

Departmental Profile

History

Introduction

The Department of History is one of the oldest departments of the University of Burdwan. It came into being in 1960 with Prof. S.B. Chaudhury, the eminent historian as the Departmental Head. The faculty was impressive from the very beginning. Prof. Sumit Sarkar, Prof. Barun De, Prof. Rajat Dutta, Prof. Partha Sarathi Gupta, Prof. Diptendra Banerjee, Prof. Ranabir Chakravarty, Prof. Chittabrata Palit, Prof. Ramakanta Chakraborty, Prof. B.D. Chattopadhyay and many other historians have graced the department in the past. The department offers Masters and M.Phil courses and research programme leading to Ph.D. degree. The current student strength in Post-Graduate courses is 167 in each semester. The approved faculty strength of the department in total is 11 (2 Professors, 4 Associate Professors, 5 Assistant Professors). At present, the current faculty in position is 9 (3 Professors, 3 Associate Professors and 3 Assistant Professors). We also have 3 office-staff in the department at present.

I. DRS/SAP under UGC

The University Grants Commission had sanctioned Rs. 33 lakh (non-recurring 10 lakh + recurring 23 lakh) to the Department of History, the University of Burdwan at DRS level-I for five years from April 2007 to March 2012 under the Special Assistance Programme (SAP). The department takes pride in successfully completing the programme and achieving an upgradation to level-II under the same programme from the UGC. We have been sanctioned a grant of Rs. 53 lakhs for the period from 2013 to 2018 in the second phase under UGC SAP Level-II.

The thrust area of the DRS programme during the first phase was 'Life and Culture in Bengal: Colonial and Post-colonial Times' which was divided into five sub-themes ---- i) *the bhadrakok: their rise, decline and survival*, ii) *the women: in search for agency in history*, iii) *the tribals: caught between preservation and assimilation*, iv) *disease, medicine and society*, and v) *history of Rarh*. In the second phase at DRS level-II the thrust area is *Life & Culture in Bengal: From Pre-Modern to Contemporary Times*.

II. Visiting Professors & Fellows

We invited Visiting Professors and Fellows from amongst eminent scholars in the country and abroad on the basis of their availability under DRS programme. We were fortunate enough in having the following scholars as our Visiting Professors and Fellows during the last five years (2009 -2014).

1. Professor Deepak Kumar, ZHCES, JNU, New Delhi
2. Dr. Subhayu Chattopadhyay, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan
3. Dr. Projit Palit, Assam University, Silchar
4. Dhruv Kumar Singh, Banaras Hindu University
5. Professor Sujata Mukherjee, Rabindra Bharati University
6. Professor Chandi Prasad Nanda, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack,
7. Prof. Suchibrata Sen, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan
8. Prof. Sandip Basu Sarbadhikari, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan
9. Dr Hitendra Kumar Patel, Rabindra Bharati University, Calcutta
10. Dr. J N Sinha, Rajdhani College, New Delhi
11. Professor Parasnath Singh, Banaras Hindu University
12. Prof. Bipasha Raha, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan

III. Seminar/Workshop/Symposium

The department has been involved in organizing seminars, workshops and conferences at national and international levels since inception. Mentioned below is the list of seminars taking place in the department during the last five years (2009-2014).

- DRS National Seminar on *Interrogating Modernity in Bengal: Historical Space and Conceptual Frame*, held on March 11-12, 2010.
- A one-day National seminar on *State and Society in India* held on April 8, 2010.
- DRS National Seminar on *Rethinking Bengal: Structure, Agency and Paradigm* held on February 24-25 2011.

- Seminar organized by the Dept. of History in collaboration with M. Phil Programme on Women Studies, B.U., on the 150th birth centenary of Kadambini Ganguly on *Women: Education, Disease, Health, and Medicine* on March 6, 2011.
- 2-day International Seminar on *Bangladesh Liberation War: Implication in Contemporary History*, organized by the Dept. of History in collaboration with MAKAIAS and ICSSR on March 16-17, 2011.
- DRS National Seminar on *Biography, Autobiography and Memoir: Contextualizing Bengal* held on February 23-24, 2012.
- National Seminar on *Social Imagination of Nature: The Indian Response* held organized by the Department of History, The University of Burdwan in collaboration with *Indian Council of Historical Research*, New Delhi on March 20-21, 2013.
 - International Seminar on *India's Look East Policy* held on 18-19 Dec. 2013, organized by the department of History in collaboration with the *Indian Council of Historical Research*.

