

CURRICULUM VITAE
DEVENDRA SHARMA

Office

Department of Communication
California State University- Fresno
036, Speech Arts, 5201 North Maple Avenue
Fresno, CA 93740-8027 USA
Phone: (559) 278-2826
Fax: (559) 278-4113

**ACADEMIC &
PROFESSIONAL
APPOINTMENTS**

California State University- Fresno, CA
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Communication, 2006-
Lecturer, Dept. of Communication, 2005-2006

Ohio University, Athens, OH
Teaching Associate, 2002-2005
Research Assistant, Spring 2005
Graduate member, Faculty Search Committee, 2003-2004

Indraprastha College, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India
Lecturer, and Communication Course Coordinator, 2001-2002

Population Communication International, New York, USA
Technical Advisor, Participatory Performances, and
Entertainment-Education Project in India, 2000-2002.

Brij Lok Madhuri, New Delhi, India [*a non-profit organization
committed to using folk performing traditions for social change*]
Communication designer, performer, and writer, 1999-

EDUCATION

Ohio University, Athens, OH
Ph.D., Communication Studies, August 2006
Dissertation: Performing *Nautanki*: Popular Folk Performances as
Sites of Dialogue and Social Change (Director: Dr. Arvind
Singhal)

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
Social Content Media Production Leadership Fellow, May 2000-
August 2000

Jamia Millia University, Delhi, India
M.A., Communication, 1993

EDUCATION
(cont'd)

University of Delhi, Delhi, India
B.S., Botany (Honors), 1991

**Swami-Khera *Gharana* (traditional performance school),
Mathura, India**

Trained as professional *Nautanki* (performing tradition of India) actor-singer. More than 500 performances till date.

Alliance Francaise, New Delhi, India
Basic French language diploma, 1999

Gandharva Maha Vidyalaya, New Delhi, India
Madhyama degree in classical *Hindustani* vocal music.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Devendra Sharma, *Speak My Language: Performance, Ordinary Culture, and Social Change in India* [work in progress].

Book Chapters

Lynn M. Harter, **Devendra Sharma**, Saumya Pant, Arvind Singhal, and Yogita Sharma, "Catalyzing social reform through participatory performances in rural India", in Larry Frey and Kevin Carragee (eds.) *Communication and social activism*. Creskill, NJ: Hampton, in press.

Arvind Singhal, **Devendra Sharma**, Michael J. Papa, and Kim Witte, "Air cover and ground mobilization: Integrating entertainment- education broadcasts with community listening and service delivery in India", in Arvind Singhal, Michael Cody, Everett M. Rogers, and Miguel Sabido (eds.) *Entertainment-Education and Social Change: History, Research, and Practice*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum, 2003. 351-376 Associates.

Peer Reviewed
Articles

Arvind Singhal, Michael J. Papa, **Devendra Sharma**, Saumya Pant, Tracey Worrell, Nithya Muthuswamy, & Kim Witte, "Entertainment-education and Social Change: The Communicative Dynamics of Social Capital." *Journal of Creative Communications* 1(1), 1-18.

Arvind singhal, Lynn M. Harter, Ketan Chitnis, **Devendra Sharma**, Shooting Back: Participatory Photography in Entertainment-Education. *Critical Arts*, in press.

**INVITED
PRESENTATIONS**

Workshop Facilitator, “Workshop on Participatory Theater for Social Change.” Dept. of communication, Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, MI, March 2005.

Devendra Sharma, “Performance as a Communication Strategy to give Health Messages.” University-wide Graduate Student Research Showcase, Ohio University, April 2004.

Devendra Sharma, “Air Cover and Ground Mobilization: Social Change through Community Performances and Radio Soap Operas.” Graduate Colloquium, Ohio University, March 2003.

Devendra Sharma, “Telling Stories, Saving lives: The Importance of Using Folk Performances as a Communication Strategy for Social Change.” University of California-Los Angeles, February 2003.

Devendra Sharma, “Entertaining Performances for Social Change.” Population Communication International, United Nations Plaza, New York, September 2002.

Devendra Sharma, “Promoting Women’s Empowerment through folk performances.” Population Foundation of India, July 2002.

Visiting Performer to Norway and England, invited by the Norwegian Government as part of the cultural exchange between Indian and Norwegian governments, January 1983.

**CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS**

Contributed Papers in Performance Studies: Top Three.

Devendra Sharma, “Nautanki Performances: Creating Sites for Community Connection and Social Action.” National Communication Association Convention, San Antonio, TX, November 2006.

Devendra Sharma, “This is an Alien Land: Increasing alienation of folk performing forms from Indian cultural landscape in the post colonial times, and probable future directions.” National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, IL, November 2004.

Devendra Sharma, “Mutual Diffusion: Balancing the Cross-Fertilization of Ideas with the Preservation of Cultural Identity.” National Communication Association Convention, Chicago, IL, November, 2004.

**CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS**
(cont'd.)

Devendra Sharma, "Using Folk Performances to Communicate Health Messages: A Case Study in Rural India." Refereed Paper. International Communication Association Convention, New Orleans, LA, May 2004.

