

# Curriculum Vitae

## Suvabrata Sarkar

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### Academic Appointments:

- ❖ Assistant Professor, Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata – June 2019 to Present
- ❖ Assistant Professor, Department of History, The University of Burdwan, Bardhaman, West Bengal – July 2014 to June 2019

**Specialization:** Modern Indian History, History of Science, Technology and Medicine

### Education:

- **PhD**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 2014 for the thesis on 'Technical Education and Industrialization Interface in Bengal during 1880-1945'.
- **M.Phil.**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 2010 for the dissertation on 'Quest for Technical Knowledge: A Study of Nineteenth Century Bengali Journals'.
- **MA in History**, Visva-Bharati (a central university), Santiniketan, West Bengal, 2006 with First Class.
- **BA (Hons.) in History**, Visva-Bharati (a central university), Santiniketan, West Bengal, 2004 with First Class.

### Peer-reviewed Publications:

#### Books-

- *Let there be Light: Engineering, Entrepreneurship and Electricity in Colonial Bengal, 1880-1945*, Cambridge and New Delhi: Cambridge University Press, 2020.

(Reviewed in *LSE Review of Books*, *Anandabazar Patrika*, *Studies in People's History*, *Bulletin of the Pacific Circle*, *South Asian History & Culture*, *Science, Technology & Society*, *South Asia Research*)

- *The Quest for Technical Knowledge: Bengal in the Nineteenth Century*, New Delhi: Manohar, 2012.  
(Reviewed in *Technology & Culture*, *The Statesman*, *The Quarterly Review of Historical Studies*, *The Journal of Transport History*)

#### Edited Books-

- *History of Science, Technology, Environment and Medicine in India*, Oxon and New York: Routledge, 2022.
- Co-edited *Contextualizing the Body: An Indian Experience*, New Delhi: Manohar, 2021.

#### Articles in Referred Journals-

- 'An Alternative History of Technology in South Asia: The Unknown Viśvakarmās of Colonial Bengal', *Indian Journal of History of Science*, Vol. 55, No. 1, 2020, pp. 49-59.
- 'Electrification of Colonial Calcutta: Role of the Innovators, Bureaucrats and Foreign Business Organization, 1880-1940', *Studies in History*, Vol. 34, No. 1, 2018, pp. 48-76. (Sage)
- 'Domesticating electric power: Growth of industry, utilities and research in colonial Calcutta', *The Indian Economic and Social History Review*, Vol. 52, No. 3, 2015, pp. 357-89. (Sage)
- 'In Pursuit of *Laxmi*: Entrepreneurship, Industry and Technology in Colonial Bengal', *Archiv Orientalni/ Oriental Archive: Journal of African and Asian Studies*, Vol. 82, No.2, 2014, pp. 263-95.
- 'Colonization, Technical Education and the Bengali *Bhadralok*: Studies on the Politics of Knowledge, 1856-1905', *Harvard Asia Quarterly*, Vol. 14, No. 3, Fall 2012, pp. 17-24.
- 'Technological Momentum: Bengal in the Nineteenth Century', *The Indian Historical Review*, Vol. 37, No. 1, 2010, pp. 89-109. (Sage)
- 'Technical Content and Colonial Context: Situating Technical Knowledge in Nineteenth Century Bengal', *Social Scientist*, Vol. 38, Nos. 1-2, 2010, pp. 37-52.

#### Book Chapters-

- 'Academic engineering and India's colonial encounter: Bengal Engineering College, Sibpur, a historical perspective', in Suvabrata Sarkar (ed.), *History of Science, Technology, Environment and Medicine in India*, Oxon and New York: Routledge, 2022, pp. 121-138.
- 'The small voices of history: Subaltern technologists of colonial Bengal', in Kaustubh Mani Sengupta and Tista Das (eds.), *Rethinking the Local in Indian History*, Oxon and New York: Routledge, 2022, pp. 89-105.

- 'Writing the history of the relations between technology, medicine and the body: Advent of 'X-Ray' in colonial Bengal', in Sudit Krishna Kumar and Suvobrata Sarkar (eds.), *Contextualizing the Body: An Indian Experience*, New Delhi: Manohar, 2021, pp. 229-244.
- 'Electrification of Colonial Calcutta: A Social Perspective', in A. K. Bag, Arnab Rai Choudhuri and Deepak Kumar (eds.), *Emergence of Modern Science in Colonial India*, New Delhi: Indian National Science Academy, 2018, pp. 211-216.
- 'Bhadralok Aspirations and the Quest for Technical Knowledge (1830-1900)', in Deepak Kumar, Joseph Bara, Nandita Khadria and Ch. Radha Gayathri (eds.), *Education in Colonial India: Historical Insights*, New Delhi: Manohar, 2013, pp. 99-124.