The Department also organized some Endowment Lecture Programmes during the same period. Some of the eminent historians of the country were invited to deliver those endowment lectures.

- Professor V R Muraleedharan, IIT, Madras, initiated the Dr. U N Brahmachari Memorial Lecture on *Malady in Madras: A Study in Rockefeller Intervention* on 19 December, 2008.
- Professor Chittabrata Palit delivered the Dr. U N Brahmachari Memorial Lecture on 22nd December, 2011 on 'Felix Carey'.
- The Department also organized Professor J N Sarkar Memorial Lecture. The opening lecture of this series was delivered by Professor Irfan Habib. Professor Tanika Sarkar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi spoke on '*Agun Khaki: The Debates on Immolation of Women in Colonial India*' on 21st December 2010.

Departmental Talks:

- Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt, Australia National University visited our Department on 24th December, 2010, and she delivered a talk on ‘History of Gender: A Review on Methodology’.
- Professor Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand delivered a Special Lecture on ‘Writing Dalit into the Narratives of Partition in Bengal’, in the Department of History under UGC-SAP-DRS Programme on December 13, 2011.
- Professor Mahbubur Rahman, Director, Institute of Bangladesh Studies, Rajshahi University, on “Nature and Trends of Historical Studies in Contemporary Bangladesh” on 27 January, 2011.
- Professor Biman Chand Prasad, Dean, School of Business and Economics, University of South Pacific, on “Indian Diaspora in Fiji: Political and Economic Security” on 2 November, 2011.

IV. Project (Major & Minor)

Teachers of the department are engaged in their individual capacity in various research activities along with the DRS. Their publications are testimonies to their research activities in different fields.

V. Departmental Publications & Journal

The department has been publishing its Journal titled *History* every year since 1997, which has recently been raised to the status of a refereed journal with ISSN Number. The latest issue of the departmental Journal *History Vol. XII* is in the press and will be published very soon. The department has also published two Proceedings Volume entitled *Life & Culture in Bengal: Colonial & Post-Colonial Experiences* and *The Revolt of 1857: Memory, Identity, History* based on the deliberations of different resource persons who have attended DRS National Seminars in different years during 2007-2012.

VI. Syllabus Revision

The department of History has been involved periodically in revising the syllabi and course-structure of both the under-graduate and post-graduate courses as per the guidelines set by the UGC. A major revision was made in the course structure at the post-graduate level in 2005 in order to make it compatible with the emerging fields of study. In 2014 we have undertaken a massive revision of our post graduate courses and have introduced credit-based system (CBS) of evaluation. We have tried to revise our M.A. syllabi with wholesome and integrated approach with emphasis on the following thrust areas: historiography and methodology; socio-economic and cultural history of India; women's history; history of the artisans and peasants, history of science, technology, environment and medicine (HISTEM); local history or history of South-West Bengal, etc. Revision of the under-graduate syllabi is also under process.

VII. Students Achievements in NET/SET/ Examinations & Ph.D.

Keeping in view the need to impart training in NET/SET examinations the department has been organizing NET/SET and remedial coaching for students. The success rates of students in NET/SET examinations have gone up recently, thanks to the multiple-choice objective-type pattern of the test. However, in the absence of any mechanism to maintain the record of students qualifying in such examinations, around 10 students if not more (as per unofficial information) have been reported to have qualified NET/SET examinations during the last five years 2009-2014.

The department also strives for excellence in research. The following students have been awarded Ph.D. degree in history during the last five years (2009-2014).