Devendra Sharma, "Drawing Lessons from Entertainment Education Experience in India for Global African experience." Entertainment-Education and Global African Experience Conference, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, April 2004.

Devendra Sharma, "The Politics of Popular: Intended and Unintended Politics Connected with the Use of Terms Folk versus Popular, and their Different Interpretations in Different Cultural and Intellectual Contexts." Refereed Paper. Midwest Chapter for the Society for Ethnomusicology Conference, University of Kentucky, March 2004.

Devendra Sharma, "Performing Swang and Nautanki: Dialogic of Space, Sound, Body, and Language." National Communication Association' Conference, Miami Beach, FL, November, 2003.

Devendra Sharma, "Adapting Swang-Nautanki to New Conditions: Applying folk performances as a Communication Strategy for Social Change." Refereed Paper. 32nd Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2003.

**RSEARCH
PROJECTS**

Principal Creative
Consultant, &
Researcher

Project Title: "Intervening With The Indigenous: An Action-Based Folk Media Campaign And Research Project On HIV/AIDS In Rural Bihar." Project Proposal submitted to UNAIDS India, September 2006.

Communication
Designer, Writer,
Trainer & Researcher

Folk Media Campaign in Uttar Pradesh, India. A project of the government of India in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University/Center of Communication Programs (JHU/CCP). Funded by United States Aid for International Development (UNAIDS), 1999-. For this campaign, I designed and co-wrote 15 folk scripts integrating reproductive health and women's empowerment messages. I also co-trained 150 folk troupes to perform in the villages of Uttar Pradesh, the largest state of India. More than 10,000 performances have already been done by these troupes in as many number of villages.

Researcher Project Title: "Community Performances And 'Taru' Radio Soap Opera Broadcast for Social Change in Bihar, India." Ohio University, Athens, Ohio. Funded by Population Communication International (PCI), New York, 2001-2004.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant, School of Communication Studies, Ohio University, Athens, 2005. [\$2000]

Friends of India Foundation, Athens, Ohio, Research Grant, 2005. Project Title: "Indigenous Performances for Community Connection in India and America." [\$1000]

Graduate Student Senate Research Grant, Ohio University, 2005. [\$ 500]

Graduate Student Senate Travel Grant, Ohio University, 2003. [\$300]

AWARDS & HONORS

Outstanding Doctoral Student, School of Communication Studies, Ohio University, 2005.

Terry Conry and Lynn John Student Conference Award, School of Communication Studies, Ohio University, April 2004.

Media Leadership Fellow, University of Southern California, Packard Foundation, and Population Communication International, May-August 2000 [a specially designed leadership fellowship in the field of communication for social change].

Top Two Student Films, Jamia Millia University, India 1993. My film "Rehna Nahin Des Birana hai" [a 16 m.m. film based on the plight of *Swang-Nautanki* folk performing artists in India] was selected to participate in the Tokyo International Student Festival by Jamia Millia University. I was the writer and director.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Scholarship Committee Member, Dept. of Communication, California State University-Fresno, 2006-

Advisor, Arts and Humanities College Students Performance Club California State University-Fresno, 2006-

Reviewer for Popular Communication Division, ICA, 2003-2004.

Social Chair, Graduate Student Club, Dept. of Comm., 2003-2004

TRADITIONAL NAUTANKI

PERFORMANCES

Actor & Singer

“Amar Singh Rathore”, “Indal Haran”, “Dahiwali”,
“Harischandra Taramati”, “Raja Gopichand”, “Sultana Daku”,
“Laila Majnun”, “Puran Mal”

PERFORMANCES for SOCIAL CHANGE

Director, Actor, & Singer

Production Title (in Hindi)

Social Theme

“Beti ka Byah”	-	Dowry Eradication
“Naya Savera”	-	HIV-AIDS Prevention
“Behkani Muskani”	-	Women’s Empowerment
“Lulu Pulu”	-	Environment Protection
“Pati No.1”	-	Boy-Girl Equality
“Vichitra Dhokha”	-	Combating Caste Oppression
“Padho Likho aur Bano Hoshiyar”	-	Literacy.
“Ghar Ghar ki Kahani”	-	Unemployment
“Ek Tha Gadha”	-	Political Corruption
“Mehngai ki Maar”	-	Poverty Eradication
“Jangi Ram ki Haveli”	-	Political Satire
“Lakh ki Naak”	-	Political Corruption
“Bhon Bhon-Khon Khon”	-	Communal Harmony

Actor, Singer, & Music Composer

PROSCENIUM THEATER

Actor & singer

“Agra Bazaar” (Dir. by Habib Tanvir), “Sharvilak” (Dir. by Bansi Kaul), “Haru-Heet”, “Meghdoot, & “Ram Lila” (Dir. by Mohan Upreti) “Naya Gokul” (Dir. by J.N. Kaushal), “Khel” (Dir. by Anjum Masood), “Surya Dhara” (Dir. by Rita Ganguli “Tash ke Patte”, “Panchtantra”, “Aisop ki Kahaniyan”, Milap, “Pavan Jhakora”, “Ghadiyal ke Moohn Me Suraj”, “Idgaah”,

“Saket”, & “Jasma Odan” (Dir. by Mohini Mathur).

