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Dr. Bishnupriya Basak is Professor in the Department of Archaeology, Calcutta University. She has been a recipient of many grants and awards, chiefly, a post-doctoral Visiting Fellowship in the UK, awarded by the Nehru Trust for Indian Collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum (2001), a short-term award from the Maison de l'Orient Mediterranee Jean Pouilloux, Lyon, France(2001), the UK Travel Award from the Nehru Trust for the Indian Collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum (2009), a short-term grant from Fondation maison des sciences de l' homme (FMSH), Paris (2009) and a research grant from Society of Antiquaries of London (2015). She was also nominated by ICCR as a member of the Indian delegation that visited Vietnam in 2005 and remained an Honorary Lecturer of University College London, 2010-14. Her specialization is in Bengal prehistory but she also researches extensively on Archaeological theory, history of Indian archaeology and Heritage studies. She has successfully completed four research projects in areas of her interest, including a British Academy project entitled 'Surveying the Empire', with Prof. Keith Lilley of Queens University, Belfast. Her collaborative project on 'Tracking ancient migration routes and cultural connections in Northeastern India' under the UGC-UPE 2 scheme of *India Looking East* of the University of Calcutta sought to relate archaeology to oral tradition and genetics in Mizoram. She reviews papers for peer-reviewed journals like 'Quaternary International', 'Studies in History', 'Archaeological research in Asia' and 'Journal of South Asian Studies' to name a few, and proposals for international publishing houses like the Routledge. She has participated in many national and international conferences in Portugal, Austria, Sweden, Ireland, Vietnam, Cambodia and Australia, chairing a few academic sessions on these occasions. She has about forty four published papers/chapters to her credit, as well a book, three (co) edited volumes and published project reports including one with the University of Glasgow. She is on the editorial board of peer-reviewed journals like Public Archaeology and reviews proposals for esteemed organizations like the Leakey Foundation, to name a few. She was nominated as the President of the Archaeology section of the Indian History Congress at its 81st session in Chennai. For the past seven years she has been engaged with studying local history, archaeology and heritage of the Sundarbans, world's largest mangrove system, in South 24 Parganas District, West Bengal.

Name: Bishnupriya Basak

Designation: Professor

Place of employment: Department of Archaeology, Calcutta University, 1 Reformatory Street, 7th Floor, Kolkata 700027, India

Current Residential address: 228 Kendua Main Road, Flat 402, Kolkata 700084

e-mail: basak.bishnupriya@gmail.com

Telephone/mobile: +9198304 20967

Date of Birth: 21.1.1967.

Educational Qualifications

- 1988 BA Honours in History from Presidency College, Calcutta.
- 1991 MA in History with specialization in Ancient Indian History, Delhi University.
- 1992-97 Ph.D in Archaeology from Deccan College, Pune, doctorate degree received in 1998.

Employment

- 1998-2001 Worked as a Fellow at the Centre for Archaeological studies and Training, Eastern India, Kolkata, an autonomous institute under the Govt. of West Bengal.
- 2002 Appointed as Lecturer, Department of Archaeology, University of Calcutta
- 2006 Promoted to Senior lecturer/Assistant professor Stage 2
- 2011 Promoted to Assistant Professor Stage 3
- 2014--2017 Promoted to Associate Professor
- 2017-- Promoted to Professor

Awards and Fellowships

- 1992-96 University Grants Commission Fellowship for Ph.D.
- 2001 Received a fellowship from the Nehru Trust for Indian Collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum, New Delhi for pursuing post-doctoral studies for three months in the UK.
- 2001 Was invited to the Maison de l'Orient Meditteraneen Jean Pouilloux, Lyon, France for a short period of research.
- 2002 Received a grant from the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training in Eastern India, Calcutta for ethnographic fieldwork.
- 2009 Received the UK Travel Award 2009-10 from the Nehru Trust for the Indian Collections at the Victoria and Albert Museum, New Delhi for a short term Project on *Understanding the antiquity of mankind: the beginnings of prehistoric archaeology in the Indian sub-continent with special reference to eastern India* to work at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford and the Royal Anthropological Institute, London.
- 2009 Received a short term grant from the Fondation maison des sciences de l' homme (FMSH), Paris to conduct research on 'early history and archaeology of central Vietnam: revisiting *Indianization*'
- 2011 Received an award of research grant from The Indian Council of Historical Research New Delhi to work on "Understanding the prehistoric landscape—a holistic study of the microlithic sites of foothill region of Ayodhya hills, Purulia, West Bengal" for two years.
- 2015 Received a short-term research grant from the Society of Antiquaries of London to do archival work in London and Edinburgh in Autumn, 2015.

