**CURRICULUM VITAE**

**PERSONAL DETAILS**

**Name:** SUKANYA SARBADHIKARY

**Contact Information:**

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Address: P119 Lake Terrace, Ground Floor, Kolkata 700029, West Bengal, India

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### Affiliation: Assistant Professor, Sociology, Presidency University, Kolkata (October, 2012-present).

**Academic Qualifications**

2002-2005: B.A (Bachelor of Arts) Degree (Three Year Honours) in Sociology,

Presidency College, Kolkata, (The University of Calcutta)

Passed in the First division with **66.13%**

**Rank**: Stood **First** in Sociology in Presidency College

Stood **First** in Sociology in Calcutta University

Stood **First** in the Humanities in Presidency College

2005-2007: M.A. (Master of Arts) in Sociology, Jawaharlal Nehru University (J.N.U), New Delhi

Passed in the First division with a C.G.P.A of **8.31** (on a scale of 9)

**Rank:** Stood **First** in the entrance examination for Sociology, in J.N.U (2005)

Stood **First** in Sociology in J.N.U

2007: Passed the **NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY TEST** for Lectureship in India.

# 2007-2008: Pre-doctoral interdisciplinary research training programme (RTP), Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC), India

C.G.P.A of **8.9** (on a scale of 9).

**Rank:** Stood **First** in the Research Training Programme

# 2008-2013: University of Cambridge, United Kingdom.

Completed PhD at the **University of Cambridge** (UK) with membership in **Trinity College** (23 March 2013).

Supervisor: Dr. Susan Bayly, Professor of Historical Anthropology, University of Cambridge.

**Publications**

**Book:**

***The Place of Devotion: Siting and Experiencing Divinity in Bengal-Vaishnavism*. 2015. Berkeley: University of California Press (Series: South Asia Across the Disciplines).**

**Articles in Journals:**

Co-authored with Dishani Roy, ‘Gender, Education and Citizenship as Ideological Weapons of an ‘Army of Holy Women’ in Bengal: The Matua Matri Sena’, ***Religions*,** 2023, 14 (6).

‘Unravelling of the Number 16 in Corporeality, Percussion, and the Bengali Hindu Cosmos: The Experience of the Body/Mrdanga'.Volume 15, Issue 2, August 2022, 168–190. ***Journal of Hindu Studies****.*

'Religious Belief through drum-sound experience: Bengal's Devotional Dialectic of the Classical Goddess and Indigenous God'.  August, 2022. ***Religions***13/8*.*

<https://www.mdpi.com/2077-1444/13/8/707>

*‘*Prithak Pranav, The Kali-Krishna conundrum: Historical and Literary complexities of Sectarian Bengal‘*.*May 2022. ***South Asian History and Culture****(Special Issue: ‘Between Literature and History’).*

Hinghsa Hoye Hamsa Mantra, Khetra hoye Khetrajna, Gita hoye Uttor-Gita: Ahang-er Yatra'. 2022. ***Alochona Chakra*** (ISSN: 22313990).

'Shankha-Shonghsharer Sthan-Kal-Patra ebong Uttor-Ouponibeshik bhabnar ek punormulyayan'. 2021. ***Tattvatalash*** (1) (ISBN: 9789849581406), pp. 51-72.

‘The Breathing Body, Whistling Flute, and Sonic Divine: Oneness and Distinction in Bengal Vaishnavism's Devotional Aesthetics’. 2021. ***Religions***12 (9). (Special Issue on 'Tuning in the Sacred: Studies in Music and World Religions', ed. by Guy L. Beck.)

**‘Touch, Untouch, and the Depositions of Ucchishta’. *Economic and Political Weekly.* November 2019. Volume 54 Number 44. Pp 15-17.**

'Uddanda: The Aesthetic Yardstick of Meditation, Madness and Time in Chaitanya's Rathyatra dance'. ***Journal of Vaishnava Studies***. Spring 2019. Volume 27 Number 2. pp 49-62.

