

RIA MODAK

ria_modak@brown.edu | 347-480-6731 | they/them/theirs | riamodak.com

Education

- 2023- Brown University
PhD Candidate in History
- 2018-2022 Harvard College
Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies and South Asian Studies
Language Citation in Hindi/Urdu
GPA: 3.954, *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa '22
Thesis: "The Limits of Progressive Politics: B.R. Ambedkar and the Muslim Question in India," *Highest Honors*
- 2022-2023 New England Conservatory
Master of Music in Guitar Performance

Honors and Awards

- 2019 Harvard Detur Book Prize, for exceptional academic standing
John Harvard Award, awarded to students in the top 5% of their class
Harvard Foundation Certificate of Recognition, for improving race relations on campus
- 2022 Houston Award, for moral leadership and extraordinary volunteer commitment
David McCord Prize, for unusual talent in drama, music, painting, drawing or sculpture
John Greene Award, for demonstrated talent and promise as a composer
Harvardwood Artist Fellowship Finalist

Research Fellowships and Grants

- 2024 American Institute for India Studies Summer Language Fellowship
History Department Research and Travel Grant
- 2021-2022 The Center for Black, Brown, and Queer Studies Junior Fellowship
Mutual Mentorship for Musicians Fellowship
- 2020-2022 Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship
- 2020-2021 Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Research Partner

Selected Publications

- 2022 "Minority Rule: Dalit-Muslim Solidarity and the Politics of Partition,"
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Journal vol. 7.
- 2021 "Khadi Capitalism: A Critique of Gandhian Neoliberalism,"
Brown Journal of Politics, Philosophy and Economics vol. 3 no. 2.
- 2018- Popular writings at *In These Times*, *Harvard Political Review*, *Alternet*, *Jamhoor*,
and *Dissent* (forthcoming)

Invited Talks and Conference Experience

- 2024 "An Artist's Practice at Any Cost" with Shahzia Sikander and Apoorva Mudgal
Brown Arts Initiative, History of Art and Architecture
"The Limits of Progressive Politics: B.R. Ambedkar and the 'Spiritually Alien Muslim Subject'"
South Asia Graduate Student Conference, University of Chicago
- 2023 "Guldasta: Songs from South Asia and Beyond"
Empire, Nation, Federation: South Asia's Freedom In Global Perspective
"Theory and Practice in North Indian Music" with Ali Sethi

- Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia
- 2022 “The Limits of Progressive Politics: B.R. Ambedkar and the Muslim Question,”
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Regional Conference
“Ambedkar, Islam, and the Nation in Decolonizing India,”
Harvard Social Studies Senior Symposium
“Reading Greek Tragedy: Euripides”
Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies
- 2021 “Khadi Capitalism: Gandhi and the Making of Modern India,”
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Regional Conference

University Service and Conference Organizing

- 2023 Teaching Assistant, “Raag Sense” with Ali Sethi
2020-2022 Co-Coordinator, Muslim American Studies Working Group,
Harvard Committee on Ethnicity, Migration, and Rights
Tutor, Harvard College Writing Center

Leadership and Extracurricular Activities

- 2022-2023 Editorial Assistant, *Dissent Magazine*
2021 Editorial Assistant, *In These Times*
2018-2022 Phillips Brooks House Association
Community Organizing Chair (2018-2020)
Public Relations Chair (2020-2022)
Staff Writer, *Harvard Political Review*

Skills

Languages: English, Hindi, Urdu (Native/Bilingual Proficiency); Marathi (Advanced Proficiency)
Technology: R, LaTeX