

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## DEBDATTA CHOWDHURY

EMAIL: [debdatta.chowdhury@gmail.com](mailto:debdatta.chowdhury@gmail.com)  
[debdatta@cssscal.org](mailto:debdatta@cssscal.org)  
 MOBILE: +919830410957

### CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor in Gender Studies, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta

### RESEARCH INTEREST

Socio-political and socio-legal study of cartographic borders between states and how diverse identities converge at borderland spaces to form unique narratives, forms the focus of my research interest. The scope of understanding borderland issues in the context of their geostrategic importance and vulnerability remains at the heart of the interest.

The case of the India-Bangladesh border, and South Asian borders at large are of special interest due to the complex fabric of these borders, most of which are results of postcolonial state formations and, hence, undeniably significant areas for understanding the mechanism and nature of such state-formation processes. Areas of interest includes: study of border narratives from the perspective of subjectivity (including gender, ethnic, religious and caste identities), migration discourses, displacement and resettlement politics and policies, geopolitics, construction and deconstruction of binaries like legality-illegality, official-unofficial, citizen-foreigner, besides oral histories, narrative theories, feminist discourses.

### EDUCATION

Name of Examination & Board	Institute/ University	Year	Marks in Percentage	Class/Div
Secondary (X) under West Bengal Board of Secondary Education	Carmel High School, Kolkata, India	2000	86	1 <sup>st</sup> Div
Higher Secondary (Humanities) (X+II) under West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education	Carmel High School, Kolkata, India	2002	72.3	1 <sup>st</sup> Div
3-year Bachelor of Arts in History (with English and Political Science as pass subjects)	Presidency College, University of Calcutta	2005	55.75 (Honours)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class
2-year Master of Arts in South and Southeast Asian Studies with Special Papers: I) Gender Studies II) Refugee Studies	University of Calcutta	2007	63.88	1 <sup>st</sup> Class 1 <sup>st</sup> Position
	<b>Dessertation:</b> 'Portrayal Of Female Refugees In Ritwik Ghatak's Films: <i>Meghe Dhaka Tara, Komal Gandhar, Subarnarekha</i> '.			
Doctor of Philosophy(PhD) in Law	University of Westminster, London	2014		
	<b>Thesis Title:</b> 'Marginal Lives, Peripheral Practices: A Study of Border Narratives along the West Bengal-Bangladesh Border'			

MERITS

- 1 Qualified in the National Eligibility Test held on 17.12.2006 in 'International and Area Studies'.
- 2 Awarded Gold Medal for securing first position with first class in M.A. Examinations in South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta, 2007.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

(Forthcoming) *Identity and Experience at the India-Bangladesh Border: The Crisis of Belonging*. Routledge, 2018.

'Crossers of the peripheries: Some aspects of cross-border livelihood practices along the West Bengal-Bangladesh border', *Westminster Law Review*, 5(1): 1-11, February 2016.

'Exploring Narratives, Rationalising Data: A Study of the West Bengal-Bangladesh Border', *Review of Social Studies* (ISSN: 205-448X), 1(1):111-131, Autumn 2014.

'Masculinity at work, masculinity at stake: 'Male' negotiations along the West Bengal-Bangladesh border', in Rohit K. Dasgupta and Steven Baker (Eds.) *Popular Masculine Cultures in India: Critical Essays* (ISBN: 978-93-80677-44-6), 26-44 Kolkata, Delhi: Setu Prakashani, 2012.

'Territory, Space, Cognition: Revisiting the Bengal-Bangladesh border', *Perspectives: Asia-Pacific, Proceedings of the Fifth Biennial International Conference, Indian Association for Asian and Pacific Studies*, 170-182. Kolkata 2012.

'Space, identity, territory: Marichjhapi Massacre, 1979', *The International Journal of Human Rights* (ISSN: 1364-2987), 15(5): 664-682, June 2011.

CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS

- 1 'Making Sense of Common Sense: Life and Livelihood Challenges across the West Bengal-Bangladesh Border', SYLFF Lecture Series, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 11 November 2016.
- 2 'The Spectre of Partition: Bare Life and Statelessness in the India-Bangladesh Enclaves', Workshop on 'The Long History of Partition in Eastern India', Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 16-17 June 2014.
- 3 'Being' and 'becoming' the marginal: Interrogating ethno-religious and caste narratives along the West Bengal-Bangladesh border', Australian National University, Canberra, 29 May 2014.
- 4 'Reinterpreting border narratives at the India-Bangladesh border', Annual Conference of the Law Literature and the Humanities Association of Australasia: Interpellations, Australian National University, Canberra, 5-7 December 2013.
- 5 'India-Bangladesh Border', 5th Crossing Over International Symposium, Cleveland State University, Ohio, 11-13 October 2013.
- 6 'Disowned and distressed: Revisiting the India-Bangladesh Enclaves', Queen

