

# ANNU JALAI

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## EDUCATION:

- July '04            PhD in Anthropology at the London School of Economics (LSE), U.K.  
Title: *People and tigers: an anthropological study of the Sundarbans of West Bengal, India.*
- Sept. '97 – '98 MSc Anthropology, LSE. Courses: 'Theory & Ethnography', 'Kinship, Sex & Gender' & 'Hinduism'. Dissertation: *Romance and Kinship in Popular Bengali Films.*
- Sept. '95 – '96 *Diplôme de Recherche et d'Etudes Appliquées* (DREA) – Distinction. Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO), Paris. Dissertation on women's songs on love, separation & loneliness (*viraha*) in West Bengal, Bangladesh & west Assam.
- Sept. '92 – '95 *Diplôme d'Etude Universitaire Général* (DEUG) & Licence (Bachelor's degree) – Distinction. *Langue Anglaise et Littératures des Mondes Anglophones*, Université Sorbonne.
- Oct. '92 - '94 *Diplôme Unilingue de Langue et Civilisation Orientale* (DULCO), INALCO, Paris, and *Hypokhâgne: Lettres Modernes*, Lycée Fénelon, Paris.
- Aug. '92            *Uchha Madhyamik*, Higher Secondary Examination, Loreto House, Kolkata; *Madhyamik*, Secondary Examination, 1990, Loreto Sealdah, Kolkata, India.

## PUBLICATIONS:

### Books

- *Forest of Tigers: People, Politics and Environment in the Sundarbans*, Routledge: New Delhi, London, New York (publishing date 2010; out since November 2009).
- Co-author with Joya Chatterji and Claire Alexander, 'The Bengali Muslim Diaspora: Migration, Displacement and Settlement in Bangladesh, India and Britain.' (Forthcoming: Spring 2011)
- Co-author with Joya Chatterji and Claire Alexander, Title TBD. Book accompanies website (<http://www.banglastories.org/>) aimed at British high-school children, with a focus on the migration of Bengali Muslims from Bangladesh and India to the United Kingdom. (Forthcoming: Winter 2010)
- *Bangali, not bhadrakalok* (tentative title). Started under the aegis of Yale's Agrarian Studies Program (Sept 2009 – May 2010), continued at the International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam (Sept 2010 – Jan 2011). (Expected publication date: end 2012).
- *From Salkia to Sealdah via Sundarbans* (tentative title). Creative non-fiction based on my travels through Deltaic Bengal (both Bangladesh and West Bengal). Penguin: New Delhi, New York (forthcoming end 2011).

## Articles

- 'Braving Crocodiles with Kali: Being a prawn-seed collector and a modern woman in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Sundarbans', *Socio-Legal Review*, (reviewed and accepted – 2010 forthcoming)
- 'From peerless pirs to bold bauleys: tiger-charmers, Islam and the forests of the Sundarbans' (Manuscript in submission to *Comparative Studies in Society and History*)
- 'Unmasking the Cosmopolitan Tiger', *Nature and Culture*, (vol. 3, no. 1, 2008), pp. 25-40.
- 'The Sundarbans: Whose World Heritage Site?', *Conservation and Society*, (vol. 5, no. 4, 2007).
- 'Dwelling on Morichjhanpi: When Tigers Became 'Citizens', Refugees "Tiger-Food"; Special Article in *Economic and Political Weekly*, April 23 2005, pp. 1757 – 1762.  
Also reproduced in:
  - <http://sanhati.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/jalais-morichjhanpi.pdf>;
  - translated into Bengali (by Padmini Chakrabarty) as 'Sundarbaner Bagh Nawrokhaddok Holo Kibhabe' in *Marichjhanpi: Chhinya Desh, Chhinya Itibas*, ed. Madhumay Pal, 2009, pp. 206 – 224, Gangchil, Kolkata; and in *Adal Badal*, 2006, Bimal Biswas, Kolkata.
- Entry on 'Bengalis', *Encyclopedia of the World's Minorities*, ed. Carl Skutsch, Routledge, 2004.

