

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Dr. SAHARA AHMED**

**Designation :** Professor, Dept. of History Faculty of Arts, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.

**Specialisation :** Socio-political History of Modern India, Environmental History of Modern India, History of Science, Medicine and Technology and History of Modern Europe.

**Email :** [sahara\\_ahmed2005@yahoo.co.in/sahara.ahmed@rbu.ac.in](mailto:sahara_ahmed2005@yahoo.co.in/sahara.ahmed@rbu.ac.in)

**Phone :** +91 9830374908, (33) 24840566, +91 7980286915.

**Office :** Emerald Bower Campus, Rabindra Bharati University, 56 A, B.T.Road, Kolkata-700050.

**Res :** Avishikta –II, Flat No. 1C-803, 369/3, Purbachal Kalikapur Road, Kolkata – 700078.

**Date of birth:** 13.12.1973

### **Bio**

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

### Research Experience

- **Ph.D** awarded on 06/09/2011
- Subject/Topic - Environmental History -Forestry

Title of the Thesis - "Green Woods, Rich Mines and the Politics of Survival in Jalpaiguri and the Jungle Mahals, c. 1860-1970".

- **M.Phil** awarded in the year 1998.

Subject/Topic - Environmental History - Forestry

Title of the Thesis - "Desecrated Homelands : Village, Forests and Social Protest in the Jalpaiguri District, 1869-1947".

- Worked as research assistant to Prof. Arun Bandopadhyay, former Nurul Hasan Professor of History and former Dean of Arts, University of Calcutta, in the project entitled "Good Governance and Common Property Resources", under the Peace Studies Project of Calcutta University [Ford Foundation].

### **Fellowships**

Received the Charles Wallace India Trust Fellowship, 2017, United Kingdom.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Book**

- **Woods, Mines and Minds - Politics of Survival in Jalpaiguri and the Jungle Mahals, 1860-1970.** Primus 2019, ISBN:978-93-5290-693-29 (Hardcover)ISBN:978-93-5290-694-9 (POD).

#### **Chapters/Articles in Books and Journals**

- "Conflicting Claims : The Colonial State Forests and Forest Dwellers in the Jalpaiguri District, 1869-1947", in Ranjan Chakrabarti (ed.), *Situating Environmental History*, Manohar, 2007, pp. 263-78.
- "Flood Mayhem and the Colonial Government Disaster Management and Policy Implementation in the District of Jalpaiguri, c. 1880-1950", in the

*Calcutta Historical Journal*, Vol. XXVI, No. 2, July-December, 2006, pp. 91-111.

- Transitions in a Bengal Frontier : Forests and Forest Dwellers in Jalpaiguri District, c. 1880s-1950s”, in *Itihas Probondhamala*, 2011, Itihas Academy Dhaka, pp. 86-94, ISSN-1995-1000.
- Essay on “Andal” published in *Dictionary of Historical Places, Bengal, 1757-1947* edited by Ranjan Chakraborti, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, June 2013, Primus Books, New Delhi and Dept. of History, Jadavpur University, ISBN-978-93-80607-41-2, p. 18.
- “Green Regimes and Social Protest: Jalpaiguri, c. 1868-1950”, in *Environmental History of India* (ed.) Manjari Ray, Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya, Kolkata, 2014, pp.31-47. ISBN:978-81-923645-6-8.
- Scientific Forestry and Popular Proclivities: Jalpaiguri, c.1870s-1950s” in *People at Large Popular Culture in Modern Bengal* (ed.) Amitava Chatterjee, Setu.pp.67-111, ISBN: 978-93-80677-34-7.
- “A legacy of Participation : Forest Management and Development, Jalpaiguri, c. 1880-1980”, in *Itihas Probondhamala*, 2012, Itihas Academy, Dhaka, pp. 284-289, Transitions in a Bengal Frontier : Forests and Forest Dwellers in Jalpaiguri District, c. 1880s-1950s”, in *Itihas Probondhamala*, 2011, Itihas Academy Dhaka, pp. 86-94, ISSN-1995-1000
- Conflicting Stakes in the Forest: Gender Relations in Mech Society, c. 1890-1980, Glimpses of Environmental History(ed.) Mahua Sarkar, Subhasis Biswas, Jadavpur University & Alphabet Books & distributed by Manohar, 2018. pp. 107-127, ISBN: 978-81-929635-6-3.
- Review Article of Tribes, Forest and Social Formation in Indian History (eds.) B.B.Choudhuri and Arun Bandopadhyay, in *The Indian Historical Review*, Vol. xxxiv, No. 2 (July, 2007), pp. 221-25.
- Review Article of Gender Relations in Forest Societies in Asia : Patriarchy at Odds by Govind Kelkar, Dev Nathan, Pierre Walter (Sage, New Delhi, 2003) in the *Calcutta Historical Journal* Vol XXV, No. 1, January-June, 2006, pp. 101-5.
- “Khanishilpa, Prakriti O Unnayaner Bhabdhara : Jungle Mahal, c. 1860s-1970 in *Itihas Anusandhan*, Paschimbanga Itihas Samsad, January, 2011, pp. 1170-78.

