



## Dr. Zaid Al Baset

zaidalbaset@sxccal.edu

### Profile

Dr. Zaid Al Baset is Assistant Professor and the Head of the Postgraduate Department of Sociology at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata. He has a Ph.D in Arts from Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta (CSSSC), Kolkata affiliated to Jadavpur University. His research interests are in the intersections of Religion, Gender, Islam, Class & Sexuality.

### Teaching Experience:

- July 2021- present  
*Head of the Department of Sociology*  
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata
- November 2011 – present  
*Assistant Professor*  
Department of Sociology  
St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata

Courses taught presently (at UG and PG levels): *see table below*

- January 2012- 13  
*Guest Lecturer*  
Department of Sociology  
Jadavpur University

Courses Taught: Sociology of Marginalized Communities at the PG level

- July 2011- October 2011  
Taught Counselling as part of a Diploma Course on Applied Sociology
- July 2009-October 2011  
*Part time lecturer*  
Department of Sociology, St Xavier's College, Kolkata

### Professional Experience:

1. Coordinator of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities  
(August, 2023- present)
2. Convenor of college magazine *Xavierian* (2018 - present)

3. Managing Editor of college magazine *Xavierian* (2015-2018)
4. Deputy-President of the Xavierian Sociological Society (2013-present)
5. Deputy-President of the Xavierian Debating Society (2013-present)
6. Coordinator of Foundation Courses (2014-2017): Foundation Courses are compulsory courses on Religion and Social Harmony; and Personality development for UG 1<sup>st</sup> year students

### **Education:**

Degrees held:

Year	Institutions	Degree
2021	Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta	PhD in Arts
2011	Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta	M.Phil in Social Sciences
2009	Jadavpur University	MA in Sociology
2006	St.Xavier's College (Calcutta university)	BA Sociology (Hons.)
2003	Apeejay School	CBSE (Class-XII)
2001	Apeejay School	CBSE

- ☐ My Ph.D (awarded by Jadavpur University) thesis titled *Inhabiting Religion, Performing Class: Middle Class Muslims in Contemporary Kolkata* was written under the supervision of Dr. Rajarshi Ghose (Assistant Professor of History).
- ☐ My M.Phil (awarded by Jadavpur University) dissertation titled *Truth and other Lies: Telling Queer Stories* was written under the supervision of Prof Sibaji Bandyopadhyay.
- ☐ Qualified UGC-NET (National Eligibility Test for Lectureship) held on 26-12-2010 in the subject of Sociology. Date of Qualifying NET is 13-06-11.

## **Academic Activities:**

### **Fellowships/Grants**

Carried out an Erasmus Staff Mobility for Teaching specified under the ERASMUS+ programme at Akademia Kultury Społecznej I Medialnej W Torunin, Poland from 23 November- 27 November, 2023.

DAAD funded 'A New Passage to India III' Programme at Centre for Modern Indian Studies (CEMIS), University of Gottingen for the research project 'The Supernatural and the Muslim Every day in Kolkata' from 1<sup>st</sup> October – 15<sup>th</sup> December 2016

### **Publications:**

#### **Edited Volume:**

2018: *Men and Feminism in India* (co–edited with Dr. Romit Chowdhury). Routledge India.

#### **Papers:**

2024: "Section 377 and the Myth of Heterosexuality", in Oishik Sircar and Dipika Jain (eds) *Desire and its Discontents*. Zubaan, New Delhi.

2024: "Investigating Indian Muslim Citizenship : A Discourse Analysis of Memes of APJ Abdul Kalam", in Krystian Cholaszczyński and Mateusz Kaleta (Eds) *#Communication\_Culture The Academy of Social and Media Culture*, Toruń, Poland.

2023: "National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and Queer Inclusivity in India", *Magis: Xaverian Journal of Education*, Volume 12.

2015: "Men Doing Feminism in India", *Economic and Political Weekly* Volume 50, Issue No. 20, co –authored.

2014: "Queering Cityscapes" in Sukhbir Singh (ed) *Gay Subcultures and Literatures: The Indian Projections*: IIAS, Shimla.

2012: "Section 377 and the Myth of Heterosexuality" in *Jindal Global Law Review* Volume 4, Issue No. 1.

#### **Commentary:**

2018: "Supreme Court Judgement against Section 377." *Economic and Political Weekly*, Volume 53, Issue No.13.

#### Book Review:

2023: 'Desiring Subjects: Power and Pleasure Among Hijras of Bangladesh', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Volume 58, Issue No. 23.

