

RAJAT KANTISUR

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Date of Birth: 27.04.1984.

Educational Qualification:

Ph.D. in South and South-East Asian Studies. 2019 (awarded).

Dissertation topic: *Swadhinata Uttar Parbe Kalkatar Sawng: Nimnabarger Samskritik Bibartaner ek Kahini (1945-1990 er dashak)* (written in Bengali) [Sawng performances of post-independence Kolkata: A Study on the Evolution of the subaltern cultural sphere (1947-1990s)]

Supervisor: Professor Parimal Ghosh (Supirvisor) Dept. of South and South East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta.

M.A. in South and South East Asian Studies (with specializations in Gender Studies and Refugee Studies), University of Calcutta, 2007.

BA (Honours) in Political Science from the Dum Dum Motijheel College, University of Calcutta, 2005.

Additional Qualification:

A Certificate Course on Forced Migration, Jointly organized by United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Govt. of Finland and Calcutta Research Group, in Kolkata (December, 2010).

Language Proficiency:

Bengali (native).
Hindi (advanced).
English (advanced).
Bhojpuri (Read & Write).
Maithili (Read & Write & Understand).
Urdu (Elementary).

Work Experience:**Current Affiliation:**

- Research & Programme Associate , Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata. (1 January 2020- till date).

Teaching:

1. Guest lecturer at the Department of Political Science, *Dum Dum Motijheel College*, West Bengal State University. (December 2016 – February 2017).

Research Fellowship:

1. Junior Research Fellow (Non-NET), Department of South and South East Asian Studies, University of Calcutta (June 2012- March 2016).

Research & Documentation:

1. Research Fellow, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata (June 2020- December 2020). Title of the paper: Effects of Migration in Nautanki performances: the role of media in the Bhojpuri stage performances in Bihar.
2. Documentation Officer at the *Durbar Mahila Samanway Committee* (A non-governmental organisation based in Kolkata for working on different health and welfare issues of the sex-workers); (15 September 2018 – 31 March 2020).
3. Documentation Officer (Archive), Centre for Development Practice and Research, *Tata Institute of Social Sciences* (Patna Centre) (1 August 2017- 31 August 2018).
4. Research Assistant in the “Early literacy project” jointly coordinated by *Azim Premji University* and *Tata Institute of Social Sciences* (Hyderabad Campus), (May-July 2017).
5. Research Assistant, Endangered Archive Programme (EAP – 781), *Hitesranjan Sanyal Memorial Archive, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences*, Calcutta (April – November 2016).

6. Research Assistant (part-time) of Professor Arun Kumar Nag, Former Professor, Dept. of Archaeology and Ancient History, *Visva Bharati University*, Shantiniketan, WB. (January 2014-March 2016).
7. Research & Programme Assistant (Part Time) at the *Documentation Centre on Forced Migration*, *Calcutta Research Group*, Kolkata (From, January 2011-October 2015).
8. Research Assistant (part-time) of Dr. Rochona Majumdar, Associate Professor, Department of Cinema and Media Studies, South Asian Language and Civilizations, *University of Chicago* (for 2015 & 2016).
9. Research Assistant (Part –time) of Professor Mrinalini Sinha, Alice Freeman Palmer Professor of History, *University of Michigan*, *Ann Arbor* (August – December 2013).
10. Research Assistant of Professor Gautam Bhadra, Tagore National Fellow in Cultural Research, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India at *National Library*, Kolkata. (April 2011- June 2013).
11. Research Assistant, in a project titled, “*Background of making institutions to protest against imperial power and building a national consciousness in India (Special emphasis on making of the Indian National Congress and Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works)*” (From: January-March, 2011) Project Coordinator: Dr. Arijit Chatterjee, Assistant Professor, Dept.of Management at *École Supérieure des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales* (ESSEC Business School), Paris-Singapore.
12. Research & Programme Assistant in the *South Asia Resource Centre on Forced Migration*, of *Calcutta Research Group*, Kolkata (From: July-December, 2010).
13. Research Assistant of Professor Paula Banerjee in her project on Women in Indian Borderlands. (March – June, 2010).
14. Research Assistant in a project titled *Freight Equalization Policy and Its Impact on the Industrialization of West Bengal* (From: September 2009-February 2010) Project Coordinator: Dr. Arijit Chatterjee, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Management at *École Supérieure des Sciences Économiques et Commerciales* (ESSEC Business School) Paris-Singapore .
15. Research Assistant in a project titled *History of Bengali Cartoons*, (From November 2007-August 2009), of Dr. Subhendu Dasgupta, Formerly Associate Professor, Dept. of South and South East Asian Studies, *University of Calcutta*, Kolkata.

