

Curriculum Vitae

Kaustubh Mani Sengupta

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Employments (Research and Teaching):

February 2026—present: Associate Professor, Department of History, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan.

July 2023—January 2026: Assistant Professor, Department of History and Archaeology, Shiv Nadar University.

February 2016—July 2023: Assistant Professor, Department of History, Bankura University.

June 2022: Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for Modern Indian Studies, Georg-August Universität, Goettingen, Germany.

2018—2020: Visiting Faculty, Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata.

February 2015—January 2016: Guest Faculty at Department of History, Diamond Harbour Women's University, West Bengal.

October 2013—October 2015: Post-doctoral fellow at the Max Weber Stiftung-funded Transnational Research Group (TRG) on “Poverty Reduction and Policy for the Poor between the State and Private Actors: Education Policy in India since the Nineteenth Century.” Research Topic: “Refugee Settlements and the Role of Education in Post-Partition West Bengal”. TRG members: Jawaharlal Nehru University, German Historical Institute, London, (GHIL), Centre for Modern Indian Studies, Goettingen, (CeMIS), Centre for Study in Developing Societies (CSDS), New Delhi.

Academic Profile:

2014: PhD from the Centre for Historical Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. PhD title: ‘Planned Spaces, Intimate Places: Ordering a City and Creating a Neighbourhood in Colonial Calcutta.’

2008: MA (Modern History) from Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

2006: BA (History) from Presidency College, Kolkata.

Fellowship and Grants received:

April 2016: Travel grant from Social Science Research Council, New York to attend the *Inter-Asian Connections V: Seoul Conference* held in Seoul, South Korea on 27-30 April.

November 2015: Received Postdoctoral Fellowship, Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi. [Declined]

September 2012: Foreign Travel Grant from the Indian Council for Historical Research for archival work at the British Library, London and Cambridge South Asia Archive, University of Cambridge.

October 2011-September 2012: Received one-year DAAD fellowship ‘A New Passage to India’ to visit the Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CeMIS), Georg-August Universitat, Goettingen, Germany.

Research Projects (working as an Academic Researcher/Research Partner):

2024-26: Co-PI for ‘The Past as Present: Approaches to Pedagogy, History, and Archaeology in India’, a two-year project on building ‘History and Archaeology Labs to build synergies between school and university-level pedagogies’ funded by the Shiv Nadar Foundation. Institutional partners are Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, Delhi NCR, Shiv Nadar School, Noida, and Vidyagyan School, Bulandshahr.

2024: Co-author of the book ‘History of Sports in India’, part of the series ‘Itihase Hatekhori’ [First Lessons in History], a project organized and funded by the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata and Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Germany.

2020-21: Associated with Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group and IWM, Vienna in the project on The Long 2020. Topic: ‘Structure, Agency, Temporality: Revisiting Historical Analyses to Study the Contemporary’.

Select Publications:

Monographs and Edited Books:

- i. *Carving Calcutta: Space, Economy, and Law in Eighteenth-century Bengal* (Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan, 2026 Forthcoming)
- ii. *Kolikatha* (Kolkata: Khosra Khata, 2025)

- iii. (co-editor, with Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty and Paula Banerjee) *The Long 2020: Reflections of Epidemiological Times* (Singapore: Springer nature, 2024).
- iv. (co-editor, with Tista Das) *Rethinking the Local in Indian History: Perspectives from Southern Bengal* (London, New York: Routledge, 2021).
- v. (co-editor, with Pratyay Nath, in Bengali) *Itibaser Bitarka, Bitarker Itibas: Ateeter Bharat O Ajker Gabeshona [Debates of History, History of Debates: India's Past and Present Research]* (Kolkata: Ananda Publishers, 2021).

Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

- i. 'Run, Pull, Stop: Harnessing Horse Power in Colonial Calcutta', in Pratyay Nath and Ranabir Chakravarti (eds), *The Coveted Mount: The Horse in South Asian History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2026 forthcoming).
- ii. 'Cities of the Mind: Representing Colonial Calcutta during the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries', in Pallavi Chakravarty (ed), *Urbanisation in Bengal: Ideas, Institutions and Policies* (London, New York: Routledge, 2025).
- iii. 'Structure, Agency, Temporality: Revisiting Historical Analyses to Study the Contemporary', in Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty, Paula Banerjee, and Kaustubh Mani Sengupta (eds), *The Long 2020: Reflections of Epidemiological Times from India* (Singapore: Springer nature, 2024).
- iv. 'Land, Property Relations, and Urban Planning: New Histories from Colonial India', *History Compass*, Vol. 20, Issue 3, March 2022.
- v. 'Between River and the Wasteland: Contesting Views regarding Sewage Disposal in Colonial Calcutta', in Joseph Heathcott, Jonathan Soffer, and Rae Zimmerman (eds), *Urban Infrastructure: Historical and Social Dimensions of an Interconnected World* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2022).
- vi. (in Bengali) 'Atharo Satak: Boiplobik Badal na Dharabahikota?' [Eighteenth Century: Revolutionary Change or Continuity?], in Nath and Sengupta (eds), *Itibaser Bitarka, Bitarker Itibas: Ateeter Bharat O Ajker Gabeshona [Debates of History, History of Debates: India's Past and Present Research]* (Kolkata: Ananda Publishers, 2021).
- vii. 'William Tolly and his Canal: Navigating Calcutta in the Late-Eighteenth Century', *Journal of Indian Ocean World Studies*, vol. 5, no. 1 (2021), pp. 68-92.
- viii. 'Development of Calcutta as a Commercial Metropolis in the Nineteenth-century', in Sabyasachi Bhattacharya (ed.), *A Comprehensive History of Modern Bengal, 1700-1950 (3 vol. project of The Asiatic Society, Calcutta)*, (New Delhi: Primus Books, 2020).
- ix. 'Making the City Beautiful: Open Space, Imperial Culture, and the Modern Market', in Anuradha Roy and Melitta Waligora (eds.), *Kolkata in Space, Time and Imagination* (New Delhi: Primus Books, 2019).

- x. 'The Port of Calcutta in the Imperial Network of South and South-East Asia, 1870s-1950s', in Brett Neilson, Ned Rossiter and Ranabir Samaddar (eds.), *Logistical Asia: The Labor of Making a World Region* (Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018), pp. 23-46.
- xi. 'Taking Refuge in the City: Migrant Population and Urban Management in Post-Partition Calcutta', in Ranabir Samaddar (ed.), *Migrants and the Neoliberal City*, (New Delhi: Orient Blackswan, 2018).
- xii. 'Community and Neighbourhood in a Colonial City: Calcutta's Para', *South Asia Research*, vol. 38, no. 1 (2018), pp. 40-56.
- xiii. 'Education, Training and Refugee Rehabilitation in Post-partition West Bengal', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. LIII, no. 4 (2018), pp. 58-65.
- xiv. 'The New Fort William and the Dockyard: Constructing Company's Calcutta in the late Eighteenth Century', *Studies in History*, vol. 32, no. 2 (2016), pp. 231-256.
- xv. 'Bazaars, Landlords and the Company Government in late Eighteenth-century Calcutta', *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, vol. 52, no. 2 (2015), pp. 121-146.
- xvi. (in Bengali) 'Unish Satake Bangalir Madyapan ebong Battala' [Battala and the Consumption of Alcohol in Nineteenth-century Bengal], *Anustup*, Battala Special Issue, year 45, no. 4, 2011; reprinted in Anil Acharya and Adrish Biswas (eds.), *Bangalir Battala* (vol. 1), Kolkata: 2012.

Book Reviews & Review Essays:

- i. Review of Devasis Chattopadhyay, *Harry Hobbs of Kolkata and Other Forgotten Lives. Some unusual Caucasians of 19th century Kolkata and their intriguing tales* in *The Book Review* (June 2025)
- ii. Review of Sanghamitra Chakraborty, *Soumitra Chatterjee and His World* in *Biblio* (July 2025)
- iii. Review Essay: 'Forgotten Pasts, Uncertain Futures: Land and Water in Colonial and Postcolonial Calcutta', *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, Vol. 44, 5, 2021, pp. 1016-1020.
- iv. Review of Anindita Ghosh, *Claiming the City: Protest, Crime, and Scandals in Colonial Calcutta, c. 1860-1920*, in *Reviews in History* (online), (review no. 2368), DOI: 10.14296/RiH/2014/2368.
- v. Review of Sumanta Banerjee, *Memoirs of Roads. Calcutta from Colonial Urbanization to Global Modernization*, in *Studies in History*, Vol. 34, no. 2, 2018, pp. 219-222.
- vi. Review of Haimanti Roy, *Partitioned Lives. Migrants, Refugees, Citizens in India and Pakistan, 1947-1965*, in *Refugee Watch*, 43&44, December 2014, pp. 158-160.
- vii. (in Bengali) Review of Tanika Sarkar and Sekhar Bandyopadhyay (eds.), *Calcutta: The Stormy Decades*, in *Arek Rakam*, Dec. 2016.

