



Dr. Jayita Sengupta

Present Affiliation:

Professor and Head, Department of English at Cooch Behar Panchanan Barma University.

Previous Experience

17 years of teaching experience in substantive posts.

Academic Qualifications

- M.Phil (1994) and PhD (2002) in English Literature from Jamia Millia University, New Delhi.
- Masters in English from University of Calcutta (1991).
- Graduation with English Honours from Loreto College, Calcutta University (1988)

Fellowships & Awards

International

1. Fulbright Nehru Award and a teaching fellow at the Comparative Literature Department of the Stanford University, USA for the winter semester in 2013.
2. Visiting Fellow at Illinois Wesleyan University, USA, 2013.
3. British Council Fellow in 2000, with the Charles Wallace Grant.
4. Visiting Fellow at Soochow University and National Kaoshiung Normal University, Taiwan in 2013.

5. Fellowship to participate in the SARI Colloquium in the University of Paris 13 in 2016 and 2017.

National

1. Doctoral fellowship from ASRC, Hyderabad (now renamed as Osmania University Center for International Programs) in 1999.
2. Research Grant from the Indian Association of Canadian Studies in 2004.
3. Was Artiste in residence at the Arcs-of-a-circle Artistes residency, funded by USEFI, in collaboration with Akshara Centre, at Mumbai, December 2017.
4. Jayita Sengupta's English translation, *Gandharvi: Life of a Musician* (2017) of a novel by Bani Basu is the First Runners Up, for Muse India Translation Award, 2017-18.

Professional Association

1. Life member of the Indian Association for Commonwealth Language and Literature Studies (IACLALS).
2. Member of the British Council Literary Forum.
3. Life member of the Osmania University Center for International Programs (OUCIP), Hyderabad.
4. Member of The Society for Utopian Studies and SARI, France, an international organization.
5. Secretary of the Caesurae Collective Society, a non-profit international organization devoted to academic and creative activities.
6. Managing & Chief Editor of *Caesurae: poetics of Cultural Translation*, an international peer reviewed e journal, www.caesurae.org (ISSN 2454-9495; UGC Approved, *Serial No: 118; Journal No: 41668*).
7. Referee for Journals: *Postcolonial Text* and the *Journal of Gender Studies* (Taylor & Francis).

Invited Presentations & Lectures

1. 'Translating Calcutta' at a National Seminar on Translation and Socio-Literary Perspectives at Jamia Millia Islamia University, in association with CIIL, Mysore, 2004.
2. 'Comparative Study between the Narratives of Indian English Literature and Bengali Literature' at a National Seminar on "A Study of Narratives of Bengali and Other Indian Literatures" organized by Belur Math Ramakrishna Mission, Howrah, 2006.

3. 'Ray's narrative vision and synaesthetic appreciation of Tagore in Ghare Bairey', at a Sahitya Akademi national conference, in collaboration with the Dept. of English, Jamia Millia University in Delhi, November 2006.
4. 'Author as Maker: Dialectics of self-translation' at a U.G.C National Seminar on 'Author as Translator', in the Dept. of English, Jamia Millia University, New Delhi, March 2008.
5. 'Translation and Publication Houses' – at an International Conference organized by the Dept. of English, Vidyasagar University, February 2009.
6. 'The House of Kanooru: The writer and his canvas' at a Sahitya Akademi National Seminar on Kuvempu, September 2011.
7. Delivered a lecture at the American Centre, Kolkata on "17th Century American prose and the historical perspective" at a National Seminar on 17th Century American & British prose, November 2011.
8. Delivered a series of seminar lectures to the graduate students of Lady Brabourne College on Orwell (*Nineteen Eighty Four*), Mary Shelley (*Frankenstein*), James Joyce (*A Portrait of the Artist...*), Anita Desai, Gender Theory & Criticism, 2011-12.
9. Delivered a series of lectures to the senior graduate students of W.B. State University on Postcolonial theory and Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children*, 2012.
10. Delivered lectures in a short-term course for research scholars, titled: "The Futural Critical Constellations: The Cultural Politics of the Neo-empire.", September 2012.
11. Delivered three Lectures on:
 - 'Narratives of Childhood", November 2012;
 - "Postcolonialism and new Cultural formations", September 2013;
 - Travel narratives, November 2014,

at the Refresher Courses, in Sambalpur university.

12. Invited to give a special lecture at the Centre for South Asian Studies, Stanford University on "Translating Gender: Music, Myth and Desire in India", February 2013.
13. Invited to give two Lectures on Translation and Indian Feminism at Illinois Wesleyan University, 2013.
14. Invited to give lectures to foreign PhD scholars in an exchange Programme at Visva Bharati University on Partition Literature, January 2014.

