

**OYNDRILA SARKAR****PERSONAL INFORMATION****DoB.:** 20<sup>th</sup> March 1987**Add.:** Sumangal 47, Bosepara Rd., Chandannagore, Hooghly, WB, 712136, India.**Email:** [Oyndrila.his@presiuniv.ac.in](mailto:Oyndrila.his@presiuniv.ac.in)**Mob.:** +919836822173**ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS****2007** BA History, Presidency College, Calcutta, India, 63.8%, Ranked First Class First.**2009** MA History, University of Calcutta, India, 64%, Ranked First Class.**2008** UGC NET Lectureship (2008), and UGC NET-JRF (2010).**2012** MPhil History, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, CGPA 6.69.**2019** DrPhil, University of Heidelberg, Germany (*magna cum laude*).**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

History of Cartography, Historical Geography, History of Science &amp; Technology, Modern India, South Asia, Intellectual Histories

**ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS****(A) JOURNAL ARTICLES**

1. **(2023)** “A Weather in the Empire’s Cap: Henry Francis Blanford & the Indian Meteorological Observatories 1875-1890”, *Journal of Research in Humanities and Social Sciences*. (Quest Journals, Vol. 11, Issue xii, 186-192, **ISSN:** 2321-9467)
2. **(2019)** “Mapping the Brahmaputra Narratives 1820-1890” in ‘Language, Literature and Sacred Texts’, 8<sup>th</sup> South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR) Conference Abstract Volume, *Rivers and Religion-Connecting Cultures of South and Southeast Asia*, p. 150. (Centre for Archaeological Studies, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, Nymphaea Publication, Dhaka, **ISBN:** 974-984-93853-0-1)
3. **(2017)** “Science, Surveying and Scientific Authority: The Brothers Schlagintweit in ‘India and High Asia’, 1854-1857”, *South Asia Journal of South Asian Studies*. (Vol. 40, Issue iii, 544-565, **ISSN:** 0085-6401, DOI: 10.1080/00856401.2017.1340110)
4. **(2014)** “Geopolitics and the GTSI: The Schlagintweit Brothers in India 1854-1857”, *Indian Journal of Spatial Science*, (Vol. V, No. 1, **ISSN:** 2249-4316)
5. **(2012)** “The Great Trigonometrical Survey - Histories of Mapping 1790-1850”, *eTraverse: The Online Indian Journal Of Spatial Science, The Geographical Institute*, (Vol. III, No. 1, Article 4, **ISSN:** 2249-4316)

6. (2011) Book Reviews “The Archaic and the Exotic: Studies in the History of Indian Astronomical Instruments”, *Contemporary South Asia*, (Vol. 19, No. 4, 471-479. ISSN: 0958-4935, DOI: 10.1080/09584935.2011.622105)

### **(B) CHAPTERS IN BOOKS**

7. (2024) “Visualizing Spaces of Knowledge in the Himalayas, 1830-1917”, in Soumen Mukherjee (ed.) *Empire, Religion and Identity: Modern South Asia and the Global Circulation of Ideas*. (Brill Indological Library, Vol. 59, Brill Publications, ISBN: 978-90-04-68515-4, DOI: 10.1163/9789004694330\_008)
8. (2020) “War Cartography in the Survey of India, 1920–1946”, in Alexander Kent, Soetkin Vervust, Imre Demhardt, Nick Millea (eds.) *Mapping Empires: Colonial Cartographies of Land and Sea. Lecture Notes in Geoinformation and Cartography*. (Springer International Publishing, ISBN: 978-3-030-23447-8, Series ISSN: 2195-1705, DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-23447-8)

### **PUBLICATIONS IN PRESS**

“Administrative Cartography in South Asia”, in Roger P. Kain (ed.) *The History of Cartography: Volume Five - Cartography in the Nineteenth Century*, University of Chicago Press (In Press).

### **SEMI-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

(2018) *How Everest Colonised*, Book Review of *The Last Englishmen: Love, War & the End of Empire*, Deborah Baker, Penguin Random House, Outlook Magazine, Reviews.

