

SUBHO BASU

Associate Professor
Room 606, Leacock Building,
855 Sherbrooke Street West
Montreal, Quebec H3A 2T7
E-mail: subasu@maxwell.syr.edu
Telephone: 514 398 4400 Extension:00175

EDUCATION

- Ph.D in History, 1994. University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.
- M.Phil. in South Asian History, 1989. Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.
- MA in History with specialization in Modern South Asia, 1986. Visva-Bharati University, India.
- BA (Hons.) in History, 1984. Visva-Bharati University, India.

DISSERTATION

“Workers’ Politics in Bengal, 1890 – 1929: Mill-towns, Strikes and Nationalist Agitations.”
Supervisor: Late R. S. Chandavarkar

CURRENT POSITION

Tenured Associate Professor, Department of History and Classical Studies since July 2013.

PRIOR EMPLOYMENT

- Tenured Associate Professor in South Asian History, Department of History, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Global Affairs, Syracuse University. August 2008-July 2013.
- Tenure-track Assistant Professor in South Asian History, Department of History, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Global Affairs, Syracuse University. 2005 – 2008.
- Tenure-track Assistant Professor in South Asian History, Department of History, Illinois State University. 2002 – 2005.
- Lecturer in Indian History, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, UK. 1999 –2002.
- Lecturer in British Imperial History, College of St. Mark and St. John, University of Exeter, UK. 1996 –1999.
- Smuts-Hinduja Fellow, Center of South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, UK. 1993 – 1996.

- Fellow and Member of the Governing Body, Wolfson College, University of Cambridge. 1994 – 1996.
- Lecturer in Modern Indian History, Department of History, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, India. 1989 – 1990.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- *Does Class Matter? Colonial Capital and Workers' Resistance in Bengal (1890-1937)*. New Delhi and New York: Oxford University Press, 2004. South Asia Series sponsored by SOAS, University of London.
- *Paradise Lost?: State Failure in Nepal*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Press, 2007. (Co-author: Ali Riaz).

EDITED VOLUMES

- *Rethinking Indian Political Institutions*. London: Anthem Press, 2005. (Co-editor: Crispin Bates).
- *Electoral Politics in South Asia*. Calcutta: K. P. Bagchi, 2000. Calcutta University Monograph Series. (Co-editor Suranjan Das).

EDITOR OF JOURNAL ISSUE

- *Second World War and Decolonisation*. Special Edition, *Social Scientists*, India Vol. 27, Nos. 7 - 8, July 2009. (Co-editors: S. Bhattacharya and R. Keys).

RESEARCH PAPERS

- “Dilemmas of Parliamentary Communism: The Rise and Fall of the Left in West Bengal” (with Aurotro Majumder) *Critical Asian Studies Vol 45 number 2, June 2013* pp.167-200
- “The Dialectics of Resistance: Colonial Geography, Bengali Literati and the Racial Mapping of Indian Identity” *Modern Asian Studies, 44 (1), 2009*. pp. 53 – 79.
- “The Quest for Manhood: Masculine Hinduism and Nation in Bengal.” *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East, 26 (3), 2006*. pp. 76 – 90. (With Sikata Banerjee).
- “The State-Society Relationship and Political Conflicts in Nepal (c.1951 – c.2005)” *Journal of Asian and African Studies, 42 (2), 2007*. pp. 123 – 42. (With Ali Riaz).

- “Politicized History in Rhetoric, Mobilization and Political Confrontations in India” in Padraic Kenney and Max Paul Friedman (eds.), *Partisan Histories: The Past in Contemporary Global Politics*. (New York: Palgrave, 2005). pp. 111 – 126. (With Suranjan Das).
- “Political Institutions, Strategies of Governance and Forms of Resistance in Rural Market Towns of Contemporary Bengal: A Study of Bolpur Municipality” in Subho Basu and Crispin Bates (eds.), *Rethinking Indian Political Institutions*, London: Anthem Press, 2005. pp. 125 – 150.
- “The Paradox of Peasant Worker: Re-conceptualizing Workers’ Politics in Bengal 1890 – 1939.” *Modern Asian Studies*, 42 (1), 2008. pp. 47 – 74.
- “Strikes and “Communal” Riots in Calcutta in the 1890s: Industrial Workers, Bhadrakol Nationalist Leadership and the Colonial State.” *Modern Asian Studies*, 34 (4), 1998. pp. 949 – 983.
- “The Emergence of the Mill Towns in Bengal 1880-1920: Migration Pattern and Survival Strategies of Industrial Workers.” *The Calcutta Historical Journal*, 28 (1), 1996. pp. 97 – 135.
- “Introduction” in Subho Basu and Suranjan Das (eds.), *Electoral Politics in South Asia*. (Calcutta: K. P. Bagchi, 2000). pp. xiii – xxxix. (With Suranjan Das).
- “The Crisis of the Centralized Nation State: Regionalization and Electoral Politics in India in the 1990s” in in Subho Basu and Suranjan Das (eds.), *Electoral Politics in South Asia*. (Calcutta: K. P. Bagchi, 2000). pp. 201 – 234. (With S. Mukhopadhyay).