15. Chaired the Valedictory and was the organizing secretary for the National Workshop-cum-seminar on “Memory and Cultural Translation: Poetry and Praxis” at Sikkim University, November 2014.
16. Spoke on literary trends in modern Bengali fiction, chaired a session and read from one's own short story collection in the making at the Sahitya Akademi National Short Story Festival, February 2015, Gangtok.
17. Invited for a plenary lecture on “Configuring the Common Man ...” at the International Conference on the same theme at Amrita University, Coimbatore, January 2016.
18. Chaired a session on translation and publication at the Hyderabad Literary Festival, 2015, spoke on ‘Translating into English, Bani Basu’s *Gandharvi* in 2016.
19. Invited by Sahitya Akademi to speak on Orality, Literacy and Translation in a National seminar on Orality and Tradition, Department of Nepali, Sikkim University, 2016.
20. Invited by Sahitya Akademi to speak on Literature from Conflict Zones in Jammu University, at a Conference on the same theme in 2016.
21. Invited to presentations in two back to back conferences on “Translating Cultures” and the “Role Translation in a Multilingual Democracy” at Osmania University, 20th and 21st March 2017.
22. Invited by Sahitya Akademi to speak on the “Sense of Displacement in Eastern Indian Literature”. Spoke on Bengali Fiction, September 2017.

Major Research Interests

Cultural Studies, Post-colonial studies and Gender Studies.

Publications

Around 40 research papers in various national and international journals and six books.

Books

1. English translation of *Gandharvi: Life of a Musician*, (Orient Blackswan, 2017).
2. *Barbed Wire: Borders and Partitions in South Asia* (London, New York, New Delhi: Routledge, 2012).
3. *Refractions of Desire: Feminist Perspectives in the Novels of Toni Morrison, Michele Roberts and Anita Desai* (New Delhi: Atlantic, 2006).

4. *The Muffled Heart: Stories of the Disempowered Male*, a collection of short stories in English translation from various Indian languages along with original contributions in English, substantiated with an introduction (New Delhi: Rupa, 2005), co-edited with Niladri R. Chatterjee.
5. Translation from Bengali to English of a travelogue *In That Bengal* by Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay (New Delhi: Foundation for SAARC Writers & Literature, 2005).
6. *Relationships*, Stories of Sirshendu Mukhopadhyay in English translation (Kolkata: Writers Workshop, 2003).

Recent Research publications in journals

1. “Orality, Literacy and Translation” in *Lokaratna Journal of the Folklore Foundation, Orissa, 2017.*
2. “Gendered Realities of the Common Man: Some Cultural Narratives from Kolkata, post 1950s” in a volume on *Configuring the Common Man: Trends and Perspectives in Contemporary Indian Writing*, edited by Harini Jayraman *et al.* Author’s Press, 2016.
3. “Buddha in New Resurrections: A Comparative Analysis of the *Birth of the Maitreya* and the *Buddhas of the Celestial Gallery*” in *Indan Births and Western Rebirths of The Jataka Tales* edited by Michel Naumann, Geetha Ganapathy Dore and Ludmila Volna, published by Rouen University Press, 2018. (online link: <http://publis-shs.univ-rouen.fr/eriac/index.php?id=200>)

RESEARCH GUIDANCE

M.Phil

1. “Narrative Fissures: A Study of the Contemporary Cultural Trends in Sikkim” by Karma Chopel Bhutia, 2016, in Sikkim University.
2. “Nepali Folk Songs as a Repository of Cultural Identities” by Gaurav Tamang, 2016, in Sikkim University.

UGC RESEARCH PROJECTS COMPLETED

- “Gender in the city: Novels by Bani Basu” (For Minor Research Project).
- Convener of an Educational Innovation Project (U.G.C. funded) which involved students and teachers from English, History and Sociology, in South Calcutta Girls College, Calcutta University, on “The Anglo-Indian Community in Kolkata in the late nineteenth and twentieth century”- 2011.

Ongoing Research Projects

1. Exploring Narrative Dimensions: History, Memory and Time (near completion).
2. Scroll Paintings and Cultural Reformulations.

Besides being an academic, Jayita Sengupta is also a painter. Her visual art presentation, titled “Shivelight”, was first presented in the Arcs-of-a-Circle, Artistes Residency, Mumbai where she was fellow in residence in December 2017 and at the Art Exhibition organized by Saviskar at the Noti Binodini Art Gallery, Star Theatre, Kolkata in January 2018 along with her other paintings.