Field experience

- 2010 Participated in an excavation of Mangalkot, Burdwan district, West Bengal, undertaken by the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training, Govt. of West Bengal.
- 2011-12 Carried out first season's excavation at a microlithic site, Mahadebbera (Ghatbera village, Dist. Purulia) on a two-year Research project funded by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).
- 2012-13 Carried out second season's exploration in the Ayodhya foothill region as part of the ICHR Research project.
- 2013-14 Undertook explorations of proto-historical and historical sites at Egra, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal.
- 2014-15 Undertook exploration in the Ayodhya foothill region, as a continuation of previous work.
- 2015-18 Exploration and geoarchaeological study of microlithic sites in Ayodhya hill region.
- 2017 Ethnographic field work in the Sundarbans, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal to understand the dynamics of heritage processes.
- 2019 Ethnographic field work in Kumartuli, Krishnanagar and Shantipur on the idolmakers and idol making in connection with the making of goddess Durga in Bengal.
- 2019-2020 Excavation of Chauniya, a second site in the Ayodhya hill region.
- 2021-22 Second season's excavation at Chauniya, Ayodhya hill region.
- 2019--23 Continuation of ethnographic fieldwork in the Sundarbans.

Other Awards and Distinctions.

- 2005. Was nominated by the ICSSR (Indian Council For Social Science Research, New Delhi) as a member of the Indian delegation that visited Vietnam in September 2005.
- 2010-16. Appointed as the Honorary Lecturer in the Institute of Archaeology, London from 1st September 2010 to 31st August 2012, extended till September 2014-16.
- Member of Editorial Board of Public Archaeology, a Taylor and Francis publication from Institute of Archaeology, UCL, London.
- 2017. Appointed as Visiting Professor Research, Queens University Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK
- 2020. Nominated as Sectional President to preside over the Archaeology section of the Indian History Congress in its 81st session in Chennai.

Conferences and Seminars.

- 1998 (September, Bhopal). Presented a paper on ‘Microlithic culture in the Tarafeni Valley: A holistic study’ at a conference, entitled *River valley Cultures*, organized by the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya.
- 1999. (November, Kolkata) Presented a paper on a methodological critique of prehistoric research in eastern India (‘The Notion of site: Rethinking the Palaeolithic and Microlithic of the Western Upland, West Bengal’) at the fourth annual conference of the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training, Eastern India, Kolkata.
- 2001. (February, Kolkata) Presented a paper entitled ‘Revisiting the landscape: Ajudhya hills, Purulia’ at the *International Conference on Bengal Art* in Calcutta.
- 2001 (November, London) Delivered a talk at the Institute of Archaeology, London on *Microlithic sites in Bengal—a landscape perspective*.
- 2002 (November, Kolkata). Presented a paper on ‘Ethnoarchaeology in India’ at a national seminar of the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training, Eastern India, Kolkata.
- 2003 (November, Kolkata). Presented a paper on ‘Pratnasanskritir bibartan: Bangalir anchalik prak-itihash’ (‘The evolution of Prehistoric cultures: Regional prehistory of Bengal’) at the 8th annual seminar of the Center for Archaeological Research and Training, Eastern India, Kolkata to commemorate the birth centenary of Niharanjan Ray.
- 2004 (November, Kolkata). Paper presented on ‘Pataliputra: The Changing Perceptions of a site’ at the ninth annual seminar of the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training in Eastern India, Calcutta on Historical Archaeology.
- 2005 (September, Hanoi). Paper read at the international conference on *Globalization and its Effects on society in India and Vietnam*, 5th September.
- 2005 (November, Kolkata). Paper read on ‘Valentine Ball, the beginnings of Prehistory and the tale of a jungle life’ at the tenth annual conference of the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training, Eastern India, Kolkata on *The History of Indian Archaeology*.
- 2006 (April, Allahabad). Paper read on ‘Upper Palaeolithic culture in the Chotanagpur plateau region comprising parts of the modern states of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa: a few observations’ at the national seminar on *Upper Palaeolithic Culture of India*, organized by the Allahabad Museum.
- 2006 (September, Lisbon, Portugal). Presented a paper on ‘Prehistoric Research in Bengal: On the threshold’ at the international conference of the International Union of Pre and Proto historic Sciences, 4th-9th September.
- 2006. (November, Kolkata) Paper read at the eleventh national seminar of Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training, Eastern India, Kolkata on ‘Tribal Habitats:Huts and Halls’.
- 2007 (November, Kolkata). Paper read at the eleventh national seminar of Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training, eastern India, Kolkata on ‘Kosambi’s Combined Method—its relevance to the study of past material culture’.

