

Shankar Ramaswami, *SAI South Asian Studies Postdoctoral Fellow*



Shankar Ramaswami is the SAI Postdoctoral Fellow in South Asian Studies for the 2013-2014 academic year. Prior to his appointment at Harvard, Shankar was a Visiting Associate Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies in Delhi. He is currently working on a book project entitled, "Souls in the Kalyug: The Politics and Theologies of Migrant Workers in Delhi." This project explores migrant workers' work experiences, social worlds, and theological visions in contemporary Delhi. The work focuses on the lives of migrants working in a metal polishing export factory of a multinational company located in the Okhla Industrial Area. The project examines the ways in which workers contest exploitative and hazardous working conditions, continual efforts to intensify work, and attempts to terminate quasi-legal workers, through resistances at the machines, humor and joking, forms of collectivity, union activity, and nonviolent protests, involving linkages with workers, activists, and other citizens in India, America, and Europe. The chapters also delve into workers' understandings and visions of work, justice, the present, 'decivilizing' epoch (the Kalyug in popular cosmology), and themselves, and discuss intimations of what might be termed 'anti-decivilizing' activities, in workers' integrative relations, devotional practices, and festivity. The project aspires to contribute to the anthropology of labor and South Asia, specifically, and to understandings of the ethical and theological politics of working people in the world, more generally. Articles arising from this work have appeared in journals including *Ethnography*, *South Asian Popular Culture*, and *International Review of Social History*.

Shankar holds a PhD and MA in Sociocultural Anthropology from the University of Chicago, and an AB in Economics from Harvard College.