

Dr. Purna Banerjee

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Academic Background

- **2005** - *Ph.D.* (with double distinction, for Comprehensive Exams and Defence), Texas Christian University.
Dissertation: "Incidental Occurrences: Exchanges between British and Indian Women Writers 1840-1940."
Supervisor: Linda K. Hughes, Addie Levy Professor of Literature
- **1999** - *Master of Arts (M.A.)*, English, University of Rochester
Thesis: "[Contra]diction: Feminist and Post-structural Reading of Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*."
Supervisor: Dr. Anita Levy
- **1996** - *Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)*, English, Presidency College, Kolkata.

Academic Appointments

- **2013 - Present** - Associate Professor, Department of English, Presidency University (erstwhile Presidency College), Kolkata
- **2011 - 2013** - Associate Professor, Department of English, Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois, U.S.A (2011-2013)
- **2006 - 2013** - Director, Gender Studies Program, Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois, U.S.A.
- **2005 - 2010** - Assistant Professor, Department of English, Millikin University, Decatur, Illinois, U.S.A.

Relevant Publications

Book

- *Unexpected and Unexplained: Intellectual Exchanges between British and Indian Women Writers 1840-1940*. January 2026. Frontpage.

Translated Monograph:

- *Labour Train* by Manjira Saha. Translated from the original Bengali into English with a theoretical introduction for the translation.

Chapters in Edited Volumes:

- "The Scandalous Deconstruction of Victorian Morals in *Anna Lombard*: What Made Victoria(ns) Cross?" *The Routledge Handbook of Victorian Scandals in Literature and Culture*, edited by Brenda Ayres and Sarah E. Maier, Routledge, 2023, pp. 511–528.
- "Virtual Reality: Social Media and/as the Public Sphere." *Situating Social Media: Gender, Caste, Solidarity, Protest*, edited by Samata Biswas and Atig Ghosh, Women Unlimited, 2020, pp. 63–101.
- "The Artisans of Revolt: Peasant Activities of Naxalbari." *From Popular Movements to Rebellion: The Naxalite Decade*, edited by Ranabir Samaddar, Routledge, 2018, pp. 121–151

- “Mobile Women and Inter/National Narratives: The Cases of Gertrude Hudson and Krishnabhabhini Das.” *The Other Universe: An Anthology of Women's Studies*, edited by Aparna Bandyopadhyaya and Krishna Dasgupta, Setu Prakashani, 2015.

Articles in Journals:

- “Why So Much Blood? ‘Narratives of Violence against Women in Tripura.’” *Economic and Political Weekly: Special Issues on Gender*, vol. 49, no. 43–44, 1 Nov. 2014.
- “Lives Delimited by Barbed Wires.” *Refugee Watch*, no. 18, Apr. 2003, pp. 6–8. South Asia Forum for Human Rights and Calcutta Research Group.

Forthcoming:

- *Fractured Spaces: Intersectional Approaches to Migration and Displacement*. “Writing this History is Like touching Madness”: Gender in 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. Co-edited by Dr. Purna Banerjee and Priya Singh (expected by June 2026)

Online Publication

- Rokeya S. Hossain <https://www.trags.org/indian-feminisms>

Select Conference Papers and Lectures (2002-2022)

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- **April 23 - 25, 2025** - Chair of the conference panel entitled “Revisiting Migration and the Pandemic” Migrant Asia: International Conference on Migrants in the Making of Asia. Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand (hosted by CGFD @ AIT; supported by EMMIR @ University of Oldenburg, Germany and Calcutta Research Group).
 - **March 10th, 2022** - Virtual lecture titled “Complicity/Resistance Dialectics in the [Post]Colonial Novels of Swarnakumari Ghosal” at North East Modern Language Association (NeMLA), Baltimore, USA.
 - **March 7th, 2022** - Virtual lecture titled “‘Labour Train’: Being a Female Migrant Laborer during Covid in India” at the Symposium: *From Seneca Falls 1848 to the Age of Covid-19*, Onondaga Community College, State University of New York, Syracuse, New York, USA.
 - **August 20th, 2022** - Virtual lecture titled “Literature of/and Migration from the US Southern Border.” Calcutta Research Group.
 - **March 6th, 2020** - “A Bengali woman is capable of writing a novel of such artistic merit”: Relocating Swarnakumari Ghosal as a New [Visionary] Woman” at British Women Writers Conference, at Fort Worth, TX, U.S.A.
 - **April 27th, 2019** - Special/Featured Seminar Leader of *(Dis)locating and Provincializing Victorian Power* at the Midwestern Victorian Studies Conference (MVSA). Fort Worth, Texas, USA..
 - **December 14th, 2018** - “If you are not outraged, you’re not Paying Attention” at *Linking Scholarship and Activism in Migration Societies: Critical Inquiries*. University of Oldenburg, Germany.
 - **November 17th, 2018** - “The ‘Hindu equivalent of the Greek Aphrodite: ‘Consuming the Other, Sexually and Textually Courting the Forbidden in Victoria Cross’s *Theodora, a Fragment*” at the Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA). Kansas City, USA.
 - **November 10th, 2016** - “On their Own Steam: ‘Women Authors of Victorian Travel Narratives of Empire” at the Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA), St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A.
 - **July 7th, 2016** - “The Empire and/of the New Woman: Victoria Cross’s *Anna Lombard* as a Dislocation of the Margins of Victorian Bourgeois Femininity and Domesticity” at the Australian History Association (AHA) Conference titled *Victorian Margins*, at Ballarat, Victoria, Australia.

