

BIPASHA RAHA



Curriculum Vitae

DESIGNATION:

Professor, Department of History
Visva-Bharati (A Central University)

ADDRESS:

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

e-mail:

bipasha.raha@visva-bharati.ac.in

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

B.A. (Loreto College, Calcutta University)
M.A. (University of Calcutta)
B.Ed. (University of Calcutta)
M.Phil. (University of Calcutta)
Ph.D. (University of Calcutta)

EXPERTISE:

Colonial Bengal
Indian National Movement
Agrarian History of Colonial India
Intellectual History
Socio-political Ideas of Rabindranath Tagore
History of Medicine

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

More than 30 years of Teaching and Research in Visva-Bharati

COURSES TAUGHT:

Under-graduate, Post-graduate, M.Phil, Ph.D.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS:**Books- Monographs**

- *The Plough and the Pen: Peasantry, Agriculture and the Literati in Colonial Bengal*, Manohar, New Delhi 2012, ISBN: 9788173049415, 8173049416
- *Living a Dream: Rabindranath Tagore and Rural Resuscitation*, Manohar, Delhi, 2014, ISBN-10 : 9350980606, ISBN-13 : 978-9350980606

Books- Edited

- *Tilling the Land: Agricultural Knowledge and Practices in Colonial India*, Jointly edited with Deepak Kumar, Primus Books, Delhi 2016, ISBN-10 : 9384092800, ISBN-13 : 978-9384092801
- *Mapping the Path to Maturity, A Connected History of Bengal and the North-East*, Jointly edited with Subhayu Chattopadhyay, New Delhi: Manohar, 2018 , ISBN-10 : 9789350981801, ISBN-13 : 978-9350981801

Select Book Chapters

- ‘Patriotism and a Poet in the Colonial World,’ in Achintya Dutta and Subhayu Chattopadhyay ed. *Society and Culture in Bengal, Essays in Memory of Bhaskar Chattopadhyay*, Routledge, London, 2025, ISBN 9781041034490
- ‘Nitya Gopal Mukherji: An Agricultural Enthusiast in Colonial Bengal’ in Achintya Kumar Dutta ed. *Explorations in Colonial Bengal: Essays on Religion, Society and Culture*, Orient Blackswan, Hyderabad, 2023, ISBN: 9789354425134
- ‘The East and the West’: Swami Vivekananda and Resuscitation of the Male ‘Colonized Body’ in Late Nineteenth Century Bengal’ in Sudit Krishna Kumar and Suvobrata Sarkar (ed.) *Contextualizing the Body: An Indian Experience*, Manohar: Delhi, 2021, ISBN-10 : 9390035546, ISBN-13 : 978-9390035540

- “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, ISBN : 978-93-89901-95-5
- “Rural Reconstruction and *Swadesh*: A Poet’s Alternative” in Suparna Gooptu ed., *Themes and Individuals in History*, KP Bagchi & Company: Kolkata, 2019, ISBN-10 : 8170744083, ISBN-13 : 978-8170744085
- ‘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, ISBN-10 : 9789350981801, ISBN-13 : 978-9350981801
- ‘Recovery of the Self: Rural Welfare and Rabindranath Tagore’, Chhanda Chatterjee ed. *Rabindranath Tagore: A Mind Staring into Infinity*, Primus Books, Delhi 2016, ISBN : 978-93-84082-82-6
- ‘Transformation of Agricultural Practices: An Indigenous Experiment in Colonial Bengal’, Bipasha Raha & Deepak Kumar ed. *Tilling the Land: Agricultural Knowledge and Practices in Colonial India*, Primus Books, Delhi 2016, ISBN-10 : 9384092800, ISBN-13 : 978-9384092801
- ‘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, ISBN-10 : 8173324824, ISBN-13 : 978-8173324826
- ‘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, ISBN-10 8180641902, ISBN-13 : 978-8180641909
- ‘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, Calcutta, 2008, ISBN- 10 8175224649

- ‘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, ISBN-10 8178354489

Proceedings and Other Publications

- ‘Rabindranath Tagore: Experiments with Village Welfare,’ *Muse India*, Issue 40, Nov-Dec 2010
- ‘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
- ‘Zamindar Krishak Samparka O Rabindranath,’ *Itihas Anusandhan*, vol. 16, 2002
- ‘Moneylender and Peasant: Credit Relations in rural Bengal, 1793-1885,’ *Proceedings of Indian History Congress*, 2008
- ‘Kangal Harinath,’ *Parikatha* Year 10, no. 2, May 2008
- ‘Imaging the Peasant: Muslim Literature in Bengal in the 1920s,’ *Proceedings of Indian History Congress*, 2007
- ‘Dwarkanath Vidyabhushan--- editor of Som Prakash,’ *Visva-Bharati News*, vol. LXIXI, no. 5-6, May-June, 2001
- ‘Kangal Harinath and Grambarta Prakashika,’ *Visva-Bharati News*, vol. LXIX, no. 5-6, May-June, 2000

