

## Britta Lucia Ida Ohm

Institute of Social Anthropology  
 University of Bern  
 Lerchenweg 36  
 3012 Bern  
 Switzerland  
 +41-031-6318995  
[britta.ohm@anthro.unibe.ch](mailto:britta.ohm@anthro.unibe.ch)

Solmsstrasse 36  
 10961 Berlin  
 Germany  
 +49-176-22869091  
[ohm@zedat.fu-berlin.de](mailto:ohm@zedat.fu-berlin.de)

### **Education**

- 2001-2007 PhD ('summa cum laude'), Faculty of Cultural Sciences [Fachbereich Kulturwissenschaften], Chair of Cultural and Social Anthropology, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder
- 1992-1998 Diploma (equivalent of M.A.; 'very good'), Department of Political Sciences; minor: Department of Film and Theatre Studies, Free University Berlin
- 1996/97 Visiting Student, Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi
- 1992-1996 Studies in Visual Communications (without degree), Academy of Fine Arts [Hochschule für Bildende Künste, HfbK], Hamburg
- 1991 Visiting Student, Department of International Relations, London School of Economics
- 1990-1992 Undergraduate Studies, Department of History and Department of Political Science, University of Hamburg

### **Academic Positions**

- 2018-19 Research Fellow, International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden (NL)
- 2017- Senior Lecturer, Academy for the Popular Arts [Hochschule der populären Künste, hdpk], Berlin
- 2015 Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Culture, Media & Governance (CCMG), Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi; Fieldwork Mentor in CCMG-project *Tracking Access under Digitization in India* (Ford Foundation)
- 2013- Associate Researcher, Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
- 2012 Visiting Teaching Fellow, Department of Radio, Television and Cinema, Kadir Has University, Istanbul
- 2010-13 PI in Research Project, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF); Lecturer, Institute of Social Anthropology, Module Media Anthropology, University of Bern (CH)
- 2009 Lecturer, Institute of Social Anthropology and Institute of Advanced Study in the Humanities and the Social Sciences (IASH), University of Bern
- 2008-09 Post-Doc, Department of Ethnology, University Priority Research Project (UPRP) *Asia and Europe*, University of Zurich
- 2005-08 Lecturer, Cultural and Social Anthropology, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder; Südasiens Institut [South Asia Institute], Department of Anthropology, Ruprecht-Karls-University, Heidelberg
- 2002 Junior Research Fellow, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi

**Grants and Awards**

- 2018-19 Fellowship Stipend, International Institute of Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden, project *The Undisputed Land: The Gujarat Pogrom and Mediatized Democracy in India*
- 2017 Conference Travel Grant (Shimla, India), German Academic Exchange Service [Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, DAAD]
- 2015 Short-term Research Grant, Fritz Thyssen Foundation, Cologne, project *Ambiguities of (In)Visibility and Speech(lessness): Media Engagement, Ambivalence, Avoidance and Resistance among Muslims and Dalits in Delhi, India*
- 2013 Conference Travel Grant (Chicago, USA), DAAD
- 2012 Grant, University of Bern Young Researchers' Pool, organisation of the international workshop *Media & Religion: Interdisciplinary Takes on Four Aspects of a Complex Relationship*
- 2010-13 Research Grant, Swiss National Science Foundation [Schweizer Nationalfonds, SNSF], project *The Meaning of Turkey. Narratives and Negotiations of the Islamic and the Secular on Turkish Commercial Television*
- 2010 Conference Travel Grant (Maynooth, Ireland), DAAD
- 2008 Conference Travel Grant (New Delhi, India), German Research Foundation [Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG]
- 2005-06 Grant, Humboldt University Berlin (Programm zur Förderung von Frauen in Forschung und Lehre) [Program for the Promotion of Women in Research and Teaching], for research evaluation and the drafting of a post-doc research project
- 2004-05 Grant, Humboldt University Berlin (same program as above), for completing the writing of the PhD thesis
- 2001-04 PhD-Grant, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin, for research on *State, Market and Culture. Visual Representation in India and Turkey in Comparative Perspective*
- 1996/97 Scholarship, Office of International Services (Department of Political Sciences, Free University Berlin) for Diploma-research on *Transnationalisation of Indian Television*
- 1995/96 Funding, Film Fund Hamburg and ZDF (German Public Broadcasting), for the screenplay *April Children*
- 1992/93 Scholarship, ASA-Program (Arbeits- und Studienaufenthalte in Asien, Afrika, Lateinamerika) – [Work and Research Projects in Asia, Afrika, Latin America], then part of the Carl Duisberg-Foundation, Berlin, for research on *Cinema in India*
- 1991 DAAD-Scholarship for a visiting semester at the London School of Economics (LSE), Department of International Relations