- **March 13 - 16, 2013** - "Ways of Seeing: The Personal-Political Interstices of Autoethnographic Writing Instruction through Viewing Political Documentaries" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, at Las Vegas, U.S.A.
- **April 6 - 11, 2011** - When Identities Clash: the deconstructive "Espacement" of Study Abroad and Academic Writing Instruction" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, at Las Vegas, U.S.A.
- **March 11 - 14, 2009** - "Teaching Writing During Troubled Times: Autoethnographies as the Interstices between the Purely Private, the Confrontational Communal, and the Reflective Radical" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, at San Francisco, U.S.A.
- **April 3rd, 2008** - "Composition/Study Abroad Interstices: The Discontents of Identity Formations in Globalized Classrooms" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, at New Orleans, LA, U.S.A.
- **April, 2007** - "Identities and their Discontents: Teacher/Student Relationships in Postcolonial Composition Contact Zones" at the Allerton Conference, at Springfield, IL, U.S.A.
- **March 23rd, 2006** - "The I/Eye: Composing and Critiquing Personal Narratives through the lens of Hybridity" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, at Chicago, IL, U.S.A.
- **April 14th, 2005** - "What made Victoria/ns Cross? Femininity and Domesticity redefined by *Anna Lombard*" at the British Women Writers Conference, at Lafayette, LA, U.S.A.
- **March 26th, 2004** - "Mobile Bodies and [Inter]National Narrative: Mary Frere and Gertrude Hudson" at the British Women Writers Conference, at Athens, GA, U.S.A.
- **March 25th, 2004** - "Teacher Subjectivity: Feminist Theories/Composition Pedagogy" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, at San Antonio, TX, U.S.A.
- **March 22nd, 2003** - "In Search of Ithaca: Marie Hochmuth Nichols" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, New York, NY. U.S.A.
- **March 21st, 2003** - "An Effectual Plan: Sarah Grand's *The Beth Book* as a Performative Reclamation of Evolutionary Psychology" at the British Women Writers Conference, at Fort Worth, TX, U.S.A.
- **October 4th, 2002** - "Expanding Empires: Arundhati Roy's *God of Small Things*" at the Western Conference of British Studies, at Little Rock, AK, U.S.A.

Administrative Service, and Mentoring

Presidency University, Kolkata (India)

- February 1st, 2014 - January 30th, 2015 - Chair, Presidency University Committee Against Sexual Harassment (PUCASH), Presidency University, Kolkata, India.
- August 29th, 2014 - November 2nd, 2014 - Teacher-in-Charge and Mentor, Dean of Students 'Office, Presidency University, India.
- August 29th, 2014 - November 2nd, 2014 - Convener of Student Welfare Board & Mentor, Presidency University, India.
- August 29th, 2014 - November 2nd, 2014 - Chair, Presidency University Student Feedback Committee, Presidency University, India. August 29-November 2, 2014.
- August 29th, 2014 - November 2nd, 2014 - Chair, Student Aid Committee, Presidency University, India.

Millikin University (USA)

- Fall 2008 - 2011 - Academic Advisor & Mentor for Amnesty International, Millikin University, U.S. A.
- Fall 2008 - 2011 Academic Advisor & Mentor for Sister Circle, Millikin University, U.S.A.

- Spring 2008 - 2013 - Academic Advisor & Mentor for International Student Organisation, Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2006 - 2013 - Academic Advisor & Mentor for Students United Darfur Action Group, Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Spring 2008 - Spring 2011 - Academic Advisor & Mentor for Multicultural Student Organisation (comprised of 11 under-represented student organisations), Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2007 - 2013 - Chair of the Women's History Month Committee, Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2010 - 2013 - Member of Council on Faculty, Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2007 - 2015 - Member and Mentor for the Long Vanderburg Scholarship Committee, Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2008 - 2009 - Advisor and Mentor to Sigma Tau Delta Advisors, Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2006 - 2009 - Member on Committee on Faculty Scholarship and Academic Development, Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2008 - Member of the English Department Recruitment and Retention of Students Committee Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2008 - Member of the English Department Writing Major Committee, Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2008 - Member of the English Department Literature and Requirement Team, Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2007 - Spring 2008 - Member of the English Department Committee on New Faculty Appointments, Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2006 - 2013 - Member of the English Literature Assessment Team, Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2006 - Spring 2007 Member of the Critical Writing, Reading, and Research Committee, Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2006 - Spring 2007 - Member of the Honors in English Committee, Millikin University, U.S.A. Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2006 - Spring 2007 Member of the English Department Scheduling Committee, Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2005 - 2013 - Member of the English Department Literature Committee, Millikin University, U.S.A.
- Fall 2005 - Spring 2006 - Member of the Faculty Search Committee in Shakespeare, Early Modern literature and Drama, Millikin University, U.S.A.

