

Prince Tomar

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Borderlands · Himalayan Region · South Asia · Ethnographic Writing · Ethnography of Infrastructure · Political Geography · State & Territory

EDUCATION

PhD, Studies of Cultures

2021 – Present

Tallinn University, Estonia

Doctoral research examining road development in the border regions of Ladakh, India (Indo-China and Indo-Pakistan frontiers) and the India-Nepal borderlands, conducted through ethnographic fieldwork and participant observation. Theoretical engagements include infrastructure studies and postcolonial geography.

M.A., Global Studies

2018 – 2020

Ambedkar University, New Delhi

School of Global Affairs. Dissertation on the Indo-Nepal border.

B.A. (Hons), English

2015 – 2018

S.G.T.B. Khalsa College, Delhi University, New Delhi

FIELDWORK

Ladakh, India

2022 – 2023

Indo-China & Indo-Pakistan border regions · 6 months total

Ethnographic fieldwork for doctoral research on road development, border infrastructure, and frontier life. Conducted over two summer periods: 2 months in 2022 and 4 months in 2023.

Raxaul-Birgunj, Terai

2020, 2022

India-Nepal border region · 2 months total

Fieldwork for M.A. dissertation and doctoral research on borderlands and border life at the India-Nepal frontier.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Junior Researcher

2021 – 2025

Centre for Landscape and Culture, Tallinn University, Estonia

Part of 'Landscape Approach to Rurbanity', a project studying overlaps of rural and urban spaces (project concluded 2023).

Student Intern

Dec 2018 – Jan 2019

Narmada Bachao Andolan, Madhya Pradesh

Researched impacts of large-scale dam infrastructure on the archaeological and anthropological heritage of Narmada Valley for a National Green Tribunal petition.

The 1947 Partition Archive, Story Scholars Program, New Delhi

Conducted 25 first-hand interviews with 1947 Partition witnesses in and around Delhi. Later promoted to Field Officer, guiding subsequent interns through project requirements and collection processes.

Research Assistant

Nov 2017 – May 2018

Erin P. Riggs, Fulbright Nehru Scholar, New Delhi

Provided research assistance and translation for PhD fieldwork covering 1947 Partition refugee resettlement areas in Delhi.

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant

2022 – 2025

Tallinn University, Estonia

English; Liberal Studies; International Relations; Asian Studies.

PUBLICATIONS

Review of Pyre (चित्त) directed by Vinod Kapri

2025

Himalaya · Film Review

doi.org/10.2218/himalaya.2025.10878

The Field, the Border, and I

2021

Ethnographic Marginalia · Essay

An essay of ethnographic reflection on fieldwork in the India-Nepal borderlands.

ethnomarginalia.com/the-field-the-border-and-i

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Toward the Dust: Border Crossing and the State of Regional Development at the India-Nepal Border

2026

— 8th Conference of Asian Borderlands Research Network (ABRN). Panel: Mountains and Borders: Moving Species, Moving Spaces.

Taipei, Taiwan.

Toward the Dust: Life around the Un-dead Infrastructures of the Indo-Nepal Border

2022

— Annual Meeting, American Association of Geographers. Panel: Undermining the Earth (Virtual)

— Bi-Annual Meeting, ACA: Nepali Academics in America (Virtual)

— Himalayan Studies Conference 6, Toronto

Travelling Words: Understanding the Journey of Words from One Language to Another

2018

— II Annual International Conference of Caesurae Collective Society, Osmania University, Hyderabad

UNPUBLISHED RESEARCH

Between Borders and Borderlands: A Study of the Raxaul-Birgunj Region

M.A. thesis on borderlands studies with fieldwork at the India-Nepal border.

Challenges Faced during a Case Study of the NIA's Raids in Amroha, U.P.

M.A. research paper on the impacts of the 2018 anti-terrorist NIA raids.

RESEARCH SKILLS

Participant Observation

Quantitative Research

Ethnographic Research

Academic Writing

In-depth Interviews

LaTeX

LANGUAGES

English (Fluent)

Hindi (Native)

Estonian (A1)

Spanish (Beginner)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Anthropology of Current World Issues (World101x)

University of Queensland / edX · Apr – Aug 2020