- viii. (in Bengali) Review essay: 'Bi-upanibeshikoron O Samrajyer Antim-lagna: 1940-50er Doshoke Paschim-Banga' [Decolonization and the Last Phase of Empire: West Bengal in 1940s-50s], *Anustup*, Year 51, no. 4, 2017, pp. 471-476.

Online Publications:

- i. 'A city's hope, despair and anger on big screen', Part of special report on 'Cities after Colonialism', <https://360info.org/a-citys-hope-despair-and-anger-on-big-screen/> (published on 12 January 2023)
- ii. 'Experiments in Education: The Early Years of Visva Bharati and Dacca University', *The India Forum*, (24 March 2022).
- iii. 'Warehouse and Transport Facilities in the Port of Calcutta, 1870-1950', *logisticalworlds.org* (published on 13 September 2017).
- vi. (in Bengali) 'Babu-brittanto niye du-char katha: Samar Sen-er Shotoborsho', *bongodorsbon.com* (published on 14 February 2017).
- vii. 'Outside the Pail: Refugees beyond Camp or Colony in Post-Partition Calcutta', *Refugee Watch Online* (September 2016).

Select Conferences, Workshops, Invited Lectures, Resource Person:

2026

Invited to present "The Port of Kolkata and the Imperial Network in the Region, 1870s-1950s" in Humanity's Urban Future (HUF) Programme, organised by CIFAR and MCRG, held in Kolkata, 5-10 January 2026.

2025

Invited to present in the 'City as a Museum: Kolkata Edition 5' programme organised by the Delhi Art Gallery (DAG) on 10 December 2025.

Invited to present in City Lights Public Lecture Series organised by Paschimanga Bangla Akademi and Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, in association with Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR). Title: 'One great graveyard of memories': Forging the City in Twentieth-century Calcutta', held on 31 May 2025.

2024

Invited as a Resource Person to present on 'Introduction to Archival Research', in Short Term Course on Research Methodology, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta, on 30 November 2024.

Evaluator of Ninth Annual Research and Orientation Workshop 'Global Protection of Refugees and Migrants', held at *The Sonnet* (Kolkata) on 8-14 November 2024, organized by the Calcutta Research Group (CRG), in collaboration with Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, South Asia, Institute for Human Sciences (IWM) Vienna, and several other universities and institutes in India and abroad.

Participated in the Working Group Meeting on ‘Cities, Communities, and Infrastructure’, a part of a research project titled *Constricting the Oceans: Indian Ocean Infrastructures and Thick Transregionalism* (CO-OC) [funded by the Danish Research Council and based at Aarhus University in Denmark], held at IIIT Hyderabad, on May 6-7, 2024

Invited as a Resource Person to the National Workshop ‘Writing the City: Multidisciplinary perspectives on Urban Studies (2-9 July, 2024)’, organized by the Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata, on 3 July, 2024.

Invited as a Resource Person to the International Conference ‘Re-reading the Past in Contemporary Times’, organized by the Centre for Contemporary History, Bankura University, on 12-13 March 2024.

2023

Presented ‘Calcutta Port Complex and the Story of Indentured Labour’ at the workshop on ‘Routes and Ports of Migration’, organized by the Calcutta Research Group held at Kolkata on 12 December 2023.

Invited as a Resource Person to the National Seminar on ‘Resistance against the British: Tribal Revolts of Jungle Mahal (Bankura, Purulia, and West Midnapore and Jhargram), sponsored by the Indian Council of Historical Research, held at Bankura University on 5-6 October 2023.