REVIEWS AND SHORT ESSAYS

- Review of *Leftism in India, 1917 – 1947* by Satyabrata Rai Chowdhuri. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2007. In *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 46 (2), 2011. pp. 211 – 212.
- Review of *Surveying and Mapping in Colonial Sri Lanka: (1800 – 1900)* by Ian Barrow. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2009. In *Journal of World History*, 21 (1), 2010. pp. 160 – 164.
- “Rajnarayan Chandavarkar (1953 – 2006): An Intellectual Biography” in *Economic and Political Weekly*, June, 2006. (With Doug Haynes).
- Review of *God Willing: The Politics of Islamism in Bangladesh* by Ali Riaz. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2004. In *Journal of Asian and African Studies*, 41 (4), 2006. pp. 397 – 399.
- Review of *Population, Gender and Politics: Demographic Change in Rural North India* by R. Jeffery, and P. Jeffery. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997. In *Modern Asian Studies*, 33 (3), 1999. pp. 763 – 767.
- Review of *Unsettled Settlers: Migrant Workers and Industrial Capitalism in Calcutta* by Arjan de Haan. Rotterdam: Verloren Publishers, 1994. In *South Asia Research*, 16 (2), 1996. pp. 209 – 212.

- Review of *Bengal Divided: Hindu Communalism and Partition, 1932 – 47* by Joya Chatterji. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994. In *Social Scientist*, 26 (11 – 12), 1998. pp. 114 – 118.
- “The Rise of Agrarian Bourgeoisie [in India].” *The Hindu*, July 8, 1999.
- “The Death of Ideology [in Indian Politics].” *The Hindu*, August 7, 1999.

FORTHCOMING

- “The City as Nation: Delhi as the Indian Nation in Bengali *bhadralok* Travelogues, 1866 – 1910.” In Crispin Bates and Minuro Mio (eds.), *The City in South Asia*. London: Routledge, 2013. (With Sandeep Banerjee).

UNDER REVIEW

- “Secularizing the Sacred: The Himalayas in the Bengali *bhadralok* Imaginary, 1856 – 1901.” Under review at *Modern Asian Studies*. (With Sandeep Banerjee).

WORK IN PROGRESS

- *A contemporary History of India* (with Crispin Bates)
- *Home and Abroad: Colonial Bengali Travelogues and Journey towards Citizenship*
- *Politics of Colonial Geography: Bengal and the World* (with Sandeep Banerjee)
- *Parliamentary Communism and Changing Political Landscape of South Asia*. (with Auritro Majumder)

GRADUATE SUPERVISION

DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS DIRECTED (IN PROGRESS)

- Yoshina Hurgobin (History) – “From Indentured Workers to Citizens: The Story of Mauritius, 1840 – 1970.”
- Sravani Biswas (History) – “Natural Disasters and the Making of Bengali Society, 1870 – 1971.”
- Rajyasree Banerjee (History) – “Ethnicity, Migration, and the Making of the Working Classes in Tea Plantations, 1880 – 1940.”
- Shrimoy Roy Chowdhury (History) – “The Making of Native Doctors: The Micro-history of a Profession, 1858 – 1939.”
- Kasturi Gupta (Sociology) – “Corporate Social Responsibility and Neoliberal Governmentality in India.”
- Santosh Shankar (History) – “Making of the Indian Constitution, 1861 – 1950.”

DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS DIRECTED (COMPLETED)

- William Jackson (History) – “Subcontinental Sunni Schism: The Deobandi-Barelvi Rivalry and the Creation of Modern South Asia”.

