2): 183-186. (Poem in Hindi and English)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Discussant, Book Panel on *Damned Whiteness*, James Madison Uni. Feb. 11 2026
- Reviewer, [McArthur Fellow Program](#), USA
- Reviewer, [National Science Foundation](#), USA
- Review Board, [Authors' Lab](#), Ambedkar International Center, Maryland
- Chaired a panel "Caste & Institution" in the conference " [Anti-Caste Thought: Theory, Politics and Culture](#), University of Wolverhampton, October 29, 2021
- Moderator, Discussion and launch of Five volumes on Dr. Ambedkar, published and organized by the [Oxford University Press](#) April 11, 2021
- Moderator, email listserv and developed academic project website [mindsofcaste.org](#)
- Discussant, "Race-Caste Reckoning," National Geographic documentary film [A Lost Tribe of Africa](#), November 7, 2020
- Organized " [Race, Resistance & Civil Repair: Black Lives Matter and Beyond](#)" - online discussion with Prof. Jeffrey Alexander and Prof. Kevin Brown, July 25, 2020
- Organized guest talk by Mark Rudd (Columbia University's Free Speech Movement leader in 1965-1968 and president of Students for Democratic Society) for [From Underground to Cyberspace: Understanding the Future of Student Politics](#), and [What's Up with Student Movement Now](#) at Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, March, 2019
- Reviewer, Comparative & International Education Society Annual Conference, 2018
- Organizing Committee, [International Conference on Caste and Race: Configuring Solidarities](#), College of Education, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, May 4-6, 2018

OCCASIONAL REVIEWER:

- CASTE: A Global Journal of Social Exclusion (Brandeis University, USA)
- Critical Asian Studies (Taylor & Francis, USA)
- Contemporary Education Dialogue (Sage, India)
- Contemporary South Asia (Taylor & Francis, UK)
- Cultural Dynamics (Sage)
- Distinktion: Journal of Social Theory (Germany)
- Ethnic & Racial Studies Journal (Taylor & Francis)
- Higher Education, (Springer, USA)
- International Journal of Qualitative Studies in Education
- Journal of Loss and Trauma ([Taylor & Francis](#))
- Journal of Social Inclusion Studies (Sage)
- Journal of South Asian Development (Sage)

- Left History, York University, Toronto
- Modern Asian Studies, (Cambridge University Press, UK)
- Oxford University Press (Delhi, India)
- Peace and Change: A Journal of Peace Research (Wiley-Blackwell, USA)
- SAMAJ-South Asia Multidisciplinary Academic Journal (France)
- Science as Culture
- South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies (Taylor and Francis, Australia)
- The Social Science Journal (Elsevier, USA)
- Social Movement Studies, Taylor & Francis

INVITED TALKS

[PRESENTATIONS, SESSION CHAIRED, KEYNOTE ADDRESS]

2026

- International Dalit Literature Festival, celebrates 135th Anniversary of Ambedkar @ Northeastern University, Chicago. April 18
- Ambedkar Center for Emancipation, Chetna Association of Canada, University of British Columbia and Simon Fraser University, Vancouver. March 15-16.
- Panelist on a book discussion “*Not So Outrageous Idea of a Christian Sociology*”, organized by [Eastern Sociological Society conference](#), Washington DC. March 8.
- Panelist on a book discussion “*Damned Whiteness*” organised by [African American African Diaspora conference](#) at James Madison University, Virginia. Feb. 11

2025

- “[Fraternity is the soul of our Constitution](#)”, Celebrating the 76th Anniversary of the Indian Constitution, [Embassy of India](#), Nov. 26
- The Critical Pedagogy of Caste on Campus, [Bucknell University](#), Oct. 30-31
- The Legacy of Dr. Ambedkar, Arizona State University, April 19
- Phule-Ambedkarite Movement and Global Dalit-Black Solidarities, Emory University, April 13.
- Understanding Caste on Campus, [University of Washington](#), Seattle. Feb. 25
- Affirmative Action Policy and US Higher Education, [University of Chicago](#), Feb. 22

