

**Dr. Kalyan Kumar Das**

Assistant Professor

Department of English, Presidency University

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**Curriculum Vitae**

**Employment History:**

**Academic Appointments:**

**Presidency University, Kolkata**

10<sup>th</sup> July, 2012- Present

(Assistant Professor, Department of English)

(Thirteen years of teaching experience)

**University of Calcutta, Kolkata**

(Guest Faculty, Department of Comparative Indian Languages and Literature) 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2019-Present

**University of Delhi, New Delhi**

(Visiting Fellow, Centre for Dalit Studies, Department of English)

February, 2017- March 2017

**Education:**

**PhD** Department of English, Jadavpur University, Kolkata (2014-2022)

Dissertation Title: **“Caste and Postcolonial Historiography: Constructions of Past in  
Bangla Dalit Writings”.**

**MA** Department of English, Jadavpur University, Kolkata (2008-2010)

**BA** Department of English, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira (2005-2008)

**Bio-note:**

I have been teaching at the Department of English, Presidency University, Kolkata, for the last thirteen years. I have been a University Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Dalit Studies, Department of English, Delhi University (February, 2017), funded by the University Grants Commission (SAP-DRS-II) of India. I am currently a Visiting Faculty at the Department of Comparative Indian Language and Literature, University of Calcutta. I have been a member of the international research network on “Writing, Analysing and translating Dalit Literature,” funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), United Kingdom, since its inception in 2015.

In my doctoral research, I have explored literary texts produced by the Dalits in Bengal to understand how this politics of identity formation or identification (to use Ernesto Laclau's idea) gets mediated through these cultural and literary productions and provide us with significant historiographical insights that contest, critique and recalibrate the dominant historicist patterns of Western philosophies of history. In doing so, it engages with the Subaltern Studies historiography and their critique of modernity and thereafter, offers an alternative speculative philosophical framework through Dr. Ambedkar's intellectual inheritances (American Pragmatism and Buddhism) to read the Dalit narratives from Bengal. My teaching and research interests revolve around Critical theory( with a special focus on structuralist Marxism, post structuralism), Continental philosophy (Phenomenological thoughts of Maurice Merleau-Ponty ,Deconstruction and Jacques Derrida's writings on issues like touch, translation and autobiography ) , Indian philosophical systems( particularly Madhyamika Buddhism of Nagarjuna and Ambedkar's engagements with Buddhism) , political philosophies of Antonio Gramsci, Louis Althusser and B. R. Ambedkar, Commonwealth and postcolonial literatures, Diaspora studies, Nationalism, caste, race and Dalit literature.

My research articles on Critical Caste Studies, Dr. Ambedkar's political philosophies, Dalit studies, Subaltern Studies, historiography, Cultural Studies etc. have been published in famous academic journals like *The Pluralist (University of Illinois Press)*, *Critical Philosophy of Race (Pennsylvania State University Press)*, *Dewey Studies (Journal of the John Dewey Society)*,

*Economic & Political Weekly, Bangla Journal, Contemporary Voice of Dalit (Sage)* etc. My research article on historiography (published in the EPW) is taught at the Masters' programme in History at the University of Warwick,  
UK:<<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/students/modules/hi31t/seminars/casteasviolence/>

### **Publications:**

#### **Books: Edited Volumes:**

**2021** (Under Contract     *Translating Identity: Essays from Bangla Dalit Writings (1990s-2000s)*  
with Orient Blackswan)

**2021** (Under Contract     *Bangla Dalit Literature: Reflections on Caste, Culture and*  
with Routledge)     *Representation*

#### **Edited Special Issues:**

**2019**     **Sanglap: Journal of Literary and Critical Inquiry 6(1)**  
“Caste in/as Humanities”, co-edited special guest issue with S. Sengupta.

#### **Refereed Journal Articles:**

1.    **2025**     **The Pluralist: The Journal of the Society for the Advancement of  
American Philosophy (University of Illinois Press)**  
“Some Speculative Footnotes on Democracy with reference to Scott  
Stroud’s The Evolution of Pragmatism in India” (forthcoming)
2.    **2023**     **Critical Philosophy of Race (Pennsylvania State University Press)**  
“Ambedkar contra Manu: Ambedkar’s Nietzsche Moment and an  
Aesthetics of Dalit Anger” (eds. R. Bernasconi & D. Dwivedi)
3.    **2019**     **Dewey Studies (Journal of the John Dewey Society) 2 (3)**  
“Encountering John Dewey in the Indian Context: Ambedkar’s Critique of

War, Violence and Nationalism” (ed. Leonard J. Waks), p: 125-142.

