

# Kamil Ahsan

## Historian · Essayist · Editor

CURRICULUM VITAE

### CONTACT

👤 kamilahsan.com  
✉ editor@saaganthology.com  
☎ +1 (773) 551-3378

### SKILLS

Python, MATLAB, JS  
Adobe Suite & Graphic Design  
ArcGIS & Mapping  
Editing & Fact-Checking

### LANGUAGES

English NATIVE  
Urdu FLUENT/BILINGUAL  
Spanish INTERMEDIATE  
Sinhalese BEGINNER

### REFERENCES

Victoria Prince  
Professor, Organismal Biology & Anatomy · University of Chicago  
vprince@uchicago.edu

Deborah Coen  
Professor, History of Science and Medicine · Yale University  
deborah.coen@yale.edu

Sunil Amrith  
Renu & Anand Dhawan Professor of History · Yale University  
sunil.amrith@yale.edu

### EDUCATION

2019 - PRESENT

#### PH.D. CANDIDATE (ABD)

YALE UNIVERSITY ADVISORS: DEBORAH COEN · SUNIL AMRITH  
Program in the History of Science and Medicine, Department of History  
Areas: Environmental history, STS, global history, intellectual history

2012 - 2018

#### PH.D.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO ADVISOR: VICTORIA PRINCE  
Committee on Development, Regeneration & Stem Cell Biology  
Dissertation "*The roles of the Planar Cell Polarity (PCP) Molecules Prickle1a and Prickle1b in Zebrafish Neural Crest*"

2016 - 2018

#### M.A. (Joint Degree)

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO ADVISOR: FREDRIK ALBRITTON JONSSON  
Committee on Conceptual & Historical Studies of Science  
Thesis: "*Scale in the Evolutionary History of the Great Barrier Reef*"

2008 - 2012

#### B.S. (Biology)

LAHORE UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES  
Graduation with Distinction, Dean's Honor Roll

### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

2020

Manuel Rocha, Noor Singh, **Kamil Ahsan**, Anastasia Beiriger, Victoria Prince  
"*Neural Crest development: insights from the zebrafish.*"  
DEVELOPMENTAL DYNAMICS, VOL. 249

2019

**Kamil Ahsan**, Noor Singh, Christina Huang, Manuel Rocha, Victoria Prince  
"*Prickle1 Regulates both EMT and Migration of Zebrafish Cranial Neural Crest*"  
DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY, VOL. 448

2018

Kristin Gallik, Randall Treffy, Lynne Nacke, **Kamil Ahsan**, Manuel Rocha, Abigail Green-Saxena, Ankur Saxena "*Neural Crest and Cancer: Divergent Travelers on Similar Paths*"  
MECHANISMS OF DEVELOPMENT, VOL. 148

---

## PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

**Kamil Ahsan**, *"The Reef as Rock: Ways of Seeing the Coastal Assemblage in Ceylon, 1880-1980"*

UNDER REVIEW, HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY OF THE LIFE SCIENCES

**Kamil Ahsan**, *"The Most Modern Factory': Coral and Cement in Postcolonial Ceylon, 1948-1972"*

IN PREPARATION

---

## PUBLIC WRITING & EDITING

2020 - PRESENT

### FOUNDER, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

SOUTH ASIAN AVANT-GARDE, INCORPORATED

Founding Director and former Editor of *South Asian Avant-Garde*, a literary magazine and a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with an internationalist ethos.

2015 - 2016

### REPORTER

CITY BUREAU

Reporter in the public newsroom at the investigative journalism lab on the South Side of Chicago. Focus on criminal justice issues including monetary bond in Cook County. Collaborations: "Task Force Tracker," Documenter with the *Invisible Institute*.

2013 - PRESENT

### FREELANCE WRITER

ESSAYIST, REPORTER, CRITIC

Work published in *The Nation*, *L.A. Review of Books*, *NPR*, *The Baffler*, *Dissent*, *Jacobin*, *The American Prospect*, and *Catapult*, among others.

---

---

## AWARDS

2023-24	Macmillan International Dissertation Fellow
2022-24	Franke Interdisciplinary Fellow in Science & the Humanities
2022	South Asian Studies Research Award
2020	Overbrook History Fellow
2019	Chace Fellowship
2019-20	Pushcart Prize nominations (2)
2018-19	Best of the Net nominations (3)
2014	UChicago-MBL Graduate Student Research Award
2013	George A. Hines Fellow
2007	Quarterfinalist, Pakistan National Team, World Schools Debating Championship, Seoul
2005	Winner, All-Pakistan Under-17 Debating National Championship

---

## TEACHING

2016 - PRESENT

### GRADUATE WRITING FELLOW

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO · YALE UNIVERSITY

1. Writing Lector, *Academic & Professional Writing*, University of Chicago
2. Fellow & Tutor, *Graduate Writing Lab*, Poorvu Center for Teaching & Learning at Yale

2012 - PRESENT

### TEACHING FELLOW

LAHORE UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT SCIENCES · UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO · YALE UNIVERSITY

European Intellectual History Since Nietzsche	MARCI SHORE
India & Pakistan Since 1947	ROHIT DE
The History of Money	VANESSA OGLE
Developmental Mechanisms	RICHARD FEHON
Stem Cells, Regeneration & Development	CLIFTON RAGSDALE
Introductory Biology	SHAHID ALI
Physiology	MOHAMMAD TARIQ

---