- 2008 (January, Hanoi, Vietnam). Gave a presentation jointly with co-investigators Drs. Suchandra Ghosh and Sayantani Pal on the Vietnam project at the Institute of Archaeological Studies, Hanoi.
- 2008. (April, Patna) Presented a paper on ‘The Meaning of Landscape: the perspectives and Possibilities of Research’ at the K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna on the ‘Changing perspectives and methodologies of South Asian Archaeology.’
- 2008 (August, Shantiniketan). Presented a joint paper with Drs. Suchandra Ghosh and Sayantani Pal on ‘Looking at Early History and Archaeology of Central Vietnam’ at the international conference of the Indian Association of Asian and Pacific Studies, held in ViswaBharati.
- 2008 (October, Kolkata). Presented a paper on ‘Megalithic Cultures of South India’ at a conference organized by Loreto College, Calcutta on ‘Cross Cultural Currents: India in the Ancient World.’
- 2008 (December, Bhubaneswar). Present a paper on my ongoing research in prehistory of the Ayodhya hills, Purulia, at the XXXVI Annual conference of the Indian Society For Prehistoric And Quaternary Studies.
- 2009. (July, Quang Ngai, Vietnam). Presented a paper on ‘Sa Huynh culture in the Thu Bon valley, 500 BCE-1st CE—some queries and observations on the social context’, at a conference on ‘100 years of the discovery of Sa Huynh culture.’
- 2009 (October, London). Presented a paper on ‘Kalidas Datta: the journey of an amateur archaeologist and the rediscovery of a region’ at the Institute of Archaeology, London, as part of a series of lectures of the Heritage Studies group.
- 2009 (November, Allahabad). Presented a paper on ‘Archaeology and Ethnography--some queries, with particular reference to Ethnoarchaeological Studies in the Indian sub-continent’ at the departmental seminar of Department of Ancient Indian History and Archaeology, University of Allahabad.
- 2010 (November), presented a paper on ‘The Pitt Rivers Collection and the beginning of prehistoric archaeology in the Indian sub-continent’ at the xvth national seminar of the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training, eastern India, Kolkata.
- 2010 (July), Vienna, Austria. Presented a paper on ‘D.B. Spooner’s vision of Persepolis and the Excavation of Pataliputra, 1912-13, 1913- 14’, at the XXth International conference on South Asian Archaeology
- 2011 (April), Colombo, Sri Lanka. Presented a paper on microlithic sites in the western upland: A holistic study at the 1st Bienneila conference organized by the International Association for Asian Heritage.
- 2012. (September) Presented a paper ‘Understanding the Champa polity from archaeological and epigraphic evidence--a critical stocktaking’ at the European Association of South East Asian archaeology, 14 (EurASEAA 14) at Dublin, Ireland.

- 2012 (November). Presented a paper on ‘Excavation at the microlithic site of Mahadebbera, Ghatbera, Purulia District, West Bengal: A multi-disciplinary study’ at the XL annual conference of the Indian Society for Prehistoric and Quaternary Studies (ISPQS), Baroda, November 22-24.
- 2013 (February). Presented a paper on ‘Archaeological Aspects of South-east Asia and Continuing Influences: Central and South Vietnam—A report’ with Suchandra Ghosh at a Workshop on *India and Southeast Asia in the Changing World*, organized by ICWA-IFPS, University of Calcutta, Sapru House, New Delhi.
- 2013 (February). Presented a paper on ‘Archaeological understanding of History in late nineteenth and early twentieth century in Bengal’ at a UGC Sponsored two day seminar on *Historical Consciousness in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Bengal: Some reflections*, organized by Khudiram Bose Central College, Kolkata.
- 2013 (September). Presented a paper on ‘Prehistory of the Ayodhya hills: Recent Researches’ at *Footsteps of Foote: Robert Bruce Foote Memorial seminar*, held in Indian Museum, Kolkata in association with British Council, Kolkata.
- 2013 (December). Presented a paper on ‘Late Pleistocene Microlithic industries of Mahadebbera and Kana, Purulia district, West Bengal, preliminary studies’, ISPQS, Varanasi.
- 2014 (January) presented two papers at the conference of Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association, Siem Reap, Cambodia. (i) R.C. Majumdar and the ‘construction’ of Champa in *Greater India*: any contemporary relevance? (ii) Understanding ‘chiefdom’ from Iron Age remains in Mainland and Island Southeast Asia, with particular reference to central Vietnam: A prelude to ‘state’ formation?
- 2014. (March). Presented a paper on Late Pleistocene microlithic industries of Ayodhya hills, Purulia, West Bengal: Analysis and implications at *Robert Bruce Foote Memorial Seminar*, held at Asiatic Society, Kolkata.
- 2014. (July). Presented a paper on ‘Late Pleistocene Microlithic Industries in the Ayodhya hills, West Bengal, Eastern India: reconstructing a past view of landscape’, 22nd International Conference of European association of South Asian archaeology and Art, held at National Museum of World Culture, Stockholm, Sweden, June 30th- 4th July, 2014.
- 2014. (October) Presented a paper on ‘Late Pleistocene microlithic sites of Ayodhya hills, Purulia, West Bengal: new light on chronology and context’, Joint conference of ISPQS, IAS, IHCS held at Deccan College, Pune.
- 2014 (November) Presented a paper on ‘Reconstructing a hunter-gatherer landscape of the Late Pleistocene: a multi-disciplinary study of the prehistory of

Ayodhya hills, Purulia District, West Bengal’ at the 27th IGI (Indian Institute of Geomorphologists) conference on **Geomorphology and Geospatial Technology in Environment Management and Societal Development** at Digha, organized by Vidyasagar University, Midnapore.