### **SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES**

**2023** Invited Talk, ‘*Terrain, Travellers and Sketches: Visualizing spaces of knowledge in the Himalayas, 1830-1917*’, Workshop on “Botanical Knowledge in Motion: Plant Geographies and Epistemic Traditions in and across Asia, 1850-1945”, at the Yale Macmillan Centre, InterAsia Initiative, Yale University, Connecticut, 5-6<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Conference Presentation and Participation, International Society for the History of the Map (ISHMap) Workshop, “Intersections in Map History”, at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG) Berlin, Germany, 10-11<sup>th</sup> July, 2023.

Workshop participation at ‘*Mapping Networks of Knowledge in the Himalayas 1830-1920*’, at the International Society for the History of the

Map (ISHMap) Workshop, at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG) Berlin, Germany, 10-12<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Conference Presentation and participation, '*Mapping Networks of Knowledge in the Himalayas 1830-1920*', at the International Society for the History of the Map (ISHMap) Symposium, at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG) Berlin, Germany, 12-14<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**2022** Conference Presentation '*A Weather in the Empire's Cap: Henry Francis Blanford and the Indian Meteorological Observatories 1875-1890*', at the UK AHRC Observatory Networks Workshop 3, Edinburgh, 28-29<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Conference Presentation '*Learning by Doing or Doing to Learn: Technical Skills in Scientific Surveying and Map Production in Nineteenth Century India*', at the ICHR-HISTEM National Conference on Science, Technology and Medicine in the History of Modern India, Amity Institute of Social Sciences, Uttar Pradesh, 21-22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022.

**2021** Invited talks, Three-Day lectures on 'Idea of India', School of Social Sciences, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences Bangalore, 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021.

**2020** Conference Presentation '*Maps and Manuals: Visual Cartography in the Indian Subcontinent 1820-1890*', at the '9<sup>th</sup> European Society for the History of Science Conference (ESHS 2020): Visual, Material and Sensory Cultures of Science', University of Bologna, Italy, August 31<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020.

Conference Presentation '*Blurring the Lines: From Trigonometrical Survey to Military Cartography 1890-1940*' in 'The International Conference on Warfare in South Asia: From Ancient to Modern Times', at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 7-8 January 2020.

**2019** Invited talk '*The Great Trigonometrical Survey & the Making of Spaces in Assam: 1830-1890*', at the Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies, University of Heidelberg, Germany, April 2019.

Invited talk '*The Small game: Two Scientists in the Himalayas 1930-1890*', at the University of Bonn, Germany, April 2019.

- 2018** Conference Presentation '*War Cartography in the Survey of India: 1920-1946*', in 'Mapping Empires: Colonial Cartographies of Land and Sea', the 8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the History of Cartography, International Cartographic Association, University of Oxford, 2018.
- 2017** Conference Presentation '*Frontier Cartographic Practices in Colonial India*', in 'Mapping Asia: Cartographic Encounters Between East and West', the 7<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on the History of Cartography, International Cartographic Association, Leiden University, 2017.
- 2015** Conference Presentation '*The Brothers Schlagintweit*' as part of the panel 'Asias: Past, Present and Future', in Asian Intersections: Identities and Linkages, the 21<sup>st</sup> New Zealand Asian Studies Society (NZASIA) Biennial Conference, Christchurch, 2015.
- 2014** Participant at Workshop and Retreat, "Academic Writing in English", at the Annweiler am Trifels, Germany, organized by the Cluster "Asia and Europe", University of Heidelberg, Germany.
- Conference Presentation '*Scientific Innovators or Native Informants*' as part of the panel 'The Long Duree of Intellectual History: Historical Engagements, Historiographical Reflections and Methodological Questions' at the British Association for South Asian Studies (BASAS) Annual Conference, London, 2014.
- 2013** Workshop Participant, "Project Management – Time Management – Social Skills" at the Graduate Academy, University of Heidelberg, Germany, 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2013.
- Poster Presentation '*Men, Machines, Maps: The Great Trigonometrical Survey of India*' Poster session at the International Summer School, organized by the Cluster of Excellence, Asia and Europe in a Global Context, 'Sites of Knowledge: Space, Locality and Circulation between Asia and Europe', Karl Jaspers Centre, Heidelberg 2013.
- 2012** Conference Presentation '*eStories of Mapping*', in The Digital Humanities in India: Remediating Cultures and Texts, J.C Bose Auditorium, Presidency University, Kolkata, 2012.

