

CURRICULUM VITAE

PROF. BHAGAT OINAM

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Biographical note:

- 2015 onwards: Concurrent Faculty, Special Centre for the Study of North East India, JNU.
- 2010 onwards: Professor, Centre for Philosophy, JNU.
- 2004–10: Associate Professor, Centre for Philosophy, School of Social Sciences, JNU.
- 2003–04: Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, Mumbai.
- 2002–03: Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong.
- 2002: Selected for the post of DSP in the state civil and police services exam conducted by Manipur Public Service Commission (MPSC). Did not join.
- 2002: Visiting Associate Fellow, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi.
- 1998–2002: Editor (Research & Publication), Project of History of Science, Philosophy and Culture in Indian Civilization, Centre for Studies in Civilizations, New Delhi.
- 1998: PhD from Panjab University (Philosophy). Thesis: ‘Dimensions of Value Conflict: A Critical Perspective’.
- 1993: MPhil in Philosophy, Panjab University. Thesis: ‘Freedom and Praxis in the Philosophy of Sartre’.
- 1990: MA in Philosophy, Panjab University.
- 1988: Bachelor of Arts from Panjab University (Govt. College, Chandigarh).
- 1985: Pre-university Course (PUC) from Manipur University (D.M. College of Arts, Imphal).
- 1983: Madhyamik (Class-X) from West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (Ramakrishna Mission Vidyapith, Purulia).

Areas of Specialization:

- Existentialism and phenomenology, philosophical anthropology, social & cultural philosophy, ethics, aesthetics, contemporary Indian philosophy.
- Indigenous knowledge traditions, religion, ethnicity, identity politics, conflict, gender.

Administrative Positions:

- Director, Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Study, JNU (2022–23)
- Chairperson, Centre for Philosophy, SSS, JNU (2009–11, 2021–23, and 2023–till date).
- Chairperson, Special Centre for the Study of North East India, JNU (2018–21, and 2023–24).
- Chairperson, Centre for Media Studies, School of Social Sciences, JNU (2015–17).
- Director, North East India Studies Programme, JNU (2012–14; later upgraded to SCSNEI).

Teaching, Guidance & Evaluation:

- Have been teaching PhD (course work), MPhil (earlier), MA, and BA (optional course): ‘Concepts in Philosophy’, ‘Philosophical Methods’, ‘Existential Phenomenology and Its Engagements’, ‘Philosophical Studies: Problems and Perspectives’, ‘Philosophy of Social Science’, ‘Moral and Social Philosophy’, ‘Facets of Existentialism’, ‘Readings in 20th Century Indian Philosophy’, ‘Readings in Analytic Philosophy and Phenomenology’, ‘Ethics’, ‘Philosophy and Culture’.
- Guided 23 PhD (degrees awarded) and 28 MPhil students (degrees awarded) under my supervision.
- Examined more than 45 PhD and MPhil theses.

Research Projects:

- Completed ICSSR IMPRESS major research project on *Spirituality and mysticism in indigenous religions of North East India* (2019–21).
- Completed UPE-II, JNU research project on ‘Globalization and ethics’ (2014–19).
- Completed a major research project on *Women in the Traditional Worldviews and Institutional Practices: Reading the Aesthetic and Ethical Discourses in Northeast India* under India Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi (2012–13).

International Exposure:

