

Curriculum Vitae of Suvobrata Sarkar

Personal Details

Name: Suvobrata Sarkar

Designation: Assistant Professor

Department: History

Faculty: Arts

University: Rabindra Bharati University



Former Positions held: Assistant Professor, Department of History, The University of Burdwan, West Bengal

Teaching Experience (in number of years): 11 Years

Visiting fellow/ Professorships (National & International):

- ❖ Recipient of the **Charles Wallace India Trust** short research grant for archival research in the UK, 2023
- ❖ Recipient of **Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Travel Grant for Data Collection Abroad** in 2023
- ❖ 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.

Educational Qualifications: M.A (Visva-Bharati), M.Phil., Ph.D. (JNU)

Areas of Interest/Specialisation: History of Science, Technology, and Medicine in Modern South Asia

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1. Publications (give details in APA/ MLA style)

A. Book(s)/ Edited book(s)/ Monographs:

Books-

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

- *The Quest for Technical Knowledge: Bengal in the Nineteenth Century*, New Delhi: **Manohar**, 2012.

Edited Books-

- Co-edited *Decolonizing Science and Modernity in South Asia: Questioning Concepts, Constructing Histories*, Singapore: **Springer**, 2024.
- *History of Science, Technology, Environment and Medicine in India*, London and New York: **Routledge**, 2022.
- Co-edited *Contextualizing the Body: An Indian Experience*, New Delhi: **Manohar**, 2021.

B. Journal edited:

C. Article(s)/ Book Chapter(s):

- 'Electrification, urbanization, and politics: British Bengal to princely Cooch Behar,' *Indian Journal of History of Science*, published online 28 October 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43539-025-00185-0> (Springer)
- Co-author, 'On the need for an anticolonial perspective in engineering education and practice', *Nature Communications*, 14, 8453 (2023), published on 20 December 2023. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-023-43952-2>
- '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.
- 'Bengali Entrepreneurs and Western Technology in the Nineteenth Century: A Social Perspective', *Indian Journal of History of Science*, Vol. 48, No. 3, 2013, pp. 447-475.
- '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.

D. Translations work(s):

E. Article(s) in News paper/ Magazine: Book reviews published in the *Anandabazar Patrika*, *Indian Journal of History of Science*, *The Korean Journal of History of Science*, *HoST: Journal of History of Science and Technology*

F. Exhibition Catalogue(s)/ Exhibition review(s):

G. Script/ Adaptation work/Director's note/ Drama Pamphlet:

2. Papers Presented in National/ International Seminars/Conferences:

- Symposium Empire of Knowledge: South Asia, 1850-1971 (Science and Empire Commission), 26th International Congress of History of Science and Technology, Prague, 25 – 31 July, 2021(Virtually via Zoom).
- “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).
- International Seminar on *Emergence of Science in Colonial India*, Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi, 14 –16 March, 2018.
- Indian History Congress, 78th Session, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 28 – 30 December, 2017.
- 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).
- The 12th International Conference of History & Heritage 2016 organized by Itihas Academy Dhaka, Bangladesh, 19 February 2016.

3. Invited Speaker / Resource Person / Chaired Sessions in National/ International Seminars/ Conferences/ Conventions/ Workshops/ FDPs etc.:

- One-day National Seminar on Making Science “Social” in Modern India, Department of History, School of Social Sciences, University of Hyderabad, 18 September 2025 (Invited Speaker).
- Delivered the Keynote Address at the annual academic conglomeration on ‘History of Science’, Department of History, Ramakrishna Mission Residential College (Autonomous), Narendrapur, 3 April 2025.
- International Conference on *Mise-en-scene: Tracing the Present History of West Bengal*, Centre for Contemporary History, Bankura University, 26 March 2025 (Invited Speaker).
- Delivered an Invited Lecture at the Department of History, Bankura University, 25 March 2025.
- Delivered an Invited Lecture at the School of Humanities & Social Sciences (SHSS) Lecture Series on History of Science: Culture, Society and Technology, IIT Indore, 13 September 2024.

