

Pranab Kumar Mandal, PhD  
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## EDUCATION

**Jadavpur University**, Kolkata, India

PhD, Department of English, 2025

Dissertation: "Ecotheatre in East and Northeast India: A Study of Select Practices"

**University of Calcutta**, Kolkata, India

M. Phil, Department of English Language and Literature, 2016

Dissertation: "Being *Herself* and Creating *Herspace*: Exploration of Feminist Utopian Possibilities in Caryl Churchill's *Cloud Nine* and *Top Girls*"

**University of Calcutta**, Kolkata, India

MA, Department of English Language and Literature, 2013

**Ramakrishna Mission Residential College**, Narendrapur, India

BA, Honours in English, 2011

## CURRENT POSITION

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Associate Professor, Theatre and Performance Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, July 2026–present

## PREVIOUS POSITION

Ramakrishna Mission Residential College, Narendrapur [under University of Calcutta]

Assistant Professor, Department of English, May 2017–June 2026

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Performance and Ecology, Performance and Social Change/Justice, Applied and Participatory Theatre, Grassroots and Community Performance, Indigenous Performance Practices, Dalit Theatre, Gender and Performance

## GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Conference Bursary, SIDA and RCSD, May 2025  
Chiang Mai University, Thailand

Henry Luce Foundation Registration Grant April 2025

Travel and Conference Grant, AAS-in-Asia and SIDA October 2024

Charles Wallace Research Grant, CWIT, British Council October 2023

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| Asian Graduate Student Fellowship, Asia Research Institute,<br>National University of Singapore, Singapore | June 2023    |
| Research Fellowship, Earth System Governance Project,<br>Utrecht University, The Netherlands               | January 2023 |
| John McGrath Scholarship, SUISS, University of Edinburgh, UK                                               | August 2021  |
| Summer School Grant, Shanghai Municipal Education Commission                                               | May 2018     |
| Travel and conference grant, Asian Theatre Working Group, IFTR                                             | April 2016   |

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books edited/co-authored

- *The Grassroots Play: People, Place, and Performance in Indian Theatre*, edited (forthcoming from Peter Lang in 2026)
- *Scripting Dalit Resistance: Selected Plays of Raju Das*, coedited (forthcoming from Routledge in 2026)
- *The Incandescent Classroom: Essays in Honour of Professor Satyaki Pal* (co-edited), Department of English, Ramakrishna Mission Residential College (Autonomous), Narendrapur, January 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> Edition) and December 2023 (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)
- *Chinese Opera* (in Bangla, co-authored), Kolkata: Dhansere, January 2023.
- *Theatre Practice: Text and Performance, Interpretation and Experimentation*, edited, Kolkata: Jadavpur University Society for American Studies (JUSAS), November 2018.

### Journal publications/book chapters

- “Performing Care, Empathy, and Resilience: *Eladidi* in Grassroots India” in *Studies in Theatre and Performance* (forthcoming)
- “Participatory Performance of Environmental Justice in M Sudhir Selvaraj’s *We All Live in Bhopal*” in *South Asian Review* (forthcoming)
- “Community Kinship, Species Sustainability, and Environmental Justice in *Salmon Is Everything* and *Sila*” (under review)
- “The Ecospirituality of Vedic/Indigenous Ontology: Towards a Sustainable Eco-epistemology,” in *Environmental Humanities and the Global South: Perspectives for Ecological Justice*, ed. Sopan Shinde (forthcoming from IIAS, Shimla)
- “The Biopiracy of Indigenous Ethnomedicinal Knowledge in India: Extractions, Injustices, and Possibilities” in *Indian Journal of Agricultural Research*, June 2026, DOI: [10.18805/IJAR.A-6520](https://doi.org/10.18805/IJAR.A-6520).
- “The Political Ecology of Adi Ganga: Environmental Governance of an Urban River in Kolkata, India” in *Journal of Integrative and Innovative Humanities* (Chiang Mai University Press), vol. 5, issue 2, 101-119, 2025.
- “Ecology, Performance, and Activism in Badungduppa Theatre in Assam, India,” in *Asian Theatre Journal* (University of Hawai’i Press), vol. 42, issue 2, 333–350, 2025. DOI: [10.1353/atj.2025.a968805](https://doi.org/10.1353/atj.2025.a968805).