- Presented a talk ‘Information Technology: Knowing the World, Knowing the Self’, in the First Indo-German Philosophy Workshop on *Human Dignity and the Overflow of Data in the Technocratic AI World*, organized by Heidelberg University and Hindu College, at Delhi, November 18–19, 2024.
- Nominated Co-chair for the section “Philosophy of Indigenous Cultures” in the World Philosophy Congress, FISP, to be held at Rome, during 1–8, August 2024.
- Participated as resource person in the DeSchool programme organized by Heinrich Böll Stiftung, India Chapter, 22–26 November 2021.
- Delivered a lecture titled ‘Can there be a phenomenological study of indigenous philosophy?’ in the Intercultural Philosophy GIP Lecture Series (No. 15) organized online by Society for Intercultural Studies, University of Tübingen, 18 November 2021.
- Delivered a lecture on ‘Demand for secession and state response’ as part of lecture series on *Federalism in Myanmar*, organized by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Union of Myanmar, at Military Academy, Nay Pyi Taw, 27 December 2019.
- Participant in the MHRD sponsored Leadership for Academicians Programme (LEAP) organised by HRDC-JNU and National University of Singapore (NUS) during 11–22 February 2019 at Delhi and 4–8 March 2019 at Singapore.
- ‘Art, Aesthetics and a Glimpse of Spirituality from India’s Northeast’, in the 9th Israeli Conference for the Study of Contemporary Spiritualities (ICSCS), at University of Haifa, Israel, 29 May 2018.
- ‘India’s Nation Building Project and its Northeast: Challenges of Political Representation’, in the 14th Conference of Asian Studies in Israel, held at Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, 23–24 May 2018.
- “‘Philosophy in India’ or ‘Indian Philosophy’: Some post-colonial questions”, in the workshop on *The challenge of post-colonial philosophy in India: Too alien for contemporary philosophers, too modern for Sanskritists?* Organized by Institute of Philosophy in collaboration with Institute of South Asian, Tibetan and Buddhist Studies of the Institute of Cultural and Intellectual History of Asia of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, held at University of Vienna, 28–29 September 2017.
- Nominated Co-chair in the Social Philosophy section of World Philosophy Congress, FISP, Athens, in August 2013.
- Visiting Scholar at the Department of Philosophy, Tel Aviv University, Israel, in May 2012. Paper presented ‘On Moral Contextualism’, in a colloquium on *Moral Dilemmas in Cultural Crossings*, 11th Annual Conference of Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University, May 2012.

- Visiting Researcher at the Department of Philosophy, Freie University, Berlin during June-July 2011. Delivered Dahlem Lecture at Freie University, Berlin, 4 July 2011.
- Invited as expert by the UNESCO Chair on Philosophy of Human Rights, at Hecettepe University, Ankara, 2000, headed by Professor Ioanna Kuçuradi, former President of FISP.

Organizational Capacity:

- Course Coordinator of the 5th Refresher Course in Philosophy (Indian Philosophy: Classical and Contemporary) organised by UGC-MMTTC, JNU, 24 January–07 February 2024.
- Course Coordinator of the 4th Refresher Course in Philosophy (On Consciousness) organised by the UGC Human Resource Development Centre, JNU, 09–21 January 2023.
- Organized Gita Jayanti at Jawaharlal Nehru University with the support of ISKCON India Delhi, on 3 December 2022.
- Course Coordinator of the 3rd Refresher Course in Philosophy (Ontology and Metaphysics: East and West, Past and Present) organised by the UGC Human Resource Development Centre, JNU, 10–22 January 2022.
- Course Coordinator of the 2nd Refresher Course in Philosophy (Philosophical Knowledge Traditions: Past and Present) organised by the UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, JNU, 05–17 October 2020.
- Course Coordinator of the 1st Refresher Course in Philosophy (‘Traditional and Contemporary Discourses in Philosophy: Indian and Western Perspectives’) organised by the UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, JNU, 15–26 July 2019.
- Co-convenor of the ICSSR sponsored national colloquium on *Illegal migration and NRC: Lessons from North East India* organised by Special Centre for the Study of North East India, JNU, 24–25 January 2019.
- Course Coordinator of the 5th Refresher Course in Contemporary Studies (Interdisciplinary) organised by the UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, JNU, 31 December 2018 to 25 January 2019.
- Seminar Director of an international seminar on *Death from Different Philosophical Perspectives*, organised by Centre for Philosophy, JNU, and Department of Philosophy, Tel Aviv University, 31 January 2018.
- Coordinator, international conference on *Problems of the Self: Debates in Consciousness, Subjectivity and Otherness*, organized by Centre for Philosophy, JNU, 23–25 January 2013.
- Coordinator, colloquium on *Philosophical Engagement with Daya Krishna*, jointly organized by Centre for Philosophy, JNU and Centre for Studies in Civilizations, New Delhi, 17–18 September 2012.
- Coordinator of the ICPR sponsored colloquium on *Discourses on Consciousness* to mark celebration of World Philosophy Day, organised by Centre for Philosophy, JNU, 29 November 2010.
- Member, Academic Committee, in the international conference on *Intercultural Dialogue between Northeast India and South East Asia*, organised by NEISP (JNU), IGNSA and NEZCC, 17–20 March 2010, at New Delhi.
- Member, Organizing Committee, Asian Philosophy Congress, organised by ICPR, New Delhi, 6–9 March 2010.
- Coordinator of the Round Table Conference on ‘Future of Philosophy’ organised by UNESCO and ICPR, New Delhi, 23 November 2009.
- Coordinator, national conference on *Women in Traditional Institutions and Worldviews*, organised by NEISP, JNU, in collaboration with Manipur University, 13–15 March 2009.
- Member, Organizing Committee, national conference on *Towards a New Understanding of North East India*, NEISP, JNU, 23–25 January 2008.
- One of the members of different committees constituted for managing Interim World Philosophy Congress (IWPC), 15–18 December 2006.

