



# Q&A

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## What area of research do you focus on and why?

I work on the Indian and Pacific oceans in the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries in the so-called Age of Revolutions.

I ended up working on this region partly as a result of growing up in Sri Lanka and being interested in how sea-facing places experience change. I work on this period because I see it to be crucial period of possibility for humanity but also when possibilities were foreclosed.

## What book in your field should everyone read?

I have recently absolutely loved reading Camilla Townsend's, 'The Fifth Sun: A New History of the Aztecs' I would recommend it to anyone studying history at school.

## Which book inspired you to study History?

I started life at university as an Engineer and Natural Scientist and then shifted into History of Science and finally into World History. In making the shift across disciplines, I remember being absolutely enthralled by Lisa Jardine's 'Worldly Goods: A New History of the Renaissance.'

## What book are you currently reading?

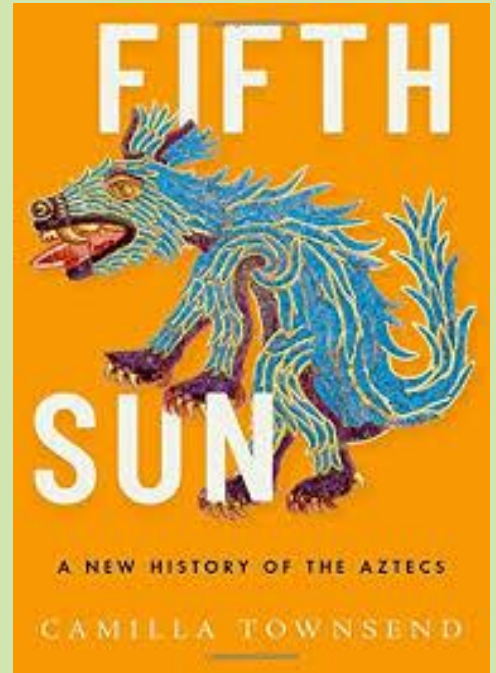
Quite a few at the same time! But I really enjoyed Debjani Bhattacharyya's 'Empire and Ecology in the Bengal Delta' for the way it focuses on the environment in building an account of the making of Calcutta.

## Which historian has had the greatest influence on you?

It is hard to name just one.

## What is the best museum you have ever been to?

Again, very hard to pick one. I'll say the Peranakan Museum in Singapore.



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