- 2015 (January 2015). Invited by the Institute of Foreign Policy, and the China Center, Calcutta University to speak on ‘The Archaeological Survey of India Abroad, Opportunities, Initiatives and Limitations.’
- 2015 (January). Invited to speak on a One-Day National Seminar organized by the Department of History, Loreto College on ‘Archaeology and Heritage: A Forgotten Legacy? The Case-Study of Dholavira’, 29th January.
- 2015 (August) Invited by State Department of Archaeology, Bihar and Bihar Purabid Society to deliver a keynote address on Pataliputra.
- 2015 (December). Presented a paper on ‘Understanding Cognition in Late Pleistocene microlithic technology of Ayodhya hills, Purulia, West Bengal’ at the ISPQS conference in Central University, Hyderabad.
- 2016 (January) Invited by Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of West Bengal to present on ‘Prehistoric Research in Ajodhya hills, Purulia, West Bengal: New light on past human occupation in the Late Pleistocene 42-25 kyr’ at a seminar in Kolkata.
- 2016 (August) Invited by the Asiatic Society Kolkata to present a paper on “Prehistoric Research in Ajodhya hills, Purulia, West Bengal” at a national seminar, 22nd-23rd August.
- 2016 (September). Invited by Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of West Bengal to present a paper at a One day State level Seminar on ‘Exploring the treasures of Purulia—An Art and Archaeological Retrospect’ at Sidho-Kanho-Birsa University, Purulia, 29th September
- 2017 (March). Presented a paper on ‘Communities in a flux: the living heritage of the Sundarbans’ to the international workshop on *Transforming Heritage: An International Workshop on UK-South Asia Networks* organized by the School of Natural and Built Environment (SNBE), Queen's University, Belfast in New Delhi on 22 March.
- 2017 (April). Presented a paper on ‘The Living Heritage of Purulia, West Bengal’ to the international workshop on *Preserving and promoting the historical and cultural heritage of rural communities in West Bengal and Bangladesh* organized by the University of Glasgow.

- 2017 (May). Presented a paper on ‘Heritage as a cultural process: a case study from West Bengal, India’ to the international workshop on *Heritage at Risk* organized by the School of Natural and Built Environment (SNBE), Queen's University, Belfast at Belfast, 23rd May.
- 2017 (December). Presented a paper on ‘Locating an Antiquarian Initiative in the late 19th Century Colonial landscape—Rivett-Carnac and the Cultural Imagining of the Indian Sub-continent’ at a session on ‘History of Archaeology in South Asia’ at the Australian Archaeology Association Conference 2017 (AAA 2017), Melbourne, Australia, 6th-8th December.
- 2018 (March) Was invited to present on ‘Prehistoric Research on Ajodhya hills, Purulia West Bengal’ in the National seminar of the Department of Anthropology, Calcutta University.
- 2018 (August). Presented a paper on ‘Asiatic Society and its project of the ‘Science of Man’ in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century—an ambivalent space’ at the second writer’s workshop held in the Asiatic Society, Kolkata as part of the project on the **Comprehensive History of Modern Bengal**, 23rd-25th August.
- 2018 (October). Presented a paper on ‘Public Archaeology’ (in Bengali) at a workshop on **Sundarban o Heritage** in the Department of Archaeology, Alipur campus, University of Calcutta
- 2019 (26 February). Presented a paper on ‘Archaeology and Language: Some points to ponder on’ at a one-day seminar on *New Perspective on Language classification*, organized by the Department of Linguistics, Calcutta University.
- 2019 (26th-28th August). Presented a paper on ‘Archaeological Heritage and the idea of History’ at a National seminar organized by the Kurseong College on **Archaeological Heritage of Bengal and the History in Making**.
- 2019 (16th November). Presented a paper on ‘Staging of a Carnival—‘Art’, power and a contested space in Kumartuli’ at a Review meeting for a proposed volume on Kumartuli, at the Lalit Great Eastern, Kolkata, hosted by University of Glasgow.
- 2020 (23rd July). Invited lecture on ‘Microlithic Issues: Evidence from West Bengal’ at the forum *Beyond the Boundaries: Microliths in Time and Space*, organized on Google meet by Paleotalks, IESER, Mohali.
- 2020 (30th July). Invited lecture on ‘Rethinking Heritage: A few queries’ at a Webinar organized by Department of History, Ramkrishna Mission Vidyamandira, Belur.
- 2020 (10 December). “Kumartuli—The making of Heritage, Art and Public in an Indian cityscape”, webinar organized on *Urban Heritage and Close Quarters*

Living by Urban Studies, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Glasgow with Glasgow Arts Lab.

- 2021 (16 June). “Archaeology of deltaic ecology: An existential dilemma?” online lecture as part of an invited webinar series on *Archaeology of Deltaic ecology: Relevant methods and techniques for engaging with human and non-human interaction in Southwestern part of Bangladesh*, organized by Department of Archaeology Khulna and Barisal subdivision, Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Government of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.
- 2021 (22 November). “Prehistoric Researches in West Bengal: recent Perspectives”, Special lecture in memory of Prof. A.K. Ghosh, organized on virtual platform by the department of Anthropology, Sikkim University in collaborating with the Indian Anthropological Society, celebrating 100 years teaching of Anthropology in India.
- 2022 (07.07.22). “An archaeological relic, ritual space and the unfolding of a social process,” virtual presentation of paper at the World Archaeology Congress session C07—03 held at Prague.
- 2022 (18.11.22) Two lectures to students of Art History Department, Kala Bhavana.
- 2022 (27.12.22). Presidential address of the Archaeology section, 81st session of the Indian History Congress, Madras Christian College, Chennai.
- 2023 (29.03.23). Invited speaker in online panel discussion on ‘Sapiens in South Asia’, organized by Palaeo talks on Zoom, 6 pm.
- 2023 (17.05.23). Presented a paper on “The Late Pleistocene landscape of Ajodhya hills, West Bengal, Eastern India: two decades of research” at an international conference on **Recent Perspectives on Archaeology and History of Early and Medieval Bengal from a regional perspective (international conference in honour of Prof. Abdul Momin Chowdhury)**, organized by Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Jahangirnagar University, Savar, Dhaka.
- 2023 (04.08.2023). Presented a paper on *Pratnatattva, Lokasanskriti ebong sthanik itihās nirman: Moukhik bhāsyer bhūmika* at a workshop organized by Paschimbanga Itihās Samsad in collaboration with the Indian Museum, Kolkata on **Local Narrative in Social Sciences: Oral History and Field Studies**.
- 2024 (13.02.2024). Participated as a panelist in the virtual book launch session and discussion of the edited volume *The Archaeology of the Early medieval and Medieval South Asia: Contesting narratives from the Eastern Ganga-Brahmaputra basin*, on invitation from Taylor and Francis.
- 2024 (08.02.2024) Delivered a special lecture for students of Post graduate and Undergraduate programs of the Department of History, Jadavpur University,

