**Dr. Kishan Sirswal**

**Assistant Professor, Department of History, Presidency University, Kolkata**

**Contact Information**

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**Bio-Note**

Dr. Kishan Sirswal has been serving as an Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Presidency University, Kolkata since April 2013. He completed his doctoral research on “Role of Trade and Commerce in the Socio-economic Conditions of Darjeeling Hills, 1861-1962” at the University of Visva-bharati, Santiniketan. His research focuses on colonial trans-Himalayan trade involving Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, and Sikkim, the tea trade, and cultural pluralism in the Darjeeling Himalaya. His specialization lies in the Economic History of Modern India, with a keen interest in Trans-Himalayan, Environmental, and South Asian Studies.

**Education**

* **PhD (Modern Indian History)**, University of Visva-bharati, Santiniketan, 2020
* **MA History**, University of North Bengal, 2008
* **BA (Hons) History**, St. Joseph's College, University of North Bengal, 2005
* **N.E.T.**, 2007

**Academic Positions**

* **Assistant Professor**, Department of History, Presidency University, Kolkata (April 2013 - Present)
* **Assistant Professor**, Salesian College, Sonada, Darjeeling (August 2008 - March 2013)

**Total Experience**

* **15 years and 9 months**

**Teaching Experience**

* **Presidency University (2013-2024)**
	+ B.A. Courses: “Ideologies of the Empire and Economic History of the 19th Century”, “World History, 1789-1945” “Ecology and Environment History of India”
	+ M.A. Courses: “Economic History of Modern India, 1757-1947”, “Economic History and Economic Nationalism in India”, “History of East Asia”, “An Environmental History of India”, “Indian Economy, 1750-1950”
	+ Co-taught: “Understanding Early South Asian Cultures: Themes and Issues”, “Twentieth Century World: Themes and Issues”
* **Salesian College, Sonada (2008-2013)**
	+ Courses: “History of the Far East”, “World History, 1945-2000”, “Modern Indian History”

**Publications**

**Articles and Papers**

1. **History of Education and Literacy Survey of Darjeeling (1835-2001)**, *Darjeeling Times (Magazine)*, March-April 2009
2. **History of Tea Plantation**, *Darjeeling Times (Magazine)*, August 2009
3. **Role of Tea Plantation Industry in Human Resource Development in Darjeeling Hills**, *Salesian Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, "Darjeeling and the Indian East", Vol-II., No. 1., May 2011
4. **Darjeeling: Role of the British in its Development - A Historical Perspective**, *Darjeeling-A Multidisciplinary Perusal*, Kalpagriha Publication (ISBN 978-81-909642-2-7), November 2011
5. **Sustainability of Cultural Integration in Darjeeling Hills**, *Salesian Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, December 2011
6. **History and Heritage of Darjeeling, “the Queen of Hills” in India 1835-1947**, *Proceedings of the Indian History Congress*, 2018-19, Vol. 79 (2018-19), pp. 371-378
7. **Darjeeling, “Sports Revisited” - Legacy, Problems & Prospects**, *Salesian Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, Salesian College Publication, Darjeeling, Vol IV, No.2, 2013

**Papers in Edited Volume/Book**

1. **Cultural Pluralism in Darjeeling and Kalimpong: Reflections from Oral History**, *Darjeeling: In Search of People’s History of the Hills*, Manohar Publishers, New Delhi, 2022

