

Dr Souvik Mukherjee

11/1 Hari Bhusan Moitra Road, Calcutta 700090, West Bengal, India, Phone: 00919874647989, email: prosperosmaze@gmail.com, Website: <http://readinggamesandplayingbooks.blogspot.com>, Skype: souvik.mukherjee99

PROFILE

My research looks at the narrative and the literary through the newly emerging discourse of videogames as storytelling media and at how these games inform and challenge our conceptions of narratives, identity and culture. Related interests and expertise include a broad spectrum of topics in the digital humanities ranging from identity in videogames to the impact of social networks. Other interests include literary theory, Early Modern Studies and Romanticism.

EDUCATION

- April 2009 **PhD in English Literature and Cultural Studies.**
 Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom
 Topic: The Zone of 'Becoming': Game, Text and Technicity in Videogame Narratives. Supervised by Dr Philip Leonard and Dr David Woods.
 Areas of specialisation: game studies, new media, digital humanities, narrative theory, poststructuralism, especially Gilles Deleuze and Jacques Derrida, literary studies.
- September 2005 **MPhil in English Literature [First Class]**
 Jadavpur University, Calcutta, India.
 Topic: Narratives in Computer Games
 Supervised by Professor Amlan Dasgupta. Areas of specialisation: Digital narratives, reader-response theory, narratology and videogames.
- July 2002 **MA in English Literature [First Class]**
 Jadavpur University, Calcutta, India
 Areas of specialisation: Classical & Renaissance Literature, History of the Book, John Milton
- June 2000 **BA(Hons) in English Literature**
 Jadavpur University, Calcutta, India

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2007: Charles Wallace India Trust top-up grant for PhD.

2006: ORSAS (Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme) scholarship from Nottingham Trent University.

2002 - 2003: SARAI Independent Research Fellowship, India

PUBLICATIONS

'Sherlock Holmes Reloaded: Holmes, Videogames and Multiplicity' in *Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes* eds. Catherine Wynne and Sabine Vanacker (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012)

'EgoShooting in Chernobyl: Identity and Subject(s) in the S.T.A.L.K.E.R Games' in *Handbook of Digital Game Cultures* eds. Johannes Fromme and Alexander Unger (Springer)

'Through the Looking Glass, Darkly: Reading *Alice* in the Videogame ' in *Aligarh Journal of Linguistics*, vol. 2.1-2 (Aligarh: Aligarh University Press, 2012)

'Ethical Conflict in Videogames' in *Contact – Conflict – Combat?: Zur Tradition des Konfliktes in Digitalen Spielen* ed. Rudolf Inderst and Peter Just, (Boizenburg: Verlag Werner Huelsbuch, 2011)

Pitchford, J. and S. Mukherjee, "Shall We Kill the Pixel Soldier?": Perceptions of Trauma and Morality in Combat Videogames' in *The Journal of Gaming and Virtual Worlds*, vol. 2.1, Spring 2010 (Bristol: Intellect Books, 2010)

'Gameplay in the Zone of Becoming: Locating Action in the Computer Game' in *Proceedings of the Philosophy of Computer Games Conference, 2008*, ed. by Stephan Guenzel, Michael Liebe and Dieter Mersch (Potsdam: University of Potsdam, 2009), pp. 228 - 241.
opus.kobv.de/ubp/volltexte/2008/2463/pdf/digarec01_13.pdf

'Poetic Programming: Multimedia in the Romantic Age' in *Romanticism and Its Legacies* ed. by Ralla Guhaniyogi (Kolkata: Basantidevi College and Fine Prints, 2009), pp 180 - 190.

'(Ab)Sense of an Ending: Telos and Time in Digital Game Narratives' in *Writing Technologies*, 2.1 (2008) http://www.ntu.ac.uk/writing_technologies/Current_journal/Mukherjee/index.html

Forthcoming Publications

'Videogames in India' in *Videogames across the World* ed. By Mark J.P. Wolf (New York: Palgrave Macmillan) [in process]

Book review essays

Children, Gender and Videogames in *Journal of Gender Studies*, Volume 19 Issue 3, 315.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog in *Biblio*, April 2012.