Kolkata, on 'Beyond material culture: Archaeology, 'local' history and collective memory.'

- 2024 (01.04.2024). Delivered a lecture on 'Archaeology, local history and collective memory', on an invitation by the Bihar Heritage Development Society, Patna and hosted by the Department of Ancient History, Archaeology and Culture, Patna University.

Workshops and Training programmes

- 2007 (June), Kolkata. Was the coordinator for a workshop on *Lithics*, organized by the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training, eastern India, Kolkata.
- 2008 (November, Guwahati). Was invited to give lectures on prehistory at a workshop, organized by the ICHR, New Delhi, Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training, Kolkata and IIT, Guwahati, 10th-14th Nov.
- 2009 (February, Kolkata). Was invited to give a lecture on 'Uses of science in Archaeology' in a workshop on *Science and Scientists* organized by the Asiatic Society.
- 2009 (February, Kolkata). Was invited to give a lecture on using archaeological data in teaching early Indian history at the undergraduate level in a workshop organized by the Department of Ancient Indian history and Culture, Calcutta University on *Teaching Early Indian History*.
- 2009 (March, Patna). Was Invited by the KP Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna to give training in field techniques in prehistory to their technical staff.
- 2011 (January, Bhopal). Was invited by the Archaeological Survey of India through Institute of Archaeology, Regional Directorate (Central Region) and Prehistory Branch to impart training to participants as a resource person.
- 2012 (June), Kolkata. Was invited by the Indian Museum to teach in a six-monthly course on Heritage Management.
- 2013 (June), Kolkata. Was invited by the Indian Museum to teach in a six-monthly course on Heritage Management.
- 2012 (December) Was invited by Department of History, Calcutta University to be a resource person for taking a class in the refresher course organized by the department.
- 2013 (February) Was invited by Department of History, Jadavpur University to be a resource person for taking a class in the refresher course organized by the department.
- 2013 (March-April) Was invited as resource person by Bijoy Chowdhury, Director K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna and Bihar Purabid Society, Patna, to guide fieldwork of the said institutes in their Rajgir project, 2013.

- 2014 (January). Was invited by Department of History, Calcutta University to be a resource person for taking a class in the refresher course organized by the department.
- 2014 (February) Was invited by Burdwan University, Burdwan, West Bengal to be a resource person for taking a class in the refresher course organized by the University.
- 2015 (April) was invited by Department of History, Calcutta University to be a resource person for taking a class in the refresher course organized by the department.
- 2015 (August) was invited by the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training Eastern India, Kolkata to deliver two lectures on Prehistory as part of a one month certificate course.
- 2016 (September) was invited by the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training Eastern India, Kolkata to deliver two lectures on Prehistory as part of a one month certificate course.
- 2017 (August) was invited by the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training Eastern India, Kolkata to deliver two lectures on Prehistory as part of a one month certificate course.
- 2018. (July). Resource person in a workshop for college teachers, organized by the Department of History, RKSM Vivekananda Vidyabhavan, in collaboration with the Department of History, West Bengal State University.
- 2018 (November).Resource person in an international workshop organized by the University of Glasgow on *Heritage and Mritshilpis/Pratimashilpis of Kumartuli*, 25th November, at the Lalit Great Eastern, Kolkata
- 2019 (9 February) Was invited to contribute to a Consultative meeting entitled 'Climate, Culture and Politics' at the Institute of Foreign Policy Studies, University of Calcutta, Alipur campus.
- 2019 (September). Resource Person in a course on Prehistory of India, organized by the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training eastern India, Kolkata
- 2020 (3rd-10th August 2020) Resource person in a six-month in-service training course for Assistant Archaeologists, organized by the Pt.Deendayal Institute of Archaeology, Delhi.
- 2022 (12 January). "The Staging of a Carnival: Art, Heritage and the Public", lecture as a Resource Person in a Refresher course on *Critical Perspectives in Geography*, organized by the UGC Human Resource Development Centre, University of Calcutta.

