# Aakash Solanki

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## EDUCATION

Sep 2017 - **Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology**, *University of Toronto*, Toronto, Canada.
Advisors: Dr. Francis Cody, Dr. Tania Li, Dr. Michelle Murphy, Dr. Todd Sanders

June 2014 **Master of Arts in Social Sciences**, *University of Chicago*, Chicago, USA.
Advisor: Dr. John Kelly.
Thesis: "The Criminal Tribes Act: Classifying Information in British India (1871- 1927)"

July 2013 **Non-degree**, *Department of English, University of Goa*, Goa, India.
Graduate Coursework in Political Theory taught by Dr. Dilip Gaonkar and in Anthropology taught by Dr. Arjun Appadurai

May 2013 **Bachelor of Technology in ICT**, *Dhirubhai Ambani Institute*, Gandhinagar, India.
Advisor: Dr. Vishvajit Pandya.
Project: "AapniSociety: Crowdsource, geo-tag and find neighborhood services!"

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Mar'17-Aug'17 **Consultant**, *Institute of Financial and Management Research*, Delhi, India.
○ Supported research study on fund flows in DDUGKY at Ministry of Rural Development which led to an evidence based policy note on how state rural livelihood missions can use census and scheme level administrative to develop skilling targets in different districts in a data driven manner

Aug'15-Aug'16 **Fellow**, *International Innovation Corps*, University of Chicago.
○ Supported Haryana Department of School Education in driving adoption of a Management Information System, and other data initiatives among government staff. Built staff capacity in spreadsheet processing

Dec'14-May'15 **Data Science Intern**, *Department of Innovation and Technology, City of Chicago*.
○ Contributed code in R programming language to a machine learning model for predicting food inspections requirement in the city's 17k restaurants. The model saved one week time for the Department of Public Health in addressing food safety concerns in the city

May'15-Aug'15 **Data Analyst**, *University of Chicago Alumni Relations Development*, Chicago, USA.

Jul'13-Sep'13 **Research Assistant**, *Indian Institute of Technology*, Gandhinagar, India.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Journal Articles

2019 **Management of Performance and Performance of Management: Getting to Work On Time in the Indian bureaucracy**, *Journal of South Asian Studies Vol. 42, no. 3 (June 2019)*, https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2019.1603262.

### Book Chapters

2019 **Computing to Govern. Spreadsheet practices in the Indian bureaucracy**, *in Lives of Data from India*, ed. Sandeep Mertia, CSDS, Delhi.

Conference Proceedings

2016 w/Tewari.S, **Going Ethno in the Indian Bureaucracy**, *Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Conference Proceedings 2016 (1): 501–21.*, https://doi.org/10.1111/1559-8918.2016.01107.

Academic Blogs

2018 **Suddenly, Statistics?**, *Member Voices, Fieldsites*, May 18, 2018. https://culanth.org/fieldsights/suddenly-statistics.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (Selected)

Dec'18 **Finding Impact, Profit's Elusive Doppleganger?**, *invited presentation at University of Chicago Center in Delhi*, Delhi, India.

Aug'18 **Sacrosanct Databases. Efficiency and Transparency in the Indian Bureaucracy**, *invited talk at Microsoft Research Lab India*, Bangalore, India.

Oct'17 **Sacrosanct Databases: The Coming of Quality in Indian Governance**, *Panel presentation at 46th Annual South Asia Conference, UW Madison*, Madison, USA.

Jan'17 **Making the MIS sacrosanct or The coming of Quality in Haryana's delivery of education**, *Panel presentation at Sarai, CSDS*, Delhi, India.

Dec'16 **Evidence and Truth in policing hereditary crime in India (1871-1927)**, *Panel presentation at Lassnet Conference*, India Habitat Centre, Delhi, India.

Oct'16 **Big Data and its Discontents**, *invited talk at DAIICT*, Gandhinagar, India.

Sep'16 w/Tewari.S, **Going Ethno in the Indian Bureaucracy**, 2016 Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Conference , Minneapolis, USA.

Feb'16 **Digital Literacies in an Indian Bureaucracy**, *Panel Presentation at Internet Researchers Conference*, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.

Apr'15 **Classifying People in British India (1871-1927)**, *Panel presentation at Imperial Transformations*, University of Chicago, Chicago, USA.

## AWARDS, GRANTS, & SCHOLARSHIPS

May 2019 **India-Canada Association Scholarship** C$2000, *University of Toronto*, Canada.

May 2018 **India-Canada Association Scholarship** C$2000, *University of Toronto*, Canada.

May 2018 **Summer Research Grant** C$4000, *University of Toronto*, Canada.

December 2017 **SGS Conference Travel Grant** C$640, *University of Toronto*, Canada.

Aug'15-Aug'16 **Innovation Fellowship** $27692, *University of Chicago*, USA.

Sep'13-Jun'14 **Academic Year Fellowship** $15912, *University of Chicago*, USA.

Sep'13-Jun'14 **International House Fellowship** $2800, *University of Chicago*, USA.

## TEACHING

University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

Sep'18-Dec'18 **Teaching Assistant**, *ANT374: Rethinking Development*.

Sep'18-Dec'18 **Teaching Assistant**, *ANT02H3: Society, Culture, and Language*.

Sep'17-Dec'17 **Teaching Assistant**, *ANT02H3: Society, Culture, and Language*.

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| Sep'17-Dec'17 | **Teaching Assistant**, *ANTC59H3: Anthropology of Language and Media.* |
| | Dhirubhai Ambani Institute, Gandhinagar, India |
| Jul'12-Dec'12 | **Teaching Assistant**, *HM106 Approaches to Indian Society.* |

## DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

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| February 2018 | **Organizer**, *Toronto Node*, 2018 Biennial Meeting, Society for Cultural Anthropology. |
| Sep'17-ongoing | **Coordinator**, *Development Seminar*, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada. |

## ETHNOGRAPHIC FIELD WORK

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| Jun'18-Aug'18 | **Preliminary field work**, *Dissertation Project*, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Vijaywada, India. |
| Jan'14-Mar'14 | **Campus Emergency Phone Network**, *University of Chicago*, Chicago, USA. |
| Dec'13-Mar'13 | **Field Research for Android Application Development**, *Ahmedabad, India.* |

## ARCHIVAL WORK

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| Jan'14-Aug'14 | **Official Publication of India Archive**, University of Chicago, Chicago, USA. |
| Jul'13-Sep'13 | **Gujarat State Legislative Assembly Archives**, *Ahmedabad, India.* |
| Jun'12-Jun'12 | **Central Institute of Indian Languages Archives**, *Mysore, India.* |
| May'12-Jun'12 | **Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology Archives**, *Ahmedabad, India.* |

## COMPUTER & LANGUAGE SKILLS

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| Programming | Python | English | Professional |
| Markup | LaTeX, HTML, CSS | Hindi | Bilingual |
| Analytics | R, Tableau, MS Excel | Gujarati | Native |