## Book chapters and small entries

- 'Sajnekhali', chapter in *First Proof 6*, Penguin: New Delhi, New York, 2010 (forthcoming).
- 'Lines of Fire, Choppy Rivers: Alignments and Separations along Bengal's Southern Frontier', chapter for book on *Borderlands* ed. by David Gellner (title TBA, forthcoming).
- 'From 'Bonbibibi' to 'Bondebi': erasing the liminal, escaping the regional', chapter for book on *Liminal Deities* ed. by Projit B Mukharji (title TBA, forthcoming).
- 'Confronting Authority, Negotiating Morality: tiger prawn seed collection in the Sundarbans', International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, *Yemaya*, 32, Nov 2009; [[http://icsf.net/icsf2006/uploads/publications/yemaya/pdf/english/issue\\_32/art01.pdf](http://icsf.net/icsf2006/uploads/publications/yemaya/pdf/english/issue_32/art01.pdf)];  
also translated in French: <http://base.d-p-h.info/en/fiches/dph/fiche-dph-8148.html>
- 'Linguistic Minorities' (with a focus on Urdu-speakers) 2009, chapter in *Human Rights in Bangladesh 2008: Dashed Hopes, Receding Horizons, New Frontiers*; Ain-O-Salish Kendra, Dhaka  
Bengali: [http://www.askbd.org/HR\\_report\\_bangla/18.pdf](http://www.askbd.org/HR_report_bangla/18.pdf)  
English: [http://www.askbd.org/hr\\_report2008/17\\_LINGUSTIC.pdf](http://www.askbd.org/hr_report2008/17_LINGUSTIC.pdf)
- Website (<http://banglastories.org/>) undertaken with the Runnymede Trust on stories of Bengali Muslim migration which came out of a three- year London School of Economics / University of Cambridge project funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), U.K. (2009).
- 'Braving Crocodiles for Kali: Being a prawn seed collector and a modern woman in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Sundarbans', article for the *Socio-Legal Review*. (Forthcoming – under review)
- 'Bonbibibi: Bridging Worlds', *Indian Folklore*, serial no. 28, Jan 2008
- *Sundarbaner prem* ('Sundarban's Prem' -*prem* being both a person's name as well as meaning 'love'), in *Korak* (a monthly periodical on art and literature), Kolkata, Sept. 2000.
- *Hoytoba prothom, athoba ditiyo, athoba tritiyo projonmo, amra shobai udbastur shontan* ('Whether of the first, of the second, or of the third generation, we are all the children of

immigrants’) short essay on the *sans-papiers*. Literary meet *katha o kabini* (Rangabelia, Sundarbans, December 1999).

- *La séparation et l’amour dans les chants bhaoiyya des femmes du Bengale du Nord, Inde*. (‘Separation and love in Bhaoiyya songs of women of north Bengal, India’). DREA, INALCO, Paris.

## **RESEARCH AND TEACHING:**

- Sep ’10 – Jan ’11: Research Fellow at the International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam, to work on their rich archive on Bangladeshi labour movements.
- Sep ’09 – ’10 Research Fellow, Agrarian Studies Programme, Yale University. To write on what it means to be living along the edges of Bengali bhadralok culture and politics in Bangladesh and West Bengal.
- Sep ’06 – ’09 Research Fellow, Anthropology (LSE) on ‘The Bengali Muslim Diaspora’. Conducting fieldwork in Bangladesh and India, presenting my work at universities and research centres (Universities of Dhaka, Chittagong and BRAC in Bangladesh and Jadavpur and the CSSSC in India).
- Jan ’09 Visiting Fellow, Dept. of Environmental History at Jadavpur University under the University Grants Commission’s Special Assistance Programme.
- Sep ’03 – ’06 Lecturer, Goldsmiths, University of London. Courses designed (for undergraduates & postgraduates): ‘Gender, Sexuality and the Body’, and ‘Ethnography of South Asia’.
- Sep ’05 – ’07 Tutorial Fellow, Anthropology (LSE): guiding and mentoring an average of 40 students and co-teaching a course on ‘Economic Institutions’.
- Sep ’05 – ’06 Teaching Assistant, Geography and Environment (LSE) on ‘Development in the South’ for Professor Stuart Corbridge and Dr Sharad Chari.
- Sep ’04 – ’05 Teaching Assistant at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) on ‘South Asian Culture & Society’ for Drs James Staples and Atreyee Sen.
- Sep ’04 – ’05 Part-time head-hunter and conference-organiser for *Zamyn* – a forum on globalisation and social justice.
- Sep ’03 – ’04 Teaching Assistant for Professor Jonathan Parry, LSE.
- July ’02 – ’03 Research Assistant at the Centre for Learning Technology.
- Sept. ’99 - ’01 Anthropological fieldwork in the Sundarbans. Wrote communication materials for the ‘Tagore Society for Rural Development’ and taught English.
- June ’95 & ’96 Research on women’s songs in Goalpara (Assam – India), Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar (north West Bengal – India) and Rangpur (north Bangladesh).