- 2022 (26.03.22). “Public Archaeology: Issues and Challenges’, lecture as a resource person of the Interdisciplinary Refresher course on *Research methodology in Social Sciences*, organized by the UGC Human Resource Development Centre, University of Calcutta.
- 2023 (31.07.23). Invited speaker in ‘Adda Baithak/Sesame Club, organized by the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies and Research in Social Sciences (CISRS), Sister Nivedita University, Newton, Kolkata. The Sixth adda was on " Banglar Karukriti: Archaeology, Architecture, Ornamentation and Society ".
- 2023 (07.08.2023). Delivered a presentation on *Lithic assemblages in Archaeology* at a workshop organized by the Department of Archaeology, University of Calcutta on *Skill development and Community Outreach program*.

Projects

Completed projects

- 2007-12. ‘Interactions exchanges between India and central and South Vietnam, 1st-10 century CE’, funded by the University Grants Commission under UPE I (University of Potential Excellence)
- 2011-13. ‘Understanding the prehistoric landscape—a holistic study of the microlithic sites of foothill region of Ayodhya hills, Purulia, West Bengal’, funded by the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).
- 2017. ‘Surveying the Empire’, a British Academy International partnership program with Queen’s University Belfast, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK.
- 2017-19. ‘Tracking Ancient Migration routes: A multidisciplinary approach involving Archaeology, Genetics and Paleobotany’, funded by the University Grants Commission under the UPE-II (University of Potential Excellence) scheme.

Teaching Experience

Taught courses on **Ethnology, Indian prehistory and History of Archaeology in the Anglo-American world** in the Department of Archaeology, University of Calcutta. Also taught a course on **Early Medieval Society and Culture** in the Department of History of the same university. From 2017 (New syllabus) teaching courses on **Concepts in Archaeology** (Course 1), **Prehistory of South Asia** (Course 2), **Archaeology and the Making of Heritage** (Course 13), **History of Archaeological Theory** (Course 14) and **South-East Asian Archaeology: Island and Mainland South-East Asian Cultures** (Course 15).

Have given formal lectures (on invitation) to undergraduate students of Presidency College, Loreto College and Basanti Devi College, Calcutta.

Have been invited as Guest Faculty of the Department of Anthropology, Calcutta University.

Research guidance :

Number of researchers awarded M.Phil/ Ph.D degrees : 3 (Ph.D.)

Number of researchers pursuing M.Phil/ Ph.D : 1 (Ph.D.)

Reviewing:

Reviewer of research papers of peer reviewed journals, like *Studies in History, Journal of Indian Anthropological Society, South Asian Studies Journal, The Book Review* and proposals for international publishing houses like the Routledge to mention a few. Have reviewed proposals for Doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships sent by Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).

Refereeing Ph.D theses/M.Phil dissertations

Have refereed M.Phil/Ph,D dissertations of students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Deccan College Deemed to be University, Pune, Indian Institute for Science, Education and Research, Mohali, Ravenshaw University and the Centre for Social Studies and Sciences, Kolkata, among a reputed few.

Membership of academic bodies/Institutes/Museums/other professional experience

- Head of the Department April 2015-March 2017. Second term: 3rd May 2021—2nd June 2023
- Member of the Senate: same period as above.
- Member of the Departmental Ph.D committee, 2013-17; 2017-21; 2021--
- Convener of the Departmental Ph.D committee, 2017-2021.
- Member of the NAAC co-ordination team, November 2016-January 2017.
- Indian Museum, Calcutta, Physical Verification Committee (2008-15).
- Executive Committee Member, Indian Society for Prehistoric and Quaternary Studies (2009-2012).
- Advisory board of the Asiatic Society for grant of Hemchandra Roychoudhury and RP Chanda medals to distinguished scholars in 2015.
- Member of the Board of Studies, Sanskrit College and University, Kolkata, 2018-
- Member of the Board of Studies, Department of History, Ramkrishna Mission Vidyamandir, Belur
- Nominated Subject Expert in Archaeology, National Library, Kolkata, for recommendations towards purchase of books.
- Reviewer member of the Peer Review panel of *Ancient India New Series*, a Bulletin of the Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi.

- Expert nominated by the West Bengal Council for Higher Education, Government of West Bengal for the Equivalence Committee of Archaeology and History, 2019—
- Member, Board of Studies in History and Archaeology, North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), 2024--

Chairmanship/organizers of academic panels at National/International seminars

- Organizer, with Dr. Suchandra Ghosh, of the academic session: ‘Understanding Champa: rereading art, archaeology, inscriptions and text’ at the Indo-Pacific Prehistory Association Congress 2014 (IPPA 2014), Siem Reap, Cambodia
- Chairmanship of an open session at the Joint annual conference of ISPQS, IAS and IHCS, 2014, Pune.
- Organizer, with Dr. Supriya Varma of the academic session: ‘History of Archaeology in South Asia’ at the Australian Archaeology Association Conference 2017 (AAA 2017), Melbourne, Australia, 6th-8th December.
- Organizer, with Prof. Suchandra Ghosh and Prof. Santanu Chakrabarti a national seminar on ‘Lineages of Interaction’ as part of the *Look East* program under UPE II, January, Kolkata, Alipur campus, 2017.