- Co-convenor, seminar on *Rethinking Paradigms of Development for the Northeast India*, sponsored by IAS, Shimla, 24–25 March 2006.

Member of Academic Bodies:

- Nominated Co-chair for the section “Philosophy of Indigenous Cultures” in the World Philosophy Congress, FISP, to be held at Rome, during 1–8 August 2024.
- Nominated Member of the national level Academic Council of ICSSR, New Delhi from March 2024.
- Nominated Member of the Academic Council of ICSSR (NRC) from March 2024.
- UGC Observer to examine the functioning of SLET under Gauhati University in 2022.
- Member of the UGC Committee that inspected Jammal Mohammed College, Trichy, for grant of Autonomous status during 21–22 May 2022.
- Served as Member of all the higher bodies of JNU (Court, Executive Council, Academic Council, Board of Studies of SSS).
- Served as Member, Board of Studies: Manipur University (Department of Philosophy), Kurukshetra University (Department of Philosophy), MJP Rohilkhand University (Department of Applied Philosophy).
- Currently Member, Governing Board, Centre for Studies in Civilizations, New Delhi.
- Member, Institutional Level Search cum Selection Committee (ILSSC) of Tagore Fellowship at IGNCA since 2018 till date.
- Visiting Faculty, Department of Philosophy, Manipur University (January 2017); Department of Political Science, NEHU (March 2014); Department of Philosophy, Panjab University (March 2010).
- Member in the NCERT textbook writing committee on Political Theory in India for class XI, 2007.
- Executive Editor, *Eastern Quarterly*, a journal on the study of Northeast India, 2003–11.
- Nominated by the Government of India for the UNESCO international Ph.D. thesis award for Management of Social Transformation (MOST), 2000.

Books Published:

- Bhagat Oinam and Dhiren A. Sadokpam (eds.), *Northeast India: A Reader*, London & New Delhi: Routledge, 2018.
- S. Shyamkishore Singh and Bhagat Oinam (eds.), *Perspectives on Manipuri Culture*, New Delhi: CSC and Munshiram Manoharlal, 2017.
- *Aesthetic and Ethical Worlds of the Indigenous Communities: Reflections from Northeast India* (forthcoming with Springer and IGNCA)

Publications in Journals and Anthologies:

- ‘Place of Spirit(s) in the Animist Traditions and Beyond’, in T. Deepamanjuri Devi (ed.), *Society, Culture and Identity in India’s Northeast*. Sonapat: Jyoti Prakashan, 2024.
- ‘Rethinking Affirmative Action: Problematising the “Least Privileged”’, *Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research (JICPR)*, published online 30 September 2023.
- ‘Elements of mysticism in the Bathou indigenous faith and the challenges for religious renaissance within’ (co-authored), *Man and Society*, ICSSR-NERC, Volume XVII, Winter 2020.
- “Revisiting animism: An insider’s study of the western discourse,” in Andreas Weber, *Sharing Life: The Ecopolitics of Reciprocity*. Delhi & Berlin: Heinrich Böll Stiftung, 2020.
- “‘Philosophy in India’ or ‘Indian Philosophy’: Some post-colonial questions”, *SOPHIA* (2018) 57: 457. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11841-018-0679-0>
- ‘Colonial modernity and plight of the receiving communities’, in Bhagat Oinam and Dhiren A. Sadokpam (eds.), *Northeast India: A Reader*, London and New Delhi: Routledge, 2018.
- ‘Some normative issues in the *Chainarol*’, in S. Shyamkishore Singh and Bhagat Oinam (eds.), *Perspectives on Manipuri Culture*, New Delhi: CSC and Munshiram Manoharlal, 2017.

- ‘Body as Site of Ethic’, *Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research (JICPR)*, (June 2015), 32(2): 239–255, published by Springer.
- ‘Beyond the Politics of Control’, in Sandhya Goswami (ed.), *Troubled Diversity: The Political Process in Northeast India*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2015, pp. 213–23.
- ‘Violence, Impunity and the Fallout: A Tale from Manipur’, in Patrick Hoenig and Navsharan Singh (eds.), *Landscapes of Fear: Understanding Impunity in India*, New Delhi: Zubaan, 2014, pp. 128–150.
- ‘Exploring the Sites of Moral Contextualism’, *JICPR*, Vol. XXIX, No. 1, pp. 77–105, January–March 2012.
- ‘Philosophy in India: An agenda for an Alternative Mode of Philosophising’, *JICPR*, Vol. XXVIII, No. 2, April–June 2011.
- ‘Problem of Distributive Justice’, in Shashi Motilal (ed.), *Applied Ethics and Human Rights: Conceptual Analysis and Contextual Applications*, Delhi: Anthem, 2010.
- ‘Nation Building Projects at the Margins: A Tale of Aspirations, Contestations and Crossroads’, *Eastern Quarterly (Armed Opposition Movements in South Asia)*, Vol. 6, Issues I & II, Spring & Monsoon 2010.
- ‘Preparing for a Cohesive Northeast India: Problems of Discourse’, in Sanjib Baruah (ed.), *Beyond Counter Insurgency*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- ‘Human Rights as Legal Rights! But What Lies Beneath?’ *JICPR*, Vol. 25, No. 2, April–June 2008.
- ‘State of the States: Mapping India’s Northeast’, Working Paper No. 12, November 2008, Washington: East West Centre, 2008.
- A co-authored article with S.S. Barlingay, ‘Aesthetics Parameters in Indian Tradition’, in Kapila Vatsyayan and D.P. Chattopadhyaya (eds.), *Aesthetic Theories and Forms in Indian Tradition*, New Delhi: PHISPC, 2008.
- ‘State, Non-State and Civil Society Space in Northeast’, in V.R. Raghavan (ed.), *Civil Society in Conflict Situations*, Chennai: Centre for Security Analysis, 2008.
- An article ‘Receiving Communities: Encounter with Modernity’, *Eastern Quarterly*, Vol. 3, Issue II, July–September 2005.
- An article ‘Redressing Disadvantages: Problems of Generalization’, *Seminar*, 549, May 2005.
- An article ‘Patterns of Ethnic Conflict in the Northeast: A Study on Manipur’, *EPW*, May 24, 2003.
- A paper ‘Understanding Intentionality and Intentional Action’, *JICPR*, Vol. XVII, No.3, May–August 2000.
- A paper ‘Freedom as Act of Totalization: A Critique on Sartre’, *IPQ*, January-March 1998.

