

## Curriculum Vitae

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### Swarupa Gupta

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**Ph.D. Awarded:** Title of Thesis: ‘*Samaj* and Unity: The Bengali Literati’s Discourse on Nationhood, 1867-1905’, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, 2004

**Research Interests:** Notions of nationhood, ethnicity and ethnic movements, transnationalism, connected histories, intercultural dialogue, history of religion, religious diversity, identity politics, social and cultural history of modern Bengal and India

**Current Affiliation** (1) Fellow, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Calcutta (Ministry of Culture, Government of India);  
(2) Guest Faculty Member of the Department of History, Presidency University, Calcutta

**International Visiting Position/Fellowship (Invited):** Visiting Scientist at the Max Planck Institute of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Gottingen, Germany (in 2009)

### **Publications**

#### **Books (Monographs)**

1. *Notions of Nationhood in Bengal: Perspectives on Samaj, c. 1867-1905* (Leiden, Boston: Brill, 2009)
2. *Ethnicity, Otherness and Cultural Constellations in Eastern India and Beyond, c.1850-1927* (book manuscript)

#### **Edited Volume**

3. *Nationhood and Identity Movements in Asia: Colonial and Postcolonial Times* (Asia Annual 2010); New Delhi: Manohar (in press, forthcoming / to be published in 2011)

#### **Research Articles in Refereed / Reviewed Journals**

1. ‘Notions of Nationhood in Bengal: Perspectives on *Samaj*, 1867-1905’ *Modern Asian Studies* (Cambridge University Press); Volume 40, Number 2, 2006, pp. 273-302
2. ‘1857 and Ideas about Nationhood in Bengal: Nuances and Themes’, Special Issue of *Economic and Political Weekly* (EPW), Volume XLII, Number 19, May 12-18, 2007, pp. 1762-1769

3. 'Samaj, Jati and Desh: Reflections on Nationhood in Late Colonial Bengal', *Studies in History* (Sage Publications: Los Angeles/London/New Delhi/Singapore) Volume 23, Number 2, New Series (December 2007), pp. 177-203
4. 'Frontiers of Faith: The Construction of Religious Geographies in Eastern India and Beyond', *Journal of the Asiatic Society*, Volume L, Number 2, July 2008 (Asiatic Society Publications), pp. 37-56
5. 'Colonial Cartography and Indigenous Responses: The Quest for a Greater Bengal and the Forging of a Cultural Cosmos in Eastern India during the Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century', *Asia Annual 2006* (Delhi: Standard Publishers India, 2007), pp. 395-425
6. 'Religious Connections between Bengal and Contiguous Ethnicities: Forging an Interregional Arena', *Asia Annual 2007* (New Delhi: Manohar, 2008) pp. 153-171
7. 'Significations and Reinterpretations of *Dharma* in Colonial Bengal: Perspectives on Social and Cultural Unity', *Journal of Social Studies*, Number 126, April-June, 2010, pp. 25-48
8. 'Religious Rendezvous: Encounters between Bengali Travellers and South East Asians, c.1916-1927', *Encounters*, Volume / Number 4, 2011 (distributed by I.B. Tauris: London, New York, Melbourne), pp. 241-264

### **Book Contributions/Chapters**

9. '1857 and Ideas about Nationhood in Bengal: Nuances and Themes' in *1857: Essays from Economic and Political Weekly* (Hyderabad: Orient Longman, 2008), pp. 279-302
10. '1857 and the Bengali Imagination: The Role of Literature in Shaping Discourses On Nationhood', in Kaushik Roy (ed.), *The Uprising of 1857: Before and Beyond* (New Delhi: Manohar, 2010), pp. 163-186
11. 'Facets of Freedom in Bengali Nationalist Discourse: Indigenous Origins, Reorientations and Interrelations', forthcoming in Bhupinder Brar and Pampa Mukherjee (eds.), *Indian Ideas of Freedom*
12. 'Interrogating *Dharma* and Social Collectivity: Perspectives on Cultural Unity in Bengal', in Arabinda Samanta (ed.), *Life and Culture in Bengal: Colonial and Postcolonial Experiences*, (Calcutta: Progressive Publishers, 2011), pp. 264-288
13. 'The Idea of Freedom in Bengali Nationalist Discourse', forthcoming in a volume as proceedings of a National Conference on 'The Indian National Congress and the Struggle for Independence', organised by Loreto College, Calcutta, in collaboration with Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta

14. 'Nationhood and Identity Movements in Asia: Colonial and Postcolonial Times' (Introduction) in edited volume: *Nationhood and Identity Movements in Asia: Colonial and Postcolonial Times*, New Delhi: Manohar (in press, forthcoming in 2011)