Ethnographies of Videogames in *Journal of Gender Studies*.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Invited lectures

October 2012

NASSCOM Game Development Conference, Pune

April 2012

Lecture on videogames and mythology at Oklahoma City University, USA.

March 2012

Lecture on player responses and game design for Open Class, SKJ group, New Delhi.

February 2012

Keynote address on 'Videogames and Digital Humanities' at Venkateshwara College, Delhi University

November 2011

Invited lecture on Videogames and Digital Humanities at Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology, Delhi

March 2011

Invited lecture on videogames as literary texts, University of Bangor, UK.

November 2008

Guest lecture on videogames in South East Asia for Media and Cultural Studies postgraduate students in Nottingham Trent University.

Guest lecture on videogames in the creative industries for Media and Cultural Studies postgraduate students in Nottingham Trent University.

Papers presented at conferences

September 2012

Digital Humanities in India Conference, Kolkata.

August 2012

MARG Humanities Conference, New Delhi. Topic: 'Digital Humanities or What You Will'

June 2012

SHARP Conference, Trinity College, Dublin. Topic : 'Videogames and Player Responses'.

January 2012

Philosophy of Computer Games Conference, Madrid. Topic: The *avatar* in videogames and in Hindu philosophy

January 2012

Singularities National Seminar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Topic: Singularities, Deleuze and Videogames.

June 2011

Presentation on the impact of social media on Leicestershire business communities, De Montfort University, Leicester, UK.

'Under the Mask' Conference, University of Bedfordshire. Topic: 'Exploring videogame paratexts'.

April 2011

'Spaces of Alterity Conference', University of Nottingham, UK. Topic: 'Videogames as dystopias of possibility'.

Philosophy of Computer Games Conference, Panteion University, Athens. Topic: 'Re-membering and dismembering: memory and the (re)creation of identities in videogames'

March 2011

Participated in the Ludotopia 2 workshop on videogames, University of Salford, Manchester, UK.

September 2010

CEDAR Workshop on Web 2.0 technologies, University of Bangor. Topic: 'Walkthrough and wikis in videogames'

June 2010

Paper presented at the Ludotopia workshop in IT University, Copenhagen. Topic: Videogames and spatiality.

September 2009

Conference paper at Digital Game Research Association (DIGRA) conference, Brunel University, London. Topic: *Telos*, Time and *Karma* in Videogames

July 2009

Conference paper on 'Sherlock Holmes in Videogames' in the 'Afterlives of Sherlock Holmes' conference, University of Hull, UK.

June 2009

'Under the Mask 2' Conference in University of Bedfordshire, UK. Co-presented paper on 'Perceptions of trauma, morality and violence in Videogames'.

'Philip K. Dick, alternative history and computer games': paper presented at PKD-Day 3, third annual conference in celebration of the life and works of Philip K. Dick hosted in Nottingham Trent University.

March 2009

Conference paper presented at the Otto von Guericke University, Magdeburg, Germany. Topic: Identity and Subject(s) in the *S.T.A.L.K.E.R* Games

'Egoshoooting', conference paper on videogames and identity in the LINK Conference at Nottingham Trent University..

June 2008

'I Am a Paddle, I Am a *STALKER*, I Am a Game': paper presented at the 'Under the Mask' conference at the University of Bedfordshire, Luton.

May 2008

'Gameplay in the Zone of Becoming': paper presented at the Games and Philosophy Conference in the University of Potsdam. Participation partially funded by Nottingham Trent University.

September 2007

Paper on endings in computer games at the Computer Games Conference, Brunel University, West London.

June 2007

Paper on videogames, empathy and the novels of Philip K. Dick, presented at PKD-Day, Nottingham Trent University.

May 2006

Computer games and Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass*, presented at the Brown Bag Seminar, Nottingham Trent University.

Research Practice Course presentation at Nottingham Trent University

February 2003

'Poetic Programming to Computers in the Romantic Age', paper on multimedia in the Romantic period at the Centre for Studies in Romantic Literature conference, Calcutta

May 2001

'And Alice Played a Videogame', paper on videogames and narratives, UGC Research Seminar at Jadavpur University, Calcutta.

May 2000

'Prufrock and the Outsider', paper on T.S. Eliot and Albert Camus, T.S. Eliot Conference at Jadavpur University, Calcutta.