Special Lectures and Select Conference Papers:

- Gave presentation ‘Teaching Philosophy to Non-philosophers: Problems and Prospects’, in the national conference on *Dialogue on Teaching Philosophy at School Level: Problems and Prospects*, organised by Mata Sundari College in collaboration with ICPR New Delhi, November 19–20, 2024.
- Delivered keynote address at the national seminar on *Philosophical Counselling in the Context of Indian Society*, organized by Department of Philosophy, Kurukshetra University, at Kurukshetra, 19–20 September 2023.
- Delivered a lecture on *Unsung Heroes of North East India*, organized by RSS Purvottar Prant, at New Delhi, 5 March 2023.
- Delivered a lecture on ‘Fact-value dichotomy’ (online), organized by Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati, 30 March 2022.
- Participated as resource person in a workshop on Buddhism organized by Deshkal, and Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), at Bodhgaya, 26–27 March 2022.
- Delivered two lectures on the themes ‘Anthropocentric and Cosmocentric Readings of the Ethical world’ and ‘Indigenous Worldviews and Ethico-aesthetic Contents’ in the Winter School on *Aesthetics*

and Ethics: Debates in Indian Arts, Literature, Enactment, and Philosophy, organized by Manipal Academy of Higher Education (online), 31 January – 4 February 2022.

- ‘Science, social science and humanities: some conceptual and methodological issues’, in the online Refreshers Course organized (online) by Post-graduate Government College for Girls, Chandigarh, August 9, 2021.
- ‘An introduction to the philosophy and teachings of Buddhism’, organized (online) by Deshkal in collaboration with IGNSA, New Delhi on August 7, 2021
- ‘Feminism and Philosophical Engagements’, in the Refreshers Course organized (online) by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers Teaching Learning Centre, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi, August 3, 2021.
- ‘Intuitive and spiritual experiences as philosophical methods’, in the Refreshers Course in Philosophy, organized (online) by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers Teaching Learning Centre, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi, March 24, 2021.
- ‘Challenges before philosophical research in India: Perspectives and methods’, in the Refreshers Course in Philosophy, organized (online) by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers Teaching Learning Centre, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi, March 23, 2021.
- ‘Widening the scope of Indian philosophy through Culture ethics and Aesthetics’, in the Refreshers Course on *India Studies: Thinking Through India: Intellectual Traditions in India Contemporary Challenges*, organized by HRDC, Panjab University, February 12, 2021.
- Special lecture on ‘Consciousness from phenomenological perspective’, organized by NIAS, Bengaluru, February 8, 2021.
- ‘Human values and professional ethics’, in the Faculty Induction Programme (4), organized (online) by HRDC, JNU, February 2, 2021.
- ‘Nature of philosophical studies today’, in the Panjab University Alumni Meet, organized by Department of Philosophy, Panjab University January 18, 2021.
- ‘The Cultural insights to North East India’, in the Faculty Induction Programme (3), organized (online) by HRDC, JNU, December 31, 2020.
- ‘Some issues on marginality with special focus on North East India’, in the Refreshers Course in English Literature and Language, organized by HRDC, Jamia Milia Islamia, November 27, 2020.
- ‘Basic philosophy of research’, in the Second Refreshers Course in Research Methodology, organized (online) by HRDC, JNU, October 19–31, 2020.
- ‘Tradition, modernity and technology’, in the national webinar organized by Department of Philosophy, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi, October 9, 2020.
- ‘Environmental Crises and Indigenous Knowledge’, in the international webinar on Revisiting Human Rights, Ethics and Environment during Covid-19 organized by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers Teaching Learning Centre, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi, August 6–7, 2020.
- ‘Covid-19 and Environmental Crises: Some Philosophical Reflections’, in the web lecture programme on Relevance of Philosophy in the Times of Pandemic organized by Department of Philosophy, Government College for Girls, Chandigarh, July 30, 2020.
- ‘Role of intuition and conscience in our knowledge about the world’ in the 117th Orientation Course organized by HRDC, JNU, February 28, 2020.
- ‘Social science and Humanities: Some methodological issues’ in the 4th National Interaction Programme for PhD/Post-Doctoral Scholars in Social Sciences & Humanities, organized by HRDC, JNU, February 25, 2020.
- Special Lecture on ‘Facets of Existentialism’, in *Praśna 2020* fest organized by St. Stephens College, University of Delhi, February 20–21, 2020.
- Invited lecture in the 115th Orientation Course organized by HRDC, JNU, November 18, 2019.