2019: 'Demystifying Sexuality', *The Book Review Literary Trust*, Volume 43, Issue No. 2

2016: 'Sexual States and the Queer Struggle in India', *Economic and Political Weekly* Volume 51, Issue No. 42.

2013: 'Muslim Becoming: Aspiration and Skepticism in Pakistan', *Indian Anthropologist* Volume 43, Number 2, July –December 2013

#### Guest-Editorship:

'Men Doing Feminism in India', *Economic and Political Weekly*. Co-edited with Romit Chowdhury 2015.

#### Other Publications:

"When 'no' really means 'no'" co –authored with Romit Chowdhury in *Hindu Op-ed* (online), 21<sup>st</sup> September 2013

Regular contributor to a Gender and Sexuality Blog called 'Varta'

#### Conferences/Seminars/Workshops/Special Lectures:

- Panel Discussant on *Confronting Contemporary Gender Issues in India* organised by the Gender Equity Cell, ICC, Dept of Sociology and IQAC of Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya, and Women's Cell, Dept of Sociology and the IQAC of Kultali Dr B.R. Ambedkar College held on 10th March, 2025.
- Presented a paper titled "Corporeal Vulnerabilities of Religious Minorities in an Ethnic Democracy" at the XVI International Congress: Catholics and Corporeality held at University of Social and Media Culture, Toruń, Poland, 24-25 November, 2023.
- Delivered a Sociology Master Class on '*Women's Movement(s) in India*' on 10<sup>th</sup> August, 2023 at Modern High School for Girls, Kolkata.
- External examiner for a M.Phil thesis titled 'Performing Resistance: Understanding Muslim Women's Participation in the anti-CAA

NRC Protest in Park Circus, Kolkata.' at Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, June, 2023.

- Panelist on *Girl Up Kavach* discussion on "Men and Feminism: Embracing A Shared Vision" on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.
- Speaker on *EPW Twitter Spaces* on "Towards Same Sex Marriage" held on 6<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.
- Presented a paper titled "Investigating Indian Muslim Citizenship: A Discourse Analysis of Memes of APJ Abdul Kalam" at the *International Scientific Conference: Communication Culture, New Media- New Opportunities- New Perspectives* (University of Toruń, Poland) held online on May 16, 2023.
- Delivered a *Special Talk on Gender Sensitization* at the Department of Women Studies, Hiralal Mazumdar Memorial College for Women, Kolkata on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.
- Delivered a Special Lecture on a course titled 'Anthropology at Home in the City' on *Doing Ethnography* on 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at Ashoka University.
- Resource Person for *CBCS compliant MOOC on Sociology for Undergraduate Students*; 2022-March, 2023.
- Presented a paper titled "Performing Class, Inhabiting Religion: Middle Class Belonging in Contemporary Kolkata" at the *Limits of Archives: Mapping Urban Spaces in Modern South Asia* (International conference at Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta) held on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2020.
- Presented a paper titled "Class performance and Islam: Middle Class Muslims of Kolkata" at *International Conference on Contemporary Caste, Gender and Minority Questions in West Bengal and Bangladesh: Some Explorations*; 31<sup>st</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2019.
- Was co-convener and paper presenter along with Romit Chowdhury (Doctoral Student, NUS) of the Conference titled "Men Doing Feminism" to be held on the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> of December 2014
- Participated in a week long Summer School titled "Cityscapes and New Religiosities in Asia" at the University of Gottingen; 9<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014.
- Presented a paper titled "Queering cityscapes" at the conference on "Gay Sub-cultures and Literatures : the Indian Projections" at IAS ( Shimla) held on 3-4 April 2012
- Presented a paper titled "The Fiction(s) of Identity" at The National Queer Conference: *Non-normativity...Nevertheless..* held on 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of September 2011
- Presented a paper titled 'A study of Educational Reports: the case of reproduction of marginality' at the UGC Sponsored Students' Workshop on interrogating Educational Intervention: Revisiting the stakeholders (2008)

### Courses Teaching Presently:

Serial No	Title of course taught	Undergraduate or Postgraduate
1	Introducing India	Undergraduate
2	Nature, Body & Culture	Undergraduate
3	Sociology of Gender	Undergraduate
4	Sociology of Kinship	Undergraduate
5	Sociology of Religion	Undergraduate
6	Journeys and Cultures of Capitalism	Postgraduate
7	Imagining India	Postgraduate
8	Kinship, Family & Marriage	Postgraduate
9	Sexuality Studies	Postgraduate