

Swati Moitra

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Areas of Research/Teaching Interest

Book history and histories of reading, print culture in 19th century India and beyond

Women's histories

Digital and internet cultures

Early Indian Writing in English

Education

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

2010-2016

PhD in English Studies

Thesis: *Thief of Time: Women and Reading in Colonial Bengal, 1849-1905*

Supervisor: Professor GJV Prasad

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

2008-2010

M.Phil in English Studies

Thesis: *"This Little Book": Reading Govinda Samanta*

Supervisor: Professor GJV Prasad

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

2006-2008

M.A in English Studies

8.5/9 CGPA

Lady Brabourne College, University of Calcutta

2003-2006

B.A in English Literature

First Class Honours

Scholarships/Awards

Sahapedia-UNESCO Project Fellow, 2017-2018

Charles Wallace India Trust (Short-Term) Fellow, 2013

Junior Research Fellow (JRF), University Grants Commission (UGC), 2008

Post-Graduate Merit Fellowship for University Rank Holders for PG Programs, UGC, 2006

Ranked third in B.A (Hons) in English Literature, University of Calcutta, 2006

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Gurudas College, University of Calcutta (May 2017-Present)

Assistant Professor (on ad hoc basis), Department of English, Miranda House, University of Delhi (July 2011-May 2017)

Assistant Professor (on ad hoc basis), Department of English, Shivaji College, University of Delhi (January 2011-May 2011)

Research Publications

(2021, Forthcoming.) Co-editor, Ruchi Sharma. *Who's Afraid of Women's Writing?* Worldview Publications: New Delhi.

(2020, August). Those Backward Hordes: Representing the Indian Peasant as a 'Rebel' in Early Indian Fiction in English. *Postgraduate English: A Journal And Forum For Postgraduates In English*, 0(40). ISSN 1756-9761. Available at: <<http://community.dur.ac.uk/postgraduate.english/ojs/index.php/pgenglish/article/view/251/205>>. (Peer Reviewed Journal, Open Access)

(2020, December). A Nineteenth Century Bengali Housewife and Her Robinson Crusoe Days: Travel as Intimacy in Kailashbhashini Debi's 'The Diary of a Housewife'. *Feminismo/s*. 36.

(Departures and Arrivals: Women, Mobility, and Traveling Writing Special Issue). ISSN: 1989-9998. Available at: <<https://doi.org/10.14198/fem.2020.36.03>> (Peer Reviewed Journal, Open Access)

(2020, December). Co-writer, Rukmini Pande. "Whose "representation" is it anyway? Contemporary Debates in Femslash Fandoms," in *Fandom, Now in Color: A Collection of Voices*. University of Iowa Press: Iowa. (Chapter in a Book)

(2019). Emergence of the Modern Autobiography. In, Malhotra, Meenakshi. *Claiming the I: Autobiographies from Across the Spectrum*. Worldview Critical Edition. New Delhi: Worldview.

(2018). The Workers of Battala. In *Battala Print Culture*, Sahapedia.
<https://www.sahapedia.org/the-workers-of-battala>

(2018). The World of Battala Print. In *Battala Print Culture*, Sahapedia.
<https://www.sahapedia.org/the-world-of-battala-print>

(2017). Reading Together: 'Communitarian Reading' and Women Readers in Colonial Bengal. *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*. 32: 3 (Contested Terrains: Women of Color and Third World Women, Feminisms, and Geopolitics Special Issue), 627-643. DOI:
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/hypa.12345>.

(2017). Co-writer, Rukmini Pande. Racial Dynamics of Online Femslash Fandoms. *Transformative Works and Cultures*, 24 (Queer Female Fandom Issue). DOI:
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3983/twc.2017.0908>

(2016). Goddesses and Mortals: Rashesundari Debi and the *Grihalakshmi's* Work. In Malhotra, Meenakshi, *Women's Writing in the Nineteenth Century*. 161-176. Worldview Publications: New Delhi.

(2015, June-December). Woman's Work, Woman's Time: Rasasundari Debi and Reading For Pleasure in *My Story*. *GD Goenka Journal of Applied Psychology*. 1:2, 53-59.

(2015, May-June). Review: Mahatma Gandhi and Prema Kantak by Meera Kosambi. *Indian Literature*. LVIII:1, 191-194.