### **Encyclopaedic/Dictionary Entries/Contributions**

15. Essays entitled: 'Tribeni' and 'Jirat', forthcoming in Ranjan Chakrabarti (ed.), *Dictionary of Historic Places of Bengal: 1757-1947*, funded by the State Level Committee for the Celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Indian War of Independence
16. Essays: 'Pyari Chand Mitra' and 'Dwijendranath Tagore' forthcoming in Ranjan Chakrabarti (ed.), *Dictionary of Historic Personalities: Bengal Chapter (1757-1947)*, funded by the State Level Committee for the Celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Indian War of Independence

### **Other Edited Volumes**

Associate Editor of *Asia Annual: Understanding Popular Culture* (New Delhi: Manohar, 2009)

Associate Editor of *Asia Annual* (New Delhi: Standard Publishers India, 2006)

### **Other Editorial / Review Experience**

Reviewer of *Asian Ethnicity*, Routledge (Taylor and Francis): an international, peer reviewed journal

### **Seminar / Conference Presentations**

1. 'Imagining the Past: Aspects of Race and Nationalism in Late Nineteenth-Century Bengali Historiography, 1867-1905', paper presented in a seminar at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London on 3 February, 2000
2. '*Samaj* and Nationhood in Late Nineteenth-Century Bengali History-Writing' paper presented in the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, South Asian Seminar Series, on 16 May, 2000
3. **Invited presentation:** '*Samaj* and Nationhood in Late Nineteenth-Century Bengal', paper presented in Cambridge (Cambridge Centre for South Asian Studies, Laundress Lane) on 27 May, 2002
4. 'Bengali Treatment of Neighbouring Ethnicities: Perspectives on *Samaj*, 1867-1905', paper presented in the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, South Asian Seminar Series, on 15 October, 2002

5. **Invited presentation:** 'Redefining Nationhood: *Samaj* and Perspectives on Unity in Bengal, 1867-1905', paper presented in a U.G.C. sponsored National Conference on 'Society, Culture and Polity in Colonial Eastern India' organised by the Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University, Calcutta, on 31 March, 2004
6. **Invited lecture:** 'Redefining *Jati* and *Samaj*: Perspectives on Nationhood in Bengal, 1867-1905', presented in Sociological Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, on 9 July, 2004
7. '*Samaj* and Notions of Nationhood in Bengal, 1867-1905', paper presented at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, on 10 August 2004
8. **Invited lecture/presentation:** 'Bengali Treatment of Neighbouring Ethnicities: Perspectives on *Samaj*, 1867-1905' presented in Sociological Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, on 4 October 2005
9. 'Bengali Evaluations of Neighbouring Ethnicities: *Samajik* Comparison, Otherness and Unity' paper presented at the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Calcutta, on 28 February, 2006
10. **Invited Presentation** at the inaugural session of a workshop on 'Internal Displacement: Issues in North East India' held at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, on 17-18 April, 2006
11. **Invited presentation:** 'Redefining Nationhood: Perspectives on *Samaj* and Unity in Late Colonial Bengal', paper presented at the Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi, on 14 March, 2007
12. 'Interrogating *Jati*: Its Uses and Applications in the Bengali Literati's Discourse on Neighbouring Ethnicities during the Late Colonial Period', paper presented at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, on 1 August, 2007
13. **Invited presentation:** 'Facets of Freedom in Bengali Nationalist Discourse Indigenous Origins, Reorientations and Interrelations', paper presented at a National Conference on 'Indian Ideas of Freedom' sponsored by the U.G.C., and Northwestern Centre of ICSSR at Punjab University, Chandigarh, on 22 February, 2008
14. **Invited presentation:** 'Interrogating *Dharma* and Social Collectivity: Perspectives on Cultural Unity in Bengal', paper presented at a National Conference on 'Life and Culture in Bengal in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries', organised by the Department of History, University of Burdwan under DRS programme of U.G.C., on 11 March 2008
15. **Invited presentation:** 'Images and Impressions of South East Asia in Bengali Travel Narratives during the Late Colonial Period', paper presented in an International Conference/Seminar, organised by the Centre for South and South East Asian Studies (University of Calcutta) in collaboration with Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, held at Calcutta University on 9 January, 2010