- “Baigyanik Bonosrijan, Adivasi Janajati O Paribeshchinta : Oupanibeshik Jalpaiguri, c. 1870-1970”, in *Itihas Anushandhan*, Paschimbanga Itihas Samsad, January 2013, pp. 1090-95.
- Review Article of Bina Agarwal’s Gender and Green Governance: The Political Economy of Women’s presence within and Beyond Community Forestry, OUP, New Delhi, 2010 in *Modern Historical Studies*, Volume 8, 2011-12, Journal of the Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University, pp. 171-74.
- Review Article of Arun Bandopadhyay and Sanjukta Dasgupta ed. In Quest of the Historian’s Craft, Essays in Honour of Professor B.B.Chaudhuri, in Monthly Bulletin of the Asiatic Society, Vol. XLVII No. 4, April, 2018, pp.27-29.
- “Ecological Refugees & Indo-Bangladesh Relations: Issues & Challenges” in Annual Souvenir of Genocide Museum and Archives, Bangladesh, 2019.

I have supervised several M.Phil and PhD dissertations successfully on diverse subjects relating to History of Environment and Science, Technology and Medicine of India as well as more general topics in imperial, colonial and post-colonial history.

- **Seminars/Workshops/Conferences**

- **(National/International)Attended**

- **Participated and presented** a paper entitled, “Conflicting Claims : The Colonial State Forests and Forest Dwellers in the Jalpaiguri District, 1869-1947”, in the **International Seminar** on ‘Situating The History of Environment’ held in March, 3-5, 2005, organised by Jadavpur University and sponsored by the Special Assistance Programme of the University Grants Commission.
- **Participated and presented** a paper in the **Indian History Congress** entitled, “Forest Policies and Historical Legacies : Scientific Forestry and its Implementation in Jalpaiguri and

the Jungle Mahals of Bengal, c. 1860-1950”, held from 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> January at Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan.

- **Participated and presented** a paper entitled, “Forest, Forest-Dwellers and Survival Strategies : Jalpaiguri, 1869-1947”, in the **International Conference** on “Environment, Livelihoods and Development in South Asia : Historical Probing in A Comparative Framework”, organised by the Department of History, Calcutta University, 6-8 March, 2006.
- **Participated and presented** a paper entitled, “Bonoshonkhoron O Prakritik Bharshamya : Oupanibeshik Jalpaiguri, c. 1869 – 1950”, in the XXIII<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Paschim Banga Itihas Samsad held on 27-29 January, 2007 at the Department of University of Calcutta.
- **Participated and presented** a paper entitled, “Bonshonrokhyon O Shamajik Protirodh : Oupanibeshik Jalpaiguri, 1868-1950”, in the **National Seminar** on Protests, Resistance and Revolts in Pre-Independence India”, organised by the Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University, held on 22-23, March, 2007.
- **Attended and participated** in the UGC sponsored **National Seminar** on History and Historiography of Science, Medicine and Technology in Colonial India at Rabindra Bharati University on 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2009.
- **Attended and participated** in the **National Seminar** on ‘Explorations in the Contemporary History of India’, organised by the Centre for Advanced Studies, Department of History, University of Calcutta, on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2009.
- **Attended National Seminar** on Noakhalite Gandhi organized by the Department of History and Gandhi Centre, January 2010.
- **Attended U.G.C sponsored National Seminar** on “Perspectives of Colonial and Post colonial Bengal, 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.
- **Attended National Seminar** on Historiography of Medieval India organized by Department of History, Calcutta University, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

