

## OYNDRILA SARKAR

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

**DoB.:** 20<sup>th</sup> March 1987

**Address:** Sumangal 47, Bosepara Rd., Chandannagore, Hooghly, WB, 712136, India.

**Email:** [Oyndrila.his@presiuniv.ac.in](mailto:Oyndrila.his@presiuniv.ac.in)

**Mobile:** +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

Modern India, South Asia, History of Science, History of Cartography, 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**

“Revisiting the history of the Bengal Delta in Maps and atlases,” in Indian Journal of Spatial Sciences, The Journal of the Indian Society of Spatial Scientists, EISSN 2249-4316 (forthcoming, 2025)

“Administrative Cartography in South Asia”, in Roger P. Kain (ed.) *The History of Cartography volume 5, Cartography in the Nineteenth Century*, University of Chicago Press (forthcoming, 2025).

“Sugar, Drawing, and Growing up: Mapping memory in Kashmir,” in Navras J. Aafreedi and Dishani Senaratne (eds.) *Contested Memories in South Asia*, German Association of Asian Studies, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Asienkunde (DGA), Springer (forthcoming, 2025).

### **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**

- 2024 Conference Presentation, “Going with the flow, Colonising the Bengal Delta in Maps and Atlases,” in *Confluences, Interdisciplinarity and New Challenges in the History of Cartography*, International Conference of the History of Cartography, Lyon University, 1-5<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

- 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 (ISH-Map) 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.
- 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.
- 2021** 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.
- 2020** 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

#### OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- Imago Mundi, *National Representative*
- Indian Journal of Spatial Science, *Reviewer*
- Journal of Comparative Indian Language and Literature, University of Calcutta, *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*

#### **MEMBERSHIP OF LEARNED SOCIETIES**

- Member of the Paschimbanga Itihash Sansad, Kolkata.
- Member of the European Society for the History of Science (ESHS).
- Member of the International Society for the History of the Map (ISH Map)
- Member of the International Cartographic Association (ICA).
- 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.

#### **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

#### **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

**[Web of Science Researcher ID: AAG-77-7-2019, Orchid ID: 0009-0008-2917-3622]**