(2013). Trans. Chaudhuri, Soumyabrata. আশ্বেদকার বনাম অ্যারিস্টটলঃ রাজনীতি সক্ষম কে? (Amedkar contra Aristotle: On a possible contention about who is capable of politics), in Charyapada, June 2013.

(2011.) Where the Heart is: Musings on Exile in Ahmed Ali's *Ocean of Night* in Arvind M. Nawale (ed) *Post-Independence Indian English Fiction*. New Delhi: Anmol Publications.

Presentations/Invited Lectures/Webinars

(2021, February). Songs for the Goddess: Tracing the Veneration of Manasa and Chandi in Early Modern Bengal. Paper presented at the Association of Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference Online, 21-26 February. (International Conference, Web)

(2021, February). Shaping the 'Neighbourhood of Books': The Sanskrit Press and the Making of Calcutta's College Street. Paper presented at an international conference on Places, spaces and the printing press: imprinting regional identities, co-organized by the Centre for Printing History and Culture, Birmingham UK and National and University Library, Ljubljana, Slovenia, 24 March. (International Conference, Web)

(2021, January). 'Looking' North-East: Implementing the National Education Policy 2020 and Its Challenges. Paper co-presented with Gourab Ghosh, at a NAAC-sponsored national conference on Higher Education in North-East India: Trends, Opportunities and Challenges, organized by Tetso College, Dimapur, Nagaland, 22 - 23 January. (National Conference, Web)

(2020, November). Padmavati of the Oceans: Syed Alaol's Migrant Epic. Paper presented at an international conference on Cosmopolitan Cultures and Oceanic Thought: Thinking Through History Across the Waters, co-organized by the Department of English, Jamia Milia Islamia, and Centre for Indian Studies in Africa, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa, 23-25 November. (International Conference, Web)

(2020, November). Oedipus and I: Revisiting Classical Greek Theatre in the Age of Covid-19. Lecture Conducted at the PG Studies Webinar, organised by DOT Talks, Tetso College, Dimapur, 18 November. (State Level Webinar, Invited)

(2020, September). Oedipus and the Plague: Reading Classical Literature in the Age of Covid-19. Lecture conducted at the Online Lecture Series 2020, organised by Subhash Chandra Bose Centenary College, Murshidabad, 20 September. <https://youtu.be/WA2QJ6K4hyY> (State Level Webinar, Invited)

(2020, September). Online Shikkha: Kichhu Asha o Ashonka (অনলাইন শিক্ষা: কিছু আশা ও আশঙ্কা). Lecture conducted at the one day State Level Webinar on Online Teaching and Its Ramifications for Higher Education in India, organised by Swarnamoyee Jogendranath Mahavidyalaya, 6 September. <https://youtu.be/MoMENw1eaLs> (State Level Webinar, Invited)

(2020, August). Otimari o Oedipus: Phire Dekha (অতিমারী ও ইডিপাস: ফিরে দেখা). Lecture conducted at the three day International Webinar on Socialising Distance: Pandemic and Evolving Human Relations (দূরত্বের সামাজিকীকরণ: মহামারী ও মানবসম্পর্ক) organised by the Department of Bengali, the Bhawanipore Education Society College, Kolkata, 31 July-2 August. <https://sites.google.com/thebgcs.edu.in/thebescbengaliwebinar1> (International Webinar, Invited)

(2020, August). Flesh and Blood: Reading Women's Bodies in the Writings of Rassundari Dasi and Mahashweta Devi. Lecture conducted at a webinar organised by the Department of English, Acharya Girish Chandra Bose College, Kolkata, 18 August. (State Level Webinar, Invited)

(2020, July). Online Education and Its Discontents. Lecture conducted at the four day National Webinar on Higher Education in a Pandemic (কোভিড ১৯ অতিমারি এবং উচ্চশিক্ষা), organised by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Sadhanchandra Mahavidyalaya, 6-9 July. (National Webinar, Invited)

(2020, July). Alash Pathik Brittanta (অলস পাঠিকা বৃত্তান্ত). Lecture conducted at the Webinar on Nineteenth-Twentieth Century Bengal: Society and Culture, An Interdisciplinary Discourse (উনবিংশ-বিংশ শতকের বাংলা: সমাজ ও সংস্কৃতি, একটি আন্তঃবিষয়ক চর্চা), organised by the Department of History, Sadhanchandra Mahavidyalaya, 25 July. (State Level Webinar, Invited)

