

Rianka Roy, Ph.D.

1834 Wake Forest Road, PO Box 7808, Winston-Salem, NC 27109, USA

Emails: royr@wfu.edu | rianka.roy@gmail.com | Website: riankaroy.com

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=tO4ZNZYAAAAJ&hl=en>

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0553-1938>

Research Activities

Research Projects

- **PI: Indian tech workers' activism in India and the United States**
Qualitative project based on interviews, participant observation, ethnography and virtual ethnography in India and the US.
Output: Several journal publications and book chapters; currently developing a book manuscript.
- **PI: Immigrant academic workers**
Qualitative project based on interviews and participant observation to understand how immigrant academics in the US navigate immigration laws and workplace responsibilities.
Research assistant: Wyla Solsbery, Wake Forest University (Fall 2024-Spring 2025)
- **PI: Returnship programs and tech work**
Qualitative project based on interviews, policy analysis, and ethnography on professional development programs in tech companies in India and the U.S. that help tech workers return to tech jobs.
Research assistant: Trisha Mallick (Summer 2025); Isabella Acevedo (Fall 2025-present)
- **Co-PI, Women, gender, and religion**, with Drs. Bandana Purkayastha and Anjana Narayan (2023-2025)
Conducted life-story interviews for the project "Walking a Fine Line: Being a Hindu American Woman against the Grain of Hindu Nationalism."
Funding agency: Asian Pacific American Religions Research Initiative (amount: \$7,000)
Output: Podcast series and publications.
- **Co-PI, Girls in STEM and postcolonial development** (2024-present), Pallabi Das.
To examine the impact of government-funded STEM workshops on rural high schools in India.
Research assistant: Danise StFleur, Wake Forest University (Spring 2025)

Additional Research Experience

- **Research Assistant; PI: Bandana Purkayastha** (2021–2023)
Produced content analysis of news reports on migrant workers' precarity during COVID.
Interviewed high-skilled migrant workers in the US.
Funding agency: Social Science Research Council
Output: Four publications and two conference presentations with the PI.
- **Research Assistant; PI: Manisha Desai** (2020–2022)
Prepared literature review on gender, transnational feminism, colonial and postcolonial feminists in India, history of Dalit feminist activism in the nineteenth century, religious nationalism for women in India.
Output: Two publications and two conference presentations with the PI.

Research Mentoring

Undergraduate student mentoring, Wake Forest University

Fall 2024 Mentored Hope Zhu, on a research paper about Latin American immigration, education and employment in the US; received \$250 research support from the URECA Faculty-Student Research Fund.

Spring 2025 Independent Study (SOC 399) to mentor Angelina Chen's research on K-Pop and globalization.

Undergraduate research assistant mentoring (and recruitment), Wake Forest University

Fall 2024 Recruited Wyla Solsbery as a research assistant, and mentored them to write IRB applications and literature review.

Spring 2025 Recruited Wyla Solsbery and Danise StFleur as research assistants, and mentored them to prepare literature review and IRB materials.

Fall 2025 Recruited Isabella Acevedo as a research assistant, and mentored her to develop a research project on women, law and workplace.

External mentoring

Spring 2025 Expert advisor to Phebe Eby, East Meadow High School, Long Island, NY for her AP research project on Asian Indian immigrant families in the US.

Updated: January, 2026