'Shankh-er Shongshar, Afterlive Everyday: Religious Experience of the Evening Conch andd Goddesses in Bengali Hindu Homes'. ***Religions***. January 2019. pp 1-19(Special issue: 'Religious Experience in the Hindu Tradition ed. June McDaniel)

‘The Body-Mind Challenge: Theology and Phenomenology in Bengal-Vaishnavisms’. ***Modern Asian Studies***. November 2018. Volume 52. Issue 6. pp 2080-2108. (Published Online: 20 July 2018)

‘Discovering Gupta-Vrindavan: Finding Selves and Places in the Storied Landscape’. ***Contributions to Indian Sociology****.* February 2013. Volume 47 Number 1. pp 113-140.

‘Hearing the Community and Nation: A History of Vaishnavism in Bengal as sung through traditions of *kirtan* music’. 2012. *Jadavpur University, Journal of Sociology.* Volume 5. pp 62-73.

‘The changing city-scape and the development of shopping malls in Kolkata: Reflections on the new middle class identities’. November 2008. *Journal of the West Bengal Sociological Association*. Volume 1. pp 93-107.

**Chapters in edited volumes:**

‘The Leftover Untouch: Sensing Caste in the Modern Urban Lives of a Devotional Instrument'. In *Religion and the City in India*. (ed.) Supriya Chaudhuri. August 2021. Routledge. pp 130-45.

‘Sahajiya Texts of Nadia: Beyond Reform and Revival’. 2020. In *The Legacy of Vaisnavism in Colonial Bengal* (ed.) Ferdinando Sardella and Lucian Wong. Routledge. pp 167-184.

‘Hearing the Transcendental Place: Sound, Spirituality and Sensuality in the musical practices of an Indian devotional order’. 2015. In *Music and Transcendence* (ed.) Ferdia Stone-Davis. Ashgate. pp 23-34.

‘For the Skin is Faster than the Word: Towards an Ethnography of Affect’. 2018. In *Doing Theory: Locations, Hierarchies and Disjunctions* (ed.) Maitrayee Choudhury and Manish Thakur. Orient Blackswan. pp 233-254.

‘Aural Auras of Inner Sounds: The Instrumental Creation of Devotional Bodies’. In *Religious Sounds Beyond the Global North: Senses, Media and Power* (eds.) Carola Erika Lorea and Rosalind Hackett. Amsterdam University Press. Series: Global Asia. (Forthcoming)

'Embodied Inheritance of a Dancing Philosophy: Text and Practice in the Chaitanya Charitamrita'. In *The Literary Across Cultures: Cultural Poetics of Bhasha Literatures in Theory and Practice*. (ed.) E.V. Ramakrishnan. Orient Blackswan. (Forthcoming)

‘The Tantric Metaphysics of a Number and the Knotted Lives of Text and Practice’. In *The Ethography of Tantra* (eds.) Carola Lorea and Rohit Singh (Forthcoming).

‘Intellectual Exchange with Hands: Materiality and Cosmology in Manual Sharing Practices of an Asian Sacred Percussion’ In *An Anthropology of Intellectual Exchange: Asian Transformations and Complexities.*(ed.) Jacob Copeman. Berghahn Books. (Forthcoming)

**Book Reviews:**

Review of 'Unforgetting Chaitanya: Vaishnavism and Cultures of Devotion in Colonial Bengal', by Varuni Bhatia. 2020. *Studies in History.*Volume 36 Issue 1.

Review of 'A Genealogy of Devotion: Bhakti, Tantra, Yoga and Sufism in North India', by Patton. E. Burchett. 2020. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion.*Volume 88. Issue 2.

‘The Ideal Brahmin’, Review of ‘Renunciation and Untouchability in India: The Notional and the Empirical in the Caste Order’, by Srinivasa Ramanujam. 2020. *Economic and Political Weekly* Volume 55, Issue 28-29.

Review of ‘Folklore, Religion, and the Songs of a Bengali Madman’, by Carola Erika Lorea. *Journal of Asian Ethnology*. 2017. Volume 76. Issue 1.

Review of ‘The Triumph of the Snake Goddess’, by Kaiser Haq. August 2016. *Biblio*. Volume XXI Number 8.

Review of ‘Leprosy and a life in south India: journeys with a Tamil Brahmin’, by James Staples. August 2015. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*. Volume 21 Issue 3.