- “Ecological Training for Ecological Healing: Performer’s Training in Heisnam Kanhailal’s Theatre of the Earth,” *Journal of Theatre, Dance and Performance Training* (Routledge), 2025, vol. 16, issue 2, 266–281. DOI: [10.1080/19443927.2025.2515040](https://doi.org/10.1080/19443927.2025.2515040).
- “Patnaik’s Cyco Theatre in India: Grassroots Environmental and Gender Activism,” in *Applied Theatre and Gender Justice: Imagination, Play, Movement*, ed. Lisa S Brenner and Evelyn D Cruz, Routledge, December 2024, pp. 22-32. DOI: [10.4324/9781003341802-4](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003341802-4).
- “Mediating Resilience through Folk Ecology: *To Poydom* as a Rabha Drama,” in *Vidyasagar University Journal of the Department of English*, 2024, vol. 17, pp. 134-143.
- “Bhimrao Ambedkar: A Pioneer Extraordinaire” (translation), in *Anthology of Dalit Plays*, ed. Runa Chakraborty Paunksnis (Kaunas University of Technology Press, Lithuania, January 2024).
- “Birhor” (translation), in *Janajati Darpan*, vol. 11, 2024, pp. 15–24.
- Review of *Earth Matters on Stage: Ecology and Environment in American Theatre* by Theresa J. May, *Theatre Research International* (Cambridge University Press), vol 48, issue 1, March 2023. DOI: [10.1017/S0307883322000475](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0307883322000475).
- “Silence as the Rhetoric of Resistance in Heisnam Kanhailal’s Theatre Practice.” *Shodhkosh: Journal of Visual and Performing Arts*, 2022, vol. 3, issue 2, pp. 252-258.
- “The Theatre Audience: Passive Spectators or Co-creators?” in *Theatre Practice: Text and Performance, Interpretation and Experimentation*, ed. Pranab Kumar Mandal, Kolkata: Jadavpur University Society for Theatre Studies (JUSAS), 2018.
- “Family Happiness” and “Survivor” (translation), in *Minority Voices: An Anthology of Asian-American Poetry in Bengali Translation*, ed. Saurav Dasthakur et al. Kolkata: JUSAS, 2017.

#### PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOP/COURSE/ SUMMER SCHOOL

- Workshop on ‘Researching Social and Environmental Changes from Cultural Perspective,’ Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 12-14 October 2024
- PhD course (online) on ‘Reimagining the Humanities,’ Linköping University, Sweden, May 21– 25, 2024
- PhD course (online) on ‘Gender and Sustainability: Introducing Feminist Environmental Humanities and Posthumanities,’ KTH School of Architecture and the Built Environment, The Posthumanities Hub, Tema Genus, and Linköping University, Sweden, December 05, 2022 – March 28, 2023
- Workshop on ‘Indigenous and More-Than-Human Ecological Justice: Environmental Humanities Research in the Global South,’ Chiang Mai University, Thailand, September 15-19, 2022
- Summer School on ‘Contemporary British and Irish Theatre and Performance Studies,’ the Scottish Universities’ International Summer School, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, UK, August 9-20, 2021
- Training programme on ‘Translation,’ National Translation Mission, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, Karnataka, India from October 10-30, 2018
- Summer School on ‘Chinese Opera,’ Shanghai Theatre Academy, Shanghai, China, June 25-July 14, 2018
- Workshop on ‘Translating Minority American Poetry into Bengali,’ Jadavpur University Society for American Studies (JUSAS), Jadavpur University, India, June 06, 2017

