

Saniya Dabra

Education

Bachelor of Arts Honours , Queen's University, Sociology	2024
Certificate in Law , Queen's University, Law	2022

Research Interests

My academic interests center on the critical analysis of criminal law, gender-based violence, and legislative continuity, focusing specifically on post-colonial state structures and legal reform in South Asia.

- Analyzing the interaction between judicial reasoning, political power, and entrenched social attitudes that sustain legal exemptions to gendered violence.
- Researching the persistence of the marital rape exception and its implications for women's bodily autonomy and human rights.
- Critically assessing the legislative shifts from the colonial Indian Penal Code (IPC) to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).
- Tracing the evolution of criminal law and reform efforts from the colonial era to the present day.
- Employing critical case analysis of primary legal sources, including judicial transcripts and legislative documents.

Presentations & Research Dissemination

Master's Research Presentation

Sexual Assault Centre Kingston (SAC Kingston), Kingston, Ontario
2025

- Successfully disseminated complex academic research findings to non-academic stakeholders and practitioners to inform evidence-based practice and policy development within the community.
- Adapted and delivered research content in an accessible, sensitive, and ethical manner to an audience of frontline staff, volunteers, and management, ensuring the material was directly relevant to their work.
- Fostered a productive dialogue between university-based research and community-based service delivery, highlighting the real-world application and utility of the research.

Volunteer and Work Experience

Teaching Assistant (TA), Queen's University
Sociology and Gender Studies Teaching Assistant

2024 - Present

- Graded assignments, essays, and exams, providing constructive, detailed feedback that contributed directly to student learning outcomes and skill development.
- Held regular office hours to provide individualized support, demonstrating mastery and command of the course material.
- Assisted the course instructors with revising grading rubrics as well as test and assignment materials.

Academic Mentorship Program (AMP) Peer Mentor, Queen's University

First-Year Student Mentor

2021 - 2023

- Leveraged advanced knowledge of Queen's University systems and resources to facilitate the transition and integration of first-year students into the academic and social community.
- Served as a primary point of contact for assigned first-year mentees, utilizing a personalized matching system to address individual academic, social, and logistical challenges.
- Enhanced the student experience by actively directing mentees to relevant university and ASUS (Arts and Science Undergraduate Society) resources, significantly improving their ability to find necessary support.
- Developed strong interpersonal and analytical skills by discerning mentee needs and providing targeted referrals and "right direction" advice on a wide range of university-related matters.

Outreach 360 Service Trip, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Volunteer English Teacher

2019

- Developed and delivered tailored English lesson plans and educational activities for grade 4 students in Santo Domingo.
- Conducted after-hour classes for students with learning disabilities, demonstrating personalized instructional support.

India-Canada Association, Kingston, Ontario

Volunteer

2012 - Present

- Served as a host for the annual Heritage Day event for three years, overseeing programs featuring key civic and community leaders.
- Collaborated in planning and executing numerous cultural events throughout the year, fostering unity and appreciation for diverse South Asian heritage.