**Fellowships**

1. UGC-CAS Visiting Fellow, The Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, March, 2016.
2. Hamied Visiting Fellow, Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, May, 2018. (Part of Presidency University-University of Cambridge Scholars' Exchange Program)
3. Shivdasani Visiting Fellow, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, University of Oxford, May, 2019.

**Project**

* Member of Working Group of Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)-Impress Project on ‘Intellectual Histories of Bhakti: Concepts, Institutions and Practices in Orissa 1500-2000’ (Principal Investigators: Dr. Siddharth Satpathy, University of Hyderabad and Dr. Urmishree Bedamatta, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack)
* Co-Investigator, with Dr. Upal Chakrabarti (Presidency University) and Dr. Rochona Majumdar (Principal Investigator, University of Chicago), of University of Chicago-Presidency University collaborative project on ‘Hindu/Presidency College: A Global History’, June 2020 to June 2023. Provost’s Global Faculty Awards, UChicago. Grant Received: USD 28,000/year.
* Co-Investigator, with Prof. Dipesh Chakraborty (University of Chicago), project on ‘The Conch and its Communities: Climate Change and the History of a Hindu Sacred Object in Bengal’, 2023-24, Provost’s Global Faculty Awards, UChicago. Grant Received: USD 30,000/year.

**Lecture Series**

‘Tantric Traditions of Medieval Bengal’ (September 5, 2019) & ‘Vaisnava Sahajiya and Gaudiya Vaisnavism’ (September 6. 2019), *Jnanapravaha*, *Mumbai.*

**Interview**

'Making Krishna Apparent: Interrogating intuitive capacity through Gaudiya-Vaishnav practice in West Bengal', interviewed by Dr. Atreyee Majumdar (Jindal Global University), in RIC Journal, February 2019.

<https://ricjournal.com/2019/02/19/making-krishna-apparent-interrogating-intuitive-capacity-through-gaudiya-vaishnav-practice-in-west-bengal/>

**Awards and Scholarships**

1. Nirmal Chandra Basu Roy Chaudhuri Memorial Prize for securing the highest marks in Sociology Honours Examination in Calcutta University (2005)
2. Nirode Baran Bakshi Memorial Prize for coming first from Presidency College in B.A Honours Examination and securing highest marks among all the Humanities Departments (2005)
3. Dr. Shyamal Kumar Chattopadhyay Memorial Scholarship for coming first from Presidency College in B.A Honours Examination (2005)
4. T.K Oommen prize and scholarship from the ‘Centre for studies of Social Systems’ (CSSS), JNU, for coming first in Sociology. (2007)
5. Overseas Research Studentship (ORS) award from the Government of England, to conduct research at the University of Cambridge (2008)
6. Gates-Cambridge Scholarship, to cover the full costs of research at the University of Cambridge (2008).
7. Title of William Wyse Student of the year, from the Trinity College and Department of Social Anthropology, Cambridge, and an additional research grant, from the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge (2008)
8. Fieldwork grants from the Gates Cambridge Trust, to conduct ethnographic fieldwork in India, from 2009-2010.
9. Fieldwork grants from the Richards Fund of the Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge, to conduct ethnographic fieldwork in India, from 2009-2010.
10. Fieldwork grants from the Smuts Memorial Fund, of the Board of Graduate Studies, University of Cambridge, to conduct ethnographic fieldwork in India, from 2009-2010.
11. Grants from the Gates Cambridge Trust, for an extended period of research in the fourth year.

**Conference Presentations**

1. ‘The changing city-scape and the development of shopping malls in Kolkata: Reflections on the new middle class identities’, The First Annual conference of the West Bengal Sociological Association, 22nd of September, 2007.
2. ‘Unsettled Geographies, Competing Memories: The Construction and Experience of a Sacred Landscape in Nadia (discussant: Partha Chatterjee), Cultural Studies Annual Workshop, organized jointly by the CSSSC, Calcutta and the SEPHIS International Foundation, February, 2010.

# ‘Walking through gupta-Vrindavan: An ethnographic account of the body-geographic emotions and practices of self-dissolution among Gaudiya-Vaishnava practitioners’, Conference on ‘Locality, Emotion and the Self’, organized by the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bangalore, in June, 2010.