**Invited Lectures, Presentations and Discussions (Selection)**

- 2018 Talk (March 27), *Hindu-nationalism and Kemalism: Continuities, Differences and Convergences in Mediatizing Religious Majoritarianism in India and Turkey*, Jindal School of Journalism and Communication, Sonapat/Haryana (India)
- Talk (March 16), *Squaring the Perspective through Television: Elements and Contingencies of the Trajectory of Religious Majoritarianisms in India and Turkey*, workshop "Media and Politics in India and Turkey" at the international conference "Populism and the Shifting Coordinates of the Political", Center for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi
- 2017 Talk (July 25), *The Limits and Limitations of Media: (False) Information, (Real) Critique, (Non-)Use*, international conference "Indian Media Studies: Contemporary Perspectives", Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS), Shimla (India)
- 2016 Film discussion (May 09), *Photowallahs*, workshop "Visual Anthropology and the Work of David MacDougall", Center for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS), University of Göttingen
- 2015 Seminar lecture (February 26) *Time and Space in Media Ethnography*, Centre for Culture, Media & Governance (CCMG), Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi

- Seminar lecture (March 12) *The Privatisation of the Indian Woman: Soap Opera in the Times of Hindutva*, Department of Journalism, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, New Delhi
- Seminar lecture (April 20) *From Social Realism to Imaginative Realism: The Timelessness of the Soap Opera and the Sangh Parivar's Concept of Culture*, Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata
- 2014 Author's Talk (March 23) *Self-told Stories of Migrants to Germany: What changed since 'My Father, the Guestworker (1995)'* [in German], Community Cinema Metropolis/University of Hamburg
- 2013 Guest presentation (October 21) *Die Zuschreibung von Radikalität und die Frage der Bürgerrechte* [Ascribing Radicality and the Question of Citizenship Rights], MA-course "Radikal religiös: Religionswissenschaftliche Kompetenz journalistisch vermittelt" [Radically religious: religious studies competence journalistically communicated], Prof. Dorothea Lüddeckens and Friederike Gräff, Department of Religious Studies, University of Zurich
- Input presentation (March 21) *Islam Verstehen durch Informanten* [Understanding Islam Through Informants], workshop "Islamforschung Interdisziplinär" [Interdisciplinary Approaches to the Research of Islam], Cluster of Excellence "Religion und Politik in den Kulturen der Vormoderne und Moderne", University of Münster
- 2012 Presentation (December 12) *Fantasies and Realities of Getting Rich in India: 'Slumdog Millionaire' and 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' (Who Wants to Be a Millionaire) as Contrary Visualisations of Empowerment and Upward Mobility*, research colloquium of the Department of Ethnology, University of Lucerne
- 2011 Seminar lecture (December 09) *The Gujarat Pogrom and post-Censorship TV Journalism in India*, Centre for Media, Culture & Governance, Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi
- Guest lecture (October 12) *Transnationale Medienkonzerne* [Transnational Media Corporations], lecture series "Anthropologie des Transnationalismus und des Staates" [Anthropology of Transnationalism and the State], Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
- Lecture (September 07) *'Honesty' and 'Treason': The Inversions of Secularism and Religion on Commercialising Television in India and Turkey*, interdisciplinary lecture series "Religions and Modernities: Encounters and Mediations from Europe to South East Asia", University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway
- Discussant (May 27) at the workshop "Media and Social Change" (<http://mediasocialchange.net/>) as invited member of the medianthro-network of EASA (<http://www.media-anthropology.net>), School for Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London
- 2010 Film Discussion (August 22) *Firaq* (Search/Divorce), Nandita Das, 2008, series *Moving Politics: Cinemas from India*, Deutsche Guggenheim/Cinema Arsenal, Berlin
- Brownbag Talk (April 09) *The Secularism of the State and the Secularism of Consumption: Dynamics of Religious Television in India and Turkey*, Department of Anthropology, University of Minnesota
- Guest Lecture (April 07) *Slumdog Millionaire, Kaun Banega Crorepati and the Nationalization of Global Television Formats in India*, Undergraduate Collaborative Course (Dept. of Anthropology, Dept. of Journalism and Communications, Dept. of History) "Global Media in National Context", University of Minnesota
- 2009 Guest lecture (October 09) "Media, Commercialization and Religion in India and Turkey: Ethnographic Perspectives on the Making and Un-Making of Communities", Research Workshop on Contemporary Religious Cultures, Department of Religious Studies, University of Zurich
- 2005 Discussant (August 15) of the talk *Ruling by Numbers – How Globalization was Indianized* by Vinay Choudary (writer and TV producer, Mumbai), EU- Project "Import-Export. Cultural Transfer between India and Germany/ Austria", House of World Cultures, Berlin

