

# BIPASHA RAHA

## CURRICULUM VITAE



### 1. PROFILE

**Name:** Bipasha Raha

**Qualification:** B.A. (Loreto College), M.A. (University of Calcutta), M.Phil. (University of Calcutta), Ph.D. (University of Calcutta)

**Designation:** Professor Department of History, Visva-Bharati

**Address:** Department of History, Vidya Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, West Bengal, India- 731235

**Expertise:** Socio-economic History of Colonial India, Nationalist Movement, History of Ideas, Agrarian History, Colonial Bengal

**Experience:** More than 27 years of teaching and research,

**e-mail:** [bipasha.raha@visva-bharati.ac.in](mailto:bipasha.raha@visva-bharati.ac.in)

### 2. AWARDS/ FELLOWSHIPS

1. UGC NET Junior Research Fellowship, University of Calcutta
2. Awarded Charles Wallace Fellowship to UK - Attached to School of Oriental and African Studies, London
3. Received a Foreign Travel Grant from Indian Council of Historical Research, 2008, for visit to UK

### **3. MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL BODIES**

Indian History Congress

Paschimbanga Itihas Sangshad

### **4. RESEARCH PROJECTS**

1. Major Research Project on 'The Rural World in Contemporary Literature: Changing Perceptions in Colonial Bengal 1930-50', funded by University Grants Commission, 2011-13

2. Research Project on 'Literary Representation of the Peasantry in Nineteenth Century Bengal', funded by Indian Council of Historical Research, 2009-11

3. Major Research Project on 'Indian Nationalism and Rural Resuscitation: Rabindranath Tagore and Village Reconstruction (1890-1912)' funded by the University Grants Commission, April 2007- March 2010

### **5. ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

Co-ordinator UGC SAP DRS (Phase III), Department of History, Visva-Bharati

### **6. RESEARCH GUIDANCE**

Ph.D. Awarded--- 04

- 2017- 'Quit India Movement in Bengal,' Sukanta Pramanik
- 2015- 'Growth and Development of Left and Democratic Movement in Jalpaiguri District from 1934-1977,' Shyamal Chandra Sarkar
- 2012- 'Coal Industry in Bengal(1870-1947) Structural Changes, Capital Labour and Trade Union Movement,' Nayana Banerjee
- 2011- 'Swarnakumari Devi to Sarala Devi Choudhurani: Changing Perception of Gender, Home and the Nation in Late Colonial Bengal', Madhumita Mondal

Ph.D. Submitted--- 02

- 2020- 'Women and Education: Bengal 1820-1947', Piyali Dan
- 2020- 'Partition, Economy and Environment: Women's Lives in West Bengal, 1947-1971,' Ushashee Nandy

M.Phil. Awarded--- 03

- 2020- 'The Bengali Response to the English Technical Education: 1842 to 1908',  
Tanima Paul
- 2019- 'Major Trends in Development of Tourism in Darjeeling: 1988-2008,'  
Subhan Majumdar
- 2017- 'Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain: early Attempts to Promote Education,'  
Ushashee Nandy

Ph.D. under Supervision--- 08

M.Phil. under Supervision--- 03

## 7. PUBLICATIONS

### *Monographs*

- Bipasha Raha, *The Pen and the Plough: Agriculture, Peasantry and the Literati in Colonial Bengal*, Manohar, Delhi, 2012
- Bipasha Raha, *Living a Dream: Rabindranath Tagore and Rural Resuscitation*, Manohar, Delhi, 2014

### *Books Edited*

- Bipasha Raha and Subhayu Chattopadhyay (ed.) *Mapping the Path to Maturity, A Connected History of Bengal and the North-East*, New Delhi: Manohar, 2018
- Deepak Kumar and Bipasha Raha (ed.) *Tilling the Land: Agricultural Knowledge and Practices in Colonial India*, Primus, 2016

### *Research Papers Published*

- Bipasha Raha, "Gandhi and Rural Reconstruction: Issue of Village Swaraj", *Journal of the Asiatic Society*, Vol. LXI: No.3, 2019

