

SIPRA MUKHERJEE

Associate Professor, Department of English.



Visiting Fellow (DSA), Department of English, University of Hyderabad, 2015.

Invited Faculty, School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University, 2014, 2015.

Guest Faculty, Department of English, University of Calcutta, 2012-2014.

Academics:

Ph.D., Department of English, Jadavpur University.

M. Phil., Department of English, Jadavpur University.

M. A., Department of English, Jadavpur University.

Research Fellow, Department of English, Jadavpur University, 1993 – 1996.

Research Interests:

Religion, caste, folklore, power.

Grants/Fellowships:

- ICSSR Funding for Research Project, 2013.
- Travel grant from University of Lisbon, 2012.
- Travel grant from University of Bonn, 2010
- Travel grant from University of Manchester, 2008
- Luce Grant from Comparative Religion Programme, on Religion and Human Security: Negotiating the Power of Religious Non-State Actors, University of Washington, January, 2008.
- Research Grant for project 'Faiths in the Margins' from University Grant Commission, India, 2009.
- Research Grant for project on 'Religious Conversion in Colonial Bengal', UGC, India, 2007.
- Research Grant for project on 'Language and Identity in Colonial Assam', UGC, India, 2001.
- Doctoral Fellowship (NET, University Grant Commission), 1993.

Current Research projects:

- 'Interpreting Folklore: Understanding the relation between Folklore, Religion and Caste in East India', ICSSR Project, ongoing.
- Book Project, Translation of Manoranjan Byapari's Bangla book *Itibritte Chadal Jiban*

Publications:

Books/journals:

- Author, *A History of Ideas of Modern English Literature* (tentative title), Gen Editor: Pramod K. Nayar, Orient Blackswan, forthcoming.
- Guest Editor, *International Journal of Sociology of Language*, Joshua Fishman (General Editor), Gruyter de Mouton, No 220, 2013.
- Editor, *The Calcutta Mosaic: The Minority Communities of Calcutta*, with Nilanjana Gupta, Himadri Banerjee, Anthem Publishers, London, New Delhi, New York, 2009.

Monographs:

- Editor, *Time Chart of Events and Publications of the 20th Century*, co-edited with Nilanjana Gupta, Paromita Chaudhuri, Niladri Chatterjee, Jadavpur University, 1999.

Articles in peer-reviewed journals:

- “Locating a City’s Conscience: The AMRI Hospital Fire”, *Journal of Creative Communications*, 7 (1&2), Sage Journals, 2014, 67–86.
- “Reading Language and Religion together”, *International Journal of Sociology of Language*, 220, 2013, 1-6.
- “Means to the End: Assam, 1846-1868,” *Indian Journal of World Literature and Culture*, I i, 2004, 100 – 107.

Articles/Chapters in peer-reviewed Books:

- ‘Creating their own gods: Literature from the Margins of Bengal’, *Dalit Literatures in India*, Ed. Judith Misrahi Barak and Joshil Abraham, Routledge, forthcoming.
- ‘An Exploration of Multi-religiosity within India: The Sahebhdhani and the Matua Sects’, *Multiculturalism and Religious Identity: Canada and India*, Quebec: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014, 301-317.
- “Conversion without Commotion: Rev. Lal Behari Day’s Chandramukhir Upakhyan,” *Asia in the Making of Christianity: Conversion, Agency and Indigeneity, 1600 to the present*, Ed. Richard Fox Young and Jonathan A. Seitz, Brill Books, Leiden, 2013, 189-212.
- “The Curious Case of the Ramakrishna Mission,” *Minority Studies: Oxford India Series on Contemporary Society*, Ed. Rowena Robinson, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2012, 227-248.
- “The Politics of Language and Dialect: English, Bengali and Assamese,” *The Handbook of Language and Ethnic Politics, Vol. 2, - the Success-Failure Continuum*, Ed. Joshua A. Fishman and Alexander Maxwell, Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, 2011, 242-253.

Selected Articles/Chapters in Books:

- ‘Gods by the Wayside: ‘ *Strangely Beloved: Calcutta, the City*, Ed. Nilanjana Gupta, Raintree Publications, New Delhi, 2015.

- “The Jews of Calcutta: An Interview with Michael Ezra”, *Calcutta Mosaic: Essays and Interviews on the Minority Communities of Calcutta*, Anthem Publishers, London, 2009.
- “The City of Colleges: the Bengali Muslim in Colonial Calcutta,” *Calcutta Mosaic: Essays and Interviews on the Minority Communities of Calcutta*, Anthem Publishers, London, 2009.
- ‘The Murderers of Roger Ackroyd’, in *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd: a collection of Critical Essays*, Ed. N Gupta, Worldview, Delhi, 2001.