- **Attended National Seminar** organized by the Institute of Foreign Policy, Department of History, Calcutta University, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2010.
- **Attended National Seminar** on Twentieth Century India : Continuity and Changes (Literature, Culture and Science), organized by Vidyasagar Centre for Indological Studies, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010.
- **Attended National Seminar** on Thakkar Brothers : Early Rebels against every form of Servitude, organized by Calcutta Historical Society and Netaji Institute, 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.
- **Participated and Presented** a paper in Paschimbanga Itihas Samsad January, 2011 (**International Seminar**) entitled “Khanishilpa, Unnayan O Prakritik Bharshamya: Jungle Mahals, c. 1910-1960”.
- **Participated and Presented** a paper at a U.G.C. and I.C.H.R sponsored **National Seminar** at Malda College, entitled, “Forest Policies and Historical Legacies : Participatory Forest Management in Jalpaiguri, c. 1720s – 1980s”, held on 28<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2011.
- **Participated and Presented** a paper entitled, “Scientific Forestry and Popular Proclivities : Jalpaiguri and Jungle Mahals, c. 1870s-1980s”, at a U.G.C. sponsored **National Seminar** on ‘Popular Culture in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Bengal’, organized by Ramsaday College, Amta, Howrah, on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2011.
  - **Participated and Presented** a paper entitled, “Baigyanik Bonosrijan, Adivasi Janajati O Paribesh Chinta : Aupanibeshik Jalpaiguri, c. 1870-1970”, (**International Seminar**), held from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2012.
- **Participated and Presented** a paper entitled, “A legacy of Participation : Forest Management and Development, Jalpaiguri, c. 1880-1980”, at an **International Seminar** organized by Itihas Academy Dhaka held on 17 February, 2012.
- **Participated and Presented** a paper entitled, “Green Regimes and Colonial Pasts : Vignettes of Botanical Garden and Histories of Marginalized People, c. 1890-1970”, at a **National Seminar** under the **DRS Programme in History** on ‘Biography, Autobiography and Memoir : Contextualising Bengal’, by the Department of History, Burdwan University from 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> February 2012.
- **Participated and Presented** a paper entitled, “Jalpaiguri Jelar Adibashi Janajati : Sanskriti, Parichay O Rajniti, 1860-1955”, in a U.G.C. sponsored **National Seminar** on ‘Culture, Identity and Politics

in South Asia’,[ organized by the Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University held on March 5-6, 2012.

- **Participated, chaired and presented** a paper in a **National Seminar** on “Green Regimes and Forest Policies” on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 at Lalbaba College, Belurmath, Howrah.
- **Participated** in 30<sup>th</sup> Annual **International** Convention of Paschimbanga Itihas Samsad held at P.N.Das College, Palta from 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> January, 2014.
- **Participated and presented** a paper in a **National Seminar** entitled, “Green Regimes and Social Protest, Jalpaiguri : 1868-1950”, at the National Level Seminar on Environmental History of India held on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 at Naba Ballygunge Mahavidya.
- **Participated** in the **National Seminar** on “Emerging Issues in the History of Colonial and Post Colonial India”, organised by the Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University on 21 March, 2014.
- **Participated and presented a paper in International Seminar** on Global Climate Change entitled, “Colonial Pasts and Legacies: Forests, Climate Change and Disaster Management in the Northern Circle, c. 1860s-1970s”, January, 2015.
- **Participated** in a **National Seminar** on Jawaharlal Nehru and B.R. Ambedkar in Light of 125<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary: Consequence, Conflict and Charisma” on 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2015.
  - **Participated and presented** a paper in a **National level Seminar** on “Land Rights and Santhal Women” at **Aliah University** in April, 2017.
  - **Participated and presented** a paper on “Designing Scientific Mining” at an **international seminar** at the **University of Sussex, CWEH**, on June 13, 2017.
  - **Participated and presented** a paper on “Revisiting the Jangalmahals – Retrospect and Prospect” organised by **The Asiatic Society**, Kolkata, from 19-21 July, 2017.
  - **Participated** in **Regional Knowledge Conclave** for Colleges and Universities, Kolkata, from August 24 and 25, 2017 organised by the **Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi**.
  - **Participated and Chaired** a session in a National Seminar on “History of Sanitation in Bengal” organised by the Corpus Research Institute on August 26, 2017.