1. Presented a paper titled ‘Hearing the Transcendental Place: Sound, Spirituality and Sensuality in the musical practices of an Indian devotional order’, in a conference on ‘Music and Transcendence’, organized by the The Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and the Humanities’ (CRASSH), University of Cambridge, November, 2011.
2. ‘Ingestion as Affect and Empathy among Sahajiya-Vaishnavas of Bengal’, Department of Anthropology, University College London, University of London, in a conference titled ‘Veneration Nation’, June, 2012.
3. ‘Ingestion as Affect: Empathy and Community among sahajiya-Vaishnavas of Bengal’, ‘Religion, Migration, Mutation’, organized by EASR/BASR, Annual Conference, Liverpool Hope University, 3-6 September, 2013.
4. ‘For the Skin is faster than the Word: Towards an Ethnography of Affect’, in a workshop on ‘Theorising the Social: Locations and Hierarchies’, organized by CSSS, JNU, 22-23 January, 2014.
5. ‘Sounds of the Drum, Sounds of the Body: Emotive Overlaps in External and Internal Sensoria’, Department of Anthropology, University College London, University of London, in a conference titled, ‘The Bodily and Material Cultures of Religious Subjectivation’, held on June 17-18, 2014.
6. ‘The Body-As-Place: Sahajiya Vaishnavas of Navadvip’,in the ‘Anjan Ghosh Memorial Workshop’, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata, 18th October, 2014.
7. ‘Ethnography of Complex Societies’, in a workshop on ‘Qualitative Research Methods in Social Sciences’, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata, 17th-21st November, 2014.
8. ‘The Sahajiya Body: Methodological Reflections on a Sensitive Ethnography’, in a workshop on ‘Bengali Vaishnavism in the Modern Period’, The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Oxford, 28th-29th March, 2015.
9. ‘The Body-Mind Challenge: Indian Religious Thought and Problems of Translation’, CSSS, JNU, on 10th March, 2016.
10. ‘The Pilgrimage Within: Sacred Place, Devotion, and Interiority in Bengal-Vaishnavism’, 24th annual conference of the European Association for South Asian Studies, Warsaw, 27-30 July, 2016.
11. ‘Appropriations and Identities of Linguistic Material among Popular Religious Groups of Bengal’ in an International Conference on Vaishnavism: Theory and Practice organized by The Centre for the Study of Religion and Society at the Department of Sociology, Jadavpur University in collaboration with the Department of Ethnology, History of Religions and Gender Studies, Stockholm University, Sweden on December 18-19, 2017.
12. ‘Bordering Identity: Sahajiya Texts of Nadia’ in the 5th International Congress of Bengal Studies, 25-28th January, Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka.
13. Presented a paper titled, ‘Rhythm, Repetition and Rapture: Space and Aesthetic Phenomenology in Bengal-*Vaishnava Kirtan*’ in the International Conference on ‘Revisiting Aesthetics and Poetics Now’, Kazi Nazrul University, 23-24 February, 2018.
14. ‘Shankh-er Shongshar, afterlife everyday: the evening conch, goddesses, and a reimagination of Bengali domesticity’, Centre of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, May 8, 2019.
15. ‘Afterlife Everyday: Bengali Sacred Archetypes of Domesticity and the Problem of Interiority’, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge, May 11, 2019.
16. ‘The Language of Madness, Meditation and Time: The Saint’s *Uddanda* dance in the *Chaitanya Charitamrita*’, National Seminar on ‘Literary Across Cultures: Cultural Poetics of Bhasha Literatures in Theory and Practice”, Forum for Contemporary Theory, Baroda, 25-27 February 2019.
17. ‘The spiral conch, home, and body: An Everyday Phenomenology of Sonic Metaphysics in Hindu Bengal’, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, University of Oxford, 9 May 2019.
18. ‘Uddanda as One and Many: Meditation, Ecstasy, and Time in Vaishnava Aesthetic Experience’, Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, University of Oxford, 16 May 2019.
19. ‘Aural Auras of Inner Sounds: The Instrumental Creation of Devotional Bodies’, International Conference on ‘Sounds, Bodies and Power: Politics and Poetics of Religious Sounds’, National University of Singapore, 27-28 February 2020.
20. ‘The Nath-Jagannath Complex: Mirroring Equivalence of ‘Cultic’ and ‘Mainstream’ Divine Bodies in Orissa’s Devotional Landscape’ in International Conference on ‘Interrogating the Notion of “Cult” as a Social Formation in Asian Religions’, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, 21-22 October 2021.
21. ‘Jagat-Nath as *Pranavatanudharam:* Reading the Nath Yogic Body and Puri as homologous kshetras of AUM resonance’ in Online National Conference on ‘The Polite World of Bhakti in Odisha: From Early Modern to Modern’, Ravenshaw University, 5-7 February 2021.
22. ‘A Landscape and Its Temples: The Mahanad Region of Hooghly District’ in National Conference on ‘Religious Structures and Regional Traditions in India: New Directions in Architectural, Social and Cultural History’, CSSSC, 19th November 2022.
23. ‘Baul’ in Conference on ‘The Aspect of Bhakti in the Indian Music Traditions’, National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai, 21-22 January, 2023
24. ‘Traces of a “Syncretic Past: How the Sacred Bengali Everyday holds Embodied History’, in National Conference on ‘Challenges of Researching the Present: Themes, Methods and Archives of Contemporary History’, Centre for Contemporary History, Bankura University, 21-22 March, 2023.

