



Dr RAJARSHIDASGUPTA

Assistant Professor
Centre for Political Studies
Jawaharlal Nehru University

Contact Centre for Political Studies
Address School of Social Sciences
Jawaharlal Nehru University
New Delhi 110067
Mob: (0)8287641970, Office: (011) 26704438
Email rajarshibabu@gmail.com, rajarshi@mail.jnu.ac.in

Positions Assistant Professor
Centre for Political Studies, JNU (since October 2008)
Formerly Fellow in Political Science, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences,
Calcutta (October 2004 – September 2008)

Academic Record **D. Phil** in Political Science from Oxford University, UK, 2003.
Thesis title: *Marxism and Middle Class Intelligentsia: Politics and Culture in the Late Colonial Bengal*
Advisor: Dr Nandini Gooptu
M. Phil in Political Science from JNU, New Delhi, 1996.
Dissertation title: *An Evaluation of the Naxalite Movement*
Advisor: Dr Dwaipayan Bhattacharyya
MA in Political Science from JNU, New Delhi, 1994.
BA in Political Science (Presidency College, Calcutta University), 1992.

Awards and Distinctions

- Awarded **Felix Scholarship** to pursue D. Phil at Oxford University in 1997.
- Awarded the **Frere Exhibition Prize** for Indian Studies at the University of Oxford in 2001.
- Awarded Grants by the Radhakrishnan Memorial Bequest Trust, the Beit Trust, The Queen's College and the Charles Wallace India Trust in 2002 and 2003.
- Invited to deliver a **Public Lecture** on Refugee history at Brussels by the University of Kent in February 2015.
- Offered position as a **Visiting Fellow** by the Department of History at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, between March-December 2015.

Teaching Experience and Supervision

- Currently teaching compulsory M.A. course, *'Development, Politics and Public Policy'*, an optional MA course, *'Philosophical Issues in Marxism'*, and an optional M.Phil course, *'Introduction to Biopolitics'* (designed by me). Also taught compulsory M.Phil course, *'Approaches, Concepts and Methods'*, compulsory MA course *'Comparative Politics'* and optional M.Phil course *'Texts in Political Philosophy'* in recent past.
- Designed and taught the course *'Rethinking Political Theory'* at CSSSC during my tenure as Fellow during 2004-8.
- Supervised **14** M.Phil dissertations and currently supervising 1 M.Phil and **10** Ph.D theses at CPS/JNU. 2 Ph.D theses have been already completed under my supervision.
- Guest Lectures at the Department of English, DU, March 2011 and April 2013. Lectures at Refreshers' Courses in JNU, 2009, 2010, 2012 and Refreshers' Course in DU, 2011.

Publications

Books

The Ascetic Modality (forthcoming)

Chapters in Books

- **The Ascetic Modality: A Critique of Communist Self-fashioning** in Nivedita Menon, Aditya Nigam and Sanjay Palshikar eds., *Critical Studies in Politics: Exploring Sites, Selves, Power*, IAS and Orient Blackswan, 2014, pp. 67-87.
- **The People in People's Art and People's War** in Gargi Chakrabarty ed., *P.C. Joshi, The People's Warrior*, Tulika, March 2014, pp. 443-456.
- **Introduction**, co-authored with Gargi Chakrabarty in Chakrabarty ed., *P.C. Joshi, The People's Warrior*, P.C. Joshi Archives and Tulika, March 2014, pp. ix-xxi.
- **Ethics and Politics** in Pradip Kumar Datta and Sanjay Palshikar eds., *Indian Political Thought*, Political Science Volume 3 in ICSSR Research Surveys and Explorations (General Editor Achin Vanaik), 2013, Oxford University Press, pp. 230-259.

Journal Articles
(in English)

- **The CPI(M) “Machinery” in West Bengal: Two Village Narratives from Kochbihar and Malda**, *Economic & Political Weekly*, February 28, 2009, vol xlv no 9.
- **Rhyming Revolution: Marxism and Culture in Colonial Bengal** in *Studies in History*, Volume 21:1, Jan-June 2005, pp. 79-98.
- **Manik Bandyopadhyay: The Word and Work of Bengali Marxism** in *History*, Volume VII: I, 2005, pp. 43-58.
- **Inventing Modernity in the Colony: the Marxist Discourse on the Bengal Renaissance** in *Contemporary India*, Volume 3:1, January-March 2004, pp. 23-41.
- **Representations of Communalism: A Study of Recent Print Media Reports in Bangladesh**, *Asian Studies*, Volume 22:1-2, 2004, pp. 39-63.

Journal Articles
(in Bangla)

- Marxbader Bhut Bonam Marxbadir Gotro**, in *Abobhasb*, sixth year, 1-2, April-September 2006, pp. 31-64.
- Geneva Camp, Dhaka: Anitya Anchal, Porijayee Sattwa** in *Agrabeej*, Dec 2007, pp. 77-92.