- **Participated and presented** a paper at the **International Seminar** on “Re-Thinking Renaissance: Perceptions and Representations”, organised by Mrinalini Datta Mahavidyapith on December 15, 2017.
- **Participated** in a **National Level Seminar** on “Indian Newspaper: Yesterday & Today”, on February 23, 2018 by the Vidyasagar Centre for Indological Studies, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.
- **Participated in a Workshop** on, “Exploring New Avenues of Research and Research Funding” organised by IQAC, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, February 28, 2018.
- **Participated** in a **National Level Seminar** on “Exploring India-Russia Relationship: Pre and Post Revolutionary (1917) Phases” from March 15-16, 2018, by the Vidyasagar Centre for Indological Studies, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.
- Co-ordinated, participated and chaired a session at the **International Seminar** on “Revisiting 1942” organised by the Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University, on March 20 & 21, 2018.
- Participated in an **international seminar** on “Bangladesher Muktijuddho: Phire Dekha” on March 27&28, 2018, organised by the Bangladesh Bidyacharcha Kendra, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata.
- **Presided** over the Hiralal Gupta Memorial Lecture on <sup>Readings of</sup> 1971: Bangladesh Liberation War and Women, Institute of Historical Studies, Kolkata, 2016.
- **Chaired** an academic session in the Indian Social Sciences and Humanities Congress, Samagam, 2018.
- **Chaired** an academic session in the Indian Social Sciences and Humanities Congress, Samagam, 2019.
- **Participated and presented** a paper on “Gendering the Forest Societies”, in a National Seminar on Gender Sensitisation, September, 2019, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata.
- **Commentator** in a session in an International Seminar on 200 Years of Vidyasagar: Probing Social Reforms organized by the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, September, 2019.
- **Participated and presented** a paper entitled, “Gender Relations in Forest Societies: Impact of Pre colonial Customs and Colonial Laws on Mech and Santhal Women” in a national level seminar on History of Environment Ideas, 19 November 2019 at Diamond Harbour Women's University.

### Special Lectures

- 1) “The Revolt of 1857 and its Myriad Interpretations”, Department of History, ShriShikshayatan College, May 5, 2014.
- 2) “Comprehending Environmental History: From Ancient times to the Modern”. Department of History, Mrinalini Dutta Mahavidyalaya, 2016.



3) "Partition and its Aftermath: Different Perspectives", Department of History, St. Xavier's College, Raghavpir Campus, Kolkata, 2017.

**Languages Known:**

(1)English, (2) Bengali,(3) Hindi, (4) Nepali, (5) German and (6) Urdu.

• **Professional Activities**

1. Coordinator of Examinations Paper I and Paper VI of M.A. Part I and Part II respectively of the Directorate of Distance Education of Rabindra Bharati University, 2009-10
2. Member of Teachers' Council.
3. Teachers' Representative from the Department of History, 2008-10 and from 2016 till date.
4. Member of Departmental Committee.
5. Member of Board of Studies.
6. Member of Equal Opportunity Cell till date.

• **Involvement in other Academic bodies**

- i. Executive Committee member of Paschim Banga Itihas Samsad (2010-14).
- ii. Life Member of Indian History Congress.
- iii. Life Member of Bangiyo Shahitya Parishad.
- iv. Life Member of Calcutta University Institute.
- v. Member of Board of Studies, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata till date.
- vi. Served as guest faculty member in the Department of History Aliah University in 2017-18.
- vii. Consultant Visiting Faculty in Biswa Bangla Biswabidyalay since 26 January 2021.