(2020, May). Fake News and New Media Networks. Panel Discussion with Kajori Sen and Rukmini Pande at a special panel organised by the Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities, O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, 20 May. (National Webinar, Invited)

(2020, May). Confession as Disruption: Considering the Politics of #Me Too Narratives. Paper presented at the International Webinar on The Politics of Women's Writing organized by the Department of English, Bharati College, University of Delhi, 26-27 May. (International Webinar)

(2020, March). River of Print: The Connected Histories of Print in Nineteenth Century Benares and Calcutta. Lecture conducted from INLANSO, Varanasi, 9 March. (Invited Lecture)

(2020, February). Pirates and Poets: Language and Identities in the Early Modern Bay of Bengal Region. Paper presented at the IACLALS Annual Conference, co-hosted by the Department of English, Jadavpur University, February 6-8. (International Conference)

(2020, January). Literary Histories, Digital Futures. Paper presented at #DHARTITwitterConf2020: Innovating for DH in India, Twitter, 19 January. (International Conference)

(2020, January). The Afterlives of #MeToo. Paper presented at the National Conference on Women's Issues and Everyday Life: Power, Resistance and Representation, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata, 10-11 January. (National Conference)

(2019, October). Spirituality and Scandal: Kashi as a Trope in Nineteenth-Century Bengali Popular Literature. Lecture conducted from the Alice Boner Institute (Library), Assi Ghat, Varanasi, 23 October. (Invited Lecture)

(2019, September). Nonsense and Popular Culture. Lecture conducted from Surendranath College, University of Calcutta, 17 September. (Invited Lecture)

(2019, March). The Travels of 'Robinson Kurush': Travel as Intimacy in Kailashbashini Debi's *The Diary of a Housewife*. Paper presented at the Association of Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Denver, USA, 21-24 March. (International Conference)

(2019, March). Indian Writing in English: An Overview. Lecture conducted from K.K. Das College, University of Calcutta, 13 March. (Invited Lecture)

(2019, February). The End of Fiction. Paper presented at the IACLALS Annual Conference, co-hosted by the Department of English, University of Pondicherry, February 6-8. (International Conference)

(2018, July). One Step Backwards: Rumour and the Whatsapp Forward in Post-Truth India. Paper presented at the Association of Asian Studies (AAS) in Asia Conference, in collaboration with Ashoka University, New Delhi, India. (International Conference)

(2018, March). Reading Together: Cultures of Reading in Nineteenth Century Bengal. In 20th Century British and Irish Area Seminar. Lecture conducted from University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA.

(2018, March). The Exotic and the Banal: Women and Consumption in 19th Century Calcutta. Paper presented at the Association of Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference, Washington DC, USA.

(2018, February). Tolerating Tagore: Reading and Re-reading. Paper presented at the Indian Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (IACLALS) Annual Conference, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh.

(2018, January). Reading Aloud and the Cultures of Reading in the Bengali *antahpur* in the Nineteenth Century. Paper presented at the Fifth International Congress of Bengal Studies, University of Jahangirnagar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

(2018, January). The Pursuit of Laziness: A Brief History of Women's Reading Practices in Nineteenth Century Bengal. In Bangladesh History Association, *Dialogues in History: Women's Literary Space, Identity, and Diaspora*. Lecture conducted from University of Dhaka, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

(2016, March.) "Yes, the Evil Queen is Latina!". Paper presented at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA) Annual Conference, Seattle, Washington, USA

(2016, January). Courtroom Drama: The "*swadeshi jatra*" and its Colonial Audience. Paper presented at the Indian Society of Theatrical Research (ISTR) Annual Conference, Panjim, Goa.