Presented ‘Some notes towards an understanding of the paras of Calcutta’ in the International Conference ‘Refugee Cities: Ethnic Displacement and Urbanization in post-imperial Eastern Mediterranean and South Asia’, held at University of London on 17-18 March 2023.

2022:

Delivered a Special Lecture ‘Atharo Shatake Bharatiyo Upamahadesh: Bank Badaler Sutrapat? [The Indian Subcontinent in the Eighteenth Century: The Beginning of a Turn?], at the Department of History, Durgapur Government College, on 7 December 2022.

Presented ‘Education, Agricultural Schemes, and Vocational Training as part of Refugee Rehabilitation Programme in Post-Partition West Bengal’, at the conference ‘Dexterities and Edifices of Belonging: Perspectives on Modern South Asia, the Opening Symposium of Max Weber Forum for South Asian Studies, held at Delhi, from 19-21 September 2022.

Presented ‘History, Heritage, and the Colonial City: Claiming Calcutta in the Early Twentieth Century’ at the Modern South Asian History Research Seminar, held at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies, Goettingen, Germany, on 28 June 2022.

Presented ‘Railways and the *Mofussil* in Colonial Bengal’, in the workshop ‘Time and Space of the Railways: Markets, Work, and Circulation in South Asia’, held at the Centre for Modern Indian Studies, Goettingen, 16-18 June.

2019:

Presented 'Making Calcutta Supreme: Infrastructure, Economy and Law in Eighteenth-century Bengal' at the conference on Indian Ocean Port Cities and their Hinterlands, held at NYU-Shanghai on 26-27 September, 2019.

Presented 'An Ambiguous Relationship: The City and the Nation in Colonial India' at the workshop "Life, Labour and Infrastructures: Indian Cities in Historical Perspective" [ICAS:MP TM3 International Workshop], held at Centre for Modern Indian Studies, University of Goettingen, on July 8-9, 2019.

Presented 'Vauban in the Colony: The New Fort William and the Making of Calcutta in the Eighteenth-century' at the workshop on "Social Technologies and Global Knowledge Economies, 1750-1850" held at the Lichtenberg-Kolleg in Goettingen on 5-6 April, 2019.

2018:

Presented a paper at the State-level Seminar "Epoch Making Changes in History: Pre-Colonial and Colonial India", held at Aliah University, Kolkata on 22 March 2018.

Presented 'Between River and the Wasteland: Contesting Views regarding Sewage Disposal in Colonial Calcutta', at the conference on *Infrastructure and the Right to the City: Perspectives from India*, at the Institute for Development Studies, Kolkata, held on 15-16 February.

2017:

Presented 'Vauban in the Colony: The New Fort William in Calcutta', at Global History Network's conference "Empires: Towards a Global History" held at Delhi University, 3-5 December.

Presented 'Infrastructural Development and the Issue of Compensation in Colonial Calcutta' at the 6th Critical Studies Conference organized by the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, held at Swabhum, Kolkata from 23-25 August, 2017.

Presented 'An Ambiguous Relationship: The Nation and the Urban in Colonial India', at the conference on *Heritage and History in South Asia*, co-organized by Presidency University and School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, at Presidency University, held on February 20-21.

2016:

Presented 'The Port of Calcutta in the Imperial Network of South and South-East Asia, 1870s-1950s' at the workshop on *Logistics of Asia-led Globalization: Infrastructure, Software, Labor* in InterAsian Connections V: Seoul, organized by the Social Science Research Council, New York and Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea, held from 27-30 April.

2015:

Presented 'Education, Vocational Training and Refugee Settlements in West Bengal, 1947-1971' at the TRG Workshop, New Delhi, held from 24-27 November.

Presented 'Educating the Children in the Refugee Colonies and Camps in post-partition Calcutta', at the Eighth Biennial Conference of the Society for the History of Children and Youth, held at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver from 24-26 June.

2014:

Participated and presented a paper in the Winter Academy on 'Inequality, Education and Social Power: Transregional Perspectives', organized by the Forum Transregionale Studien at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin from 16-25 November.

Participated and presented 'Education and Vocational Training as part of the Regime of Rehabilitation in West Bengal' at the TRG workshop held from 7-9 July at the German Historical Institute, London.