Seminar and Workshops (only participated or presented a paper/s)

a) On Archives

1. Taught one module on “Application of archival methods in migration studies” in the *Second Orientation Course on Migration* by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Patna Centre), (February 2018).
2. Delivered lecture on the “Challenges of making a repository of the socially excluded women” in *Archiving the City: Documenting Submerged Urban Movements*. The workshop was conducted by Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, Centre for Policy Research and Hyderabad Urban Lab. Dated: 25.1.2020, Kolkata.

b) Others:

1. Participated and Presented a paper in the Fifth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop & Conference on “Global Protection of Migrants and Refugees. Jointly organized by Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Germany and Institute of Human Sciences, Vienna on 16-21 November, 2020.
2. Presented paper at the international conference on “Contemporary Caste, Gender and Minority Questions in West Bengal and Bangladesh: Some Explorations.” Jointly organized by the St. Xavier’s College, Kolkata, Nagarik Udyog, Dhaka, ORF, Ambedkar University Delhi and Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (31 October – 2 November, 2019).
3. Presented paper at the Ninth Biennial International Conference on *Asia in Transition*. Jointly organised by Indian Association for Asian and Pacific Studies and Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh, (1-2 November, 2018.)
4. Presented Paper at the three-day national conference on *Cultural Practices of Labour in Migration*. Jointly organised by the Department of English, Patna University and Centre for Development Practice and Research, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Patna (20-21 April 2018).
5. Presented paper at the UGC sponsored National Seminar on “Nation, identity and other in post-colonial performing arts” at the Department of History, Rishi Bankim Chandra Evening College (Naihati, December 2016).

6. A Certificate Course on Forced Migration, Jointly organized by United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), Govt. of Finland and Calcutta Research Group, in Kolkata (December 2010).
7. Participated in a three-day workshop on Gender and Forced Migration, (Hyderabad, February 2008.) (Jointly organised by Calcutta Research Group and Asmita Resource Centre for Women, Hyderabad).

Public Lecture/s

1. Gave a talk on the Kolkata's lost cultural traditions and practices (jointly with Dr. Indira Biswas (March 2015))

Published Articles:

a) In journal (s) and as book chapters.

1. English:

- “A Forgotten Street Culture” in *Purba Darshan: A Journal on South and South East Asian Studies*, Vol. 1, September 2013 (Ed. Parimal Ghosh) Pub. K.P.Bagchi & Co. Ltd, (ISSN 2322-0183).
- “Sawngs of Calcutta in the nineteenth century: Making and unmaking of a subaltern popular performance in the urban society” in Rituparna Ray Chowdhury (Ed.), *Colonial and Post-colonial Performing Arts: An Asian Perspective*, Kolkata, Mahabodhi Book Agency, 2017 (ISBN: 978-93-84721-84-8).
- “Song of the Sawngs: Transformation of a Cultural Protest and the Role of Nationalist Politics” in John Clammer, et.al (eds.) *Dynamics of Dissent: Theorizing Movements for Inclusive Features*, London, Routledge, 2019, ISBN: 981138603967.
- “Transformation and decline of Sawng: The socio-cultural effects of migration and the changes in intercommunity relations in Calcutta c. 1870-1930.” *Indian Economic and Social History Review* (ISSN: 0019-4646 & Online ISSN: 0973-0893) Vol. 56, No.4. pp 387-409.

2. Bengali:

- “Bismritoprai ek Pathasamskritir Itibritto”, (book review essay on a book of Street Culture) in *Charcha* (Vol.1, No.2); (Ed. By Raghav Bandyopadhyay), Calcutta, January 2013.
- “Kolkata Sawng: Ekti Swatantra Samskritik Porichay Nirman er Itibritto” in *Itikatha* (Vol.2, No. 2, Dec. 2014), Ed. Soumitra Sreemani (ISSN 2320-3447).

b) Newspapers and Periodicals:

1. “The telltale story of a capital city” in *Millennium Post* on 2nd May 2012 (e- link: <http://millenniumpost.in/MPAdmin/ePaper/05022012/23.pdf>)
2. “Sawng –Sangeet-Sanskriti” cover story published in “*Robber*” (a tabloid published by Samvad Pratidin in every Sunday) (Ed. By Anindya Chatterjee & Rituparno Ghosh), Calcutta, 7.04.2013.

Workshops & Associations:

1. Member, Indian History Congress.
2. Life Member, Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, Kolkata.
3. Member, Asiatic Society, Kolkata.
4. Member (Executive Committee), Indian Association for Asian and Pacific Studies, Kolkata.
5. Editorial Board Member, *Durbar Bhabna*. (Monthly periodical on society politics and gender issues). (ISSN: 2329 6436).

References:

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Professor Ranabir Samaddar
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Honorary Professor, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta
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