16. **Memorial Lecture Delivered (Invited):** Institute of Historical Studies on 24 April 2010. Professor H.L. Gupta Memorial Lecture, 2010-2011. Topic of the lecture – ‘Facets of Freedom in Bengali Nationalist Discourse’
17. ‘Scholarly Networks, Interconnections between Universities and Ideas about Nationhood in Bengal: Beyond the Binary of Imperial Metropolis and Colony’, paper presented in an International Conference on ‘Scholarly Networks in the British Empire: Transnational and Imperial Connections after 1850’ at Wadham College, University of Oxford, on 5 July, 2010
18. **Invited lecture:** ‘Religious Travel, Place-Making and Social Collectivity: Connected Spaces in Bengal, India and Beyond, c. 1850-1927’, paper presented at Sudasien Institut, University of Heidelberg, on 9 July 2010
19. **Invited presentation:** ‘The Idea of Freedom in Bengali Nationalist Discourse’, paper presented in a National Conference on – The Indian National Congress and the Struggle for Independence – organised by Loreto College, Calcutta, in collaboration with Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta, on 30 September, 2010
20. Chaired a session (**invited**) entitled ‘Ideology of the Congress Leaders’ in a National Conference on ‘The Indian National Congress and the Struggle for Independence’, organised by Loreto College, Calcutta, in collaboration with Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta, on 30 September 2010
21. Organised / Convened a National Conference / Seminar on – Nationhood and Identity Movements in Asia: Colonial and Postcolonial Times (Theme of Asia Annual, 2010) – at Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Calcutta, on 5 October, 2010, and made a presentation (introduction to the theme) in the inaugural session of the conference
22. **Invited Presentation / Lecture:** ‘Religious Encounters between Bengali Travellers and Southeast Asians, c. 1916–1927’ at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2011

### **Educational/Academic Qualifications**

**Ph.D.** (2004): School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London  
‘*Samaj* and Unity: The Bengali Literati’s Discourse on Nationhood, 1867-1905’

**Master of Arts:** History

Jadavpur University, Calcutta. First Class, Rank: Second. Percentage: 64.5%

**Bachelor of Arts:** History Honours

Jadavpur University, Calcutta. First Class, Rank: Third. Percentage: 65%

**National Educational Testing (NET), 1997:** Qualified for Junior Research Fellowship and Lectureship

**State Level Eligibility Test (SLET), 1997**

**Research Training Programme** from the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (1996-1997)

**Fellowships / Scholarships / Grants / Awards / Prizes**

1. Felix Scholarship for doing Ph.D. at SOAS, University of London
2. Visiting (invited) Fellowship awarded by Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity; Gottingen, Germany (in 2009)
3. Shivdasani Visiting Fellowship awarded by the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies (University of Oxford), 2012
4. Central Research Fund Fieldwork Award awarded by University of London
5. School of Oriental and African Studies Fieldwork Grant
6. Oxford University Press John Fell Fund travel bursary
7. University Grants Commission. NET Research Fellowship
8. Government of India Fellowship (Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies)
9. One year monthly scholarship at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences
10. National Scholarship, B.A. Examination
11. National Scholarship, Higher Secondary Examination
12. National Scholarship, Madhyamik Examination
13. National Prize, Madhyamik Examination
14. Certificate of Merit, Madhyamik Examination

**Research Experience**

**Projects / Dissertations**

***Bengali Evaluations of Neighbouring Ethnicities during the Late Colonial Period***  
[December 2005 – 30 November 2008, at the Maulana Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Calcutta, Ministry of Culture, Government of India] - Completed

***Race and Nationalism in Bengal: A Response to the Ilbert Bill Controversy (1883)*** [dissertation submitted as part of Research Training Programme (1996-1997) from the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta] - Completed

### **Other Research Experience**

Research experience as University Grants Commission Junior Research Fellow at Jadavpur University, Calcutta, July 1998-July 1999

Research experience at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London during the first year of the Ph.D. course, including discussions of methodological aspects of history, and participation in informal seminars (1999-2000)

Research experience as Fellow, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Calcutta (Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Delhi). Work areas: (a) research work in connection with project; (b) seminar presentations; (c) review work of submitted reports and projects

### **Teaching Experience**

1. Postgraduate and Undergraduate Levels: Guest Lecturer in the Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University, Calcutta (August 2004-April 2005): (a) History of India (1556-1818); (b) History of Ancient Greece; (c) Life and Thought in Modern Bengal (postgraduate level)
2. Undergraduate Level: U.G.C. (NET) Lectureship in the Department of History, Jadavpur University, Calcutta (June 1998-August 1999). Paper Taught: History of Modern Europe, 1789-1914
3. Undergraduate Level (Honours): Lecturer at the Department of History, Loreto College, Calcutta (in 2006). (a) History of Modern India, 1818-1964; (b) Transformation of Europe, 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries
4. Postgraduate Level: Guest Faculty Member of the Department of History, Presidency University, Calcutta (ongoing)

### **Membership of Historical / other Academic Organisations**

Indian History Congress

SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London) Alumni Association

Institute of Historical Studies, Calcutta