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

**2022** Conference Participation ‘Contemporary Observatory Networks, Armagh Observatory and Planetarium Workshop’, in the UK AHRC-funded Observatory Networks Workshop 4, Armagh, 8-9<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Conference Participation ‘Living and Working at the Observatory’, in the UK AHRC-funded Observatory Networks Workshop 2, Greenwich, 24-25<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

Conference Participation ‘Absorbing, Adapting and Influencing New Technologies’, in the UK AHRC-funded Observatory Networks Workshop 1, Greenwich, 6-8<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

Seminar Participation, Two-Day National Level Webinar Series: ‘History & Heritage of India’, at the Department of History, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, 29-30<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

**RESOURCE PERSON**

2020 Chair, Six-Day Workshop on Research Methodology in Comparative Literary Studies – Panel- “Travel, Migration and Literary History”, at the Department of Comparative Indian Languages & Literature, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, 2-7<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

2021 Presenter, Two-Day Symposium on Research Methods in Social Sciences: Sharing Experiences from the Fields – Panel on “Archival Method”, at the Department of Political Science, Presidency University, 4-5<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- **International Summer School**, organized by the Cluster of Excellence, Asia, and Europe in a Global Context, ‘Sites of Knowledge: Space, Locality and Circulation between Asia and Europe’, Karl Jaspers Centre, University of Heidelberg, 4.08.2013 – 8.08.2013.
- **67<sup>th</sup> Orientation Programme** of the University Grants Commission Human Resource Development Programme, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 13.11.2017 – 11.12.2017.
- **Refresher Course in History** of the University Grants Commission Human Resource Development Programme, North Bengal University, Siliguri, 04.02.2020 – 17.02.2020.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

- Assistant Professor, Department of History, Presidency University, Kolkata (Current, *w.e.f* 12th July 2012).
- Guest Lecturer, Department of History, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi (*w.e.f.* 19th September 2010 – 5th May 2012).

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

- **2010**, University Grants Commission: Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship, November.
- **2010**, University Grants Commission: Junior Research Fellowship.
- **2007-2008**, University Grants Commission: The Post-Graduate Merit Scholarship for University Rank Holder.
- **2013**, Faculty Research and Professional Development Fund “FRPDF Scheme” (Government of West Bengal for PU Faculty) for Summer School, University of Heidelberg, Germany.
- **2013-2016**, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG Fellowship): Funding for doctoral research, Graduate Programme for Transcultural Studies, Cluster of Excellence, Asia and Europe in a Global Context, University of Heidelberg, 2013-16.
- **2017**, Faculty Research and Professional Development Fund “FRPDF Scheme” (Government of West Bengal for PU Faculty) for International Conference, Leiden University, Netherlands.
- **2018**, Faculty Research and Professional Development Fund “FRPDF Scheme” (Government of West Bengal for PU Faculty) for International Symposium, University of Oxford, UK.
- **2023**, Faculty Research and Professional Development Fund “FRPDF Scheme”, grant for purchase of one book.

**LANGUAGES**

English, Bengali, Hindi

**COURSES TAUGHT/TEACHING: 2012-2023****Undergraduate Courses:**

2012-2013: Old Syllabus

1. Aspects of Antiquity: A History of Greece, Rome & China: Politics & Society
2. Aspects of Antiquity: A History of Greece, Rome & China: Religion & Culture
3. Early Medieval India c.1200-1500

2016-2023: New Syllabus and CBCS

1. Early Modern Europe
2. History of Modern India 1757-1947

3. History of Science, Technology & Medicine: 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Centuries
4. HIST-131: Understanding South Asian Cultures
5. HIST C6: Rise of the Modern West – I
6. HIST C8: Rise of the Modern West – II
7. HIST DSE-3C: History of Science, Technology & Medicine in 19-20<sup>th</sup> century
8. HIST156MDC03: Women in Indian Society

### **Postgraduate Courses:**

2012-2013: Old Syllabus

1. Establishment & Consolidation of Colonial Rule in India 1757-1857
2. Early Colonial Rule in India: Issues & Responses 1757-1857
3. Industrial Transformations in the Modern World
4. Social History of Modern India

2016-2023: New Syllabus

1. HIST 0703B: Religious and Cultural Nationalisms
2. HIST 0791: Research Methodology: Approaches to the Study of History
3. HIST 0891: Research Methodology: Reading Texts in History
4. HIST 0902B: History and Philosophy of Science
5. HIST 0904B: Aspects of Literature & Literary History in Modern South Asia
6. HIST 1004B: An Environmental History of India