### Research Project:

Principal Investigator (PI) of a major research project titled *Techno-Social History of Electrification in Colonial Eastern India, 1880s-1940s* funded by the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi (2021-22)

### Awards, Fellowships and Honors:

- ❖ Recipient of the **Maurice Daumas Prize 2019**, International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC).
- ❖ Recipient of **Dr I G Khan Memorial Prize** for the best paper in the section on *History of Science & Technology*, **Indian History Congress**, 78<sup>th</sup> Session, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 28 – 30 December, 2017
- ❖ Recipient of the **Charles Wallace India Trust** short research grant for archival research in the UK, 2017.
- ❖ Recipient of the **Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), Foreign Travel & Maintenance Grant (FTG)** for data collection abroad in 2017.
- ❖ Nominated an International Scholar of the **Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)** for a two-year term, 2016 and 2017

### Select Lectures/Seminars/Talks Given at:

#### *In 2021-*

- Symposium Empire of Knowledge: South Asia, 1850-1971 (Science and Empire Commission), 26<sup>th</sup> International Congress of History of Science and Technology, Prague, 25 – 31 July, 2021 (Virtually via Zoom).

#### *In 2020-*

- "Rethinking South Asia: Alternative Paradigms, Practices and Discourses", Annual Conference of Indian Association for South Asian Studies, Delhi, 7 – 8 November, 2020 (Virtually via Zoom).

- Virtual Workshop on History Resources for Teachers in Higher Education, National Resource Centre for Education, National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi, 8 – 9 October, 2020 (Invited Speaker).

***In 2018-***

- Silver Jubilee National Seminar on *Contemporary Debates on Science, Technology and Nationalism in India*, IIT Guwahati, 31 October – 2 November, 2018 (Invited Speaker and Chaired a Technical Session).
- International Workshop on *The role of the users in global technological history*, organized by the Bern University, Switzerland, 14 – 15 June, 2018 (Invited Speaker and Funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation and the Bern University Fund for the Promotion of Young Researchers).

***In 2017-***

- Indian History Congress, 78<sup>th</sup> Session, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 28 – 30 December, 2017.
- International Conference on ‘Localities and Linkages: South Bengal in the Colonial Period’, organized by the Dept. of History, Bankura University, West Bengal in collaboration with the ICHR, New Delhi, 18 – 19 April, 2017 (Invited Speaker).

***In 2016-***

- 2016 Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) at the National University of Singapore, Singapore, 22 – 26 June 2016 (Travel Grant from the Society for the History of Technology).

***In 2015-***

- Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Madras, Chennai, 22 August, 2015 (Invited Speaker).

**Conference/ Seminar Organized:**

- Coordinator, National Level Web-lecture, presented by Professor Deepak Kumar on ‘Relevance of Contemporary History’, organized by Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University (22 September 2020)
- Joint-Convener, Research Scholars’ Seminar, Department of History, University of Burdwan (16 April, 2019)
- Joint-Convener of the UGC Sponsored National Seminar organized by the Department of History, University of Burdwan- *Contextualizing Body: The Indian Experience* (12 – 13 February, 2015)

### Research Supervision:

- Abhijit Neogi received his **M.Phil.** degree for the dissertation on 'A study of some less known self-made technologists of colonial Bengal' from the University of Burdwan (2020)
- Shravasti Pathak received her **M.Phil.** degree for the dissertation on 'Medical Nationalism in Bengal: Dr. R. G. Kar (1852-1918) in Perspective' from the University of Burdwan (2018)

### Research Examiner:

- Gita Bania, **M.Phil.**, Department of History, University of Hyderabad, 2019.
- Vikram Singh Brijwal, **M.Phil.**, Centre for Science, Technology & Innovation Policy, School of Social Sciences, Central University of Gujarat, 2015.

### Referees:

- **Prof. Deepak Kumar**, Former Professor of History of Science & Education, Zakir Husain Centre for Educational Studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi-110067, India. E-mail: [deepakjnu2008@gmail.com](mailto:deepakjnu2008@gmail.com)
- **Prof. Suranjan Das**, Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University, 188, Raja S. C. Mallick Road, Kolkata-700032, WB, India. E-mail: [suranjandas2000@yahoo.co.in](mailto:suranjandas2000@yahoo.co.in)
- **Prof. Ross Bassett**, Department of History, North Carolina State University, 350 Withers Hall, Campus Box 8108, Raleigh, NC 27695-8108. E-mail: [ross@ncsu.edu](mailto:ross@ncsu.edu)
- **Prof. Tirthankar Roy**, Dept of Economic History, The London School of Economics & Political Science, Houghton Street, London WC2A 2AE, UK. E-mail: [t.roy@lse.ac.uk](mailto:t.roy@lse.ac.uk)
- **Prof Prakash Kumar**, Department of Asian Studies, Pennsylvania State University, 102 Old Botany Building, University Park, PA 16802. E-mail: [puk15@psu.edu](mailto:puk15@psu.edu)

(SUVOBRATA SARKAR)

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