

Sarbani Bandyopadhyay

Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology (B.A. and M.A.)
St. Xavier's College, Kolkata

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Research Interest

Caste, Middle Class in Bengal, Internal and External Cross Migration, Partition, Violence, Identity Politics.

Education

Degree	College / University / Institute	Specialization	Year of Joining	Year of Leaving
PhD	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	Sociology	2011	2017
M.Phil.	Delhi University	Sociology	1998	2000
M.A.	Delhi University	Sociology	1996	1998
B.A.	Calcutta University	Sociology (Hons)	1993	1996

Thesis/Dissertation

PhD Thesis: “*The Lives of Caste among the Bengali Middle Class: A Study of the Contemporary*” submitted in Dec 2016 and defended in Sep 2017.

M.Phil. Dissertation: “*Patterns of class conflict in rural Bihar 1930s-1990s*” submitted and examined in 2000.

Experience

Institute	Position held	Date of Joining	Date of Leaving
St. Xavier's College (Kolkata)	Assistant Professor	1st Jan 2006	Continuing
St. Xavier's College (Kolkata)	Lecturer	7th Nov 2005	31st Dec 2005
St. Xavier's College (Kolkata)	Part-time Lecturer	13th Nov 2003	1st Oct 2005
Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta	Programme Assistant	2nd May 2002	31st Oct 2005
Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta	Research Assistant	1st Aug.2001 16th Sep 2001	15th Sep 2001 31st Oct 2001

Publications

1. Article titled “Caste Capital and Castlessness: An approach to the study of caste” has been accepted for publication in a journal registered under the erstwhile UGC-CARE List.
2. Bandyopadhyay, Sarbani. Invited book chapter “The Invisibilisation of Caste in Bengal” in Surinder Jodhka and Jules Naudet edited *Oxford Handbook on Caste*. Oxford University Press, Oxford 2023.

3. Bandyopadhyay, Sarbani. Invited book chapter “But Hindu Still: Muslims, Hindus, Reservation and the Caste Question in West Bengal” in Sekhar Bandyopadhyay and Tanika Sarkar edited *Caste in Bengal: Histories of Hierarchy, Exclusion and Resistance*, Permanent Black, New Delhi. 2022.
4. Bandyopadhyay, Sarbani. Invited book chapter “Jaya and Her Worlds of Work” in Shoma Choudhury Lahiri edited *Doing Social Research: Qualitative Methods in Social Research* Orient Blackswan, New Delhi. 2020.
5. Bandyopadhyay, Sarbani. “Another History: Bhadrakol Responses to Dalit Political Assertion in Colonial” Bengal in Chandra, Heierstad and Nielsen edited *The Politics of Caste in West Bengal*, Routledge, London & New Delhi, 2016.
6. Bandyopadhyay, Sarbani. “Does the Caste System Really Not Exist in Bengal?” www.opendemocracy.net/ 21. April, 2016
7. Bandyopadhyay, Sarbani. "Caste and Politics in Bengal." *Economic and Political Weekly* (2012): 71-73.
8. Lahiri, Shoma Choudhury, and Sarbani Bandyopadhyay. "Dressing the feminine body." *Economic and Political Weekly* (2012): 20-24.
9. Bandyopadhyay, Sarbani. Linga janito samasya o Naxal rajniti (In Bengali). In *Tepantor*, January 2009. Published by *Sanhati*, Kolkata.
10. Bandyopadhyay, Sarbani. "The Revolutionary Patriarchs." *Himal South Asian*, September (2008).
11. Bandyopadhyay, Sarbani. “Caste and Bengali Middle Class Self”, *West Bengal Sociological Review*, Nov. 2008. Vol. 1, No. 1. Pp.53 to 67.