1. Binata Sarkar, 2010 'Malaria and Medical Intervention: Burdwan District 1860-1947'.
2. Sanjoy Mukherjee, 2014, 'British Amale Banglar Haspatal O Chikitsa Byabastha: 1835-1947' (in Bengali)
3. Swagata Sarkar, in 2013 *Transactional Position of a Caste in Bengal: The Bauris of Burdwan*
4. Pradip Mandal, in 2011, *Manbhumer Bhasha-Andolan O Jela Puruliar Paschim-Bangabhukti,*

5. Inamur Rahman, in 2010, *Struggle against Imperialism: Students' Mobilization in the District of Burdwan, 1905-1947*
6. Moumita Manna, 2011, *Hooghly Nadir Tiraborti Dui Sahar – Chunchura O Chandannagar (1632 – 1825) Ekti Artho-Samajik Parjyabekshan* (in Bengali)
7. Md. Shamim Firdous, in 2012 *Development of Education for Muslims in Bengal with special reference to Burdwan and Murshidabad from 1835 to 1947, A comparative study*

A good number of registered research scholars are currently working for their PhD degrees in the department.

VIII. Alumni Association

Our alumni association comprises a long list of individuals successful in different professional fields. They serve in various professions as wide-ranging as in teaching profession, as librarians and in different administrative services. However, though majority of them are teachers serving in different academic institutions like universities, colleges and schools of the state, a handful few have joined various administrative posts. A short list of members with experience in administrative job and university teaching is only given below-

1. Mr. Sandhi Mukherjee, Former ACP, WBP
2. Nabani Dey, WBCS Executive Officer, West Bengal
3. Goutam Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, SKBU
4. Dr. Mrinal Chattopadhyay, Principal, Kankra College
5. Dr. Debabrata Ghosh, Principal, Balaparh College
6. Prof. Achintya Dutta, Professor of History, B.U.
7. Prof. Pradip Chattopadhyay, Professor of History, B.U.
8. Dr. Malabika Ray, Associate Professor of History, B.U.
9. Dr. Binata Sarkar, Assistant Professor of History, B.U.

IX. Faculty Publications in last five years (2009-14)

Research and publication have always received a special attention in the department.

Prof Arabinda Samanta

Books:

1. *The Revolt of 1857: Memory Identity History*, edited jointly with Arup Kumar Chattopadhyay and Syed Tanveer Nasreen, Kolkata, 2009.
2. *Life and Culture in Bengal: Colonial and Post-Colonial Experiences*, edited jointly with Syed Tanveer Nasreen and Aparajita Dhar, Progressive Publishers, Kolkata, 2011.

Book Chapters:

1. 'Physicians, Forceps and Childbirth: Technological Intervention in Reproductive Health in Colonial Bengal', in Poonam Bala ed. *Medicine and Colonialism*, Pickering and Chatto: London, 2014.
2. 'Negotiating Subalternity: Social Construction of Tuberculosis in Colonial and Post-colonial India' in *Medical Encounters in British India*, eds. Deepak Kumar and Rajsekhar Basu, Oxford University Press: New Delhi, 2013.
3. 'Historical Trajectory of a Colonial Scientist: Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy', in Amitava Chatterjee ed. *People at Large: Popular Culture in Modern Bengal*, Setu: Kolkata, 2012.
4. 'Malarial Fever in Nineteenth Century Bengal', in Poonam Bala ed. *Contesting Colonial Authority: Medicine and Indigenous Responses in Nineteenth- and Twentieth- Century India*, Lexington Books, Maryland, U.S, 2012.
5. 'Dhorai Charitmanas: Reading Subalternity into a Literary Text', In Priyadashi Chakrabarti ed. *History in Literature Or Literature as History: The Issue Revisited*, Levant Books, Kolkata, 2012.

6. 'Dams and Development: Social Costs of Unsettling the Settlers', in Ashim Kumar Sarkar and Kaushik Chakraborty eds. *New Aspects on Indian History: Local, Regional, National*, Readers Service: Kolkata, 2011.
7. 'Plague and Prophylactics: Interrogating Colonial medical Intervention in Eastern India', in Arun Bandopadhyay ed. *Science and Society in India, 1750-2000*, Manohar, New Delhi, 2010.