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS/LECTURES

- 'Writing a Playscript,' Invited Lecture, 'Summer Internship on Creative Writing,' Ramakrishna Mission Residential College, India, 11 June 2026.
- 'Theatre of and for the People: Community, Culture, and Continuity in Folk Performance Tradition in India,' Special Invited Lecture, 'Summer Internship in Performing Arts, Folklore and Digital Humanities—Documenting Living Traditions in the Digital Age,' Banwarilal Bhalotia College, Asansol, India, 23 March 2026.
- 'Visual Media Ecologies: Communication, Consciousness, and Care,' Keynote Lecture, International conference on 'Ecocritical Horizons: Literature, Culture and the Environment in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,' Bhangar Mahavidyalaya, West Bengal, India, 11-12 December 2025 (invited lecture)
- 'Why Read Nature? Literature, Ecology, and the Environmental Imagination,' Special Lecture, Amity University Chhattisgarh, 14 November 2025 (invited lecture)
- 'The Biopiracy of Indigenous Ethnobotanical Knowledge in India: Extractions, Deforestations, and Injustices,' International conference on 'Reframing Global Asias: Margins, Modernities, and Mobilities,' AAS-in-Asia and Social Science Baha, Kathmandu, Nepal, 1-4 June 2025
- 'Farmers' Suicides, Farmers' Protests, and Agrarian Distress in India,' International Relations Study Programme Special Lecture, Paramadina University, Indonesia, Online, 18 March 2025 (invited lecture)
- 'Political Ecology, Ecological Trauma, and Environmental Justice in Sudhir Selvaraj's Play *We All Live in Bhopal*,' International symposium on 'Bhopal at 40: Remembering and Storytelling,' Online, 4-5 December 2024
- 'Climate Vulnerabilities and Resilience-building Strategies in the Coastal Sundarbans,' International Virtual Research Roundtable on 'Climate, Resilience, and Sustainability,' Online, 2 December 2024, Kasetsart University, Thailand (invited lecture)
- 'Climate Change, Gendered Oppression, and Environmental Justice in Phulbani, Odisha,' International workshop on 'Researching Social and Environmental Changes from Cultural Perspective,' Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 12-14 October 2024
- 'The Ecospirituality of Vedic/Indigenous Ontology: Towards a Sustainable Ecopistemology,' International conference on 'Environmental Humanities and the Global South: Perspectives for Ecological Justice,' Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, June 21-22, 2024
- 'Toxic Seeds of the Anthropocene: *Notun Chash* in India,' International conference on 'Global Anthro-scene: Rethinking Sustainability and Cultural Preservations,' Jadavpur University, Kolkata, January 30-31, 2024 (conference proceedings being published from Routledge)
- 'Ecospirituality, Ecoperformance, and Community Resilience: Rabha Theatre Practice in Assam,' ASLE + AESS International Conference on 'Reclaiming the Commons,' online, July 09-12, 2023
- 'Sacred Forest, Animist Cosmology, and Nature Conservation: An Ecospiritual Intersection in Northern Thailand,' 18<sup>th</sup> Singapore Graduate Forum on Southeast Asian Studies, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore, June 21-23, 2023.
- 'Climate Change and Species Unsustainability: *Sila* as an Ecodrama,' the 2022 ELLAK (The English Language and Literature Association of Korea) International Conference on 'Ethics of Life Reconsidered: Coexistence in a Chronic Emergency,' Hongik University, Seoul, South Korea, December 15-17, 2022