- Delivered Invited Lecture on the theme *Relevance of Philosophy for Students Today* in the national seminar on the above theme, organized by Department of Philosophy, Ramanujan College, University of Delhi, October 3–4, 2019.
- Delivered Invited Lecture on the theme ‘Gandhi and His Philosophy of Education’, organized by NERIE-NCERT, Shillong on October 2, 2019.
- Delivered lecture on the theme ‘Philosophy of social science’ in the UGC Orientation Programme at JNU on September 26, 2019.
- Delivered lecture on ‘Man nature relationship: Some Philosophical perspectives’ in the 3rd Refreshers Course in Environmental Studies (Interdisciplinary), organized by HRDC, JNU, July 18, 2019.
- Delivered invited lecture on the theme ‘Body in the man-world discourse: Some indigenous viewpoints’ in the 114th Orientation Course organized by HRDC, JNU, on July 17, 2019.
- Special Lecture on ‘Aesthetic Traditions in India’ in the ICHR sponsored seminar on Revisiting Indian History through the Lens of Art, Architecture and Aesthetics, at Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan, 30–31 March 2019.
- Public lecture on the theme ‘Death as moral commitment: A study of life-worlds in Northeast India’, under Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Chair, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 30 January 2019.
- Keynote speaker in the inaugural session of the ICSSR Regional Congress held at Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur, 18–20 January 2019.
- Delivered Keynote address in the national seminar on *Many Patriarchies, Many Positionalities: Reinterrogating Gender in Narratives from North-East India* organized by Department of English, Shivaji College, University of Delhi, 16–17 February 2017.
- Delivered lecture on the theme ‘What is goodness?’ in the UGC Orientation Programme at JNU, 4 August 2016.
- Delivered Plenary Lecture titled ‘Aesthetic and Ethical Discourses in Northeast: A Reflection’ in the national seminar on Oral and Textual Traditions of North East India, Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, 28–30 March 2016.
- ‘Philosophical Discourses in India’, in an international conference on *India in International Relations: European and Indian perspectives*, organised by Jawaharlal Nehru University and University of Warsaw, New Delhi, 27–28 April 2011.
- Panellist in the session on ‘Philosophical Perspectives: Western and Non-Western’ in the Asian Philosophical Congress, New Delhi, 7 March 2010.
- A talk on a seminar cum workshop on *Peace is Essential for Development* organised by Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi on 7 February 2009.
- ‘Phenomenology of Cultural Identity as Project’, in an international conference on *Phenomenology, Globalization and Indian Philosophy* organised by ICPR, New Delhi, and CARP, USA, New Delhi, 5–9 January 2009.
- ‘Conciliatory and reconciliatory political processes: From asymmetry of power to community of morals’, in the international conference on *Transformations and Challenges in a Global World – Cross Cultural Inquiries*, organized by Freie University, New Delhi, 29 February – 1 March 2008.
- A presentation ‘Grounds of Universal Moral Values’ in the World Philosophers’ Meet, Pune, 24–30 November 1996.