Papers:

1. 'Smallpox in Nineteenth-Century Bengal', in *Indian Journal of History of Science*, vol. 47, no. 2, June 2012, 211-240
2. 'Help Fight malaria in Bengal: A Study in the Intervention of Rockefeller Foundation', in *The Bulletin of Rockefeller Archive Center*, 2011

Review Article

1. 'Asprisyader Samajik Andolan' on Sekhar Bandyopadhyay's book *Caste, Protest and Identity in Colonial Bengal: The Namasudras of Bengal, 1872-1947*, OUP, 2011, in *Ananda Bazaar Patrika*, 29 September, 2012

Prof. Achintya Kumar Dutta

Articles in journals:

1. 'Fighting the Fever: The Return of Kala-azar in India', *Wellcome History*, Issue 43, Spring 2010, Wellcome Trust Centre for History of Medicine at UCL, London, pp. 2-3.
2. 'Fighting the fever', *The Statesman*, 18 February 2011.
3. "Rice trade in the 'rice bowl of Bengal': Burdwan 1880-1947", *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, 49,1 (2012): 73-104.
4. 'Desio Projukti O Karigari Silpo: Ouponibsik Juge Rarh Banglar Karmakar Karigar', (in Bengali), *Adhyapak Tarashankar Banerjee Smarak Baktrita* 2009 (Indigenous

- Technique and Artisanal Industry: Blacksmith Artisans of Rarh Bengal during Colonial Period, Occasional Paper titled Professor Tarashankar Banerjee Endowment Lecture, 2009), Kolkata: Ashadip and Suri Vidyasagar College, Suri, Birbhum, 2012, pp. 1-31.
5. 'Riddhiman Bardhaman' (Prosperous Burdwan), *Lokbharati* (in Bengali), new edition, 1st year, No. IV, October-December, 2012, Burdwan, pp. 35-50.

Articles in Books:

1. "Medical Research and Control of disease: Kala-azar in British India" in Biswamoy Pati and Mark Harrison (eds.), *The Social History of Health and Medicine in Colonial India*, Routledge, Oxon, 2009, pp. 93-112.
2. 'Itihaser Rajbari' O Rajbarir Itihas' in *Subarna Sambhar: Panchasher Aloke Bardhaman Viswavidyalaya*, Burdwan, 2010 (in Bengali), pp. 11-28.
3. 'Social Mobility of an Entrepreneurial Caste: The Ugra Kshatriyas of Rarh Bengal' in Arabinda Samanta et al (eds.), *Life and Culture in Bengal: Colonial and Post-colonial Experiences*, Kolkata, 2011, pp. 19-41.
4. 'Vardhamaner Karigari Silpo: Kanchannagar O Kamarpara' (Artisanal Industry of Burdwan: Kanchannagar and Kamarpara), in Jyotirmoy Bhattacharyay and Giridhari Sarkar (eds.), *Bardhaman Itihas Sandhan* (in Bengali), Dey's Publishing, Kolkata, 2012, pp. 165-179.
5. 'Indigenous Technique and Artisanal Works: Blacksmiths in Colonial Rarh Bengal' in Nupur Dasgupta and Amit Bhattacharyay (eds), *Essays in the History of Science, Technology and Medicine*, Kolkata: Setu, January 2014, pp. 159-91.
6. "Kala-azar" in Alexander Medcalf and Sanjoy Bhattacharya (eds.), *Tropical Diseases: Lessons from History*, Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan Pvt Ltd, 2014, pp. 104-105.

Book Review:

1. Siddhartha Guha Roy, *Calcutta Tramwaymen: A Study of Working class History 1920-1967*, Kolkata, 2007, in *Quarterly Review of Historical Studies*, Vol. 46, Nos. 1 & 2, 2009.

2. Arun Bandopadhyay (ed.), *Science and Society in India 1750-2000*, New Delhi: Manohar, 2010, in *History*, Vol. X, 2011.