Select Journals

- ‘Contextualising Youth Power under Colonial Rule in Gandhi’s Vision of India,’ *Gandhi Marg Quarterly*, vol. 47, Number 2, July-September, 2025, ISSN 0016-4437
- ‘Harish Chandra Mukherjee: A Saga of Social Awakening’, joint publication with Pintu Das, *JHSR Journal of Historical Studies and Research*, vol. 5, Number 2, May-August, 2025, ISSN 2583-0198
- ‘Gurusaday Dutt: Shaping Bengal’s Cultural Landscape,’ *East India Journal of Social Sciences*, vol. VIII, no. II, December 2024, ISSN: 2277-4483
- ‘Agrarian Unrest in Colonial Bengal,’ *Journal of Asiatic Society for Social Science Research*, vol. 6, no. 2, `December 2024, online ISSN: 2583 - 4533 print ISSN:3048 - 9024

- ‘Iswar Chandra Gupta and the Peasantry of Bengal: A Literary Discourse,’ *International Journal of History*, 6 (2), 2024, P-ISSN: 2706-9109 E-ISSN: 2706-9117
- ‘Situating Gandhi and Tagore’s Ideas on Rural Resuscitation in Colonial Context,’ *International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews*, vol. 11, issue 4, 2024, E-ISSN 2348-1269, P- ISSN 2349-5138
- “Gandhi and Rural Reconstruction: Issue of Village Swaraj,” *Journal of the Asiatic Society*, Vol. LXI no.3, 2019, ISSN no. 0368-1068
- Review of Anuradha Roy, Cultural Communism in Bengal 1936-1952, *Indian Historical Review*, 44(1), 2017, ISSN no. : Print ISSN: 0376-9836 Online ISSN: 0975-5977
- ‘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, ISSN no. 0042-7195
- ‘Harinath Majumdar and the Bengal Peasantry’, *Indian Historical Review*, vol. 40, no. 2, 2013, ISSN no. : Print ISSN: 0376-9836 Online ISSN: 0975-5977
- Rabindranath and Rural Reconstruction Work at Kaligram’, *The Quarterly Review of Historical Studies*, Vol. XLIV, nos. 1-2, April-September, 2007, ISSN no. 0033-5800
- ‘Economic Thought of Rabindranath Tagore’, *The Calcutta Historical Journal*, Vol 25, no.1, January-June, 2005, ISSN No. 0254-9794
- ‘Rural Reconstruction in Early Twentieth Century Bengal:• Perceptions of Nagendranath Gangopadhyay and Radhakamal Mukhopadhyay’, *History*, vol. 7, no.1, 2005, ISSN no. 2397-5737
- ‘Rabindranath Tagore on Revival of Rural Industries: Experiments in Sriniketan,’ *The Visva-Bharati Quarterly*, new series, *The Visva-Bharati Quarterly*, new series, 2005 ISSN no. 0042-7195
- ‘Agriculture and Industry- twin components of Rabindranath’s rural reconstruction programme’, *Bengal Past and Present*, Vol. 121, 2002, pub. 2004, ,ISSN No. 0005-8807
- ‘Rayater Katha- Pramatha Chaudhuri and Tagore on rights of the peasantry’, *The Quarterly Review of Historical Studies*, Vol. XL, no. 1-2, April-September, 2002, pub. 2003, ISSN no. 0033-5800
- ‘Tagore on agrarian resuscitation: the first phase’, *Asian Studies*, Vol.XIX, no.2, July-December, 2001, pub. 2003, ISSN no. 0252-9254

- ‘Rabindranath Tagore and the Co-operative Idea’, *Bengal Past and Present*, Vol.119, nos. 228-229, parts I-II, 2000, pub. 2001, ISSN No. 0005-8807

PARTICIPATION AND CONTRIBUTION IN ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES:

Visiting Professor

- Visiting Professor, **Vidyasagar University**, Delivered 2 special lectures under UGC Merged Schemes, 31.03.2014
- 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

Resource Person (Select)

- National Seminar by Department of History, Prasannadeb Women’s College, in collaboration with Maynaguri College, Jalpaiguri, 26-28 September, 2013
- 90th Orientation Programme, Academic Staff College, Burdwan University, 10.06.2013
- Participated and Translated, National level Translation Workshop on ‘Stories for Children and Young Adults’ DEOMEL, Visva-Bharati, 16-18 January, 2014
- Winter School, Academic Staff College, Burdwan University, 04.01.2014

Special/ Extension Lecture Delivered (Select)