- 'Natureculture and Supernature: Fluidity, Entanglement, and Ecospiritual Loss in Ban Mae Ngud Amidst the Yuam/Salween River Diversion Project' (co-presented), symposium on 'Cultivating the Humanities and Social Sciences: Addressing the Multiple Marginalities of South and Southeast Asia,' Chiang Mai University, Thailand, December 8-10, 2022
- 'Ecological Theatre and the Representation of Human-Nonhuman Interactions: A Reading of Select Plays,' 19<sup>th</sup> International Biennial Symposium Literature and Culture in the Asia-Pacific Region on 'Literature and the Non-Human: Abrogating the Anthropocene,' Aligarh Muslim University, India, November 26-27, 2022
- 'Community Kinship and Species Sustainability: *Salmon Is Everything* as an Ecodrama,' IASA 10<sup>th</sup> World Congress 2022 on 'Matters of Life: Human Scapes and Scopes,' International American Studies Association and Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, India, November 22-24, 2022
- 'Theatre in an Age of Ecological Crisis: Roles and Responsibilities,' International conference on *Language, Literature, and Humanities* organised, St. John's College of Arts and Science, India, August 20-21, 2022
- 'Being *Herself* and Creating *Herspace*: Feminist Utopian Possibilities in Caryl Churchill's *Cloud Nine*,' International conference on 'Utopia and Performance,' Association of Nordic Theatre Scholars, Department of Theatre Studies and Department of Culture & Aesthetics of Stockholm University, Sweden, September 30-October 02, 2021
- 'Male Body in Female Dress: A *Jatra* of Identity Crisis on Bengali Stage,' International Federation for Theatre Research Regional Conference and the Asian Theatre Working Group International Colloquium on 'Bodies in/and Asian Theatres,' The University of the Philippines, Diliman, February 21-23, 2018
- 'The American Dream in Play: A Performative Reading of *A Raisin in the Sun*,' Seminar-cum-Workshop on 'Teaching Literature with the Audio-Visual Aid of the Other Arts (Theater, Painting, Music, Film, and Graphic Novel),' Jadavpur University Society for American Studies (JUSAS), Jadavpur University, India, November 08, 2017
- 'Religious Travelling in Performing Yatra: A Theatre tradition in Bengal,' XIII International Conference of Indian Society for Theatre Research, Aligarh Muslim University, India, January 23-25, 2017
- 'Staging the Female Body as *Speaking Subject*: Identity and Individuality with Reference to Caryl Churchill's *Cloud Nine*,' Young Scholars' Conference on 'Gendered Myths of Conflict & un-belonging from a Comparative Literature Perspective,' CSPILAS, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, August 02-03, 2016
- 'Is There an Audience in the Dark? A Critique of Proscenium Theatre Tradition with Reference to Badal Sircar and Third Theatre,' International Colloquium on 'Between Tradition and Modernity in Asian Theatre,' Asian Theatre Working Group, IFTR, National Institute of Education, Singapore, April 30-May 01, 2016
- 'Female Body and Sexuality: Identity and Commodification; Representation of Women in Television Commercials,' Students' Seminar on 'Interdisciplinarity: Modes and Practices,' Ramakrishna Mission Residential College (Autonomous), Narendrapur, India, April 21, 2015
- 'Is There an Audience in the Dark?' UGC Assisted DRS (SAP III) Phase III Seminar on 'Connecting Texts: Literature, Theatre and Cinema,' University of Calcutta, India, March 25, 2015

- 'Differently Straight: A Queer Identity,' UGC Sponsored National Seminar on 'Negotiating Tradition and (Post) Modernity: Recent Trends in Cultural Studies,' Kalyani University, India, January 28, 2015
- 'Third Theatre and Verbatim Theatre: a Comparative study with Reference to Badal Sircar and Paul Brown,' 4<sup>th</sup> IASA Eastern Region International Conference on "The Asian Century": Australia and the Trans-Asian Cultural and Strategic Diplomacy,' The Astor Hotel, India, January 27, 2015
- 'Rudali: A Dalit Woman's Quest for Survival,' International Conference on 'Writing India: Colonial, Postcolonial, and Transnational Fiction,' Ravenshaw University, India, January 16, 2015
- 'Female Body and Violence: Identity and Marginalization with References to Manjula Padmanabhan's *Lights Out* and Dina Mehta's *Getting away with Murder*,' UGC Sponsored National Seminar on 'Representation of the Marginalized in Indian Writings in English,' Falakata College, Jalpaigudi, India, November 08, 2014

### TEACHING AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE

- School of Arts & Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University (July 2026 onwards)
- Ramakrishna Mission Residential College, Narendrapur (May 2017-June 2026)
  - Taught undergraduate and postgraduate courses on contemporary Indian, British and American theatres; environmental humanities; and social and environmental justice
  - Conducted workshop for students on socially engaged theatre (2022), grassroots theatre (2023), and classical Indian theatre (2024)
  - Term Paper Advisor and Coordinator, MA in English
- University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India  
Guest Faculty, Undergraduate course on communicative English, Department of Library and Information Sciences, August 2017-February 2018

### ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Member, Board of Studies, Department of English, Ramakrishna Mission Residential College, 2017-present
- Convenor, Equal Opportunity Cell and SC/ST Cell, Ramakrishna Mission Residential College, 2021-2026
- Coordinator, *Certificate Course in Translation*, Department of English, Ramakrishna Mission Residential College, January-April 2022, July-September 2024
- Convenor, 10<sup>th</sup> Inter-University Students' and Researchers' Conference, November 19-20, 2024.
- Member, Asian Theatre Working Group, IFTR and Historiography Working Group, IFTR
- Reviewer, *Contemporary Voice of Dalit*
- Secretary, Jadavpur University Society for American Studies, 2018-2020

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