**Panels and Workshops organised**

- 2019 (accepted) Panel (July 16, with Bindu Menon, Delhi University) *Affective Publics in South Asia*, ICAS II (International Convention of Asian Scholars), IIAS/University of Leiden (NL)
- (accepted) Roundtable (July 17, with Varuni Bhatia, Azim Premji University Bangalore) *Disentangling Futures? Academic Freedom and Research Conditions in South Asia and Europe*, ICAS II
- 2016 Panel (Sept 20-22, with Vibodh Parthasarathi, Jamia Millia Islamia Delhi, and Per Ståhlberg, Södertörn University) *Beyond the Desirable: Critical Perspectives on Media Modernity*, SASNET (Swedish South Asian Study Network)-conference “Modern Matters: Negotiating the Future in Everyday Life in South Asia”, University of Lund, Sweden
- 2012 International Workshop (September 14) *Media and Religion: Interdisciplinary Takes on Four Aspects of a Complex Relationship*, University of Bern
- 2010 Panel (August 25, with Barbara Wolbert, University of Minnesota) *Is After the Crisis Before the Crisis? New Perspectives on Art, Media and Politics in Turkey*, 11th Biennial Conference, European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Maynooth, Ireland
- 2008 Panel (July 10, with Nadja-Christina Schneider, Humboldt University Berlin) *Medialized Realities in South Asia*, 20th European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECMSAS), Manchester
- 2004 Workshop (May 05, with Arild Fetveit, University of Oslo) *The Cannibalist Gaze: Reality Show, Experiment Television and the New Creativity in Television Entertainment*, Department of Cultural and Social Anthropology, European University Viadrina, Frankfurt/Oder
- 2003 Workshop (March 19, with Tejal Shah, Mumbai, and Anissa Helie, London) *Organisierte Gewalt und Demokratie. Ein Jahr nach den Pogromen gegen die muslimische Minderheit im indischen Unionsstaat Gujarat* [Organized Violence and Democracy. One Year after the Pogroms against the Muslim Minority in the Indian State of Gujarat], Heinrich Böll Foundation, Berlin