4. **2019**                      **Sanglap: Journal of Literary and Cultural Inquiry 6(1)**

“Caste in/as Humanities: Unsettling the Politics of Suffering”, co-authored  
with S. Sengupta, (eds. Arka Chattopadhyay & Sourit Bhattacharya)  
p: 01-06.

5. **2015**                      **Economic and Political Weekly L (7)**

“Subaltern Historiography to Dalit Historiography: Tracing Heterogeneity  
Dalit Subalternity”, p: 60-65.

6. **2015**                      **Economic and Political Weekly L (44)**

“To Eat or not to Beef: Spectres of Food on Bengal’s Politics of Identity”,  
p: 105-114.

7. **2015**                      **Bangla Journal: Journal of Bangla and Bangali 13(21)**

“Caste and Politics of Culture in Contemporary Bengal: Bhadraklok’s  
Celebration of Chotolok’s ‘Story’ and the Curious Case of Monoranjan  
Byapari” (ed. Iqbal Hasnu).

**Book Chapters:**

**2025**                      ***Religion, Politics, and the New Materialism***

“Towards a Possibility of an Ambedkarite Political Theology at the  
Limits of Liberal Modernity” (Ed. By Clayton Crockett, Das, Pratihari)

(forthcoming)

**2022**

***Dalit Sahitya Charcha (Gangchil)***

“Amader Dalit Sahitya Charcha: Katogulo Elomelo Bhabna”

(Edited by Mrinmoy Pramanick)

**2021**

***Majoritarian Reasoning: Hindutva Nationalism and Modern India***

“Caste as Hindutva’s Limit: Reading a Dalit Autobiography Amidst

Hindutva’s Majoritarian Claims” (ed. A. S. Purkayastha)

(Forthcoming)

**Book Review Articles in Referred Journals:**

**2023**

**Studies in People’s History**

**Review of *Impossible and Necessary: Anticolonialism, Reading and***

***Critique* by J. Daniel Elam**

(edited by Professor Shireen Moosvi and Professor Irfan Habib)

(invited by the journal)

**2023**

**Biblio Magazine**

**Review of *A Part Apart: The Life and Thought of B. R.***

***Ambedkar* by Ashok Gopal**

(invited by the journal)

**2022**

**Contemporary Voice of Dalit**

Review of *The Dalit Brahmin* by Sharan Kumar Limbale (2018)

(ed. Debi Chatterjee) (invited by the journal)

**Academic Study Materials:**

1. Study material on Ashish Nandy's "Nationalism: Genuine and Spurious" for the Department of Distance Education, Rabindra Bharati University, 2024.
2. Study material on Sharan Kumar Limbale's *Akkarmashi: The Outcaste* for the Department of Distance Education, Rabindra Bharati University, 2024.
3. Study material on T.S. Pillai's *Chemmeen* for the Department of Distance Education, Rabindra Bharati University, 2024.

**Non-refereed articles/ journalistic/ opinion pieces:**

<b>2025</b>	<b>The Frontier Web</b>  “The Dim Lights of Populist Politics”
<b>2023</b>	<b>Magazine of the West Bengal Dalit Sahitya Academy</b>  “Ambedkar er Darshan er kichu angik”
<b>2021</b>	<b>Robbar Pratidin</b>  “Jijibisha: Manoranjan Byapari”
<b>2021</b>	<b>Ei Samay</b>  “Adhuna Bharater Jatiyotabadi Rajniti o Bangalir Atmoporichoi er Sangkat”
<b>2019</b>	<b>Scroll.in</b>  “What does it mean to be an Ambedkarite?”  ( <a href="https://scroll.in/article/935901/what-does-it-mean-to-be-an-Ambedkarite-this-book-juxtaposes-ambedkar-with-gandhi-to-help-us-get-it">https://scroll.in/article/935901/what-does-it-mean-to-be-an-Ambedkarite-this-book-juxtaposes-ambedkar-with-gandhi-to-help-us-get-it</a> )

### **Teaching Experience & Doctoral Research Guidance:**

#### **Doctoral Supervision (at Presidency University):**

- 1. Arnab Dasgupta (Title of the PhD thesis: “Remapping the Urban: Space and Postmodern Aesthetics, 1970-2015)**
- 2. Pubali Mondal (Title of the PhD Thesis: “Constructing the Caste Question: Dalit Subjectivity in Bollywood, 1991 to the Present)**
- 3. Shubhadeep Jana (Title of the PhD Thesis: “An Eco-geographical Exploration of Dalit Experience through Select Dalit Life Narratives)**