### **PhD Coursework:**

1. HIST-C2: Research and Publication Ethics
2. HIST-C3: Research Methodology: Reading Texts in History

### **UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE SUPERVISION**

My current responsibilities include supervision of both BA and MA dissertations on a wide range of topics every academic year, since 2016. I currently supervise four PhD candidates, working on the following themes:

- Health and Labour in the Assam Tea Plantations during the latter half of the Nineteenth Century, (Paromita Adhikary, Regn. 2021- ongoing)
- Reflections of the Revolt of 1857 in Bengali Short Stories and Dramas, 1957-2007, (Abesh Chatterjee, Regn. 2021- ongoing)
- Nationalism & Pedagogy: History in Curriculums & Textbooks in Bangladesh, 1947-2015, (Nilanjan Chattopadhyay, Regn. 2022-ongoing)
- Colonizing the Rivers: The Politics of Water Management in the Indus River System, 1849-1948, (Souvik Dasgupta, Regn. 2022-ongoing)

### **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

2012-2013      Presidency University Sports Committee

2016	Presidency University NAAC Committee
2017	Admission Committee, Department of History
2017	Finance Committee, Department of History
2017-2018	CBCS syllabus committee for developing course content
2022-2023	UG Dissertation Coordinator, Department of History
2022-2024	Seminar Committee Convenor, Department of History
2022-2023	Exam Committee, Department of History
2023-2024	Exam Committee, Department of History

### **OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**

- *Reviewer*, Indian Journal of Spatial Science
- *Reviewer*, Notes and Records, The Royal Society Journal of the History of Science
- *Reviewer*, Canadian Journal of History, University of Toronto Press
- *Reviewer*, Law and History Review, Cambridge University Press
- *Reviewer*, Survey Review, Taylor & Francis
- *Reviewer*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi
- *Reviewer*, Journal of Comparative Indian Language and Literature, University of Calcutta
- RAC External, Department of English, Jadavpur University

### **MEMBERSHIP OF LEARNED SOCIETIES**

- Board Member, National Representative, *Imago Mundi: The International Journal for the History of Cartography*
- Member, The International Cartographic Association (ICA)
- Member, International Society for the History of the Map (ISH Map)
- Member, Paschimbanga Itihash Sansad, Kolkata.
- Member, European Society for the History of Science (ESHS).
- Affiliated member of the Karl Jaspers Centre for Advanced Transcultural Studies, University of Heidelberg, Germany.

### **OTHER AWARDS**

- *The Kalyan Kumar Dasgupta Memorial Award*, University of Calcutta, 2008-09.
- *The Kuruvilla Zachariah Memorial Prize*, Presidency College, Kolkata, 2008.
- *The Himani Devi Memorial Prize*, Presidency College, Kolkata, 2008.
- *The Ajoy Banerjee Memorial Prize*, Presidency College, Kolkata, 2008.
- *The Punyalekha Banerjee Memorial Prize*, Presidency College, Kolkata, 2007.
- *The Ashin Dasgupta Memorial Prize*, Presidency College, Kolkata, 2006.
- *The Presidency College Alumni Association Scholarship*, Kolkata, 2006.
- *The Ila Mukhopadhyay Memorial Medal*, Presidency College, Kolkata, 2006.

**REFEREES**

Prof. Dr. Kingshuk Chatterjee  
Head, Department of History, University of Calcutta  
Deputy Director, Centre for Pakistan and West Asian Studies, University of Calcutta  
[kchat@gmail.com](mailto:kchat@gmail.com), +919831161589

Prof. Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty  
Department of History,  
Presidency College, Calcutta (Retd.)  
[srchakraborty@gmail.com](mailto:srchakraborty@gmail.com), +919051054936

**PHD ADVISORS**

Prof. Dr. Joachim Kurtz  
Professor of Intellectual History, Dean of Studies, Faculty of Philosophy  
[kurtz@hcts.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:kurtz@hcts.uni-heidelberg.de), +496221544490

Prof. Dr. Hans Harder,  
Professor and Head of Modern South Asian Languages and Literature  
[harder@hcts.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:harder@hcts.uni-heidelberg.de), +496221548926

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