**Papers Presented in Conferences/Seminars/Workshops**

1. **Role of Trade and Commerce in the Socio-economic Conditions of Colonial Darjeeling Hills**, Research Scholars’ Workshop, Salesian College, Sonada & Siliguri Campus, Darjeeling, West Bengal, Regional, 31st March 2011
2. **Problems and Prospects of Development of Women in Economy of Darjeeling Hills**, Challenges and Prospects of Development and Empowerment: Adivasis, Dalits, Minorities, and Women in Eastern and North-Eastern India in the Twentieth Century, Kaliachak College, History Dept., Malda, West Bengal, National, 16th-17th September 2011
3. **European Cultural Impact in the Tea Gardens of the Darjeeling Hills in Historical Discourse**, North Bengal: Society, Politics and Cultural Heritage, Dept. of History, University of North Bengal, West Bengal, International, 16th-17th March 2012
4. **Autonomy Movement in Darjeeling - A Community in Search of Indian Identity**, Autonomy Movements in India, Sonada Degree College, Sonada, Darjeeling, National, 27th-28th March 2012
5. **Darjeeling, “Sports Revisited” - Legacy, Problems & Prospects**, Sports & Games: New Approach to Holistic Education, Salesian College in collaboration with Sports Board, NBU, National, 3rd-4th August 2012
6. **Cultural Assimilation of Trans-Himalayan Communities: A Case Study of Colonial Darjeeling Himalaya**, presented at International Conference "Concepts, Communities, Practices: Rethinking the Transnational", Department of History, Presidency University, Kolkata, 3rd September, 2013
7. **Role of Trade and Commerce of Colonial Darjeeling Hills (1861-1962) emphasizing Darjeeling as an Ethnological Museum**, presented at International Conference "Transcultural Encounters in the Himalayan Borderlands", University of Heidelberg, Germany at Himalayan Hotel, Kalimpong, 5-8 March, 2015
8. **Trans-Himalayan Commercial and Cultural Interactions: A Case Study of Colonial Darjeeling Himalaya**, presented at the Seventh Annual Kathmandu Conference on Nepal and the Himalaya, Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies, Britain-Nepal Academic Council, Centre for Himalayan Studies-CNRS & Nepal Academic Network (Japan), Shanker Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal, 25-27 July, 2018
9. **History and Heritage of Darjeeling, “the Queen of Hills” in India, 1835-1947**, presented at Seventy Ninth Session of the Indian History Congress, Barkatullah University, Bhopal, M.P., 26th-28th February, 2019
10. **Genesis and Growth of Indian Tea Industry with Special Reference to Darjeeling Tea**, presented at International Conference on Indian Business & Economic History in memory of Prof. Dwijendra Tripathi, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, 29-31 August, 2019
11. **Analytical Study of Colonial Darjeeling Hills in the Trans-Himalayan Commercial and Cultural Networks**, Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal, 19th March, 2021
12. **Decoding Oral History in Constructing the Relevance of Cultural Pluralism in the History of Darjeeling and Kalimpong**, ICHR Sponsored National Seminar "Darjeeling: In Search of People's History of the Hills", Department of History, Southfield College, Darjeeling, 5-7 September, 2019
13. **Unheard Saga of Baloo Palwankar- A National Hero in Cricket**, History from the Margins, 18th September, 2020
14. **Echoes from the Nostalgic Heights: Legacy of Trans-Himalayan Trade in the Darjeeling Mountain Economy through Oral History,** at theNinth Annual Conference of the Oral History Association of India, Mountain History: At the Intersection of Memory, Politics and Identity held at North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong on 13-15 March, 2024

**Invited Lectures/Talks**

1. **Winter School: History, Heritage & Culture - Darjeeling Himalaya: History, Heritage and Legacy**, West Bengal Forest School, Dow Hill, Kurseong, 27th November, 2016
2. **Awareness Programme on “Education in Archaeology & History”**, 11th January, 2019
3. **National Leadership Workshop (NLW- 4th) titled ‘Unleashing the Potential of Community Youth’**, 27th-28th April, 2019
4. **Ecology and Environmental of the Darjeeling Himalaya - Legacy and Issues**, Department of Geography, SNDT Arts and Commerce College for Women, Pune, 5th June, 2021

**Book Reviews**

1. **Darjeeling: A Favoured Retreat**, Jahar Sen, Indus Publishing Company, New Delhi, 1989
	* *Darjeeling and the Indian East*, Salesian Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, Vol-II., No. 1., May 2011
2. **History of India, 1707-1857**, Lakshmi Subramanian, Orient Blackswan Limited, New Delhi, 2010
	* *Darjeeling and the Indian East*, Salesian Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, Vol-II., No. 1., May 2011
3. **Silk and Religion: An Exploration of Material Life and the Thought of People, AD 600-1200**, Xinru Liu, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2007
	* *Mountain Economy: Resources, Sustainability and Governance*, Salesian Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, Vol-II., No. 2., December 2011

**Fellowships and Achievements**

* **Foreign Travel Grant** from ICHR to visit British Library, London for archival research (April 27 - May 17, 2016)
* **Co-Editor:** *Darjeeling and the Indian East*, Salesian Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences, Vol. II, No. 1. (May 2011)

**Academic Memberships**

* Member of the Indian History Congress
* Editor on the editorial board of the journal *Yore: Research and Review*