

Higher Education

2020-2025 PhD, School of English and Drama, Queen Mary, University of London
Thesis title: “Another World Had Indeed Been Staged: Theatre in Calcutta from the 1940s to the 1970s” (submitted on 9 December 2024)
Primary Supervisor: Professor Nicholas Ridout, Secondary supervisor: Dr Jaswinder Blackwell-Pal

2018-2020 Second M Phil, Theatre and Performance Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University (FGPA 8.0)
Thesis title: “The Life (Not Death) of Keya Chakraborty (1942-1977): Towards a Feminist Historiography of the Progressive Amateur Theatre Movement in Calcutta”
Professor Dr Bishnupriya Dutt (Primary Supervisor); Dr Ameet Parameswaran and Dr Mallarika Sinha Roy (Dissertation Committee Members); and Dr Anuradha Kapur (External Examiner)

2015-2017 M Phil, Department of English, University of Delhi (I Division)
Thesis title: “Material Modernisms in Indian English Poetry: A Study of Adil Jussawalla’s *Missing Person*”
Dr Rimli Bhattacharya (Primary Supervisor) and Dr Amlan Das Gupta (External Examiner)

2013-2015 MA, Department of English, University of Delhi (I Division)

2010-2013 BA, English Literature (Honors) with minors in Philosophy and Economics, Scottish Church College, University of Calcutta (II Division)

Other Qualifications

Certificate for completion of the course “Would I Lie To You? A course on the use of documents in the theatre,” led by Anuja Ghosalkar and Kai Tuchmann by Serendipity Arts Foundation (2022).

Fellowships and Bursaries

Principal’s Research Studentship (18000£ annually) (2020-2023), Doctoral College Initiative Fund

(1000£) (2022), Postgraduate Research Fund (750£) (2023): all from Queen Mary University of London

Bursaries awarded by the International Federation of Theatre Research to present at the Historiography Working Group in Ghana (800€) (2023) and by the Bodies and Performance Working Group to present at the Theatre and Performance Research Association (200£) (2022)

Short Research Grant by the Society for Theatre Research, UK (200£) (2021-22)

Cameron Memorial Prize, Mannekattil Mathai Abraham Memorial Prize, Miller Legacy Prize, Morrison Prize, Nilmoni De Prize among others: all from Scottish Church College, Calcutta (2010-2013) for scoring the highest in the first two years and in all the three years combined

Publications

Peer-reviewed Essays “Making Brecht UnBrechtian But Is That a Good Thing? Brechtian Epic As Alienated Melodrama in India,” *Kairos: A Journal of Critical Symposium* 8:1, 29-50 (2023).

“Ajitesh Bandyopadhyay, Nandikar, and the World: Staging World Literature in Bengali,” *South Asian Review* 41:3-4, 316-335 (2020).

with Senjuti Chakrabarti, “Introduction: A Writing Pedagogy of Failure,” *Sanglap Journal of Literary and Cultural Inquiry* 7:1, 01-27 (2020).

Chapters in books “Suman Mukhopadhyay”, “Koushik Sen” and “Ajitesh Bandyopadhyay,” in *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Stage Directors*, edited by Maria Delgado and Simon Williams (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2025).

“Ajitesh Bandyopadhyay, Nandikar, and the World: Staging World Literature in Bengali,” in Madhurima Chakraborty, ed. *Global South Asia: South Asian Literatures and the World* (London: Routledge, 2022).

Edited Issues with Senjuti Chakrabarti and Aakshi Magazine, “Writing (in) the Post-colony: Practising Academic English in Indian Higher Education,” *Sanglap: Journal of Literary and Cultural Inquiry* 7:1 (2020).

Plays *A Brief Loss of Sanity* in *Kaurab* (2018). An earlier version was anthologized in *dissent: Helter Skelter Anthology of New Writing*, Vol. 6 (2018), edited by Sharon Irani and Arun Kale, with a foreword by Meena Kandasamy.

Select Poetry “it will come back: an elegy,” in *Almost Island* (monsoon 2022).

Select translations Translations of poems by seven poets in a special issue of *Indian Literature* (English journal of Sahitya Akademi: the Indian Academy of Letters), *21st Century Bengali Poetry* (2017).

Teaching

Undergraduate “Power Plays” at Queen Mary University of London (2021-2023)

Postgraduate Co-conceptualized and taught a module in the “Introduction to Academic Writing” and “Short Story” summer program offered by the Centre for Writing and Communication, Ashoka University, India (2020)

Digital Pedagogy

Led a team at Centre for Writing and Communication, Ashoka University to create an online course and submitted the first draft of the course to the centre’s director. It is now available as “Introductory Course on Academic Integrity and Ethics.” Available here: <https://www.ashoka.edu.in/resources-2/>

Other Academic Positions

Fundraising Assistant, People’s Palace Projects led by Dr Paul Heritage at Queen Mary University of London (July 2023-December 2023).

