

# Oyndrila Sarkar

Assistant Professor & Head

Department of History, Presidency University Kolkata

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

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

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

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

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## 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.
- 2012 MPhil History, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, CGPA 6.69.
- 2019 DrPhil Transcultural Studies, University of Heidelberg, Germany (*magna cum laude*).

## RESEARCH AREA

History of cartography; History of science and technology; South Asian histories

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

### (A) ARTICLES IN REFEREED/ PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

1. 2025. "Revisiting the history of the Bengal Delta in Maps and Atlases," *Indian Journal of Spatial Science* IJSS, Spring Issue. 16(1): 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15105264>. ISSN: 2249-3921, EISSN: 2249-4316.
2. 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*. 11(xii): 186-192. ISSN: 2321-9467.
3. 2017. "Science, Surveying and Scientific Authority: The Brothers Schlagintweit in 'India and High Asia,' 1854-1857," *South Asia Journal of South Asian Studies*. 40 (iii): 544-565; <https://doi.org/10.1080/00856401.2017.1340110>. ISSN: 0085-6401.
4. 2014. "Geopolitics and the GTSI: The Schlagintweit Brothers in India 1854-1857," *Indian Journal of Spatial Science* IJSS, Summer Issue. 5(1): 33-41, ISSN: 2249-3921, EISSN: 2249-4316.
5. 2012. "The Great Trigonometrical Survey - Histories of Mapping 1790-1850," *eTraverse: The Online Indian Journal of Spatial Science, The Geographical Institute*, 3 (1.4): 1-6. ISSN: 2249-3921, EISSN: 2249-4316.
6. 2011. Book Review of "The Archaic and the Exotic: Studies in the History of Indian Astronomical Instruments," *Contemporary South Asia* Taylor and Francis, 19(4): 471-479; <https://doi.org/10.1080/09584935.2011.622105>. ISSN: 0958-4935.

### (B) CHAPTERS IN BOOKS/ EDITED VOLUMES

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 Publications, Brill Indological Library, 59, [https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004694330\\_008](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004694330_008). ISBN: 978-90-04-68515-4 (Hardback); 978-90-04-69433-0 (E-Book).
8. 2020. "War Cartography in the Survey of India, 1920-1946," in Alexander Kent, Soetkin Vervust, Imre Demhardt, and Nick Millea (eds.) *Mapping Empires: Colonial Cartographies of Land and Sea*. Springer Cham, <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-23447-8>. ISBN: 978-3-030-23446-1 (Hardback, 2019); 978-3-030-23449-2 (Softcover, 2020); 978-3-030-23447-8 (E-Book, 2019). Series ISSN: 1863-2246; Series EISSN: 1863-2351.
9. 2019. "Mapping the Brahmaputra Narratives 1820-1890," in C. D. Sebastian and Shahnaj Husne Jahan (eds.) *Rivers and Religion-Connecting Cultures of South and Southeast Asia*, 8<sup>th</sup> South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR) Conference Abstracts. Centre for Archaeological Studies, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, Dhaka. ISBN: 974-984-93853-0-1 (Hardback).

#### FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

##### (A) MONOGRAPH /BOOKS

1. *Survey practices and cartographic knowledge, Assam and the North East frontier, 1800-1900*. (under review).

##### (B) CHAPTERS IN BOOKS/ EDITED VOLUMES

1. "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).
2. "Sugar, Drawing, and Growing up: Mapping memory in Kashmir," in Navras J. Aafreedi and Dishani Senaratne (eds.) *Contested Memories in South Asia vol. 1*, 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, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS

##### (A) PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 Workshop Participant, "Setting up a Digitisation Studio on a Budget," Endangered Archives Programme, British Library and the School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

Workshop Participant, "Transcription Workshop using Wikisource," at the School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

- 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 II 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 VII Symposium, "Intersections in Map History," 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,” 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,” in 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 of Excellence, Asia and Europe in a Global Context, 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,” at the *International Summer School Sites of Knowledge: Space, Locality and Circulation between Asia and Europe*, Cluster of Excellence, Asia and Europe in a Global Context, Karl Jaspers Centre, University of Heidelberg, Germany 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.

#### (B) PARTICIPATION

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

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

2020 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

2013 *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.

2017 *67<sup>th</sup> Orientation Programme* of the University Grants Commission Human Resource Development Programme, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 13.11.2017 – 11.12.2017.

2020 *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

2012-on Assistant Professor and Head, Department of History, Presidency University, Kolkata (Current, w.e.f 12th July 2012).

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

#### ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

2012-2013 Sports Committee  
 2013 Admissions Committee, 2013  
 2017 Faculty Coordinator, Global Exhibition Summit 2017  
 2017 GEN-ed Coordinator  
 2020 Convenor, Committee for Overseeing the Stocktaking and Preservation of Old and Rare Books, Presidency University  
 2023-2025 Convenor, Seminar Committee, Department of History, Presidency University  
 2025 Head of Department, History, Presidency University

#### 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

Fluency in reading, writing, speaking: English, Bengali, Hindi

#### OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- Satyendra Nath Tagore Civil Services Study Centre, *Board for Mock Interviews, Guest Teacher*
- Imago Mundi International Journal for the History of Cartography, *National Representative*
- PhD Research Academic Committee, Jadavpur University, *Subject Expert*
- Central European History, Cambridge University Press, *Reviewer*
- Indian Journal of Spatial Science, *Reviewer*

- Journal of Comparative Indian Language and Literature, University of Calcutta, *Reviewer*
- Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, CSSS Kolkata, *MPhil External Examiner* 2020, 2022
- 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*
- Springer Publications, *Manuscript Reviewer*
- Oxford University Press, *Reviewer*

#### MEMBERSHIP OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

- Life Member, Indian Journal of Spatial Sciences (IJSS)
- Member, *Paschimanga Itihash Sansad*, Kolkata.
- Member, International Society for the History of the Map (ISH-Map)
- Member, International Cartographic Association (ICA).
- Member, European Society for the History of Science (ESHS).
- Affiliated member, 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 Kuruville 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, *Modern South Asian Languages and Literature* [harder@hcts.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:harder@hcts.uni-heidelberg.de), +496221548926

#### REFEREES

- Prof. Dr. Kingshuk Chatterjee, 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

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