- Bipasha Raha, 'Kalimohan Ghosh: Rabindranath Tagore's Collaborator in Rural Reconstruction Work,' *The Visva-Bharati Quarterly*, New Series, vol. 24, nos. 2&3, July 2015-December 2015
- Bipasha Raha, 'Harinath Majumdar and the Bengal Peasantry', *Indian Historical Review*, vol. 40, no. 2, 2013
- Raha, Bipasha, 'Rabindranath Tagore: Experiments with Village Welfare,' *Muse India*, Issue 40, Nov-Dec 2010
- Raha, Bipasha, 'Moneylender and Peasants: Credit Relations in Rural Bengal, 1793-1885', pp. 640-47, *Proceedings of Indian History Congress*, Delhi, 68th session, pub. 2008
- Raha, Bipasha, 'Relations of Production: The Peasantry in Colonial Bengal,' in Bhaskar Chattopadhyay (ed.), *Bharat Vidya VII, Collection of Essays on Polity and Society in Indian Context*, Bharat Vidya Charcha Kendra, Burdwan, 2008
- Raha, Bipasha, 'Kangal Harinath', *Parikatha*, Year 10, no. 2, May, 2008
- Raha, Bipasha, 'Imaging the Peasant: Muslim Literature in Bengal in the 1920s', *Proceedings of Indian History Congress*, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, 66th session, pub. 2007
- Raha, Bipasha, 'Rabindranath and Rural Reconstruction Work at Kaligram', pp. 104-119 *The Quarterly Review of Historical Studies*, vol. XLIV nos. 1&2, April 2004- September 2004 (pub. 2006)
- Raha, Bipasha, 'Economic Thought of Rabindranath Tagore', *The Calcutta Historical Journal*, vol. 25, no.1, January- June, 2005
- Raha, Bipasha, 'Rural Reconstruction in Early Twentieth Century Bengal: Perceptions of Nagendranath Gangopadhyay and Radhakamal Mukhopadhyay', *History*, vol. 7, no.1, 2005
- Raha, Bipasha, 'Rabindranath Tagore on Revival of Rural Industries: Experiments in Sriniketan', *The Visva-Bharati Quarterly*, new series vol. 12, nos. 1&2, April-September 2003 (pub. 2005)
- Raha, Bipasha, 'Rabindranather Gram Punorgathan Parikalpanai Krishi O Shilponnayan,'. Sekhar Bhowmik (ed), *Sampratik Itihascharcha*, Indira Prakashani, 2005

- Raha, Bipasha, ‘Rabindranath Tagore: Co-operative Principle and Agrarian Development in Bengal, 1905-30’, *The Visva-Bharati Quarterly*, new series vol. 11, no. 1, April- June, 2002
- Raha, Bipasha, ‘Rayater Katha- Pramatha Chaudhuri and Tagore on Rights of the Peasantry’, *The Quarterly Review of Historical Studies*, vol. XL, nos. 1- 2, April-September, 2002
- Raha, Bipasha, ‘Agriculture and Industry- Twin Components of Rabindranath’s Rural Reconstruction Programme’, *Bengal Past and Present*, vol. 121, 2002
- Raha, Bipasha, ‘Tagore on Agrarian Resuscitation: The First Phase’, *Asian Studies*, vol. XIX, no.2, July- December, 2001
- Raha, Bipasha ‘Rabindranath Tagore and the Cooperative Idea’, *Bengal Past and Present*, vol. 119, nos. 228-229, Parts I-II, 2000, pub. 2001
- Raha, Bipasha, ‘Tagore on Zamindar-Peasant Relationship and Agrarian Revival,’ *The Visva-Bharati Quarterly*, new series vol. 10, no. 2, July-September, 2001