**Conference Papers and Presentations (Selection)**

- 2019 Presentation/Lunch lecture (April 2) *Lasting Beginnings of 'Fake News': The Televised 2002 anti-Muslim pogrom in Gujarat, India*, International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), Leiden, Netherlands
- 2017 Paper (January 13) *From State Critics to State Makers: Televised Islam under AKP-Governance in Turkey*, international conference “Rethinking Media Through the Middle East“, American University of Beirut (AUB), Lebanon
- 2016 Paper (September 21) *Communicating Exclusion: Media Engagement, Ambivalence, Avoidance and Resistance amongst Muslims and Dalits in North India*, SASNET (Swedish South Asian Study Network)-conference “Modern Matters: Negotiating the Future in Everyday Life in South Asia”, University of Lund, Sweden
- 2015 Paper (June 20) *The Screen as Shield: Antagonised Debate and Channeled Information in Turkish Television*, annual conference “The Political Screen”, The Screen Studies Group, London School of Economics/University College London
- Paper (March 26) *Interpretation over Investigation: The Televised Event of the Gujarat Pogrom 2002*, national conference “Contested Knowledge: Event, Truth, Politics”, Department of English, Ramjas College, Delhi University
- 2014 Paper (October 17) *From Libera(lisa)tion to Political Market: Turkish TV Serials 2001-2012 in the Discourse of their Producers*, Symposium “Turkish TV Series 'Diziler': Production, Representations and Reception in the Mediterranean”, network S.E.R.I.E.S. of the Laboratoire Communication et Politique et al., La Fémis, Paris

- 2013 Paper (November 21) *The Location of Authoritarianism: The Monetization of Law and the Allocation of State Tenders as Forms of Censorship in Turkey's Liberalized Television*, panel "What's the State got to do with it? Neoliberal Governance and its Objects in Turkey", 112<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), Chicago
- 2012 Presentation (November 21) *Media against Democracy: Why We Need a Political Anthropology of the Media*, colloquium of the Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern  
 Paper (June 18): *The Creation of an Anti-Democratic Public through Democratic Media Criticism: the case of the Gujarat Pogrom 2002*, workshop "Creating Publics-Creating Democracies", University of Westminster, London
- 2011 Paper (September 12): *Commercial Neutrality and Journalist Objectivity: The Naturalisation of Hindutva and the Precarious State of TV Reporting in post-Gujarat India*, conference "The Changing Face of Journalism in India", India Media Centre, University of Westminster, London
- 2010 Paper (August 25): *The Absence of the Investigated and the Presence of the Spectacular State on Commercial Turkish Television*, 11<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Maynooth, Ireland  
 Paper (July 27): *Anti-Minority Violence Medialised: The Crisis of Representation in Indian Television*, 21<sup>st</sup> European Conference of Modern South Asian Studies (ECMSAS), Bonn  
 Project Presentation (March 31): *The Meaning of Turkey. Narratives and Negotiations of the Secular and the Islamic on Turkish Commercial Television*, colloquium of the Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Bern
- 2009 Lecture (October 09) *Media, Commercialization and Religion in India and Turkey: Ethnographic Perspectives on the Making and the Un-Making of Communities*, "Research Workshop on Contemporary Religious Cultures", Department of Religious Studies, University of Zurich  
 Presentation (April 08) *The Revolution Does not Take Place: Reflections after the First Phase of Fieldwork on 'The Meaning of Turkey'*, colloquium of the Department of Ethnology, University of Zurich
- 2008 Paper (March 18) *Life According to the Soap: The Rise and Fall of the Hindu Joint Family on Indian Transnational Television*, workshop "The Indian Family: Continuity and Change", organised by Prof. Tulsi Patel, Department of Sociology, Delhi University  
 Paper (January 09) *The Secularism of Consumption: From the Hindu Epic to the Hindu Soap*, symposium "Religion, Media Processes and the Transformation of the Public Sphere", Open University, London
- 2007 Paper (October 13) *The Political Economy of Going Hindi: Private News Channels and Transnational Soap Operas in the Indian Television Landscape*, conference "Indian Mass Media and the Politics of Change", Centre for Media and Film Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London  
 Paper (May 23) *On the Absence of a Political Anthropology of Nation, State, and Media*, international workshop "Articulating Theory and Ethnography in Urban Studies", Centre for Metropolitan Studies, Technical University, Berlin, Germany  
 Paper (February 08): "Geographies of Exclusion": *Spatial Reorganization and Representations of Desire in Urban India*, 3. Annual Workshop of Anthropology ("The Spatial Turn in Anthropology"), Collegium Polonicum, Slubice, Poland
- 2006 Paper (June 20): *Fernsehproduktion als ethnographisches Feld* [Television Production as a Field of Ethnography], "4. Workshop for Scholars of the Program for the Promotion of Women in Research and Teaching", Humboldt University, Berlin  
 Paper (June 16): *Exposition and Punishment. On the Ambivalent Dynamics of the Talk Show on Turkish Commercial Television*, conference "Shifting Landscapes: Film and Media in European Context", Bilgi University, Istanbul