- Participated as an Invited Speaker to a Panel Discussion on The Way Forward for the Bengali Youth through the Philosophy of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Roy, jointly organized by the Victoria Memorial Hall and Bengal Business Council, at Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata, 2 August, 2024.
- Delivered an Invited Lecture at the STS Seminar 2024: Globalization from Below, Centre Population et Développement, University Paris Cité, 17 April, 2024 (Virtually via Zoom).
- Delivered an Invited Lecture at the Department of History, Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol, West Bengal, 18 July, 2023.
- International Conference on Science, Humanism and the Making of Modern India, jointly organized by University of Sussex and Botanical Survey of India, Ashutosh Birth Centenary Hall, Indian Museum, Kolkata, 9 – 10 January, 2023 (Invited Speaker).
- Chaired a Session at the Three-day National Level Online Colloquium, “Livelihood and Impact of Industrialization: Perspective in Paschim Bardhaman,” UGC-STRIDE Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol, West Bengal, 18 November, 2022.
- Inaugural Workshop on Transdisciplinary Research Cluster of Frugality Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and International Centre for Frugal Innovation, Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Universities, Teri Retreat, Gwal Pahari, Faridabad-Gurgaon Road, Haryana, 23 – 24 April, 2022 (Invited Speaker).
- 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).
- Delivered an Invited Lecture at the Mahishadal Raj College, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, 18 February, 2020.
- 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).
- National Seminar on *Historiography of Science in India*, Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi, 24 September, 2018 (Invited Speaker).
- 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).
- 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).
- Delivered an Invited Lecture at the Purnidevi Choudhury Girls’ College, Bolpur, Birbhum, West Bengal, 12 December, 2015.

- Delivered an Invited Lecture at the Aghorekamini Prakashchandra Mahavidyalaya, Bengai, Hooghly, West Bengal, 1 October, 2015.
- Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT Madras, Chennai, 22 August, 2015(Invited Speaker).

4. Organised Seminar/ Conferences/ Exhibitions/ Workshops/FIP/ FDPs etc.:

- Member of the Organizing Committee, **Research Week Programmee 2023**, Rabindra Bharati University (19-25 September, 2023)
- Joint-Coordinator, UGC Sponsored National Seminar organized by the Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University- *Revisiting the Struggle for Indian Independence and Its Historiography* (2 –3 March, 2023).
- 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).

5. Participated in Seminars/ Conferences/ Exhibitions/ Workshops:

6. Programmes/ Performances (online or offline) Participated/ Organised:

7. Artist Camp / Artist Residences Participated/ Organised:

8. No. of Research Project(s): Completed: One (1) Ongoing: One (1)

9. Mention the Details of Research Project(s):

- ✓ Co-investigator of a research project titled *Ramakrishna Math and Mission and Health Care in Eastern India, 1897-1997: A Hundred Years Perspective from Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa* generously funded by the **Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi** (2025-2027)
- ✓ Principal Investigator of a research project titled *Techno-Social History of Electrification in Colonial Eastern India, 1880s-1940s* generously funded by the **Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi** (2021-23)

10. No. of Ph.D. Guidance: Awarded: Three (3) Ongoing: Three (3)

11. No. of M.Phil. Guidance: Four (4)

12.

Till date participated in Faculty Development Programs(FDP) (RC/ OP/ FIP/ Short Term Course) (online or offline) (Add rows below if required):

Sl. No.	Title or Theme of the FDP	Name of the Organizer	Place of the FDP	Start date (dd/mm/yyyy)	End date (dd/mm/yyyy)
1.	Interdisciplinary Refresher Course in "21 st Century Development and Environmental Challenges"	MMTTC, University of Calcutta	Kolkata	09/01/2025	22/01/2025
2.	Refresher Course in Indian Knowledge Tradition, Ethics & Human Values (Interdisciplinary)	MMTTC, Jawaharlal Nehru University	New Delhi	11/12/2024	24/12/2024
3.	Refresher Course in History	HRDC, Pondicherry University	Pondicherry	04/12/2018	24/12/2018
4.	UGC-Sponsored Orientation Programme	HRDC, University of Calcutta	Kolkata	19/12/2016	14/01/2017

13. Responsibilities and Experiences in Academic Administration:

A. Within the Campus:

- ✓ Member of the Research Programme & Policy Development, Research & Development Cell (2023 to till date)
- ✓ Member of the Prevention of Caste Based Discrimination Committee (2022 to till date)
- ✓ Member of the NAAC Steering Committee (2021-2024)
- ✓ Member of the NAAC Re-Accreditation Committee (2020-2021)

B. Beyond Campus: Treasurer, Society for the History of Science Kolkata (<https://www.societyforthehistoryofscience.com/>)

14. Achievements as Teacher / Performer:

15. Patents/ Awards/ Recognitions:

- ❖ 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**, 78th Session, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 28 – 30 December, 2017

16. Other Academic Activities (if any): Delivered Invited Lectures at the M.Tech. Course in Science Communication, National Council of Science Museums, Ministry of Culture, Government of India with recognition from Jawaharlal Nehru University (2024 and 2025).

Suvobrata Sarkar
November 2025