- Sharmadip Basu (Social Science) – “Tuning Modernity: Musical Knowledge and Subjectivities in Colonial India, c. 1780s – c. 1900.” Defended: August 17, 2011.
- William Kuracina (History) – “Toward a Congress Raj: Indian Nationalism and the Pursuit of a Potential Nation-state.” Defended: June 12, 2008.

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

Parvathy Binoy (Geography); Auritro Majumder (English); Madhura Lohokare (Anthropology); Anirban Acharya (Political Science); Sandeep Banerjee (English); Karen McNamara (Anthropology); Bandita Sijapati (Social Science); Deepa Prakash (Political Science); Ian Wilson (Anthropology); Jishnu Shankar (Anthropology); David William Deacon (History).

MASTERS THESIS SUPERVISION

Adrienne Lee Atterberry (History).

TEACHING

AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Graduate Courses (all courses cross-listed in the South Asian Studies Program)

- Subaltern Studies and New Social History
- Theories of Empire
- Philosophy and Theory of History

Undergraduate Courses (all courses cross-listed in the South Asian Studies Program)

- Ancient and Medieval India
- Making of Modern India
- Gandhi and Gandhi-ism
- Maps and the Making of National Identity
- Partition of British India through Films
- British Empire through Films
- India and Pakistan
- Globalization and Global Community

AT ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate Courses

- Philosophy of History and Historiography
- Partitions: Themes in Global History
- Maps and the Making of National Identity

Undergraduate courses

- History of South and South East Asia
- Democracy, Modernity and Nation Formation: The Indian Experience

AT SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES

- Rebellion of 1857
- Nehru and India's Modernity
- India and Pakistan, 1860 – 1971
- Theories of Imperialism

AT THE COLLEGE OF ST. MARK AND ST. JOHN

- British Empire and India (1757-1947)
- Indian Ocean Region and Early Maritime Colonial Empire (1498-1757)
- Nationalism and Popular Resistance: India 1914-1947
- Colonial Empire in India and sub-Saharan Africa
- Colonial Experience and After
- Development and Experience in India and the Middle East (1947-97)

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

- India: Eighteenth Century to Now
- Sociology and Politics of South Asia
- Expansion of Europe
- West and the Third World

INVITED TALKS

- “Muslim Literati and the Quest for Political Modernity in Bengal” at Center for South Asian Studies, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, USA. March 14, 2012
- “Secularizing the Sacred, Exorcizing the Profane: The Himalayas and the Indian Nation in the Bengali *bhadralok* Imaginary.” South Asian Center Spring Speakers Series, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, USA. March 2010. (With Sandeep Banerjee).
- “Travel Writing and Imagined Citizenship: The Map of Humankind in Bengali Literature, c. 1840 – c. 1940.” South Asian Center Spring Speakers Series, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, USA. March 2007.
- “Travel Writing and Imagined Citizenship: The Map of Humankind in Bengali Literature, c. 1840 – c. 1940.” Cornell University International Seminar Series, Ithaca, NY, USA. February 2006.
- “Travel Writing and Global Hierarchy of Human Society: Indian Understanding of Global Society.” Department of History, Rice University, Houston, TX, USA. January 2007.
- “Revolution Unending: People’s Movement, Part II in Nepal.” International Affairs Lecture Series, Illinois State University, Normal, IL, USA. October 2006.
- “Revolution Unending: Nepal in Transition.” Professor Santosh Kumar Basu Memorial Lecture. Department of History, Visva-Bharati University, India. July 2006.
- “Tsunami and Disaster in the Indian Ocean Region.” Honorary Lecture at Manchester Hall, Illinois State University, Normal, IL, USA. February 2004.
- “Understanding Indian Labor History: Class, Religion, Region and the Rhetoric of Mobilization.” Department of History, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, USA. February 2003.
- “Does Class Matter? Colonial Capitalism and Workers’ Resistance in the Bengal Jute Industry 1890 – 1940.” St Catharine’s College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. April 2002.