#### **Membership of Doctoral Research Advisory Committees:**

- 1. Toushali Raina** (Department of Political Science, Presidency University)
- 2. Twisha Saha** (Department of Sociology, Presidency University)
- 3. Rahul Baidh** (Department of Sociology, Presidency University)
- 4. Amita Kumari** (Department of History, Presidency University)
- 5. Saikat Mondal** (Department of English, Jadavpur University)

#### **Presidency University [13 years of teaching undergraduate and Master’s students]:**

##### **Undergraduate Major Courses and MA Modules on:**

History of English Literature in Great Britain

Restoration Literature

Rhetoric and Prosody

African Literature

Indian Writing in English

Postcolonial Literatures

Literary Theory

Literature and Films

Partition Literature

Translation of Indian Vernacular Literatures (Tamil, Bangla, Hindi,  
Marathi, Telugu)

Dalit Literature

African American Feminist Thought

Practical Criticism

Post-War British Literature

Graphic Novel

Anthropocene, Climate Change and Literature

**University of Calcutta**

Dalit Literature

Historiography

Anti-caste Thoughts of Jyotiba Phule and B. R. Ambedkar

**University of Delhi**

MPhil/PhD Course Work Module on Dalit Literature

**Invited Public Lectures:**

**2025            The English Seminar, Presidency University**

“Is There Something Wrong with Liberalism?”

**2020            Centre for Dalit Studies, Department of English, University of Delhi**

“Ambedkar and Nationalism” [Constitution Day Public Lecture to commemorate the  
day Republic of India received her constitution]

**2019            Presidency University**

“Ambedkar on Violence”



**2017**                      **Centre for Dalit Studies, Department of English, University of Delhi**

“Ambedkar's 'Social Hope' in a 'Democracy that is to come': A Programmatological  
Reading in Speculative Philosophy”

**Invited Lectures:**

**2020**                      Fordham University, New York, USA

“Savarkar, Ambedkar and the Caste Question”

**2020**                      Bharathiar University, Tamil Nadu

“Climate of Literature: Debates on the Anthropocene”.

**2020**                      Bharathiar University, Tamil Nadu

“John Dewey contra Leon Trotsky: Ambedkar on Marxism and the Question of  
Violence”.

**2020**                      University of North Bengal, W.B.

“Ambedkar contra Manu: Becoming ‘Minor’ through Dalit Rage”.

**2020**                      Sewnarayan Rameswar Fateupuria College, W.B.

"Postcolonialism and the Indian Writing in English: Critiques of Modernity and  
Beyond".

**2020**                      Midnapore College (Autonomous), W.B.

"John Dewey and Ambedkar: Reflections on himsa/ahimsa in the Mahabharata”.

**2020**                      Santipur College

“Draupadi: A Critical Introduction”.

**2020**                      Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, New Delhi

"Politics of Caste and the affect of Graphic Art in *Bhimayana*”.

**2020**                      West Bengal State University (Department of Sociology)

"Caste and Nationalism: Ambedkar, John Dewey and Vinayak Savarkar's Hindutva  
Project”.

- 2020** Nabagram Hiralal Pal College, University of Calcutta  
 “Okonkwo's Tragic Fall: Beyond the Anthropological Reading of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*”.
- 2020** Sree Narayana College, Chempazhanthy, University of Kerala  
 "Subaltern Studies, Marxism and Postcolonial Literatures"
- 2019** Santipur College  
 "The Climate of Justice: ‘Anthropocene’ as the limit of Modernity and Gaia as Home"
- 2019** Barabazar Bikram Tudu College  
 “South Asian Studies: Politics of Postcolonialism as Area Studies”
- 2018** University of North Bengal  
 "Tagore contra Hegel- Literature, Historiography and Historicity"
- 2018** University of North Bengal  
 “Ambedkar and the Nation State”
- 2018** University of North Bengal  
 “Dalit literature and Historiography”
- 2018** University of North Bengal  
 “Reading Monoranjan Byapari's autobiography”
- 2018** Department of Political Science, Presidency University  
 “How are we reading/receiving Monoranjan Byapari?”
- 2018** Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur  
 "The Precarity of Dalit ethnoscope in the Postcolonial Nation-State- Ambedkar, Appadurai and Skinner"
- 2018** Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur  
 “Ambedkar, Bhagavad Gita and the Question of Violence”
- 2018** Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur

“Ambedkar and the Indian Partition”

**2017**

University of Delhi

“Ambedkar and the Nation-State”

**2017**

Midnapore College (Autonomous)

“Contemporary Dalit Writings and Ambedkar's Philosophy”

**2017**

Vidyasagar College

“Subalternity, Literature and Historiography”

**2017**

University of Kalyani

“What the Foucault?”