Preparation of Teaching material for Undergraduates and Post Graduates

- Prepared teaching material in Early Indian history and archaeology for undergraduates as part of the University Grants Commission distance learning program, organized by the EMMRC (Educational Multimedia research Centre), St. Xavier’s Autonomous College, Kolkata.
- Prepared course material on ‘Archaeology of the Emergence of Early Cities and Characteristics of the Early Historic Urban centres: South India’ (Unit 1, Block 3) as part of a course on Urbanization in India MHI-10 of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, for MA students.
- November, 2010. Was invited by Indira Gandhi National Open University to be a Course Writer to contribute to a course on Anthropology as part of their MA program (published, 2018).

List of publications (in journals)

- 1997 Microlithic sites in the Tarafeni valley, Midnapur district, West Bengal: A Discussion’ *Man and Environment* 22 (2): 11-28.
- 1997 Late Quaternary Environment, Palaeontology and Culture in Tarafeni valley, Midnapur, West Bengal—A Preliminary Study’ *Jour. of Geo. Soc. of India* 51:731-740.
- 1998 ‘Microlithic sites in the Kharisoti and Subarnarekha valleys: some observations and comments’ *Pratnasamiksha* 3&4 :1-19.
- 2000 ‘The Notion of Site: Rethinking the Palaeolithic and the Microlithic of the Western Upland, West Bengal’ in Gautam Sengupta and Sheena Panja eds.

- Archaeology in Eastern India**, pp. 67-93: Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training, Eastern India.
- 2000 'Ethnoarchaeology: Ekti Alochona' (in Bengali) in A. Bhattacharya et al eds. *Purabrityo*, pp. 273-290. Directorate of Archaeology and Museums.
- 2001 'Microlithic sites in the Western upland of Purulia: A holistic study (Phase I: The Ayodhya Hills)', *Pratnasamikhsha* 6&8: 1-28.
- 2005 'Perceiving the landscape: lithic scatters in Ayodhya hills, Purulia', *Man and Environment*, XXX(2): 12-23.
- 2005 Book reviewed for *Baromash*. Shamsujjoha Manik and Shamsul Alam.
Arjajan o Shindhu Shabbhata. Badeep Prakashan. Dhaka.
- 2005 'Ethnoarchaeology in India: Issues and Perspectives', in G. Sengupta et al eds. **Past and Present: Ethnoarchaeology in India**, pp. 3-26, Pragati Publications and CAST: New Delhi.
- 2005 'Microlithic culture in the Tarafeni Valley: A holistic study', in K.K. Chakrabarti and G.L. Badam eds. **River Valley Cultures of India**, pp. 153-68, IGRMS and Aryan Books: Bhopal and New Delhi.
- 2005 'Microlithic sites in the Tarafeni Valley, Midnapur district, West Bengal: A view in hindsight', in A. Kanungo ed. **Gurudakshina: Facets of Indian Archaeology: Essays presented to Prof. V. N. Misra**, pp. 147-49, Bar International Series: Oxford.
- 2007 'A Study in the Formation processes of the Archaeological record of Chotanagpur Plateau, with special reference to Tarafeni valley, Midnapur district, West Bengal' in K. Paddayya ed. **Formation processes and Indian Archaeology**, pp. 39-50 Deccan College Post-Graduate and Research Institute: Pune
- 2007 'In Pursuit of the past: the beginnings of an 'academic' and 'official' archaeology in Bengal' *Studies in History*, Vol.XXIII, No.2: 311-40
- 2008 'Pataliputra: The Changing Perceptions of a site', in G.Sengupta and S. Chakrabarti eds. **Archaeology of Early Historic South Asia**, pp.39-53, Pragati Publications: New Delhi
- 2008 'Pratnatattva, Kosambi o kicchhu Pariprashno', in Subal Samanto ed. **Damodar Dharmanand Kosambi Bishesh Shankhya**, *Ebong Mushaira*, pp.115-28.
2008. 'Microlithic sites in the Ayodhya hills: Further Investigations at Mahadebbera' *Man And Environment*, Vol. XXXIII, No.2: 37-50.
2009. 'Valentine Ball and the beginning of Prehistory in India', in G. Sengupta and K. Gangopadhyay eds. **Archaeology in India: Individuals, Ideas and Institutions**. Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers: New Delhi, pp. .
- 2009 'Prehistoric Research in Bengal: On the threshold', in Ranjana Ray and V.Jayaswal eds. **Status of Prehistoric Studies in the twenty-first century in India, Proceedings of the XV UISPP World Congress (Lisbon, 4th-9th September, 2006)**. Archaeopress: Oxford.
- 2010 'Upper Palaeolithic culture in the Chotanagpur plateau region comprising parts of the modern states of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa: a few observations', *Pratnasamikhsha*, pp.1-8
- 2011 'The Journey of Kalidas Datta and the construction of regional history in pre and post-independent Bengal, India', *Public Archaeology*, Volume 10, No.3, August, pp. 132-58.
- 2011 'Collecting Objects: Situating the Indian Collections (1884-1945) in Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford.' *Studies in History*, 27 (1), 85-109.