Papers Presented at International Conferences/Seminars/Workshops:

12. 2024. Presented **invited paper** at Workshop on “Identities in the World of War and Crisis”, Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague, June 19th.
13. 2022: Xavier’s Sociological Society International Conference on Caste in Bengal in association with New Zealand India Research Institute, Wellington September 24th. Paper titled *But Hindu Still: Approaching the Caste Question in West Bengal*.
14. 2019: International Conference on Contemporary Caste, Gender and Minority Questions in West Bengal and Bangladesh: Some Explorations. *Panel discussion on Internal Displacement, Cross Migration, Politics*.
15. 2017: British Association of South Asian Studies Conference, Nottingham 19-21 April. Presented paper titled: *The Different Lives of Caste: Bengali Dalit Narratives on the Past and the Present*.
16. 2016: European Conference on South Asian Studies, Warsaw, 27-30 July. Presented and co-convened Panel 16 titled: Persistent Hierarchies? Caste Today. Paper titled: *Casteing Bengali middle class: contemporary narratives*.
17. 2015: Association of Social Anthropologists of UK and the Commonwealth, presented paper in Panel 19: Off-shoots of Research. Paper titled: *Moulded by the Field: Studying the Castedness of Contemporary Bengali Middle Class*. 13-16 April.
18. 2013: Presented **invited paper** at International Workshop on Caste Today, University of Oslo, September 12. Paper Titled: *Another History: Bhadrakol Responses to Dalit Political Assertion in Colonial Bengal*

Papers Presented at National Conferences/Seminars/Workshops:

19. 2019: Presented **invited paper** titled: “*Doing a Sociology of Dalits in West Bengal: Some Initial Thoughts*” at the national seminar on Sociology of Dalits: Epistemological Issues and Methodological Challenges at Department of Sociology, Hyderabad Central University. 28 Feb-1 March.
20. 2015: Special/Introductory Lecture as **Resource Person** for ICSSR sponsored National Workshop-cum-Orientation Programme for Members of Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribe and other Marginalized

- Groups, titled Identities, Mobility and Well-Being held at St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, 26-27 September.
21. 2014: Presented paper titled: *Tales of Caste: Growing Up Middle Class in Bengal* at National Seminar on Revisiting Ambedkar's Annihilation of Caste held in Mumbai University, 13 - 14 February.
 22. 2014: Presented **invited paper** titled: *Experiencing Caste in the Field: Studying Bengali Middle Class Lives* at ICPR-TISS National Conference on Caste in India: Presence and Erasure held at Centre for Social Theory School of Development Studies Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, 20-21 January.
 23. 2013: Presented paper titled: *Tales of Familiarity, Tales of Unfamiliarity: Caste and Middle Class in West Bengal* at *Orientation Programme on SC and other Marginalized Groups* held at Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC) 18 - 22 November.
 24. 2013: Presented **invited paper** titled: *Caste and the Hindu Bhadrakalok in Colonial Bengal* at National Seminar on Understanding and Resisting Caste held at Dr. Ambedkar Centre for Social Justice, University of Mumbai, 11 – 12 March.
 25. 2011: Presented a paper *Doing Sociology in an Autonomous Institution – The Case of St. Xavier's College, Kolkata* at the National Seminar on "Sociology in the 21st Century India: Constraints and Possibilities" organised by the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 4 – 5 February.
 26. 2010: Presented a paper *Caste in Private, Denial in Public* at the CSSSC-NRTT Annual Workshop for Beginning Doctoral, Doctoral and Postdoctoral Scholars on "The Public and the Private – Lives, Institutions and Practices", 28 October – 3 November.
 27. 2008: Presented a paper titled *Sociology and Gender: Looking at Calcutta University Undergraduate Syllabus* at a residential Workshop on "Themes and Issues in Women's Studies" organised by School of Women's Studies, Jadavpur University at Howrah, 20 - 29 May .
 28. 2007: Presented a paper titled: *Caste and Bengali Middle Class Self* at Annual Conference of Sociological Association of West Bengal (SAWB) on Social Change in Contemporary West Bengal held at Calcutta University, September 22, 2007