### ***Chapters in Books***

- Bipasha Raha, “‘The East and the West’”: Swami Vivekananda and Resuscitation of the Male “Colonized Body” in Late Nineteenth Century Bengal’, in Sudit Krishna Kumar and Suvabrata Sarkar (eds.) *Contextualizing the Body: An Indian Experience*, Manohar: Delhi, 2021
- Bipasha Raha, “The Peasant Question and the Middle Class Intelligentsia in Bengal, 1831-1930” in *Comprehensive History of Modern Bengal, 1700-1950*, Vol. 3 (ed.) Sabyasachi Bhattacharya, New Delhi: Primus Books, 2020
- Bipasha Raha, “Rabindranather Swadeshikata” [Rabindranath’s Nationalism], in *Rabindrasaptaha Bhashan*, edited by Indrani Mukherjee & Amartya Mukhopadhyay, Visva-Bharati, Pous 1425 [B.S.].
- Bipasha Raha, “Rural reconstruction and *Swadesh*: A Poet’s Alternative” in Suparna Gooptu ed., *Themes and Individuals in History*, KP Bagchi & Company: Kolkata, 2019
- Bipasha Raha and Subhayu Chattopadhyay, ‘Introduction,’ in Bipasha Raha and Subhayu Chattopadhyay (ed.) *Mapping the Path to Maturity, A Connected History of Bengal and the North-East*, New Delhi: Manohar, 2018

- Bipasha Raha, 'Ladies' Parliament: Literary Representation as a Site of Female Interaction in Colonial Rural Bengal,' in Bipasha Raha and Subhayu Chattopadhyay (ed.) *Mapping the Path to Maturity, A Connected History of Bengal and the North-East*, New Delhi: Manohar, 2018
- Bipasha Raha, 'Agrarian Thinking in Bengal in the Nineteenth Century,' in Arun Bandyopadhyay and Sanjukta Das Gupta (ed.) *In Quest of the Historian's Craft, Essays in Honour of Professor B.B. Chaudhury, Part I: The Economy*, New Delhi: Manohar, 2018
- Deepak Kumar and Bipasha Raha, 'Introduction', in Deepak Kumar and Bipasha Raha (ed.) *Tilling the Land, Agricultural Knowledge and Practices in Colonial India*, Primus Books, New Delhi, 2016
- Bipasha Raha, 'Transformation of Agricultural practices: An Indigenous Experiment in Colonial Bengal', in Deepak Kumar and Bipasha Raha (ed.) *Tilling the Land, Agricultural Knowledge and Practices in Colonial India*, Primus Books, New Delhi, 2016
- Bipasha Raha, 'Rabindranath Tagore: Attempt at Revival of Villages' in Swati Ganguly and Abhijit Sen (ed.) *Rabindranath Tagore and the Nation, Essays in Politics, Society and Culture*, Punascha in association with Visva-Bharati, Calcutta, 2011
- Bipasha Raha, 'Rural Health and Hygiene: Rabindranath Tagore's Experiments with Rural Reconstruction,' in Arabinda Samanta, Syed Tanveer Nasreen and Aparajita Dhar (ed.), *Life and Culture in Bengal, Colonial and Post-Colonial Experiences*, Progressive Publishers, Calcutta, 2011
- Bipasha Raha, 'Representation of the peasantry in Nineteenth Century Bengal: Rammohun Roy and Akshay Kumar Dutt', in Bhaskarjyoti Basu (ed.), *Explorations in Economic and Social History, 1200-1900*, Visva-Bharati, Kolkata, 2008
- Bipasha Raha, 'Social and National Consciousness of Rabindranath Tagore and the Indian National Movement (1905-1930),' in S. J. Stephen (ed.) *Literature, Caste and Society, Masks and Veils*, Delhi, 2006

### ***Review Articles***

- Raha, Bipasha, *Cultural Communism in Bengal 1936-1952* by Anuradha Roy, *Indian Historical Review*, 44(1), 2017
- Raha, Bipasha, *Terror, Crime and Punishment: Order and Disorder in Early Colonial Bengal 1800-1860* by Ranjan Chakraborty, *Exploring History*, vol. 1, no. 1, July- December, 2010

### **VISITING PROFESSOR**

- Visiting Professor, Department of History, Calcutta University, September 2014
- Visiting Professor, Department of History, Burdwan University, August, 2012
- Visiting Professor, Zakir Hussain Centre for Education, Jawaharlal Nehru University, November, 2011
- Visiting Professor, Post-graduate Section, Malda College, March, 2010