Conference Proceedings:

- ‘ “Allah kabhi Aqleema se bhi kalaam kare”’: the Woman’s Voice in Modern Pakistani Poetry’. ‘Multiplicity of Cultures in South Asian Literatures’, November, 2012.
- “The English Department of the Future: Literature or Cultural Studies?” *Narrating the (Trans)nation: The Dialectics of Culture and Identity*, Ed. Krishna Sen and Sudeshna Chakravarti, Das Gupta and Co., Kolkata, 2008, 253 – 268.
- “Converting the Hero: Religious Conversion in Lal Behari Day’s Chandramukhir Upakhyān,” *The Indian Imagination: Colonial and Postcolonial Literature and Culture*, Ed. Somdatta Mandal, Creative Books, New Delhi, 2007.
- “Missionaries in 19th century Assam: Linking Religion and power,” *Indian Association of Asian and Pacific Studies*, Vol. III, Calcutta, 2005.

Encyclopedia entries:

- ‘Orientalism’ in *India Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Republic*, Vol. 2, Eds. Arnold P. Kaminsky, Roger D. Long, ABC-CLIO, Santa Barbara, 2011.
- ‘Kolkata’ in *India Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Republic*, Vol. 2, Eds. Arnold P. Kaminsky, Roger D. Long, ABC-CLIO, Santa Barbara, 2011.
- ‘West Bengal’ in *India Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Republic*, Vol. 2, Eds. Arnold P. Kaminsky, Roger D. Long, ABC-CLIO, Santa Barbara, 2011.
- ‘Ramakrishna Mission’ in *India Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Republic*, Vol. 2, Eds. Arnold P. Kaminsky, Roger D. Long, ABC-CLIO, Santa Barbara, 2011.

Translations

- *The Final Question*, (Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay’s Sesh Prashna), Eds. Arup Rudra and Sukanta Chaudhuri, (Das Gupta (Mukherjee), S., Mazumdar, S. (Ravi Dayal and permanent black, New Delhi, 2001) Ravi Dayal and Penguin, New Delhi, London, New York, Dublin, 2010.
- ‘Nanchera Valmiki’. Translation of Manohar Mouli Biswas’s story. *Wasafiri*, forthcoming.
- ‘Greed’, Translation of Bimalendu Haldar’s story “Nola”. *Indian Journal of Comparative Literature and Translation Studies (IJCLTS)* Issue Number: Volume 1, Number 2, December, 2013.

<http://ijclts.wordpress.com/>

- “The Twice-born” Translation of Santosh Ghosh’s ‘Dwija’ Stories on the Bengal Partition, 2005. (DSA Project of Calcutta University) Eds. Jharna Sanyal and Krishna Sen, forthcoming.
- “The Medicine” (Drama), translation from Garo to Bangla, Sahitya Akademi, Anthology of Garo Literature, forthcoming.
- “The Housewife” (Rabindranath’s Thakur’s Ginni) *The Muffled Heart: Stories of the Disempowered Male*, ed. Sengupta and Chatterjee, Rupa, 2005, 1 -5.
- “Nothing Feels Right,” (Mahendra Barthakur’s Asamiya Story, a translation) *The Muffled Heart*, Ed. Sengupta and Chatterjee, Rupa, 2005, 80 -88.

Some Presentations at Seminars/Conferences:

- ‘The Imagined Commune-ity: Muslim Modernity in Bengal through the writings of Kazi Nazrul Islam’, at International Conference on Imagining the East: New Research, New Pathways, Department of English, University of Hyderabad. 23-25 February, 2015.
- ‘The World through the War: The Bengali Muslim and the Great War’, at international conference on War, Words and the World: Re-presenting the Great War, organized by the Centre of Advanced Study in English, Jadavpur University, 25-27 February 2014.
- ‘Pita Allah Mata Alladini: defying the straitjacketing of Partition History’ at international conference on ‘Partition Literature: memory and Inheritance of Self’, organized by Netaji Subhas Open University, 9 February, 2014.
- ‘Between Brahma and the Brahmins: the Matua faith in Bengal’ in panel on ‘Of saints, converts, and heroes: hagiographies and conversion auto/biographies across religions in South Asia’, in 22nd European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies (ECMSAS), Lisbon, 25 – 28 July, 2012.
- “Making Bengali Islamic: The Bengali Muslim in Colonial Bengal”, International Conference on ‘Islam and English in India: Cultural, Literary, Pedagogic, Historical, Political and Philosophical Encounters’, University of Hyderabad, 6th – 8th September, 2011.
- “Reminiscences of Survivors: Hope or Despair?” in Seminar on *The Survivors of Partition of Bengal: Loss and Resurrection*, West Bengal State University, 20th April 2011.
- ‘The Two Discourses of Hinduism: the case of the Ramakrishna Mission as a minority group’ in panel on ‘The Public Representation of South Asian Religions in the Postcolonial World’ at the 21st European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, Bonn, 26 -29 July, 2010.
- . ‘Questioning Conversion: A Case Study from Bengal’, Rethinking Religion in India, Ghent University (Belgium) and Kuvempu University (India), New Delhi, 10-13 January, 2009.
- “The Road Back: the Preaching Tours of Rev Lal Behari Day”, International Conference ‘On the Road: Writing Travel and Travellers’, Centre of Advanced Study in English, Jadavpur University, 6 – 8 November, 2008.