Honours/Awards

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- **Spring 2013** - Special Commendation as "Faculty Mentor of the Year," Black Student Union, Millikin University, U.S.A.
 - **Spring 2013** - Award for the Most Motivating Campus Faculty, (for the organisation and execution of Women's History Month), Millikin University, U.S.A.
 - **Spring 2012** - Undergraduate Fellow (approved to serve as the Director for the Fellows for Women's History Month), Millikin University, U.S.A.
 - **2011** - Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, Millikin University, U.S.A.
 - **Spring 2011** - Undergraduate Fellow (approved to serve as the Director for the Fellows for Women's History Month), Millikin University, U.S.A.
 - **2004 - 2005** Jim Corder Fellow, Department of English, Texas Christian University, U.S.A.
 - Nokia Research Award, Texas Christian University, U.S.A. (Campus-wide award given to one graduate student per year based on scholarly potential of work related to women's issues.)

- **May 2003** - Graduate Instructor of the Year Award, Department of English, Texas Christian University, U.S.A.
- **2004** - The Woman's Wednesday Club Essay Prize, for "Empire Writes Back: Arundhati Roy's The God of Small Things," T.C.U. Creative Writing Awards..
- **2003** - Lilla Thomas Award for Interpretive/Critical Essay on Feminist Writers/Issues, for "Gender as the National Desiderata in Hobomok," T.C.U. Creative Writing Awards, 2003.
- **2003** - William L. Adams Center Writing Prize for the best essay about Rhetoric and Composition, "A Search for Ithaka: Marie Hochmuth Nichols and the Rhetoric of Responsibility," T.C.U. Creative Writing Awards.
- **2002** - Lilla Thomas Award for Interpretive/Critical Essay on Feminist Writers/Issues, Second Place, "My Secrets Are Everybody's Secret...I AM Mad: A Feminist Inquiry into Lady Audley's Secret," T.C.U. Creative Writing Awards.

Authors, Texts, & Topics Taught: Relevant Selection (India)

English Department, Presidency University (Fall 2013 to Present)

Teaching at Presidency University is very different from the best practices of teaching in the USA. All courses are co-taught by 4 to 5 faculty members. Each faculty teaches several authors, texts, topics, and themes under a single course. The following is a selected list of women authors from Britain and its empire that I have taught in the shared courses, both at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

- Aphra Behn (*Oroonoko*)
- Mary Wollstonecraft (*A Vindication of the Rights of Women*)
- George Eliot (*Middlemarch*)
- Charlotte Bronte (*Jane Eyre*)
- Emily Bronte (*Wuthering Heights*)
- Elizabeth Gaskell (*North and South* and *Mary Barton*)
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning (*Aurora Leigh*)
- Christina Rossetti ("Goblin Market")
- Victoria Cross (Theodora: A Fragment, *Six Chapters of a Man's Life* and *Anna Lombard*)
- Sarah Grand (*The Beth Book*)
- Mona Caird (*Morality of Marriage*)
- Agatha Christie (*Murder on the Orient Express*)
- Virginia Woolf (*A Room of One's Own*, *Mrs Dalloway*, *Three Guineas*, "Mr Bennett and Mrs Brown," and "Modern Fiction")
- Krupabai Satthianadhan (*Saguna*)
- Rassundari Devi (*Amar Jiban*)
- Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain (*Sultana's Dream*)
- Ranabai Ranade (Autobiography)
- Sarojini Naidu (selected poems)
- Kamala Das (selected poems)
- Nayantara Sahgal ("Martand")
- Jamaica Kincaid ("On Seeing England for the First Time")
- Jean Rhys (*Wide Sargasso Sea*)

- Kate Chopin ("The Story of an Hour")
- Katherine Mansfield ("Bliss")

Authors, Texts, & Topics Taught: Relevant Selection (United States of America)

English Department, Millikin University (Fall 2005 to 2013)

Courses:

- Major English Authors II: the Romantics, the Victorians, and the Twentieth Century through the prism of Gender, Sexuality, Race, and Class
- Other Victorians and Victorian Others: Voices from the Margins
- Victoria and Her Sisters: Women and Texts
- Victorian Filth and Otherness: Scandals of Gender and Sexuality in Literature and Life
- Decolonizing Modernism: From the Margins of Gender, Sexuality, Race, and Class
- "Mother Ireland" & *Bharat Mata*: Anglo-Irish and Indo-Anglian Literatures and Postcolonial theories
- Empire Writes Back: Postcolonial Theory and Indo-Anglian Literature
- Gendering the Nation: International Literatures and Films
- Bollywood Cinema: The Heroine and the Vamp
- Discovery of India (Summer Immersions/ Study Abroad classes)
- Tagore's Women and Tagore Women (Summer Immersions/Study Abroad classes)
- Freshman and Sophomore Composition (with a focus on Global Women's Literature)