**2017**

Department of English, Jadavpur University

“Ambedkar and Postcolonial Modernity”

**2016**

Department of English, Jadavpur University

“Self-reflexivity and Ethics in Theorizing Caste in Dalit Literature: Seeing through the *Cracked Mirror* and issues in Lived Experience as the Right to Theory”

**2016**

Kazi Nazrul University

"Dalit Studies and the Future of Postcolonial Studies"

**2016**

Centre for Indian Studies in Africa, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

“Ambedkar and the Colonial State: Rethinking Ambedkar’s ‘Strategic Statism’ and the Birth of a Modern Nation”

**2016**

Asiatic Society of Bengal

"Ambedkar contra Manu: A Contemporary Critique of Ressentiment and the Category Of 'Angry Dalit'"

- 2016** Asiatic Society of Bengal  
"Past, Present and Future of Dalit Studies in India"
- 2016** The Bhawanipur Education Society College  
"Hermeneutics of Nationalism: Perceiving the Indian Nation State as a Hindu Space"
- 2014** Rishi Bankim Chandra College, Naihati  
"Introducing Caste and Dalit Literature"
- 2014** Department of English, Jadavpur University  
"Monoranjan Byapari and the Common Sense of the Modern"
- 2014** Department of English, Vidyasagar University  
"Reading a post-liberal critique of Dalit struggle from Dalit Historiographical perspective"
- 2013** Gour Mahavidyalaya, Malda, W.B.  
"Reading Mahasweta Devi with Spivak's idea of the Subaltern in 'Can the Subaltern speak?'"
- 2012** Midnapore College (Autonomous)  
"We will rebuild worlds'- 'paraichi' voices in Tamil Dalit Literature"

### **Conference Presentations:**

- 2019**      Third International Conference on South Asian Studies organized by the Ireland Indian Institute at Dublin City University, Dublin, Ireland  
"The Doms of West Bengal and a Contemporary 'Career of the Anti-God'
- 2018**      Annual Conference of the John Dewey Society in New York City  
"Encountering Deweyan thoughts in Indian context: Ambedkar's thoughts on war, violence and nationalism."
- 2015**      British Centre for Literary Translation, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK  
"(Im)possibility of Translating Identities: Translator, Dalit Litterateur and the 'Truth' of Dalit Experience"
- 2014**      International conference on "Contemporary Approaches to the Analysis of Dalit Literature" at the Nottingham Trent University, UK.  
"Imagining Bauriland: Dalit Utopia(?) in Twenty First Century West Bengal"
- 2014**      Critical Approaches to South Asian Studies Workshop (CASAW), York Center for Asia Research, York University, Toronto, Canada  
"Bhadralok's celebration of a Chotolok's story: the curious case of Monoranjan Byapari and the politics of caste and culture in twenty-first century Bengal"
- 2013**      International Conference on Dalit Literature and Historiography, Jamia Milia Islamia University, New Delhi  
"Subaltern Historiography to Dalit Historiography: Tracing Heterogeneity in Dalit Subalternity"

### **Member of Reviewer Boards:**

Reviewer, **Politics and Religion** (Journal of the American Political Science Association, Cambridge University Press)

Reviewer, **Routledge** (Taylor & Francis)

Reviewer, **Critical South Asian Studies** (Journal of the Ireland India Institute, Dublin City University)

Reviewer, **Contemporary Voice of Dalit** (Sage)

Reviewer, **Journal of the Comparative Indian Language and Literature** (University of Calcutta)

Reviewer, **Essays and Studies** (Journal of the Department of English, Jadavpur University)

### **Member of Academic Bodies:**

**Local Coordinator, Presidency University, GIAN**

Member, **United Kingdom Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) International Project on Dalit Literatures---** "Writing, Analyzing, Translating Dalit Literatures".

Member, **John Dewey Society (U.S.A.)**.

Member, Board of Editors, **Indian Journal for Comparative Literature and Translation Studies**.

Guest Editor, **Sanglap: Journal of Literary and Cultural Inquiry** (Special Issue on "Caste in/as Humanities", Vol. 6 No. 1(2019).

### **Organized Academic Events:**

1. Organized a national level Young Researchers' Conference on Dalit literature at the Department of English, Presidency University in 2016.

### **Languages:**

Bangla (Native Speaker)

Hindi (Conversational, Basic Reading and Writings Skills)