- 2012 'The meaning of Landscape: the perspectives and possibilities of Research' in B.K. Choudhary ed. **Changing Perspectives and Methodologies in South Asian Archaeology**, K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute, Patna., pp. 151-62
- 2013 Excavation of a microlithic site and exploration in the Ayodhya hills, Purulia, West Bengal: 2011-12 and 2012-13', *Pratnasamiksha*, New Series.
- 2014 'Earliest Dates and implications of Microlithic industries of Late Pleistocene from Mahadebbera and Kana, Purulia District, West Bengal' with P. Srivastava, S.Dasgupta, Anil Kumar and S.N. Rajaguru, *Current Science*, 107 (7), 10 October, 1167-1171.
- 2014 'Interpreting Historical Archaeology of Coastal Bengal: Possibilities and limitations' in D.N. Jha ed. **The Complex Heritage of Early India: Essays in memory of R.S. Sharma**, pp. 155-179. Manohar: New Delhi.
- 2014 'Recent Discoveries of Black and Red Ware sites in Purba Medinipur, west Bengal,' with Sharmistha Chatterjee, Kaushik Gangopadhyaya, Rajat sanyal and Suchandra Ghosh, *Pratnasamiksha*, New Series, 5, pp.1-6.
2015. 'Geoarchaeological investigations in the Ayodhya hills, Purulia district, West Bengal: New paths and Future Directions, *Pratnasamiksha*, New Series, 6, pp.1-5.
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- 2016 'Early Historic Urbanization in South India: A Revaluation', *Pratnatattva*, Vol. 22, June, pp.29-40.
- 2016 'Archaeology of the Emergence of Early Cities and the Characteristics of the Early Historic Urban Centres: South India', Unit 10, Block 3 Early Historic Cities of MHI-10 **Urbanization in India** (course material for MA, IGNOU) pp. 29-54.
- 2017 'Early dates of Microlithic industries (42-25 ka) from West Bengal: Eastern India: new light on modern human occupation in the subcontinent', *Asian Perspectives*, 56 (2), pp. 237-59.
- 2018 'Archaeological Cultures: An Overview of the Preliterate Phase: West Bengal' a chapter in Abdul Momin Choudhury and Ranabir Chakravarty eds. *History of Bangladesh: early Bengal in Regional perspectives(Up to 1200 CE)*: Vol 1 Dacca: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh: 59-94.
- 2019 'Kosambi's Combined method and its relevance to the study of Past material Culture', in Osmand Bopearachchi and Suchandra Ghosh eds. *Early Indian History and Beyond: essays in honour of B.D. Chattopadhyay*. Delhi: Primus Books, pp. 405-418.
- 2019 'The Dynamics of Heritage making at an Archaeological site in South 24 Parganas, Bengal, India', *Public Archaeology*, pp.1-17, published online <https://doi.org/10.1080/14655187.2019.1647511>. Also to be published in *Public Archaeology*, Volume 17, Issue 2-3.
- 2019 'Late Pleistocene microlithic industries in the Ayodhya hills, West Bengal, eastern India: reconstructing a past use of landscape', published in Conference proceedings, South Asian Archaeology, Stockholm 2014.
- 2020 Guest Editorial: 'Public Archaeology in India', published online <https://doi.org/10.1080/14655187.2019.1703163>. Also published in *Public Archaeology*, Volume 17, Issue 2-3.

- 2020 'Locating an Antiquarian Initiative in a Late 19th Century Colonial landscape: Rivett-Carnac and the cultural imagining of the sub-continent', *Bulletin of the History of Archaeology*, published online.
- 2020 'Understanding the Champa Polity from archaeological and epigraphic evidence—a critical stocktaking' in Helen Lewis ed. *EurASEAA 14 VOLI: Ancient and Living Traditions: Papers from the 14th International Conference of the European Association of Southeast Asian Archaeologists*, 68-80. Oxford: Archaeopress Publishing.
- 2020 'Asiatic Society and its project of the 'Science' of 'Man' in the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth century', in Sabyasachi Bhattacharya ed. *A Comprehensive History of Modern Bengal, 1700-1950*, Vol.2. 558-582. Kolkata: the Asiatic Society in association with Primus Books.
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- 2023 'Relocating Archaeology and Local history—a cultural historiography of the Sundarbans', Sectional president's address (in print), *Archaeology*, 81st session of the Indian History Congress, Chennai.
- 2023 'Swimming against the tide: the journey of a Bengali Archaeologist', in Sandra L. López Varela ed. *Women in Archaeology, Intersectionalities in Practice worldwide* Springer, (Print ISSN 2509 6427). https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-27650-7_26
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2018. **New dimensions in Hunter-Gatherer Studies: the Prehistory of Tarafeni valley.** New Delhi: Primus.

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2018 'Mortimer Wheeler ebong sarkaree Pratnatattva: ek suparikalpito Neetee-r suchana', (*Mortimer Wheeler and Official Archaeology: the beginning of a planned design*) Anushtup.

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2019. Samir Kumar Das, Bishnupriya Basak, John Reuben Davies and Meghna Guha-Thakurta. *Heritage and the Mritshilpis and Pratimashilpis of Kumartuli: Report of a Consultative meeting held in Kolkata, West Bengal, November 2018 with Proposals of Research*, published on the website of the University of Glasgow, January.

Research Interests

- Critical Heritage studies
- Public Archaeology
- Historiographical issues in Indian Archaeology
- Issues in archaeological theory with special reference to landscape and spatial studies
- Prehistory with special emphasis on behavior of Anatomically Modern Humans in South Asia.