**Peer reviewed book proposals and articles for:**

The Czech Science Foundation, Sage, International Journal of Hindu Studies, Asian Medicine, and Ethnos: Journal of Anthropology.

**Teaching and Supervision**

Teaching Assistant of Prof. James Laidlaw, William Wyse Professor of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge for the undergraduate course ‘Social Anthropology of Religion’, 2012

Special lectures on fieldwork methodologies in Social Anthropology to MPhil-PhD students, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge, 2012

Assistant Professor in Sociology, Presidency University, Kolkata (October 2012-present)

Courses Taught:

Undergraduate

1. Sociology of Religion (Major, Core Course)
2. Methods in Social Anthropology (Major, Core Course)
3. Laboratory Life (General Elective)
4. Mechanics of the Mind (General Elective)

Postgraduate

1. Philosophy and the Social Sciences (Core Course)
2. Subject and Method (Core Course)
3. Religion (Core Course)
4. Sociology of the Body (Elective)

PhD Supervisions (In Progress)

1. Utsaleena Das, *Chhou and Everyday Life in Purulia and Bankura, West Bengal* (2022)
2. Salini Saha, *Fertility, Worship and Monsoon among Agricultural Communities of Bardhaman, West Bengal* (2018-present)
3. Aishani Ganguly, *Performing Ragurajpur: Studying Village Through its Performance Traditions* (2019-present)

Local Supervisor, John Fahy, PhD candidate at the department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge 2013

Local Supervisor, Aniket De, Undergraduate student, Tufts University, 2014-15

External Examiner for M.Phil dissertation, ‘Born to Procreate: Figuring the Maternal Bodies in Assisted Reproductive Technology’, by Pinaki Roy, submitted to the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, 2013.

External Examiner for M.Phil dissertation ‘(Re)inscribing caste in urban spaces: Microhistory of a Dalit Buddhist neighbourhood in Bombay’, by Geeta Thatra, submitted to the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, 2015.

**Academic Administration**

Member, Curriculum Committee (UG and PG) of Sociology, Presidency University, 2013

Member, Steering Committee for the Centre for Performing Arts, Presidency University (2013, 2015).

Member of the team of the ‘Vice-Chancellor’s fund for excellence’, which raises public funds for Presidency University (2013).

Member of the Gender Committee, Presidency University (2013), and member secretary, Presidency Committee Against Sexual Harassment (2014-15).

Member, Organising Committee, ‘Heritage and History in South Asia’, workshop organized jointly by the Presidency University and SOAS (September, 2017).

Teacher-in-charge of Cultural Affairs, at Presidency University (2016-present)

Member, Cultural committee for bicentennial celebrations, Presidency University, 2016

Convener, Gender Sensitization and Prevention of Sexual Harassment Cell, Presidency University (2020-2023).