Paper (January 25): *Difference Instead of Distinction: Arjun Appadurai, the Cultural Turn and the Anthropologicalization of the Subaltern*, 2. Annual Workshop of Anthropology ("Postcolonial Theory and Anthropology"), Collegium Polonicum, 25.- 27. January, Slubice, Poland

2005 Paper (January 13): *The Symbolic Capital of Hindu Nationalist Organizations*, 1. Annual Workshop of Anthropology ("Theories of Practice"), Collegium Polonicum, Slubice, Poland

2002 Paper (August 15): *East and West within the East: Television in Turkey and India*, 7th Biennial Conference, European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA), Copenhagen

### **Fieldwork**

2017 India, two months (Delhi, Mumbai)  
 2015 India, four months (Delhi, Patna, Ahmedabad)  
 2013 India, two months (Delhi, Mumbai)  
 2012 Turkey, two months (Istanbul)  
 2011 India, two months (Mumbai, Delhi)  
 2009 Turkey, four months (Istanbul, Ankara, Diyarbakir)  
 2007 India, five weeks (Delhi, Ahmedabad)  
 2004 India, two months (Mumbai, Maharashtra, Bihar, Delhi)  
 2003 India, three months (Mumbai, Delhi)  
 2002 Turkey, three months (Istanbul, Ankara)  
 India, three months (Mumbai, Delhi)  
 2001 Turkey, four months (Istanbul, Ankara, Eskisehir)  
 1999/2000 India, three months (Mumbai, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh)  
 1996/97 India, six months (Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata)  
 1992/93 India, five months (Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu)

### **Language Skills**

German: native language  
 English: fluent  
 Turkish, Hindi: advanced  
 Kurmanci, Bengali, Latin, French: basic knowledge

### **Non-academic Professional Posts**

1999-2003 Video Editor for News, Deutsche Welle TV, Berlin (German and English Department)  
 1998-2001 Editor and Consultant for Screenplays, ZDF, Mainz (German Public Broadcasting), Department "Das Kleine Fernsehspiel" [The Small Telefilm]; Advisor and Editor, Institut für Film und Bild in Wissenschaft und Unterricht (FWU), Munich [Institute for Film and Imagery in Research and Teaching]  
 1996-97 Freelance Producer, Youth Program "100 Degrees", Deutsche Welle TV, Berlin  
 1993-96 Studio-Assistant and Scribe, Deutsche Welle TV, Berlin

### **Memberships**

EASA (European Association of Social Anthropologists)  
 SEG (Schweizer Ethnologische Gesellschaft – Swiss Ethnological Society)  
 Participant in the planning for an Indian Association of Media Scholars and Researchers

### **Service to Profession**

Member of the Coordinating Committee, *Network for Decent Work in Academia* [Netzwerk Gute Arbeit in der Wissenschaft, NGA-Wiss: <http://mittelbau.net>], responsible for subsection "International Networking and Academic Freedom", regular talks, conferences and workshops

Editorial board member, series “Global Media and Communication Studies”, Anthem Press

Referee i.a. for *Social Anthropology*, *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, *Visual Studies*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, *International Journal of Turkish Studies*, *New Perspectives on Turkey*, *Critical Studies*, *Oriental Archive*, *International Area Studies Review*, *International Journal of Communication*

**Research Interests**

Anthropology of media, cultural and media studies, transformations of technology, the economy and the production of representational power, identity and political movements; forms and questions of mediatization, visualization, image and genre theory/iconography; methodologies and theories of fieldwork and ethnography; anthropology of politics and the state, questions of discrimination/inclusion-exclusion, negotiations of secularism and religion, globalization and transnationalization, dynamics of organized violence, nationalism, populism, fascism, community-building, democracy and governance; fields: India and Turkey