- “Trade Union Organization in the Labor Politics of Bengal in the 1930s.” Center for South Asian Studies, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK. March 2000.
- “Understanding the Mechanism of General Strike among Jute Mill workers.” Center for South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. October 1999.
- “The General Strike of 1937 Class and Community Mobilization.” School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, London, UK. October 1999.
- “Migration, Capitalist Formations and Ethnic Tensions in Colonial South Asia: A Survey of Assam 1826 – 1876.” St Catharine’s College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. March 1999.
- “Election in 1996: India in Transition.” Wolfson College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. February 1997.
- “Strikes and Communal Riots in Calcutta in the 1890s: Industrial Workers, Bhadrak Nationalist Leadership and the Colonial State.” Center for Indian Studies, St. Anthony’s College, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK. March 1996.
- “Communal Riots in Calcutta in 1890s.” Center for South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. November 1995.
- “The Processes of Nation State Formation in the West Asia and the Gulf Crisis.” Surendranath Banerjee Memorial Lecture, University of Calcutta, Calcutta, India. February 1991.
- “Labor and the Indian National Congress: Transition in Bengal Politics 1919 – 1939.” Expert to Lay Series Lecture, Darwin College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. June 1990.

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

- “Negotiating Race, Masculinity and Anti-Colonial Internationalism: Representations of Africans and Chinese in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Bengali Juvenile Literature.” Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada. March 17, 2012. (With Sandeep Banerjee).
- “Home and Abroad: Muslim Representation of Nationalist Political Modernity.” 39th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, USA. October, 2010.
- “The City as Nation: Delhi as the Indian Nation in the Bengali *Bhadrak* Imaginary.” The City in South Asia International Conference, National Institute of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan. July 2010. (With Sandeep Banerjee).
- “Imperial Natural Frontier: Himalayas in the Imagination of the Bengali Literati 1857 to 1919.” 38th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, USA. October, 2009.
- “Rajnarayan Shamrao Chandavarkar: Rethinking Labor History in South Asia.” Association of Asian Studies Annual Conference, Boston, MA, USA. March 2007.
- “Beyond Nations: Researching South Asia” Association of the Central New York Scholars of South Asia. Cornell-Syracuse South Asia National Resource Center Consortium. Ithaca: Cornell University; November 2006.
- “Nepal in the 1950s: Indian Intervention, Unfinished Revolution and the Royal Coup.” The “Long” 1950s in South Asia Pre-conference. 35th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, USA. October 2006.
- “Maps and the Public Identity of Spaces: Multiple Ways of Imagining India.” 35th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, USA. October 2006.

- “Frontiers of Rural India: Visiting Urbanization through the Portal of a Rural Market Town.” 33rd Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, USA. October 2004.
- “Addressing Male Bias in Development: Constitutional Social Engineering and Women’s Representation in Panchayati Raj (Village Government).” Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA. October 2004.
- “Mission Accomplished! Perspectives on US in Iraq After a Year.” Global Review Seminar, Illinois State University, Normal, IL, USA. April 2004.
- “Is Gandhi Relevant in Global Politics in 2003?” Global Review Seminar, Illinois State University, Normal, IL, USA. October 2003.
- “Politicized History in Rhetoric, Mobilization and Political Confrontations in India and Pakistan.” Seminar titled Partisan Histories: The Past in Contemporary Global Politics. New York University, New York, NY, USA. October 2003. (With Suranjan Das).
- Panel Discussant: “Critical Reflections on September 11 and the Politicization of Religion.” Unit for Middle East and South Asian Studies, International Studies Program, Illinois State University, Normal, IL, USA. September 27, 2003.
- “Imag(in)ing the Other: Projection of Muslim Identity in Hindu Nationalist Discourse.” Global Review Seminar, Illinois State University, Normal, IL, USA. April 2002.
- “Strikes, Riots and Industrial Workers: Labor Politics in Calcutta, 1870 – 1900.” The International Conference on South Asian Labor Migration, Institute of Social History, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. November 1995.
- “Municipal Politics of the Mill Towns and Industrial Workers in Bengal c. 1890 – c. 1920.” The British Association for South Asian Studies Annual Meeting, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. July 1993.
- “Communalism and Bengal Workers, 1890 – 1920.” The British Association for South Asian Studies Annual Meeting, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK. April 1992.
- “The Community Identities of Jute Mill Workers in Bengal, 1890 – 1920.” The Center for South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. May 1992.
- “The Making of the Local Elites: Mill Towns of Bengal, 1890 – 1920.” Center of Indian Studies, St. Anthony’s College, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK. February 1992.
- “Reinterpreting Labor Movement: Bengal 1890 – 1940.” Informal History Seminar Series, St. John’s College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. December 1990.
- “Sahib, Coolie, Babu: Labor Movement in the Mill Towns of Bengal”. Informal Humanities Seminar Series, Darwin College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. March 1990.
- “Origins of Colonial Labor Management: Comparative Study of Tea Gardens and Jute Mills in Eastern India.” North Eastern India History Association Conference, Shillong, India. October 1989.