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

- Since Feb. '06 Volunteer and blogger at Drishtipat, a global network of Bangladeshis working on projects focusing gender, minority, and migration (<http://drishtipat.org>).
- Sept '08 Conversation with activist Naeem Mohaiemen on the challenges of the artist in Bangladesh's army-ruled society as part of the project "My Mobile Weighs a Ton" (<http://mobileton.wordpress.com/2008/09/20/drafts/>).
- Oct. '02 – '03 Organiser: 'Postgraduate South-Asia Seminar Series' held on a fortnightly basis, LSE.
- Oct. '98 – '99 Co-author of a film curriculum with Professor Peter Loizos for the *International Summer School in Forced Migration*, Refugees Studies Centre, Oxford.
- Oct. '98 – '07 Librarian, Seligman library, LSE ('98 – '99); Librarian and events manager, Shaw library, LSE ('01 – '02); Subwarden at Rosebery Hall, LSE ('01 to '07).
- Sept. '96 – '97 Professional interpreter for French, Bengali, English at Court of Justice, Paris and in governmental immigration services for NGO 'Inter-Service Migrants'.
- Sept. '87 – '92 Mountaineering instructor at *Himalaya's Beckon & Institute of Climbers and Nature Lovers*; lesson organiser for street-dwelling children, Loreto Sealdah, Kolkata.
- Participated in:
- Sept. '93 *L'Inde d'Aujourd'hui : l'Héritage Britannique*, University of Rennes-II
- Jan. '96 *Les Ecrivains Indo-Anglais*, University of Angers
- Oct. '98 *Festival du Film Britannique*, Dinard (as interpreter)

## **AWARDS:**

- May 2004 Malinowski Memorial Research Fund, LSE Anthropology Department.
- January 2004 Radcliffe-Brown Trust for writing-up; Royal Anthropological Institute.
- 2001 – 2007 Various travel grants for conferences bestowed by the LSE.
- Sept. 2003 Travel grant by the European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA).
- 2000 – '03 Research Studentship from the Department of Anthropology, LSE.
- 1992 – '97 Full scholarship from the French Govt. for DEUG, DULCO, and DREA.
- June 1996 Travel award by INALCO.

## **LANGUAGES:**

- Linguistic: Spoken and written: Fluent English, French, Bengali ; Good Hindi.  
Working knowledge of Urdu; Basic understanding of Italian & Spanish.

