

CURRICULUM VITAE

DEBDATTA CHOWDHURY

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CURRENT POSITION

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

RESEARCH INTEREST

Gender and Legal Jurisprudence, Border/Partition/Migration Studies

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 st Div
Higher Secondary (Humanities) (X+II) under West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education	Carmel High School, Kolkata, India	2002	72.3	1 st 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 nd 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 st Class 1 st Position
	Dessertation: '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		
	Thesis Title: '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.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- 1 Currently pursuing Post-Graduate Diploma in Human Rights Law (Distance Education Programme), National Law School of India University, Bengaluru
- 2 POSH Virtual Training Workshop on "The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013 and the "UGC (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015, conducted by SHLC—Sexual Harassment Law Compliance Advisory, 23-30 June 2020.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Book:

- *Identity and Experience at the India-Bangladesh Border: The Crisis of Belonging*. London & New York: Routledge, 2018.

Articles/book chapters:

- 'Lands and communities in Flux: The Chars in the Ganga-Brahmaputra Deltaic Region', in Markus Arnold, Corinne Duboin and Judith Misrahi-Barak (Eds.) *Borders and Ecotones in the Indian Ocean: Cultural and Literary Perspectives*. Presses universitaires de la Mediterranee, 2020.
- (Forthcoming) 'Partitioned Past, Bordered Present: The Need for Engagement between Partition Studies and Border Studies', in Gorky Chakraborty and Supurna Banerjee (Eds). *Borderlands*, Orient Blackswan, 2021.
- (Forthcoming) 'Bengal Partitioned, Bengal Claimed: Ethno-Religious Politics Across the Bengal Border', in Anindita Ghoshal (Ed.). *Revisiting and Remembering Partition: Issues Related to Eastern and North-Eastern India*, Primus, 2021.

- (Forthcoming) 'Contesting Common Sense: Smuggling Across the India-Bangladesh Border', Mahmoud Keshavarz and Shahram Khosravi (Eds.). *Seeing like a Smuggler: Ethnographic, Ethical and Material Perspectives*. Pluto Books, 2021.
- '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.

Blog posts:

- 'Vulnerable Groups in Higher Education Institutions vis a vis the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Higher Education Institutions', *Sexual Harassment Law Compliance*, 6 September 2020

Book Reviews:

- 'Neejbhumey porobashi, tai shoronarhi', Book Review of Ranabir Samaddar and Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury (Eds.) *Rohingyas in South Asia* (Routledge, 2018), *Anandabazar Patrika*, 11 December 2020.

CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS

- 1 'Of Consensus, Contentions and Continuities: Feminist Legal Jurisprudence in India', Multidisciplinary Online Lecture Series on Gender Studies, Ramkrishna Sarada Mission College, Kolkata, 5 January 2021
- 2 'The Politics and Economics of Illegal Migration: Cross-Border Movement of Semi/Un-Skilled Women in South Asia', One-Day International Webinar on

- People, Border and Mobility: Challenges in the India-Bangladesh Relations, Sreegopal Banerjee College, West Bengal, 30 September 2020
- 3 'Gender and Migration: An Overview', Conference on State, Community, Citizenship: Rewriting Histories of Gender, School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, 16 March 2020
 - 4 'Writing the Partition, Living the Border: The Journey from Partition Studies to Border Studies', Research Methods Lectures, Ambedkar University Delhi, 16 October 2019
 - 5 'Nation at its Margins: Gendered Practices across the West Bengal-Bangladesh border', Special Lecture, Ambedkar University Delhi, 6 March 2019
 - 6 'The Making and Unmaking of Border Towns across the West Bengal-Bangladesh border', Lecture Series, Janki Devi Memorial College, Delhi, 5 March 2019
 - 7 'Cartographic Consequences of the Partition: Territorial Disparities across the West Bengal-Bangladesh border', Special Lecture, Ambedkar University Delhi, 26 February 2019.
 - 8 'Visual Representation of Caste in India: A Case of Indian Cinema', Introductory Presentation in *Historia* (Department of History), Loreto College, Kolkata, 16 February 2019.
 - 9 'Lands and communities in flux: Riverine border chars as transitional zones', Ecotones 4 Conference, Kolkata, 13-15 December 2018.
 - 10 'Festivals across Fence: Partition, religion and (border) festivities', AAS-in-Asia 2018, New Delhi, 5-8 July 2018
 - 11 'Research Methodology: Research Insights on Doing Social Science Research', Bengal Institute of Business Studies, Kolkata, 20 March 2018.
 - 12 'Women and Politics', Department of Political Science, Victoria Institution, Kolkata, 24 November 2017.
 - 13 'Partition and its antipathies: Ethno-religious radicalism across the Bengal border', Seminar on Revisiting and Remembering Partition: Issues Related to Eastern and North-Eastern India, Department of History, Diamond Harbour Women's University, Sarisha, 21-22 August 2017.
 - 14 'Linking lives: Renewing lost linkages in a partitioned Bengal', Conference on Partition in Bengal: Looking Back After 70 Years, Victoria Memorial Hall and Indian Museum and New Zealand India Research Institute, Victoria University of Wellington, Kolkata, 17-18 August 2017.
 - 15 'Making Sense of Common Sense: Life and Livelihood Challenges across the West Bengal-Bangladesh Border', SYLFF Lecture Series, Jadavpur University,

Kolkata, 11 November 2016.

