

Oyndrila Sarkar

Assistant Professor, Department of History, Presidency University Kolkata

PERSONAL INFORMATION

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

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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.
- 2008 UGC NET Lectureship,
- 2010 UGC NET Junior Research Fellowship/JRF.
- 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; Map technologies; South Asian histories

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

(A) MONOGRAPH

Survey Practices and Cartographic Knowledge, Assam and the Northeast Indian Frontier, 1800-1900. In "Mapping the Past," Volume 10. Series Editors: Bram Vannieuwenhuyze, Iason Jongpier, and Carolina Martínez. Brill Publications, Leiden: The Netherlands. ISBN: E-Book: 978-90-04-77690-6 [13 January 2027]; Hardback: 978-90-04-77609-8 [03 February 2027]

(B) PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLE

1. 2026, Review, "India Through Iconic Maps," *Imago Mundi, The International Journal for the History of Cartography* 1-2 (2026) ISSN: 0308-5694 (Print) 1479-7801 (Online) Routledge Taylor & Francis, 78:2, [<https://doi.org/10.1080/03085694.2026.2693548>].
2. 2025, "Mapping Britain's China Border: 1861-1905," *Calcutta Historical Journal*, January-June Issue 33(1): 105-132. ISSN: 0254-9794.
3. 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.

4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 2011. Review, "The Archaic and the Exotic: Studies in the History of Indian Astronomical Instruments," *Contemporary South Asia* Routledge Taylor and Francis, 19(4): 471-479; <https://doi.org/10.1080/09584935.2011.622105>. ISSN: 0958-4935.

(C) CHAPTER IN PEER-REVIEWED BOOKS

1. 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. ISBN: 978-90-04-68515-4 (Hardback); 978-90-04-69433-0 (E-Book).
2. 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.
3. 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*, 8th South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR), Centre for Archaeological Studies, University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh, Dhaka. ISBN: 974-984-93853-0-1 (Hardback).

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS: CHAPTERS IN BOOKS

1. 2026. "India as seen on Ptolemaic maps, in Bird's-Eye views, and in Dutch cartography, 1500-1690," Swapna Liddle (ed.) *Subcontinental Cartographies*. Delhi Art Gallery (DAG), New Delhi. ISBN: [forthcoming, 2027].
2. "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, 2027].

3. "Mapping memory in Kashmir through the Graphic Form," in Navras Jaat Aafreedi and Dishani Senaratne (eds.) *Contested Memories in South Asia*, in Book Series, *Social Sciences in Asia*, De Gruyter Brill, [forthcoming, 2028].

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, [<https://www.outlookindia.com/books/how-everest-colonised-news-300874>].

SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS

(A) PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 Conference Presentation, "Where practice is made to meet theory: Mapping the 'impracticable hills' in India's north east," in *Bridging the Past and Present in Cartography*, Theme III: The Third Dimension: Representing Elevation on Maps. 31st International Conference of the History of Cartography (IHC), Charles University Prague and Masaryk University Brno 7-11th July 2026.

- 2025 Invited lecture, "*Locating Assam and the Northeast in 18th-19th century British geographic imagination*," at the Centre for Translation and Literary Geography, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, 2 September 2025.

Workshop participation, "*Map histories of a coastline*," at the International Society for the History of the Map, ISHMap III Workshop 2025, at the Campus Condorcet (Aubervilliers), Paris, France, 8-19th July 2025.

Conference presentation and participation, "Displaying Coasts: Panoramas and Manuscript Maps of Chittagong and Arakan, 1800-1850," in the International Society for the History of the Map, ISHMap VIII Symposium 2025, '*Mapping the Cultural Crossroads*', at the Campus Condorcet (Aubervilliers), Paris, France, 10-12th July 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, 17th – 19th March 2025.

Workshop Participant, "*Transcription Workshop using Wikisource*," at the School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 6th 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 (IHC), Lyon University, 1-5th 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, 5-6th 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, 10-11th 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, 10-12th 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, 12-14th 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, 28-29th 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, 21-22nd April 2022.

2021 Invited talks, Three-Day lectures on “Idea of India,” *School of Social Sciences, Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences* Bangalore, 30th November 2nd December, and 3rd December 2021.

2020 Conference Presentation “Maps and Manuals: Visual Cartography in the Indian Subcontinent 1820-1890,” at the 9th *European Society for the History of Science Conference (ESHS 2020): Visual, Material and Sensory Cultures of Science*, University of Bologna, Italy, August 31st – 3rd 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 8th 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 7th 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 21st 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, 2nd-3rd 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.

(B) PARTICIPATION

2022 Conference Participation, 'Contemporary Observatory Networks, Armagh Observatory and Planetarium Workshop', in the UK AHRC-funded Observatory Networks Workshop 4, Armagh, 8-9th September 2022.

2022 Conference Participation, 'Living and Working at the Observatory', in the UK AHRC-funded Observatory Networks Workshop 2, Greenwich, 24-25th March 2022.

2021 Conference Participation, 'Absorbing, Adapting and Influencing New Technologies', in the UK AHRC-funded Observatory Networks Workshop 1, Greenwich, 6-8th December 2021.

2020 Seminar Participation, Two-Day National Level Webinar Series: 'History & Heritage of India', at the Department of History, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, 29-30th 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, 2-7th 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, 4-5th 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 *67th 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 Assistant Professor, Department of History, Presidency University, Kolkata (Current, *w.e.f.* 12 July 2012).

2010 Guest Lecturer, Department of History, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi (*w.e.f.* 19 September 2010 – 05 May 2012).

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

2012-2013 Member, Sports Committee

2013 Member, 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

2023-2026 Convenor, Seminar Committee, Department of History, Presidency University

2025-2026 Head, Department of History, Presidency University

2026 Member, Steering Committee, PU Admissions 2026

2026 Member, Committee for Commemoration of 200 years' RN Basu

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 International Summer School, “Sites of Knowledge”, 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, ICA Commission on the History of Cartography, “Mapping Asia: Cartographic Encounters Between East and West” Leiden University, The Netherlands.

2018 Faculty Research and Professional Development Fund “FRPDF Scheme” (Government of West Bengal for PU Faculty) for International Symposium, ICA Commission on the History of Cartography, “Mapping Empires: Colonial Cartographies of Land and Sea”, 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: Bengali, Hindi

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- *International Society for the History of the Map, ISH-Map, Trustee*
- *Imago Mundi International Journal for the History of Cartography, National Representative*
- *PhD Research Academic Committee, Jadavpur University, Subject Expert*
- *Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, CSSS Kolkata, MPhil External Examiner 2020, 2022*
- *Satyendra Nath Tagore Civil Services Study Centre, Guest Teacher, Board member Mock Interviews*

REVIEWER

- *Canadian Journal of History, University of Toronto Press*
- *Central European History, Cambridge University Press*
- *Imago Mundi International Journal for the History of Cartography, Taylor & Francis*
- *Indian Journal of Spatial Science, Indian Society of Spatial Scientists IJSS, Calcutta*
- *Journal of Comparative Indian Language and Literature, University of Calcutta*
- *Law and History Review, Cambridge University Press*
- *Notes and Records, The Royal Society Journal of the History of Science, London*
- *Oxford University Press, New Delhi*
- *Springer Publications, New Delhi*
- *Survey Review, Taylor & Francis*

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, +496221544490

Prof. Dr. Hans Harder
Professor and Head, *Modern South Asian Languages and Literature*
harder@hcts.uni-heidelberg.de, +496221548926

ACADEMIC 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, +919831161589

Prof. Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty
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Presidency College, Calcutta (Retd.)
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