Faculty Development Program

(2019, July-October). Text, Textuality and Digital Media. NPTEL-AICTE Faculty Development Program, conducted by Dr. Arjun Ghosh (IIT Delhi), July-October 2019. (FDP)

Professional Development Workshops

(2019, June). One Day Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights. Organized by the Research Cell in Collaboration with IQAC, Gurudas College, 22 June. (Workshop)

(2019, June). One Day Faculty Workshop on Bloom's Taxonomy. Organized by the Department of Education in collaboration with IQAC, Gurudas College, 22 June. (Workshop)

(2019, June). One Day Faculty Workshop on Research Methodology. Organized by the Department of Statistics in collaboration with IQAC, Gurudas College, 24 June. (Workshop)

Conference Organization

Member of the Program Committee for the SHARP Annual Conference 2021 Online, Hosted virtually by the University of Muenster, in collaboration with the Law and Literature research group (DFG SFB 1385)

Member of the Organizing Committee for the National Young Researchers' Conference, Center for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 2011

Selected Popular Publications

English

(2019, September). City of Print, in *Indian Cultural Forum*, 23 September, 2019.

<https://archive.indianculturalforum.in/2019/09/23/city-of-print/>

(2018, May). In viral photo of two arms embracing a young woman in green, Kolkata has betrayed its liberal image, in *Scroll.in*. 06 May, 2018.

<https://scroll.in/article/877967/liberal-tolerant-kolkata-not-true-going-by-this-viral-image-of-a-couple-attacked-on-the-metro>

(2017, November.) At last, a Bengali tells captivating stories about Bengalis, without self-delusion or sentimentality, in *Scroll.in*. 18 November, 2017.

<https://scroll.in/article/858278/at-last-a-bengali-tells-captivating-stories-about-bengalis-without-self-delusion-or-sentimentality>

(2017, October.) Sexual Misconduct on Indian Campuses: The name and shame list always existed in whispers and rumours, in *Scroll.in*. 28 October, 2017.

<https://scroll.in/article/855702/sexual-misconduct-on-indian-campuses-the-name-and-shame-list-always-existed-in-whispers-and-rumours>

বাংলা

(২০১৯, ফেব্রুয়ারি) | যুবরাজ ও বঙ্গললনা (দ্বিতীয় পর্ব), **চার নম্বর প্ল্যাটফর্ম** | ১ ফেব্রুয়ারি, ২০১৯ |

(২০১৯, জানুয়ারি) | যুবরাজ ও বঙ্গললনা (প্রথম পর্ব), **চার নম্বর প্ল্যাটফর্ম** | ১ জানুয়ারি, ২০১৯ |
<https://4numberplatform.com/?p=9793>

(২০১৮, অগস্ট) | মহেশ লাইবেরী, **গুরুচান্দালি** | ২৪ অগস্ট, ২০১৮ |
<http://www.guruchandali.com/default/2018/08/24/1535049546460.html>

(২০১৮, জুন) | বটতলার ধ্বংসস্তুপ থেকে, **চার নম্বর প্ল্যাটফর্ম** | ১ জুন, ২০১৮ |
<https://4numberplatform.com/?p=6000>

(২০১৮, মার্চ) | আমাদের এশ্মা গঞ্জালেজরা মুচলেকা লেখে, **চার নম্বর প্ল্যাটফর্ম** | ১৭ মার্চ, ২০১৮ |
<https://4numberplatform.com/?p=5087>

(২০১৮, জানুয়ারি) | আমাদের বৃহৎ উন্নাদনাঃ জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনের যুগে সাহিত্যের পাঠ, **চার নম্বর প্ল্যাটফর্ম** | ১ জানুয়ারি, ২০১৮ |
<https://4numberplatform.com/?p=4047>

(২০১৭, সেপ্টেম্বর) | হুমায়ুনপুর, **গুরুচান্দালি** | ২০ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০১৮ |
<http://www.guruchandali.com/default/2017/09/20/1505919540000.html>

(২০১৭, অগস্ট) | সঙ্কটে মানবীবিদ্যাঃ কথোপকথনে শমিতা সেন, **চার নম্বর প্ল্যাটফর্ম** | ২৫ অগস্ট, ২০১৭ |
<https://4numberplatform.com/?p=2247>

(২০১৭, অগস্ট) | অনুবাদ, মাধব গোডবোলে | ভারত কি ধর্মনিরপেক্ষ দেশ?, **চার নম্বর প্ল্যাটফর্ম** | ১ অগস্ট, ২০১৭ |
<https://4numberplatform.com/?p=1868>

(২০১৭, জুলাই) | দুই গ্রামের গল্প, **চার নম্বর প্ল্যাটফর্ম** | ১৪ জুলাই, ২০১৭ |
<https://4numberplatform.com/?p=1532>

Language Proficiency

Bengali, English, Hindi