CONFERENCES

- Panel Chair: “Claiming and Contesting the City: From Colonial Calcutta to Neoliberal Kolkata.” 40th Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, USA. October, 2011.
- Organized a Panel on Nepal “ Nepal under Maoist Rebellion”. Conference on Religious and Social Fragmentation and Economic Development in South Asia, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA. October, 2005.

- Organized a panel discussion titled “Participatory Development and the Empowerment of Rural Women: Exploring Experiences of Bangladesh and India”. Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, USA. October, 2005.
- Organized a Round Table discussion titled “Dilemma of Nuclear option in South Asia.” Mid-West Conference on Asian Affairs at Illinois State University, Normal, IL, USA. February 27, 2003.
- Organized a panel discussion titled “Identity Politics in Bengal: Religion, Rhetoric and Mobilization” at Bengal Studies Conference, Irving, TX, USA. April 12, 2003.
- Organized a panel titled “Religion, Region, Rhetoric and Mobilization in South Asia.” 32nd Annual Conference on South Asia, Madison, WI, USA. October, 2003.
- Organized a panel titled “Rethinking Indian Political Institutions.” 16th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, Edinburgh, UK. September 2000
- Session Chair: “Minor Political Parties and the British Empire in India.” International Conference of Asia Scholars, Leiden, The Netherlands. Organized by the University of Leiden and European Science Foundation. July 1998.
- Organized the International Conference: “Second World War and Decolonization.” College of St Mark and St John, Plymouth, UK. June 1997.
- Organized the international symposium: “Electoral Politics in South Asia.” Wolfson College, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. February 1997.
- Organized the workshop: “Religion and Politics in South Asia, c.1890 – 1992.” Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. June 1995.

SERVICE AND EDITORIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- Associate Editor, *Studies on Asia*, On line journal of Mid West Asian Studies Conference 2010-
- Chair, Africa Search, Syracuse University, 2009-2010.
- Member Tenure and Promotion Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, Syracuse University 2010-2011.
- Member University Senate, Syracuse University 2011-12.
- Director, Seminar Programs, Center for South Asian Studies, Syracuse University, 2007 – 2008.
- Director, Citizenship, Nation and Empire Workshop, Department of History, Syracuse University, 2006 – 2008.
- Director, History Honors Society, Department of History, Syracuse University, 2005 – 2006.
- Member, Editorial Board, *History Compass*, Published by Blackwell Press, Oxford, UK.
- Review Editor, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and Middle East*, Duke University Press, 2002 –2004
- Consulting Editor, South Asia Series, Anthem Press, London. (Since 2002).
- Referee: *Critical Asian Studies*; *Modern Asian Studies*; *Journal of South Asia Research*, Routledge Press and Anthem Press.
- Member, Advisory Editorial Board, *Cornish History Journal*, Plymouth, UK. 1999 – 2002.

VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Victoria University, Canada, July 2004.

- Visiting Fellow, Netaji Institute of Asian Studies, Calcutta, India. June 2001.
- Visiting Fellow, History Department, University of Calcutta, Calcutta, India. December 1998.
- Visiting Fellow at Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris, France. July 1998.
- Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society, London, UK.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

- Junior Faculty Research Award, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY, USA. 2005 – 2006.
- Junior Faculty Research Award, Illinois State University, Normal, IL, USA. 2002 – 2003.
- Research Project Grant, The College of St. Mark and St. John, University of Exeter, UK. 1996 – 1997.
- Smuts Hinduja Fellowship, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK. 1993.
- Charles Wallace Research Award, London, UK. 1993.
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office Scholarship, British Council, London, UK. 1990.
- Indian Council of Historical Research Grant, Government of India. 1986 – 1989.
- National Talent Performance Award, Government of West Bengal, India. 1981- 1986.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Modern South Asian History and Culture, Labor History, History of Contemporary Social Movements, Nationalism and Post-colonial Politics, Materialist Approaches to Culture, Space, and Globalization.

LANGUAGES KNOWN

- Native Fluency: English, Bengali, Hindi.
- Intermediate: Assamese.
- Reading knowledge: Urdu and Nepali.