- Mary Postgraduate Legal Research Conference: Reinvigorating Legal Thought in Times of Change, Queen Mary University of London, London, 6 June 2013.
- 7 'To cross or not to cross: Some aspects of cross-border livelihood practices along the West Bengal-Bangladesh border', Westminster Graduate Conference, University of Westminster, London, 16 May 2013.
  - 8 'When, what, why': Time, frame and reason in the context of negotiating methodological questions and field data', London Center for Social Studies Conference, King's College London, 19 April 2013.
  - 9 'Bordered Existences: Women at the Bengal-Bangladesh border', PECANS Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, 25-26 July 2011.
  - 10 'Territory, Space, Cognition: Reflections on the Bengal-Bangladesh border', The Fifth Biennial International Conference of Indian Association for Asian and Pacific Studies at Sikkim University, 10-12 December, 2010.
  - 11 'Space, identity, territory: Marichjhapi Massacre, 1979', Graduate Conference, School of Law, University of Westminster, London, June, 2010.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 1 Associated with a Non-Governmental Organisation working with underprivileged children, March-August 2009.
- 2 Worked as a freelance anchor for a travel show in a reputed news channel from May-July, 2007.
- 3 Three-months experience in print media as sub-editor in a reputed weekly tabloid from August-October, 2006.
- 4 Three-months experience in audio-visual media as trainee-journalist in a reputed news channel from March-May, 2006.

### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- 1 Assistant Professor in Gender Studies, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, June 2016 till date.
- 2 Guest Lecturer in the department of History, Diamond Harbour Women's University, West Bengal, February 2015 to October 2016.
- 3 Guest Lecturer in the department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, January-March 2015.
- 4 Research Fellow at Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Dhaka, November 2010.
- 5 Research Fellow at Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata, August-December 2010.
- 6 Guest Lecturer in the Department of History, Gokhale Memorial Girls' College, Kolkata, March-May 2009.
- 7 Associated with a project titled 'Gandhiji in United Bengal' at the Gandhian Studies Centre, University of Calcutta from November 2008 to January 2009.
- 8 Delivered two lectures at the Department of History, Presidency College, Kolkata on "Internal and External Policies of Nehru" in February, 2008.
- 9 Worked as Research Associate in Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group from February-July, 2008; job profile included research activities, in the areas of forced migration, refugee and border studies, gender issues and social justice; seminars, workshops, meetings; editorial work.

## COURSES TAUGHT

- M.Phil course, *Institutions and Identities in Contemporary India*, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta
- M.Phil course, *Feminism and the Social Sciences*, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta
- M.A course, *Post-colonial India, 1947-1977*, Diamond Harbour Women's University
- M.A. course, *Intellectual Foundations of the Modern West*, Diamond Harbour Women's University
- M.A. course, *Gender and History*, Diamond Harbour Women's University
- M.A. course, *Modern Europe: 1870-1950*, Diamond Harbour Women's University
- M.A. course, *Texts and Representations in Bangla*, Diamond Harbour Women's University

## ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS/ROUNDTABLES

- 1 Participated in a roundtable presentation on *Gendered Forms of Violence: Issues and Strategies* organized by Institute of Development Studies Kolkata, held in Kolkata, 6 March 2017.
- 2 Participated in a roundtable discussion on *Women in Politics* organized by the School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, held in Kolkata, 21 September 2016.
- 3 Participated in The Third CRG Workshop on *Internal Displacement in India: Causes, Linkages, Responses, And Durable Solutions* organized by the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, held in Kolkata, September, 2007.
- 4 Participated in the Second Critical Studies Conference on 'Spheres of Justice' organized by the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, held in Kolkata, September, 2007.
- 3 Organized and participated in the Three-Day Workshop on *Gender and Forced Migration* organized by Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group and Asmita Resource Centre for Women, held in Hyderabad, February, 2008.
- 4 Organized and participated in the Two-Day Indo-French Seminar on *State Formation, Citizenship and Gender* organized by Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group in collaboration with Indian Council of Social Science Research (Eastern Regional Centre), held in Kolkata, March 2008.
- 5 Organized and participated in the Three-Day Consultative Meeting on *Development, Democracy and Governance* organized by Mahanirban Calcutta

Research Group, held in Bhubaneswar, May, 2008.

- 6 Participated in The Sixth Annual Winter Course on Forced Migration organized by the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group and supported by The Government of Finland, the Brookings Institution and UNHCR (1-15 December 2008).
- 7 Attended sessions on Learning, Teaching and Assessment in Higher Education, Westminster Exchange, University of Westminster, London, 17 February and 24 February 2010.

### **INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Chairperson, Committee on Gender Sensitization and Sexual Harassment, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, from 26 October 2016.

### **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

- 1 'Unending ooziings of beauty, hour by hour', The Sunday Post, Kolkata, 17 July 2011.
- 2 'Can religion be a cause for getting nationhood', Education Times, The Times of India, Kolkata, 28 January 2002.

### **CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- 1 Studied music from 1991 to 2005 under Prayag Sangit Samiti, Allahabad Birendra Smriti Sangitayan, Prachin Kala Kendra and Bengal Music College in Bhavsangeet and Rabindrasangeet with 1st class and distinction.
- 2 Music Workshop under exponent Anisur Rahman in 2004
- 3 Workshop on Original compositions at Calcutta Music School in 2001 with British musicians
- 4 Trained in Oddissi Nritya under Smt Monalisa Ghosh under Bangiya Sangeet Parishad with distinction
- 5 Performed in the prestigious Puri Beach Festival in 1999
- 6 Workshop on Odissi Nritya under Guru Kelucharan Mahapatra in 1998

### **DECLARATION:**

I hereby declare that the above information is correct to the best of my knowledge.

**Kolkata  
May 2017**

**Debdatta Chowdhury**