- ‘Conversion, Colonialism, and Nationalism in 19th-Century Calcutta: A Case Study in the Writings of Lal Behari Day’, 20th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, Manchester, 8 -11th July, 2008.
- “A Convert’s Narrative of the Nation,” Conference on Nation and the Postcolonial, Indian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies, Visvabharati, 2006.

Some Invited lectures:

- ‘The Road Not Taken: Locating the Matua Speaker through the travels of a text’ at Special Winter School Course on Textual Travels: Cultural Transactions and Transformations. Organised by the Department of English and Academic Staff College, Jadavpur University, 30 January, 2015.
- “Religion in South Asia: the Institutionalization of Hinduism”, Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia, Canada, October, 2010.
- Panel on “Multiculturalism and Religious Identity: Perspectives from Ottawa and Delhi,” University of Ottawa, Canada, September 27-29, 2010.
- ‘Bridging the Religious and the Secular: a Case Study of the Ramakrishna Mission in India’, at symposium on Religion and Human Security: Negotiating the Power of Religious Non-State Actors, University of Washington, 8– 9 May, 2008.
- “The First Drama in The Indian English Language: Seeds of a Problem”, Narrative, Narration and Quest for Identity in Indian Writing in English, State Seminar at P.N. Das College, 17th December, 2011.
- “Construction of the Indian Identity: the Spiritual/Material Divide in Indian English Writings, Refresher Course, Department of English, University of Calcutta, 1st Dec, 2011.
- “Building a Dalit Movement through Faith: the Matua Dharma,” National Seminar on Writing as Resistance: Bengali and Other Dalit Writings”, Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri College, 29-30 Nov, 2011.
- “Pluralism in Ethnic Identities: a Postmodern Phenomenon?” Seminar on ‘Culture and Ethnic Persistence: Towards Understanding Identities’, 5 and 6 November, 2009, NEHU, Tura, Meghalaya.
- “Beyond Said: Understanding the Baptist Missionaries in Assam,” Seminar on Society, Polity and Culture in Colonial Eastern India, Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University, 2004.
- “Orientalism Revisited,” an International Panel Discussion organised by the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, 13 Oct, 2007.
- Resource Person on ‘Modern Drama in Bengal’, at UGC National Seminar, Trends in Modern Indian Drama, Organised by West Bengal State University and Rishi Bankim Chandra College, 27th-28th March, 2012. Resource Person at Workshop on the “Implementation of Supreme Court Guidelines for the Prevention of Sexual Harassment and Gender Discrimination in Colleges,” Jadavpur University, 29 and 30 November, 2007.

- Resource Person at Workshop on “Religion and Identity,” UGC Scheme on Re-training of College Teachers, Jadavpur University, 2006.

Examiner for Dissertations (last 2 years):

- -PhD- Neeraja S. ‘Writing Sickness, Writing Healing: Narratives of Illness and Identity’, University of Hyderabad. Supervisor: Prof. Pramod K, Nayar. 2014.
- -Ph D- Somdatta Bhattacharya, ‘Narrating the City: Calcutta/Kolkata in Literature, Cinema and Popular Arts’, Jadavpur University. Supervisor: Prof. Supriya Chaudhuri. 2012.
- -M Phil- Sagnika Chanda, ‘Through the Lens of Postmodernism: a comparative study of the myths in the plays of Sam Shepard and Girish Karnad. Jadavpur University Supervisor: Prof. Amlan Dasgupta. 2013
- - M Phil- Payel Ghosh, ‘Articulating Agecy: the rise of the new intellectual amongst the women from India’s North-east’. Jadavpur University Supervisor: Dr Paromita Chakravarti. 2013
- -M Phil- Debotoma Roy, ‘In Search of Indianness: a Study of the complexities of history and identity in the novels of R K Narayan’. University of Calcutta Supervisor: Prof. Jharna Sanyal. 2012

Other Academic Positions:

Jt. Secretary, Ashin Dasgupta Institute of Tribal Studies, Kolkata.

Member, Academic Committee, School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University

Member, Board of Studies, Department of English, Cotton College State University, Guwahati.

Member, Board of Studies, Department of Garo, NEHU, Tura.

Member, Editorial Board, Café Dissensus. <http://cafedissensusblog.com/>

Member, European Association of South Asian Studies