- Delivered a talk on the subject ‘Rabindranath Samaj O Arthaniti Bhabna,’ at Tagore Research Institute, 31 December 2023
- Delivered Special Lecture in Department of History, Prasannadeb Women’s College, 04.10.2018
- Delivered Special Lecture in Department of History, Prasannadeb Women’s College, 24.9.2019
- Delivered Special Lecture in Parimal Mitra Smriti Mahavidyalay, Jalpaiguri
- Delivered Special Lecture in Department of History, University of Gour Banga, 9.10.2018
- Delivered an extension lecture at Vidyasagar University, ‘From Rammohun to

Rabindranath: Agrarian Thinking of the Bengali Intelligentsia,' 2017

- Participated and chaired two academic sessions in the UGC SAP DRS and MAKAIAS sponsored National Seminar on 'Understanding Popular Culture: 20th Century India' organized by Dept. of History, VB, Feb 2018.
- Delivered Sunil Kumar Sen Memorial Lecture, Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University 7.2.2019
- Delivered Sunil Kumar Sen Memorial Lecture 2015-16, Institute of Historical Studies, 29.6.2016
- Delivered Netaji Memorial Lecture, Visva-Bharati, 23.01.2015

Plenary Lectures/Invited Talks (Select)

- Delivered Special Lecture in The Asiatic Society on the theme of "Gandhi and Rural Reconstruction" on 19.12.2018
- Delivered an extension lecture at Vidyasagar University, 'From Rammohun to Rabindranath: Agrarian Thinking of the Bengali Intelligentsia,' 2017
- Presented a Paper in the National Conference of the Asiatic Society on 'A Comprehensive History of Modern Bengal', writer's meet, in February 2018, Calcutta
- Chaired two academic sessions in the UGC SAP DRS and MAKAIAS sponsored National Seminar on 'Understanding Popular Culture: 20th Century India' organized by Dept. of History, Visva-Bharati, February 2018
- Delivered a talk 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
- Invited by Post Graduate section, Malda College, to interact in a seminar with students & Teachers of P.G. Department attended by teachers of adjacent colleges on 9-10 March, 2010

Congresses Attended

- 20th Conference of International Association of Historians of Asia (IAHA) held in JNU 14-17 November, 2008
- Attended the sessions of the Indian History Congress on different occasions in Kolkata, Delhi and Mumbai and presented papers

Delivered Talks in Conferences/ Seminars Attended: National (Select)

- Webinar on 'Footprints of Women in India', Prabhat Kumar College, Contai, 12.01.2021
- Webinar on 'Understanding Gandhi', Hiralal Mazumdar Memorial College for Women, 1.09.2020
- Webinar on 'Land, water and the Rural World: Experiential and Emotive Responses in Colonial and Post Colonial India' Malda College, 30.07.2020
- On 'Critique of Development in Indian Context: A Philosophical Appraisal,' Department of Philosophy and Comparative Religion, Visva-Bharati, 29-31 March, 2019
- On 'Contextualizing the Body: The Indian experience', Department of History, University of Burdwan, 12-13 February, 2015
- On 'Nature and Social Imagination: The Indian Response', Department of History, University of Burdwan, 20-21 March 2013
- On 'Rural Reconstruction: Retrospect on Tagore's Visions,' Anthropological Survey of India, Kolkata, 17.01.2012
- On 'The Region and History', Department of History, Visva-Bharati, 16.01.2012

Delivered Talks in Conferences/ Seminars Attended: International (Select)

- 20th Conference of International Association of Historians of Asia (IAHA) held in JNU, 14-17 November 2008
- 'Many Rabindranath's: Across Space and Time,' Department of History, Jadavpur University, 28-30 March, 2011
- 'History and Imagination,' Department of History, Visva-Bharati, 14-15 January 2012 Rabindranath Tagore: Transmission, Translation and World Literature, Jadavpur University, 21-23 March 2012
- Tagore and his Global Vision: forging Bonds with the World, Visva-Bharati, 14-15 Jan 2013
- Gender and Sexuality- the Indian self and its Forgotten Doubles: Reading Rabindranath against the Grain, DEOMEL, Visva-Bharati, 18-19 February 2013
- History of Botanical and Meteorological Data in Indian Ocean, JNU, 30-31 August, 2013

- ‘The freedom Movement and the Partition of the Sub-Continent,’ Department of History, Visva-Bharati, 11-12 February, 2014
- History of Global Climate Change: Water, Ecology, Politics and the Management of Nature, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, 21-22 January, 2015
- Delivered an invited lecture organized by the Visva-Bharati Co-operative Society, Visva-Bharati, on ‘The Vision of Rabindranath Tagore on Co-operative Society and Community Development’, 2017

Involvement with Formulation of Academic Programmes in Visva-Bharati (Select)