**FILM, TELEVISION
& RADIO WORK**

Performer

Doordarshan (the national television channel of India), 1977-
All India Radio (the national radio of India), 1988-

Director, Writer,
& Editor

“My Script, My Show”-A documentary film on the participatory theater workshop and performances in the villages of Bihar, India based on the issues of women’s empowerment, dowry and boy-girl equality, 2005.

“Taru has changed my life”- A documentary film based on the personal story of a young woman in India describing her efforts for progressive social change in her village. Funded by Population Communication International, New York, 2004.

“Taru comes to Abirpur”- A documentary film on the use of community performances and mass media for social change, funded by Population Communication International, New York, 2003.

“Short Films on four folk performing traditions of India”- Four short films on *Alha*, *Holi*, *Charkula*, and *Ranjha* folk performing traditions of northern India. Produced for Zee TV (one of India’s premier television channels), 2001.

“Mausam”- A series of four films on meteorology. Funded by the College Television of India, 2000.

“Sangharsh”- A television soap opera to promote literacy. Telecast on *Doordarshan* (the national television channel of India), 1998.

“Music videos based on women’s empowerment”- produced by Human Resource Ministry, Government of India. Telecast on *Doordarshan* (the national television channel of India), 1997.

Director, Writer,
& Actor

“Pak Mohabbat”- a televised *Nautanki* opera. Telecast on ETV (one of the premier television channels of India), 2001.

“Rehna Nahin Des Birana Hai”- a 16 m.m. feature film based on the situation of *Nautanki* folk performing tradition and its artists in the changing cultural landscape of India. Selected by Jamia Millia University, India to participate in Tokyo International student film festival.

<u>Director & Anchor</u>	<p>“Ahang”- a 26-episode television series based on the devotional music traditions from different parts of India. Telecast on ETV (one of the premier television channels of India), 2001.</p> <p>“Lok Birsa”- a 26-episode television series based on the folk performing traditions from different parts of India, 2001. Telecast on ETV (one of the premier television channels of India), 2001.</p>
<u>Actor</u>	<p>“Tamaso Maa Jyotirgamaya”- A film directed by Shyam Benegal (one of the most renowned film directors of Bollywood). Telecast on <i>Doordarshan</i> (the national television channel of India), 2000.</p>
<u>Cultural Reporter</u>	<p>“Parakh”- a prime-time weekly television political-cultural program. Produced by Vinod Dua. Telecast on <i>Doordarshan</i> (the national television channel of India), 1993-1994.</p> <p>“First Edition”- a breakfast television show. Produced by Dilip Padgaonkar. Telecast on <i>Doordarshan</i> (the national television channel of India), 1995.</p> <p>“India This Week”- a prime-time weekly television news magazine. Produced by Ramesh Sharma. Telecast on <i>Doordarshan</i> (the national television channel of India), 1995.</p>
<u>Newsreader</u>	All India Radio (National Radio of India), 1993-1998
<u>Anchor</u>	Music and Cultural Programs, Yuvvani (National radio youth channel), 1988-1994.
<u>Consultant</u>	National Geographic Channel, India, 2000.
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS	<p>Member, Central States Communication Association, 2004-2005</p> <p>Member, International Communication Association, 2003-2005</p> <p>Member National Communication Association, 2002-</p>
COURSES TAUGHT	
<u>Graduate</u> (as visiting faculty)	Entertainment for Social Change

Undergraduate

Argumentation Analysis and Advocacy

Communication and Persuasion

Communication Planning in Social Systems

Communication Research Methods

Elements of Television Production

Introduction to Radio Production

Performance for Social Change

Participatory Theater for Social Change (as visiting faculty)

Public Speaking

Social Influence and Attitude Change

Still Photography

REFERENCES

Dr. Arvind Singhal (Ph.D. University of Southern California)
Professor, and Presidential Research Scholar
School of Communication Studies
Ohio University
Lasher Hall 206
Athens, OH 45701
Telephone: 740-593-4903; Email: singhal@oak.cats.ohiou.edu

Dr. Ted Striphas (Ph.D. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
Assistant Professor of Communication and Culture
Department of Communication and Culture
Indiana University
Mottier Hall (Ashton Center)
Bloomington, IN 47405
Telephone: 812-339-0133; Email: striphas@indiana.edu

Dr. Gini Gorlinski (Ph.D. Northwestern University)

Dr. William K. Rawlins (Ph.D. Temple University)
Stocker Professor of Interpersonal Communication
School of Communication Studies
Ohio University
Lasher Hall 215
Athens, OH 45701
Telephone: 740-593-4823; Email: rawlins@ohio.edu

Dr. Scott Titsworth (Ph.D. University of Nebraska)
Associate Professor and Basic Course Director
School of Communication Studies
Ohio University
Lasher Hall 008
Athens, OH 45701
Telephone: 740-593-9160; Email: titswort@ohiou.edu

Dr. Virginia Gorlinski
Associate Editor, Geography
Encyclopaedia Britannica
331 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60610
Telephone: 312-347-7066, Email: vgorlinski@eb.com