Conferences Organised / Chaired / Participated in

Organised the 'Digital Humanities in India' Conference at Presidency University, Kolkata.

Participated in the 'Keywords' workshop, on designing a lexicon of Indian keywords, in the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla.

Chaired a session on gaming at the 'Cybercultures' conference, Jamia Millia University, New Delhi.

Organised 'PKD-Day 4' in June 2011 at Nottingham Trent University. This is a conference celebrating the life and work of Science Fiction writer Philip K. Dick in its fourth annual session.

Organised 'PKD-Day 3', a conference on the life and works of Philip K. Dick, in June 2009 at Nottingham Trent University.

Organised 'PKD-Day 2' a conference on Philip K. Dick, in June 2008 with Professor John Goodridge at Nottingham Trent University.

Organised 'Dialogue', a postgraduate research conference at Nottingham Trent University in June 2008.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

October 2011 to April 2012

Research Associate in the 'Language, Emotion and Culture' project at IIT, Delhi
Postdoctoral research position involving the analyses of the relationship between narratives, culture and emotion. This will also entail the potential investigation of digital narratives media.

February 2011 to July 2011

Impact Research Fellow, De Montfort University, Leicester, UK.

Postdoctoral research position involving the analysis of the impact of digital media (particularly social networking tools such as Facebook, Twitter etc) and transliteracy in enhancing business opportunities in the city of Leicester, UK.

November 2009 to June 2010

'Champion of Academic Enterprise', involved in designing an interdisciplinary Master's degree course on videogame design and digital humanities that would connect with the local game design industry and generate third-stream income.

June 2009 to March 2011

Technology Learning Development Adviser, Nottingham Trent University.

Advising and training academic staff on e-learning best practices, on the use of the university's virtual learning environment (powered by Desire2Learn) and in using web 2.0 software for learning and teaching.

January 2008 to present

Project manager for Theory, Culture & Society journal's website and online presence. Responsible for design, maintenance and editing of the TCS website. The TCS website carries articles, podcasts and interviews that supplement the journal.

April 2008 to December 2008

Learning Technology Assistant for the Educational Development Unit, Nottingham Trent University. Experienced in maintenance and administration of the university's virtual learning environment and also in advising academic staff on e-learning.

January 2007 to January 2009

Editorial assistant, *Writing Technologies*, online peer-reviewed journal on Digital Humanities.

October 2006 to December 2006

Research assistant, developing Nottingham Trent University's English department's use of e-learning and web 2.0 tools.

August 2006 to September 2006

Editorial assistant, Ronald Blythe's A Writer's Day-Book project under the supervision of Professor John Goodridge of Nottingham Trent University. This involved pdf editing and digital indexing of the text.

August 2006 to August 2007

Research assistant, designing the Robert Bloomfield and Thomas Chatterton research websites for the English Subject Centre, London. This project was supervised by Professor John Goodridge of Nottingham Trent University.

July 2006 to August 2006

Research assistant in the digitalisation of the Robert Southey Archive, Nottingham Trent University. Responsibilities involved digitisation of Southey's letters using OCR software.

January 2006 to June 2006

Research assistant in the Ray Gosling Archive, Nottingham Trent University. Listing and sorting archival material belonging to one of England's important documentary makers from the '60s with a view to creating an online archive.

December 2003 to March 2004

Project Assistant researching the reach of videogames in Indian cybercafes, UGC Centre for Excellence Programme, Jadavpur University, Calcutta.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

August 2012 to present

Assistant Professor of English Literature, Presidency University (erstwhile Presidency College), Kolkata

Teaching undergraduates and postgraduates a wide-range of topics in Early Modern Literature, Romanticism, Modern Literature and Literary Theory. I am also the convenor of the website committee for the university.

April 2012 to August 2012

Assistant Professor of English Literature, Shiv Nadar University.

March 2011 to June 2011

Sessional Lecturer in English Literary Studies, Nottingham Trent University, UK.
Teaching critical theory to first-year undergraduate students of English Literature. This module involved a wide range of introductory discussions of liberal humanism, Marxism, psychoanalysis, structuralism, post-structuralism, postcolonialism and ecocriticism.

