

Dr. Purna Banerjee

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## Academic Background

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- **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

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- **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

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### 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. Forthcoming June 2026.

### Books Published:

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

### 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 Bandyopadhyay 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.

### 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022** - Virtual lecture titled “Literature of/and Migration from the US Southern Border.” Calcutta Research Group.
- **March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020** - “A Bengali woman is capable of writing a novel of such artistic merit”: Re-locating Swarnakumari Ghosal as a New [Visionary] Woman” at British Women Writers Conference, at Fort Worth, TX, U.S.A.
- **April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019** - Special/Featured Seminar Leader of *(Dis)locating and Provincializing Victorian Power* at the Midwestern Victorian Studies Conference (MVSA). Fort Worth, Texas, USA..
- **December 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004** - “Teacher Subjectivity: Feminist Theories/Composition Pedagogy” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, at San Antonio, TX, U.S.A.
- **March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2003** - “In Search of Ithaka: Marie Hochmuth Nichols” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, New York, NY. U.S.A.
- **March 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 2002** - “Expanding Empires: Arundhati Roy’s *The God of Small Things*” at the Western Conference of British Studies, at Little Rock, AK, U.S.A.

## Administrative Service, and Mentoring

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### University Grants Commission (UGC)

#### Governing Board Nominee

- 2017 – Present – Islamia College, Vaniyambadi, Tamil Nadu.
- 2017 – Present – Thiagarajar School of Management, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
- 2016 – 2021 – The 8th Court of Vidyasagar University, Paschim Midnapore, West Bengal.
- 2016 – 2023 – The Planning and Monitoring Board of Christ University, Bangalore, Karnataka.

#### UGC Committee Work Done Otherwise

- 2016 – Member of Expert Committee for judging whether the university will be sanctioned as Deemed to be University under section 12(B) of UGC Act, 1956 - Avinashilingam of Institute of Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- 2016 – Member of Expert Committee for judging whether the university will be sanctioned as Deemed to be University under section 12(B) of UGC Act, 1956 - Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.
- 2016 – Member of Expert Committee for judging whether the university will be sanctioned as Deemed to be University under section 12(B) of UGC Act, 1956 - Government Science College, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.
- 2016 – Visiting Member for the evaluation of the autonomous status of Oriental College, Imphal, under Manipur University, Manipur.
- 2016 – Member of Expert Committee for judging whether the university would be granted an extension of its autonomous status as Deemed to be University under section 12(B) of UGC Act, 1956 - Jyoti Nivas College, Bangalore, Karnataka.
- 2016 – Visiting Member for the evaluation of the autonomous status of Sankara College of Science and Commerce, Saravanampatty, Coimbatore under Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Kerala.

- 2016 – Member of the Committee that evaluated the colleges that had applied as new and left out of eligible College, under UGC-Nero programme Guwahati.

### **Presidency University, Kolkata (India)**

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

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*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 (*The 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 Sathianadhan (*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)**

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*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)
-