Prof. Pradip Chattopadhyay

Book - *Re-defining Tribal Identity: A Probe into the Changing Identity of the Santals of Southwest Bengal*, Primus Books, New Delhi, 2014.

Book Chapters

1. “Santali Language & the Question of Identity in Post-Partition West Bengal” in (ed.), Vol. *Life & Culture in Bengal*, Progressive Publisher, Kolkata, 2011.
2. “Changing Cultural Life of the Santals in the Post-Independence Period”, in (ed.), Vol. *Tribal People*, Rachayita, Kolkata, 2012.
3. “Shifting Strands of the Santal Movement in Bengal during the Colonial Period”, in (ed.), Vol. *Tribal Protest Movement in the 18th & 19th Century*, Amod Publisher, Purulia, 2012
4. “Oupanebeshik O Swadhinattor Amale Purba Bharater Adivasider Niye Kichu Bhavna”, in (ed.), Vol. *Unis O' Bis Satake Bangla* (in Bengali), Progressive Publisher, Kolkata, 2012
5. “Swami Vivekananda: A Source of Philosophical and Cultural Synthesis”, in (ed.), Vol. *Swami Vivekananda and National Integration*, Delta World, New Delhi, 2013
6. “A Study in the Changing Trends of the Socio-Cultural Life of the Santals”, in (ed.), Vol. *The Study of Social History: Recent Trends*, Progressive Publisher, Kolkata, 2013.
7. “A Review on Nehru’s Experiments on Democracy in Independent India”, Seminar Proceedings Volume, *Indian National Congress, From Party to Movement*, Magra, 2012.

Mr. Sudit Krishna Kumar

- **Book chapter**

‘Contextualizing Bankruptcy in a Colonial Set Up: The Insolvency of Mohes Chunder Dutt in 1853’, in Arabinda Samanta, Syed Tanveer Nasreen, Aparajita Dhar (eds.), *Life and Culture in Bengal: Colonial and Post-Colonial Experiences*, Progressive Publishers, Kolkata, 2011.

- **Singly edited journal**

History, Vol. X, Journal of the Department of History, B.U., Burdwan, 2011.

Dr. Malabika Ray

Book Chapters-

1. *The great revolt of 1857 and the changing perceptions of the nineteenth century Bengali intellectuals*, **The revolt of 1857 Memory Identity History**, Edited by Arabinda Samanta and Others, Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies, The University of Burdwan, West Bengal, 2009.

2. *The Revolt of 1857 and some recent Bengali Novels*, **Continuities of civil rebellion in the Indian Mutinies**, Edited by Chittabrata Palit, Institute of Historical Studies, 2009.

3. *Revisiting the revolt of 1857 through Bengali Literature*, **Life and Culture of Bengal**, Edited by Arabanda Samanta and others, Progressiv publishers, 2011.

4. *Changing Bengalee attitudes to the revolt of 1857*, **Excavating the Revolt 1857**, Edited by Chittabrata Palit and Anuradha Roy, B.R. Publishing Corporation, New Delhi, 2011.

Dr Syed Tanveer Nasreen

a) **Edited Volumes**

Jointly Edited

- i) Arabinda Samanta, Arup Chattopadhyay, Syed Tanveer Nasreen (eds) : *The Revolt of 1857Memory Identity History*, Kolkata, 2009

- ii) Arabinda Samanta, Syed Tanveer Nasreen , Aparajita Dhar(eds) : *Life and Culture In Bengal Colonial and Postcolonial Experiences*, Kolkata 2011 ISBN : 978-81-8064-190-9

Singly Edited

- i) HISTORY, Vol XI, 2012 ISSN
- b) **Translated Autobiography**(annotated text) :
Sethu Ramaswamy, Ek Ajana Bharatiya Narir Atmakatha, Ekti Saksatkar-saha Anubad ,
 Dey's Publishing & School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 2011
 ISBN 978-81-295-1362-5

Refereed Journals:

- i) 'Women in Kautilya's Arthasastra : Some Glimpses', Journal of the Department of Sanskrit, B.U., Vol VI & VII, August 2010.
- ii) 'Bengali Muslims at Cross-roads : Women and Early Encounters with Contemporaneity', in Swarupa Gupta(ed) *Nationhood and Identity Movements in South Asia* , Asia Annual 2010, (pubd by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute Of Asian Studies), Manohar, New Delhi, 2012, ISBN 978-81-7304-960-6

Proceedings Volume:

- i) 'Arthasastra : Prachin Bharate Manabi-bishayak Pratarker Ekti Darpan', *Itihas Anusandhan*, Vol 24, 2010.
- ii) 'Foretelling Modernity : The *Tuzuq-i- Jahangiri* and the Scientific Spirit of a Romantic Emperor', *Bharat Vidya*, Vol IX, 2010.
- iii) 'Bangali Musalman Mahila : Atmanusandhaner Preksite Sofia Khatun, BA', *Itihas Anusandhan*, Vol 26, 2012, ISBN 978-81-910874-2-0

Research Publication:

- i) 'From Woe to War: The Economic Background of 1857', in Arabinda Samanta, Arup Chattopadhyay, Syed Tanveer Narveen (ed) *The Revolt of 1857 Memory Identity History*, Kolkata 2009

- ii) 'Voices from two Villages', in Jasodhara Bagchi and Subhorajan Dasgupta (ed.) *The Trauma and the Trirumph Gender and Partition in Easteen India* Vol. 2, Kolkata 2009
- iii) 'Rokeya Sakhawat Hasein: Chintaner Parampara', in Urjaani, *Satabarsher Smarak Geantha*, Centenary Commemoration Volume of Sakhawat Memorial Girls' High School, Kolkata, 2010.
- iv) 'Kautilyer Arthasastre Narir Abasthan', in Basabi Chakraborty (ed) *Nariprithibi Bahusvar*, Kolkata 2011. ISBN: 978-93-80648-10-1

Book Reviews:

- i) Review Bhaskar Chattopadhyay (ed) *Bharata Vidya VIII Essays on Art and Society in Indian Context*, Burdwan 2009, published in *Socialist Perspective, A Quarterly Journal of Social Sciences*, Vol 38, No. 1-2, Kolkata, June-Sep, 2010. ISSN 0970-8863

Dr. Aparajita Dhar

List of Articles

1. *Male Physicians in the Domain of Women's Reproductive Health in Colonial Bengal in Life and Culture in Bengal : Colonial and Post-colonial Experience*, edited by Prof. Arabinda Samanta, Dr. Syed Tanveer Nasrin and Dr. Aparajita Dhar, 2011.
2. *Indigeneous Medicine and Women's Health in Nineteenth Century Colonial Bengal* in the Departmental Journal of History, Burdwan University, Vol. 10, 2011.
3. *Western Gynaecology and Bengali Male Physicians* in *Clio* Published by the Corpus Research Institute, Kolkata, 2010.

Edited Book: Arabinda Samanta, Syed Tanveer Nasreen, Aparajita Dhar, (eds): *Life and Culture In Bengal Colonial and Postcolonial Experiences*, Kolkata 2011. ISBN: 978-81-8064-190-9

Dr. Binata Sarkar

Book chapter

- Malaria fever and its control in Burdwan district: A critique on colonial health policy in Arabinda Samanta, Syed Tanveer Nasreen & Aparajita Dhar ed. *Life and culture in Bengal. Colonial and Post Colonial Experience, Kolkata, April, 2011.*

Proceeding Volume

- Embankments Ecological Degradation: A case study of Malarial Fever in Burdwan (1860-1930) in *Environica, vol.I Kolkata, December 2014.*

Dr. Suvabrata Sarkar (Joined on 22nd July, 2014)

Article in Peer-reviewed International Journal:

- 'In Pursuit of *Laxmi*: Entrepreneurship, Industry and Technology in Colonial Bengal', *Archiv Orientalni/ Oriental Archive: Journal of African and Asian Studies*, Vol. 82, No.2, 2014, pp. 263-95. [ISSN 0044-8699]