2024

- Transnational Anti-Caste Activism, Race & Decolonization, **University of Minnesota**. October 23
- [Global Racism](#) meeting with HBCUs, **Columbia University**. October 13
- Recognizing the power of Caste Through University Workshops on Privilege, School of Educational Studies, [Tata Institute of Social Sciences](#), Hyderabad. [with Professor Bonnie Zare, Virginia Tech University] September 18
- Interfaith America, workshop hosted by DePaul University, Chicago. June 15-20
- [Political Power is the Key to Dalit Emancipation](#), 133rd Birthday Celebration of Dr. Ambedkar, Ambedkar International Mission, Brampton, Canada.
- Guest speaker at [NAIMUN LXII](#). February 13-16, Washington DC
- Race & Caste Intersectionality in Global Higher Education, *World Learning*. February 28
- Speaker at the “Environmental Justice Series in India”, Segregation and Environmental Justice in India, Center on Global Energy Policy, **Columbia University**.
- Eating in Public: Food Preferences and Difference across Cultures, South Asian Studies, **University of Pennsylvania**. February 7

2023

- Keynote address, *Machik* fest at George Washington University, organized by Tibetan Group, November 10-12
- “Dalits and Human Rights”, [Parliament on Worlds’ Religion](#), Chicago. August 17,
- Reclaiming Spaces-Challenging Narrative, organized by the SOAS Student Union, University of London, UK, May 17
- “Caste Discrimination: A Global Perspective,” University of Calgary. May 6
- Moderated a session: “American Caste” organized by the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, **Columbia University**. April 15.
- [Plenary Speaker, Dalit Conference](#), Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, April 13-14
- “Caste & Race Interconnected; yet Distinct Systems of Oppression”, **University of North Carolina-Greensboro**. January 19. 2023
- Keynote Speaker, on a conference: “Ambedkar and the Nation-Building” *Chaudhary Ranbir Singh University*, Jind, Haryana

2022

- Caste and Pedagogy at the [Asia Qualitative Inquiry Association](#), Pusan National University, Seoul, South Korea.
- “University and Civil Sphere” at “Civil Sphere in South Asia”- a conference organized by Professor Jeffrey Alexander (cultural sociologist) at Yale. October 22-23.
- Speaker, Annual Beitzel Symposium, [Mahatma Gandhi Center for Global Non-Violence](#), James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. September 22.

- Speaker, [M.S. Gore Memorial Seminar](#), Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.
- Chair at “[Theorizing Casteism](#)” *Conference*, Presidency University, Kolkata. June 7 & 8.
- Chair, [Anti-Caste Thought Conference: Theory, Politics & Culture](#), University of Wolverhampton, October 29
- Chief Guest, Valedictory Talk: “Law, Language and Literature” [Symbiosis Law University](#), Hyderabad. April 30
- Inaugural address, [131st Ambedkar Birth Anniversary celebration](#) at Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Odisha. April 14th.
- Panelist at the Roundtable: Queering Solidarities: Race, Caste and Gender, Organized by [Cornell-Syracuse South Asia Consortium](#) at Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs, Syracuse University. March 25
- “Qualitative Research and Data Analysis” at the Social Work course in Pacific University, Oregon. April 22.

2021

- “In Search of a New Identity: Anti-Caste Activism among Dalit Diaspora in the United States” selected for Junior Theorist Symposium, ***American Sociological Association*** (ASA-Theory Section) August 5&6
- “The Social Justice Legacy of Dr. Ambedkar” at Women’s Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WICCI), West Bengal.
- “Dailt Feminism” in Prof. Michele Berger’s class on Gender, **University of North Carolina**, Chapel Hill. March 23.
- “Introduction to Sociology,” in Prof. Tamer Solyer’s Global Inequalities course, ***Humboldt University***, Germany, February 2

2020

- [Critical Analysis of National Education Policy](#), Organized by the National Foundation for India, November 21
- Speaker, [Machik Fest](#) (The annual festival of Tibetans in the US)
- “Cultural Resistance among Dalit-Bahujan Students,” organized by [Ambedkar-King Study Circle](#), August 28
- The Role of Dalit Literature in Globalizing Ambedkarite Movement, [ThoughtPodium](#), organized by the Ambedkar International Mission, Calgary, Canada, June 27
- “Universities in the time of Crisis” at [SGR Knowledge foundation](#).

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Mentor @ Authors’ Lab ([Ambedkar International Center, Maryland](#))
- [Ambedkar International Center, Maryland](#),
- Ambedkar International Mission, Ambedkar Association of North America

- Public Speaker: Belongg.net

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Comparative International Education Society (CIES)- Annual
- American Sociological Association (ASA)- Annual
- Southern Sociological Society (SSS)- Annual
- D.C. Sociological Society (DCSS)- Annual
- Asian Qualitative Inquiry Association - Annual
- Popular Culture Association -Annual
- Comparative Education Society of India (CESI)- Life-time