



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Modern Monarchy in Global Perspective Research Hub

Seminar Series 2022



When

Friday 10 June 2022
Time: 8am London/
9am Barcelona/
5pm Sydney

Where

Online, via Zoom

More information

Contact Name

Robert.Aldrich@sydney.edu.au

Register

Please register via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).

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<https://global-modern-monarchy.sydney.edu.au/>

Education and intimacy in the Indian court: Princely pupils and British tutors in late nineteenth-century western India

**Teresa Segura-Garcia, Juan de la Cierva Postdoctoral Fellow,
Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona**

The end of the nineteenth century was a period of immense change in the lives of Indian rulers. In royal courts across the subcontinent, succession crises, minority rule, and British encroachment turned the education of young princes into a highly contested enterprise. Indian teachers and British tutors, local courtiers and imperial administrators, ruling families and princely pupils — all grappled with questions of what constituted a “good” ruler and how education contributed to it. Emotion and intimacy played a central role in these debates and practices around princely education.

The paper examines the importance of emotion in princely education through the schooling of a 12-year-old prince, Maharaja Sayaji Rao III of Baroda. Originally from an obscure branch of the royal family, in 1875 the Dowager Maharani of Baroda adopted him as the state’s next ruler. To buttress his authority, Indian and British actors in Baroda fashioned a new form of princely education under the control of Frederick Elliot, an Oxford-educated Scottish tutor. The paper analyses the intimate dimension of this extraordinary educational experiment, from the transmission of the “proper” emotions of a British gentleman from tutor to pupil, to the emotional closeness and eventual friendship that emerged between the two, in a relationship that ultimately threatened the hierarchies of colonial rule. The paper deepens our knowledge of the limits of British control in Indian courts, balancing its political power with its precariousness in the face of the powerful, unexpected consequences of intimacy and emotion.



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If you are interested in presenting your own work on the history of modern monarchy at a forthcoming seminar, please contact [Robert Aldrich](mailto:Robert.Aldrich@sydney.edu.au)

Teresa Segura-Garcia is a historian of Modern South Asia based at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, where she is a postdoctoral researcher (with a Juan de la Cierva fellowship, awarded by the Government of Spain). She has a PhD in History from the University of Cambridge, with a dissertation on the global links of the Indian princely state of Baroda in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

After her PhD, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi (with an ICAS:MP fellowship by the M. S. Merian – R. Tagore International Centre of Advanced Studies). She has held a visiting fellowship at the Department of History at Brown University. Her recent publications include the edited volume *Unexpected voices in imperial parliaments* (co-edited with Josep M. Fradera and José María Portillo, Bloomsbury, 2021), and a chapter on the Indian princely states in the *Routledge Handbook of the History of Colonialism in South Asia* (edited by Harald Fischer-Tiné and Maria Framke, 2021).

Upcoming Seminars

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