October 2006 to June 2008

Sessional Lecturer in English Literary Studies, Nottingham Trent University, UK:
Teaching on the 'Introduction to English Literature' module. This involved introducing students to a

wide range of key texts, from Beowulf to modern English prose and poetry. The second half of the module involved teaching literary theory.

December 2005 to July 2006

Level 2 scheme and AimHigher scheme, Progression Partnerships, Nottingham Trent University: Working with Year Eight to Year Eleven school students assisting them in their lessons and with special projects. This involved assisting the English departments of Fairham Community College, Clifton and Elliot Durham School, Nottingham.

December 2002 to September 2004

Faculty at George Edcare Institute: Specialized in coaching and counselling students for international competitive examinations like GRE , GMAT, SAT . TOEFL and IELTS. Taught mainly verbal , grammatical and lexical skills in English as well as critical reasoning for GMAT.

January 2004 to March 2004

American Institute for Indian Studies: Taught Bengali to research students from the USA. Also led sponsored excursions to familiarise US students with Indian culture and heritage.

OTHER RELATED EMPLOYMENT

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 2007 to
October 2007 | Part-time employment as administrative assistant for the <u>International Development Office, Nottingham Trent University</u> |
| March 2006 to
April 2006 | Part-time employment as Bengali translator for <u>Hispana Language Services, Nottingham.</u> |
| May 2005 to
September 2005 | <u>Tata Interactive Systems</u> : Worked as content writer for bespoke e-learning software catering to international corporates like Vodafone, Virgin and Sunlife Insurance. |
| September 2004
to May 2005 | <u>Exide Industries Limited</u> : Worked in the Public Relations Department of India's leading storage battery company. Responsibilities included liaison with the media, news monitoring, supervising corporate advertising and editing the company house magazine. |
| July 2002 to
September 2004 | <u>Centre for Studies in Romantic Literature</u> : Worked as the librarian and the general co-ordinator. |

Research Courses

Diploma in Research Practice, Nottingham Trent University: This course entailed training in writing research work, engaging with and developing research methodologies, conference organisation and examined coursework on reviewing texts and presenting original research.

Course on Documentation and Bibliography, Jadavpur University: This course involved an introduction to the processes of editing manuscripts and printed texts, preparing databases, bibliographies, concordances, indexes and other reference tools for cultural and textual studies.

IT

Versatile knowledge of software. Expert user of Microsoft Windows and Office. Proficient photo-editing, video-editing and audio software. Familiar with data-analysis and statistical packages such as SPSS. Expert user of VLE software, Microsoft SQL Studio and Web 2.0 applications for learning and teaching. Preliminary knowledge of game designing software such as DarkBasic.

Languages known:

English : Fluent in writing and speaking

Bengali: Fluent in writing and speaking

German: Proficient in speaking and writing skills (*Mittelstufe* from Goethe-Institut)

Hindi: Proficient in speaking and writing

Latin: Basic reading and writing.

Related Professional Experience

International Student Ambassador, Nottingham Trent University (2006-07)

Student Representative for the Arts, Humanities and Education research students in Nottingham Trent University (2006-2008)

Elected journal representative by the Jadavpur University Student's Union.

Worked as a freelance journalist in the Indian English dailies such as *The Indian Express*, *The Statesman* and *The Hindustan Times*. Also published poetry in leading English journals in India.

REFERENCES

Dr Philip Leonard

Reader in English Literature
Department of English,
Nottingham Trent University
Email: philip.leonard@ntu.ac.uk

Professor John Goodridge

Professor of English Literature
Department of English,
Nottingham Trent University.
Email: john.goodridge@ntu.ac.uk

Professor Mike Featherstone

Director,
Theory, Culture & Society Centre,
Goldsmiths College, London

Professor Sue Thomas

Professor of New Media,
Media, Film and Journalism,
De Montfort University, Leicester,

Email: featherstone.mike@gmail.com

Email: sue.thomas@dmu.ac.uk

Professor Amlan Dasgupta

Professor of English Literature,
Department of English,
Jadavpur University
Email: amlan04@gmail.com

Dr Elaine Swift

Education and Training Manager,
Centre for Professional Learning and Development,
Nottingham Trent University
Email: elaine.swift@ntu.ac.uk