- 16 '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.
- 17 'Being' and 'becoming' the marginal: Interrogating ethno-religious and caste narratives along the West Bengal-Bangladesh border', Australian National University, Canberra, 29 May 2014.
- 18 '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.
- 19 'India-Bangladesh Border', 5th Crossing Over International Symposium, Cleveland State University, Ohio, 11-13 October 2013.
- 20 '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.
- 21 '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.
- 22 '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.
- 23 'Bordered Existences: Women at the Bengal-Bangladesh border', PECANS Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, 25-26 July 2011.
- 24 '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.
- 25 'Space, identity, territory: Marichjhapi Massacre, 1979', Graduate Conference, School of Law, University of Westminster, London, June, 2010.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- 1 Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, March-October 2020

- 2 Assistant Professor in Gender Studies, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, June 2016 to May 2019.
- 3 Guest Lecturer in the department of History, Diamond Harbour Women's University, West Bengal, February 2015 to October 2016.
- 4 Guest Lecturer in the department of South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, January-March 2015.
- 5 Research Fellow at Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, Dhaka, November 2010.
- 6 Research Fellow at Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata, August-December 2010.
- 7 Guest Lecturer in the Department of History, Gokhale Memorial Girls' College, Kolkata, March-May 2009.
- 8 Associated with a project titled 'Gandhiji in United Bengal' at the Gandhian Studies Centre, University of Calcutta from November 2008 to January 2009.
- 9 Delivered two lectures at the Department of History, Presidency College, Kolkata on "Internal and External Policies of Nehru" in February, 2008.
- 10 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, *Feminism and the Social Sciences*, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta
- M.Phil course, *Institutions and Identities in Contemporary India*, 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

- M.A. course, *India 1857-1947*, University of Calcutta

RESEARCH SUPERVISION

M.Phil:

Completed: 3

Ongoing: 1

PhD:

Ongoing: 2

ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS/ROUNDTABLES

- 1 Organizing committee member and participant in workshop on *Doing Ambedkarism Today: Issues of Caste, Gender and Community* organized by Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, held in Kolkata, 19-22 February 2018
- 2 Participant 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.
- 3 Participant in a roundtable discussion on *Women in Politics* organized by the School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, held in Kolkata, 21 September 2016.
- 4 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.
- 5 Participated in the Second Critical Studies Conference on 'Spheres of Justice' organized by the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, held in Kolkata, September, 2007.
- 6 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.
- 7 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.
- 8 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.

- 9 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).
- 10 Attended sessions on Learning, Teaching and Assessment in Higher Education, Westminster Exchange, University of Westminster, London, 17 February and 24 February 2010.

PROJECTS

- (*Completed*) Content development, as part of a team, from the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta for 'I am Kolkata: A virtual-reality experiential museum' at Metcalf Hall, Kolkata, funded by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, July-November 2018.
- My current research project looks at the historiography of feminist legal jurisprudence in India, with the global histories of the same forming the background. It traces the emergence and evolution of feminist legal jurisprudence through landmark debates, laws, judgements, and how feminist movements/ activism have interacted with institutional spaces of legal pedagogy (women's studies centres, legal studies institutes) to affect debates that decisively impact legal scholarship in India.

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Member of Ph.D Interview Board, Ph.D Sub Committee, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta September 2018 to May 2019.
- Seminar Convener, Seminar Sub-Committee, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, May 2018 to May 2019.
- Chairperson, Committee on Gender Sensitization and Sexual Harassment, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta, from October 2016 to October 2018.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- ASSOCIATED WITH A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION WORKING WITH UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN, MARCH-AUGUST 2009.
- WORKED AS A FREELANCE ANCHOR FOR A TRAVEL SHOW IN A REPUTED NEWS CHANNEL FROM MAY-JULY, 2007.
- THREE-MONTHS EXPERIENCE IN PRINT MEDIA AS SUB-EDITOR IN A REPUTED WEEKLY TABLOID FROM AUGUST-OCTOBER, 2006.
- THREE-MONTHS EXPERIENCE IN AUDIO-VISUAL MEDIA AS TRAINEE-JOURNALIST IN A REPUTED NEWS

CHANNEL FROM MARCH-MAY, 2006.

LANGUAGES: ENGLISH, BANGLA, HINDI, ARABIC

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & HOBBIES

Sports: Recreational Marathon, Swimming, Mountaineering activities

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

DECLARATION:

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

Debdatta Chowdhury
Kolkata
January 2021