- **Co-ordinator of UGC SAP (Special Assistance Programme) DRS (Departmental Research Scheme) Phase III** of the Department of History, Visva-Bharati, from 2017-2020 (completion of the programme)
- Associated actively with UGC SAP (Special Assistance Programme) DRS (Departmental Research Scheme) Phase I and II of the Department of History, Visva-Bharati, from 2005-2015
- Member of departmental syllabus committee, Department of History, Visva-Bharati, and was actively involved in modification and upgradation of syllabus for UG, PG, M.Phil and Ph.D.
- Member of departmental syllabus committee, Department of history, Visva-Bharati, for introduction of Choice Based Credit System, UG
- Member of departmental syllabus committee, Department of History, Visva-Bharati, for introduction of National Education Policy (NEP)
- Associated with introduction of NEP in different departments of Vidya Bhavana (Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences), Visva-Bharati.
- Part of the administrative exercise in successful implementation of the NEP Programme in Visva-Bharati
- Member of Review Committee of Syllabus of History of Patha Bhavana and Siksha Satra, the two schools of Visva-Bharati

Research Projects held as Principal Investigator

- University Grants Commission- Major Research Project1- 4.2007- 31.3.2010
- Indian Council of Historical Research Project January 2009- January 2011

- University Grants Commission- Major Research project 1.2.2011- 31.1.2013

Awards /Fellowships/Recognition

- Charles Wallace India Trust Research Grant awarded by Charles Wallace India Trust fellowship, 2008
- Offered Academic Hospitality at School of Oriental and African Studies, 1.7.2008 - 1.9.2008 and attachment to Department of History
- ICHR Foreign Travel and Maintenance Grant awarded by Indian Council of Historical Research, 2008
- UGC Junior research Fellowship awarded by University grants commission, 2011

Research Guidance

A. Students Awarded Ph.D.- 12

Madhumita Mondal- 2011

Naina Banerjee- 2012

Shyamal Chandra Sarkar- 2015

Sukanta Pramanik- 2017

Piyali Dan- 2021

Ushashee Nandy- 2021

Jagdip Kr. Chowhan- 2022

Palash Dey- 2023

Naju Hansda- 2023

Subir Ghosh- 2025

Sampurna Bandyopadhyay- 2025

Tiasa Basu Roy- 2025

B. Students Awarded M.Phil.

Ushashee Nandy- 2016

Shubhan Majumdar- 2019

Tanima Paul-

Rishiraj Bhowmik- 2022

Tushar Kanti Saha- 2022

Pintu Das- 2022

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE/ POSTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES HELD

- Head, Department of History, Visva-Bharati, (2015-2028, 2022-2025)
- Head of Education, Vidya Bhavana, Visva-Bharati
- Professor-in-Charge Women's Studies Centre, Visva-Bharati
- Chairman, Board of Studies, Department of History, Visva-Bharati
- External Member, Board of Studies, Department of History, Presidency University
- Member, Ad-hoc Board of P.G. Studies in Women's Studies, University of Burdwan
- Member Board of Studies, Department of History, Jadavpur University
- Adhyaksha (Principal/ Dean), Vidya Bhavana (Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences) Visva-Bharati
- Member of Academic Council, Visva-Bharati
- Member of Executive Council, Visva-Bharati
- Court member, Visva-Bharati
- Chairman, Institute Board, Vidya Bhavana (Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences) Visva-Bharati
- Member, Grievance Redressal Cell for Faculty Members, Visva-Bharati
- Vice-president Women's Committee, Visva-Bharati
- Member of different committees of the University, Visva-Bharati, involving work related to formulation of NEP syllabus, Ph.D. guidelines
- Member, Institute Board of Sangit Bhavan, Visva-Bharati
- Member of Central Admission Committee, Visva-Bharati
- Chairman Purchase Committee of Vidya Bhavana, Education Vidya Bhavana, Women's Study Centre, Visva-Bharati
- Member of different departmental committees for Routine, Syllabus, Internal assessment, purchase, Department of History, Visva-Bharati
- Member Research Advisory Committee, Department of History, Calcutta University
- External member of Board of Research Studies in History, University of Burdwan
- External Member, Departmental Research Committee in History, University of Gour Banga
- Chairman, Students Grievance Redressal Cell, Visva-Bharati

- Chairman, Women's Cell, Visva-Bharati
- Member, IQAC, Visva-Bharati
- Chairperson, Editorial Committee for preparation of Annual Report 2021-2022 and again 2022-23 Visva-Bharati
- Chairman, Career Advancement Application Scrutiny Committee Visva-Bharati
- Member, University Anti-Ragging Committee, Visva-Bharati
- Mentor, Dialogic: Young Scholars Lecture Series, Visva-Bharati
- Chairperson, Committee for allocation of space, Visva-Bharati

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 19th and 20th 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.