### **SELECT LIST OF SEMINARS/ CONFERENCES/ TALKS/ DISCUSSIONS/ WEBINARS**

- Eminent Speaker and delivered a talk titled 'Chameli Bose née Dutt: An Educationist', in the National Webinar on 'Footprints of Women', Prabhat Kumar College, Contai, 11–13 January, 2021.
- Officiated as the Acharya at the Upasana held on the occasion of Maharshi Smaraney at Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, and delivered the Acharya's Speech, on 20 January, 2021
- Invited Speaker and delivered a talk titled 'Gandhi on Rural Welfare', in the National Webinar on 'Understanding Gandhi', Hiralal Mazumdar Memorial College for Women, on 11 September, 2020
- Invited Speaker and presented a paper on 'Natural and Rural: The Two Worlds of Tagore,' in the National Webinar on 'Land, Water and the Rural World: Experimental and Emotive Responses in Colonial and Post-Colonial India,' Post-Graduate Department of History, Malda College, Malda on 30 July, 2020

- Special Lecture delivered on “Understanding Popular Culture” at Prasannadeb Women’s College, Jalpaiguri, in September 2019
- Delivered a Special Lecture on Gandhi and Rural Reconstruction at the Asiatic Society on the theme of “On Gandhi and Rural Reconstruction”
- Delivered a paper titled ‘British Imperialism and Indian Nationalism: Contesting Ideas of Development in 19th Century India,’ in the National Seminar on ‘Critique of Development in Indian Context: A Philosophical Appraisal,’ 29-31 March, 2019 at the Department of Philosophy and Comparative Religion, Visva-Bharati
- Delivered the Sunil Sen Memorial Lecture on 7 February 2019 at Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.
- Participated and chaired two academic sessions in the UGC SAP DRS and MAKAIAS sponsored National Seminar on ‘Understanding Popular Culture: 20<sup>th</sup> Century India’ organized by Dept. of History, Visva-Bharati, February 2018.
- Presented a Paper in the National Conference of the Asiatic Society on ‘A Comprehensive History of Modern Bengal’ in February 2018, Calcutta
- Delivered a Special Lecture at the Department of History, Malbazar College, Malbazar on 3 October, 2018
- Delivered a Special Lecture at the Department of History, P.D. Women’s College, Jalpaiguri on 4 October, 2018
- Delivered a Special Lecture at the Department of History, Gour Banga University on 9 October, 2018
- Delivered a paper titled ‘The Flora of Bengal: A Literary Representation,’ in the National Seminar on ‘Debating Environmental History: Discussing its Various Dimensions,’ 27-28 August, 2018 at the Department of History, Sidho-Kanhu Birsha University
- Delivered an invited lecture on ‘Rabindranath Tagore and the Co-operative Idea,’ in International Seminar organized by the Visva-Bharati Co-operative Society, Visva-Bharati, on ‘The Vision of Rabindranath Tagore on Co-operative Society and Community Development,’ 2017



- Delivered an extension lecture at Vidyasagar University, 'From Rammohun to Rabindranath: Agrarian Thinking of the Bengali Intelligentsia,' 2017

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

Over the years I have been teaching/taught a variety of courses/themes at the levels of UG, PG and M.Phil/Ph.D. course work

At the Undergraduate level I have been teaching/taught

- History of Tudor England 1485-1601
- History of Modern Europe, 1789-1870
- History of Modern India

At the Post-graduate level I have been teaching/taught

- History of Modern India 1915-1947
- Peasant Movements in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century India
- Agrarian History of Colonial India
- Economic History of India- Internal Trade, Production

At the M.Phil/Ph.D. level I have been teaching/taught themes

- History of Health and Medicine in Colonial India

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

My research interests are wide and varied. I have been working on agrarian history of the colonial period for more than three decades. Bengal is my region of focus. I have been working on agrarian thinking. My research interests include Socio-cultural and intellectual history of Bengal, Ideas and philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore, the Indian Nationalist Movement, Gender History, history of Medicine and Environmental History.

## ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Head of the Department of History, 20.02.2015- 19.02.2018
- Member of the Board of Studies, Department of History, since 1994
- Member of Purchase Committee, Department of History, since 1994
- Nominated Member of Research Board
- Member of Academic Council
- Member of the Institute Board of Vidya Bhavana
- Acted as member of Central Admission Committee
- Associated with revision of syllabus of the Department from time to time since 1994