Research team for the study residency, “Performance, Labour and Automation,” led by Dr Nicholas Ridout. It brought academics and theatre practitioners from India, Bangladesh, and the UK and was supported by the UKRI International Science Partnerships Fund and the School of English and Drama at Queen Mary University of London with 20000£ raised in funding (January 2024-March 2024).

Presentations

Invited Talks

“Why Did the Bengal Unit of the Indian People’s Theatre Association Break Up in the 1940s?” at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (February 2024)

Select Conferences (2024)

“Why a South Asian Theater History is Not Just A Necessity for South Asia But for the Discipline,” at the Theatre and Performance Histories and Performance, Identity and Community joint open panel, The Theatre and Performance Research Association (TAPRA), UK (September

2024)

“Looking at Tragedy in Anti-Tragic Archives” at the Historiography working group, International Federation of Theatre Research, Manila (July 2024)

“Adil Jussawalla, Utpal Dutt and Spectres of Marx in Indian Literature” at the “Non-Fiction as a Global South Genre” seminar in the American Comparative Literature Association conference, Montreal (March 2024)

Invited chair Chaired a panel discussion “Two Voices” with Zoë Wicomb and Togara Muzanenhamo for the Almost Island Dialogues held in association with the Windham Campbell Prizes, Yale University (2019)

Select Creative Works (2021-2023)

Direction *How to Make Rice* (70 mins) at Brady Arts and Community Centre, London for A Season of Bangla Drama (2022). Produced by Sufi Soup.

Writing *How to Make Rice* (100 mins) at Pinter Studio, Queen Mary University of London for Peopling the Palaces 2024. Rehearsed reading directed by Pedro Perez Rothstein. Produced by Sufi Soup.

“It will come back: an elegy” in *Almost Island* (monsoon 2022).

Facilitation *Feeling Places*, an exhibition exploring psychogeography with school students at bloc, Queen Mary University of London for Peopling the Palaces Festival 2023. Produced by Half Moon Theatre, London and Queen Mary University of London.

Editor Special issue on the prose poem for *Almost Island* (monsoon 2023).

Readings Two translations of baul songs at the National Poetry Library, South Bank, London (2021). Produced by Sufi Soup.

Public Engagement and Impact

Institutional Member of the Quorum committee at the School of Drama, Queen Mary University of London. (2020-2021). Offered logistical support for the entire year of programs and invited and chaired Rebecca Schneider’s talk “Notes on Gesture, Response-ability, and the Interstice.”

Started the “Back to the Tutor” podcast at the Centre for Writing and Communication, Ashoka University. Hosted episodes with members of the center on challenges to advising undergraduate students on academic writing, challenges of

online teaching, and an interview with the poet Vivek Narayanan (2020). They have been played over 500 times as of December 2024.

Select Interviews	“A cloud floated in the sky/ On a cloud floated an entire sky: Anti-Dramatic Legacies of the Prose Poem in Bengali,” interviewed the poet Aryanil Mukherjee for <i>Almost Island</i> (monsoon 2023)
	Interview with the Marathi playwright Makarand Sathe for Almost Island: Readings and Reflections II on <i>Almost Island</i> ’s YouTube channel (2022)
	“To the edges of language,” interviewed the poet Mani Rao for <i>Cordite Poetry Review</i> (2020)
	Interviewed Romila Thapar, Sanjay Kak, Easterine Kire, Saeed Mirza, Vira Sathidar, Abubakar Adam Ibrahim, Kiran Nagarkar, Arvind Krishna Mehrotra, Kumkum Sangari, Audrey Trushke, Soumyabrata Choudhury, Shubigi Rao, Ruth Vanita, among others for the Indian Writers’ Forum Trust (2015-2018). These have over 30,000 views on YouTube.
Select book reviews	Sudhanva Deshpande’s <i>Halla Bol: The Life and Death of Safdar Hashmi</i> for <i>Scroll</i> (2020) A K Ramanujan’s <i>Journeys</i> for <i>Business Standard</i> (2019) U R Ananthamurthy’s <i>Suragi</i> for <i>Scroll</i> (2018)
Select features	“Rupi Kaur’s bad poems shouldn’t worry us – the myopic view of the literary establishment should” for <i>Scroll</i> (2018) “Remembering P Lal and Writers Workshop” for <i>The Indian Express</i> (2019)
Field reports	“The story of three Bengali Muslim households which lost their men to lynching in 2017” for the <i>Indian Cultural Forum</i> and <i>NewsClick</i> . Republished in <i>Sabrang India</i> and <i>Secularism is a Women’s Issue</i> (2018)

Professional Memberships

American Comparative Literature Association; Theatre and Performance Research Association, UK; and International Federation for Theatre Research

Languages

English (native proficiency), Bengali (native proficiency), Hindi (fluent)