## SELECT CONFERENCES, LECTURES, TALKS:

- 'From 'Bonbibí' to 'Bondebi': erasing the liminal, escaping the regional', Liminal Deities Workshop, McMaster University, Hamilton, September 2010, ([http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/~history/liminal\\_deities/liminal\\_deities.html](http://www.humanities.mcmaster.ca/~history/liminal_deities/liminal_deities.html)).
- 'Sweet water, masks, and man-eating tigers in the mangroves of the Sundarbans', talk at the Global Institute of Sustainable Forestry at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, (Yale University, April 2010).
- 'Bangali: not *Bhadralok*', Talk for the Agrarian Studies colloquium series, under Professors James Scott and Sivaramakrishnan, (Yale University, March 2010).
- 'Is salt-water thicker than blood? Allah's Bonbibí, man-eating tigers, and the making of kin in deltaic Bengal', talk organised by the South Asia Initiative, discussants Professors Amartya Sen and Sugata Bose, (Harvard University, March 2010).
- 'From peerless *pírs* to bold *bauleys*: tiger-charmers, Islam and the forests of the Sundarbans', talk organised by the Center for the Study of Asia, (Boston University, March 2010).
- 'Horsing through Dhaka: mapping the trails of Paikis' Urdu pasts', as part of the workshop on 'Collective Contexts of Islamic Identity: intersections between Community, Gender and Religion' organised by Shailaja Fennell at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH, Cambridge University, April 2009).
- 'Lines of Fire, Choppy Rivers: Alignments and Separations along Bengal's Southern Frontier' as part of the British Academy workshop 'Borderlands in South Asia' organised by David Gellner, discussant Willem Van Schendel and Prashant Jha for the British Association of South Asian Studies (BASAS, Edinburgh, 2009).
- 'Rajarhat model town: bring us NRIs, Tam-Bram IT gurus, but not Muslims' Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta (CSSSC, Kolkata, Dec 2008).
- 'The Cosmopolitan Tiger'. Paper presented at the conference 'Environmental Cosmopolitans'; discussant Ben Campbell. Association of Social Anthropologists (ASA) (Keele, April 2006). Shorter version presented at BRAC University, Dhaka, Feb 2008.
- Chair of invited session of the American Anthropological Association conference (AAA, Washington DC, Dec 2005) 'Between 'States': Colonial Legacies and Women's Agency across India's Emerging Post-Colonial Social Imaginary'; also presented paper on 'Braving Crocodiles with Kali: Being a prawn seed collector and a modern woman in the 21<sup>st</sup> century Sundarbans'.
- 'From peerless *pírs* to bold *bauleys*: the history of Sundarbans tiger-charmers'. Paper presented at the SOAS, History Department; discussant Dr. Daud Ali (London, December 2003). A modified version of this paper was also presented at the Dept. of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge (Nov 2005), St Andrews, May 2007 and at Dhaka University (Nov 2007).
- Panel organiser with Murali Shanmugavelan: 'Rethinking Discrimination: Marginalisation and Human Rights in Global South Asia' as part of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES) conference (Kolkata, Dec 2004).
- 'The Sundarbans aka 'beautiful forests': whose world heritage site?' – paper presented as part of a workshop on 'Environmental protection: socio-cultural and political-economic dimensions', European Association of Social Anthropologists (EASA) conference (September 2004) – discussants: James Carrier (Oxford) & Flip van Helden (Vienna).

- 'Ethical dilemmas surrounding poaching in the Sundarbans' – paper presented as part of the Conference on 'Livelihoods at the Margins' (July 2004) organised by James Staples at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) – discussant: Professor Barbara Harriss-White (Oxford).
- 'Dwelling on Morichjhanpi: tigers becoming citizens and refugees 'tiger-food' in the panel 'Forgetting Bengal: stories that get lost in nationalist narratives' organised by Tahmima Anam – American Anthropological Association conference (AAA, Chicago, Nov 2003) – discussants: Professors Partha Chatterjee, Gautam Ghosh & Ralph Nicholas.
- 'On understanding relatedness among 'conniving collectives': people and tigers in the Sundarbans' presented at the LSE, Anthropology Department (London, June 2003); and at Brunel University, Department of Human Sciences, (London, May 2004), discussant: Dr. Christina Toren.
- 'From *tigris regalis* to man-eating Royal Bengals: scientific constructs of Sundarbans tigers' – Association of Social Anthropologists decennial conference (Manchester, July 2003) as part of the panel on 'Aw[e]ful and fearful science: ethnographic responses to the industries, machineries and technologies of science' organised by Alberto Corsin-Jimenez; discussant Dr. James Carrier.
- 'Living with the shifting natures of the Sundarbans tigers: enduring the politics of the royal beast' organised by Patricia Taber – AAA (Washington DC, November 2001) – discussants: Professors Peter Pels and Richard Fox; Anthropological Survey of India, (Kolkata, October 2000) – discussants: Drs. Ranjit K. Bhattacharya and Tushar Niyogi.

#### **CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

The human/non-human interface; anthropology of the environment, particularly wildlife conservation in South Asia; kinship; gender; postcolonial and subaltern history; Hinduism and Islam and their interconnections; migration trajectories in South Asia; Diaspora literature.

#### **REFEREES:**

##### **Professor John Harriss**

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Burnaby, Canada, A1 6180

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##### **Professor James C. Scott**

Yale University

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Position held: Sterling Professor of Political Science. Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Anthropology. Founder and co-director of the Program in Agrarian Studies

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