Publications in
websites

Politics and Ethics in Communist Practice: From the Margins of the Indian Left in Humanities Underground
(<http://humanitiesunderground.wordpress.com/2011/01/13/politics-and-ethics-in-communist-practice/>)

The Lie of Freedom: Justice in a Landscape of Trees in MCRG website
(www.mcrg.ac.in/Spheres/Rajarshi.doc)

Goodbye Politics Hello Social Science - A Reply to Ranabir Samaddar and Others on Recent Students’ Politics in Jadavpur, October 27, 2014 in Kafila
(<http://kafila.org/2014/10/27/goodbye-politics-hello-social-science-%E2%80%A8-a-reply-to-ranabir-samaddar-and-others-on-recent-students-politics-in-jadavpur-rajarsi-dasgupta/>)

#Hokkolorob – The Politics of Making Noise, September 29, 2014 in Kafila
(<http://kafila.org/2014/09/29/hokkolorob-the-politics-of-making-noise-rajarsi-dasgupta/>)

Review Article
(in English)

Critique of Hybrid Islam, Review of Sufia M. Uddin, *Constructing Bangladesh: Religion, Ethnicity, and Language in an Islamic Nation* in *The Book Review*, Vol XXXI, No. 3, March 2007, p. 55

*

*Research and
Organizing
Experiences*

- **Currently involved in an international research collaboration with Prof. Shubhra Gururani, York University, on ‘Peri-urbanization in India’, focusing on West Bengal and the National Capital Region.**
- Organized a two-day Conference at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library with Humanities Underground, on ‘Vernaculars Underground’, held during 7-8 March 2014.
- Organized with Dr Rinku Lamba a three-day Conference under UGC-DSA at the CPS/JNU, on ‘Power in Modern India: Discourses and Practices’, held during 25-27 March 2010.
- Organized a One-day follow-up workshop on ‘Rethinking Power in Modern India’ at CPS/JNU on 5th April 2012.
- Organized Round Tables in CPS with Nicholas Dirks (January), Partha Chatterjee (March) and Sudipta Kaviraj (October) 2010.
- Organized with Dr Bodhisattva Kar a three-day Exhibition and Conference on ‘The “Long” 1950s’ at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, held during 18-20 March 2008.
- Conducting research on the partition refugees, involving ethnographic study of a Permanent Liability Camp in Uttarpara, West Bengal and a large slum settlement in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Worked as part of CSSSC research team on the study of grass-root politics in West Bengal villages in 2006-8.
- Resource person for the CSSSC-NRTT Annual Workshop held in Kolkata (28th November - 3rd October 2010)
- Resource person and Speaker at the 16th Annual Cultural Studies Workshop of CSSSC held at the IDS, Jaipur (Jan. 2011)

*Academic
Referee*

Sage Publications, India, Orient Blackswan Publications, India, the journal ‘History and Sociology of South Asia’, and the *India Foundation for Arts*

*Select Papers
at Conferences*

- 'Liberating Mistakes: The Naxalite movement and the Subaltern Question' at a Conference organized by ICSSR, UGC-DSA, CPS on 'Understanding Maoist Politics in India' held in JNU during 24-25 February 2014.
- 'The Matter of fact in Political Science' at a Conference organized by CPS and ICSSR on 'Methodological Horizons: Changing Frontiers of Political Theory' in JNU, during 9-10 January 2014.
- 'Refugee Trees: Metaphors of Minimum Self' at the International Conference, 'Humanity in the World', organized by the Institute of Humanities and Global Culture, University of Virginia and Nanjing University, held at Nanjing University in Nanjing City, China, from 17-19, 2013.
- 'Uncertain Entities: Subaltern Refugees in South Asia' in a Panel on 'Rethinking Minority Culture' at the 40th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology, held at IIC India Habitat, 16-19th February 2012.
- 'Comrades in Love: A Fragment of Communist History in India' at the international workshop 'Love and Revolution' organized by the Women Studies Program and the NMM 20-22 January 2012, New Delhi.
- 'Labour as Subjectivation: An Old Puzzle of the Indian Communist Movement' at 'The Social Factory: Gender, the Political and Social Movements', international workshop in Cairo 15th-17th September 2011, organized by the Institute of Gender and Women's Studies at the American University in Cairo, Egypt.
- 'A Culture of Beheading: The Theatrical Politics of Sixties Bengal', co-presented at the international conference 'The Global Sixties and its Cultural Afterlife' in School of Arts & Aesthetics, JNU, 4-5 Mar 2011.
- 'Ethics and Politics' at the ICSSR Workshop on Survey and Exploration in Political Science', held at IIC, Goa, Feb 2011.
- 'From Calcutta: The Sound of Decadence' at a national conference, titled, 'A Note in Time: Music as Social Text' at Sri Venkateswara College, New Delhi, on 14th Jan 2011.
- Speaker at a Seminar on 'Marxism in Translation: A Discussion with Sudipta Kaviraj' at CSDS, New Delhi, 21st Oct. 2010.
- 'Politics and Ethics in Communist Lifestyle' at a national conference titled, 'Power in Modern India: Discourses and Practices', held during 25-27 March 2010, in CPS/JNU
- 'The Ascetic Modality' at a national conference titled, 'Constructions of the Self' organized by the English Dept and Hansraj College, DU, Feb. 2010.
- 'The Gandhian Face of Indian Marxism' at the Hind Swaraj Centenary International Seminar at IIC, New Delhi, Feb 2009.

- ‘A Critique of Revolutionary Violence’ at a Conference titled, ‘Exploring Non-Violence’ at the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, in October 2008.
- ‘Technology as the Experience of Nature: Communist Art in the Fifties’ at the Conference on ‘The “Long” 1950s’ held at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, March 2008.
- ‘The Problematic Subject of Politics Today’, at a Conference titled, ‘Theorizing the Contemporary’, organized by the CSDS, New Delhi on 24-25 March 2008.
- ‘Religiosity of the Communist Subject’ in the Cultural Studies Conference organized by the Centre for Basic Research and Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, in August 2006.
- ‘Becoming Declassed: The Language of Bengali Marxism’ in a seminar on ‘Politics in Bengal’ held in Queen Elizabeth House College, Oxford University, followed by Cambridge and the School of Oriental and African Studies, London in May 2005.