Resource Person

1. 2025: Invited Lecture on Caste Capital and Modern Day Caste in Bengal at Khudiram Bose Central College, Kolkata on 16th April. Seminar on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the Making of Modern India.
2. 2025: Invited Online Guest Lecture on Partition Dynamics of Hindutva delivered on 6th March to students and faculty of PG Module on Radicalisation and Counter-Radicalisation Strategies, Department of Social Sciences and the Professions, London Metropolitan University, UK.
3. 2024: Invited Online Guest Lecture on Caste Dynamics of Hindutva delivered on 7th March to students and faculty of PG Course on Radicalisation and Counter-Radicalisation Strategies, Department of Social Sciences and the Professions, London Metropolitan University, UK.
4. 2022: Invited Special Lecture on the theme Politics in Bengal and the Caste Question at Sister Nivedita University, Kolkata on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti, April 22nd.
5. 2021: Coordinator and Resource Person for SWAYAM-MOOC Course on Introducing Sociology I.
6. 2018: Resource Person for one day regional workshop on *The Sundarbans and Heritage* organised by Department of Archaeology, University of Calcutta. October 5, 2018.

Workshop/ Conference Convened/Organised

1. 2022: Organised and Convened a one-day international conference on "Caste in Bengal" on 24th September 2022, at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata in collaboration with New Zealand India Research Institute, Wellington.

2. 2019: Convened and Organised a three-day international conference on “Contemporary caste gender and minority questions in West Bengal and Bangladesh: Some explorations” at St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous) Kolkata from 31 October-2 November. The conference was in collaboration with New Zealand India Research Institute, Victoria University, Ambedkar University Delhi, Observer Research Foundation, Kolkata and Nagorik Uddyog-Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement, Dhaka.
3. 2016: Convened with Dr. Kenneth on Bo Nielsen a panel titled “Persistent Hierarchies? Caste Today” at the 24th European Conference on South Asian Studies jointly organised by the European Association for South Asian Studies and the University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland. 27-30 July.
4. 2015: ICSSR sponsored National Workshop-cum-Orientation Programme for Members of Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribe and other Marginalized Groups, titled **Identities, Mobility and Well-Being** held at St. Xavier’s College, Kolkata. Convenor of the Workshop. Co-convenor Dr. Shoma Choudhury Lahiri. 26 -27 September.
5. Member of the Organizing Committee and Editor of the Conference Souvenir for the 3rd Annual Conference of Sociological Association of West Bengal (SAWB) in St. Xavier’s College, Kolkata on Dec. 12, 2009, jointly organised by Sociology Department (St Xavier’s College) with SAWB .

Awards and Recognition

UGC's Teacher Fellowship from 6th January 2014 to 5th July 2016

The Savitri Bai Phule Award for contribution to education, from Rotary International on 23rd May 2025

Further Information

External examiner for M.Phil thesis, 2017 & 2020, Centre for the Study of Social Sciences, Calcutta.

Reviewer for Sage Journals since November 2021

Bandyopadhyay, Sarbani. "Caste and Politics in Bengal." *Economic and Political Weekly* (2012): 71-73
and Bandyopadhyay, Sarbani. “Another History: Bhadraklok Responses to Dalit Political Assertion in Colonial” Bengal in Chandra, Heierstad and Nielsen edited *The Politics of Caste in West Bengal*, Routledge, London & New Delhi have been recommended as references for the BA and MA Political Science course (2016-2018) in the Diamond Harbour Women’s University, West Bengal.

Bandyopadhyay, Sarbani. "Caste and Politics in Bengal." *Economic and Political Weekly* (2012): 71-73;
Bandyopadhyay, Sarbani. “Another History: Bhadraklok Responses to Dalit Political Assertion in Colonial” Bengal in Chandra, Heierstad and Nielsen edited *The Politics of Caste in West Bengal*, Routledge, London & New Delhi and Lahiri, Shoma Choudhury, and Sarbani Bandyopadhyay. "Dressing the feminine body." *Economic and Political Weekly* (2012): 20-24 have been cited in several journal articles and books.

The above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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Date: 2nd June 2025

Place: Kolkata