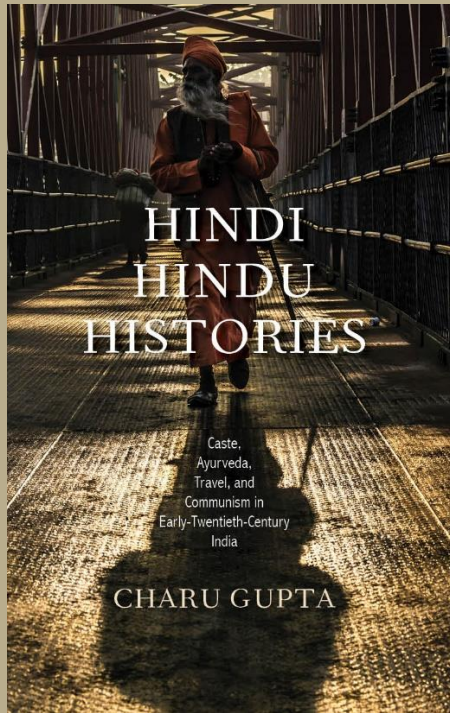


Professor Charu Gupta is Awarded A.K. Coomaraswamy Prize 2026



We are delighted to share the news that the annual A.K. Coomaraswamy Prize 2026 for the best scholarly work in South Asian Studies has gone to Charu Gupta's *Hindi Hindu Histories: Caste, Ayurveda, Travel, and Communism in Early Twentieth Century India* (Permanent Black Ranikhet, and SUNY Press New York). The award is given by the American Association for Asian Studies. This award honours distinguished non-fiction scholarly works that define or redefine their fields across various disciplines. There is no bigger prize than this for a scholar in South Asian Studies. Charu Gupta is Senior Professor in the Department of History, University of Delhi.

Hindi Hindu Histories provides illuminating historical accounts of Hindu life through individual actors, autobiographical narratives, and genres in the Hindi print-public culture of early twentieth century North India. It focuses on four fascinating figures – an anticaste crusader who advocated intercaste marriages and wrote on sexological matters; a pioneering woman Ayurvedic practitioner who specialised in female health and household recipes; a maverick travel writer whose work reflects early ideas of a muscular nation; and a Left journalist who sought to bridge Hinduism and communism. Opening up a vast and under-explored Hindi archive, and offering fresh insights into Hindu identity formation, the book disrupts monolithic signposts and totalising perspectives. Instead, it presents a dynamic spectacle of a plural Hindi Hindu universe of facets that coexisted, and challenged each other.