

## **Shaoni Shabnam**

Assistant Professor

Postgraduate Department of Sociology,

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata.

Email: shaoni@sxccal.edu/shaoni.shabnam@gmail.com

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### **Educational Qualifications:**

PhD, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, 2016

MPhil, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, 2007

MA in Sociology, University of Pune, 2005 (First Class, Rank First)

BA (Hons.) in Sociology, Lady Brabourne College, Calcutta University, 2003 (First Class, Rank Second)

### **Areas of interest:**

Class and Intersectionality; Structural Inequalities of Class, Caste, Gender; Intersectional Marginalities; Cultural Studies; Sociology of Religion

### **Publications:**

- Shabnam S. (2022) 'Doing Good, Being Political: Middle Class *Bhadralok* Narratives from Neoliberal India', in Manish K. Jha & Pushpendra (Eds.) *Beyond Consumption: India's New Middle Class in the Neo-Liberal Times*, Routledge. ISBN 9780367565718
- Shabnam S. (2018) 'In Defence of *Sustho Sanskriti* (Healthy Culture): Understanding Bengali Middle Classness in Neoliberal India' in *History and Sociology of South Asia*, Vol. 12, No. 1, pp. 48--64. DOI: 10.1177/2230807517741794
- Shabnam S. (2015) "Claiming 'Bengali Middle Class-ness' through 'Social Sensitivity': The Case of the Durgapur Steel Plant Township, West Bengal" in Lancy Lobo & Jayesh Shah (Eds.) *The Trajectory of India's Middle Class: Economy, Ethics and Etiquette*, Cambridge Scholars Publication, U.K.
- Shabnam S. (2012) 'The Indian Middle Class, the State and Development: An enquiry into the broad claims of shifts in Neo-liberal India' in *Inclusive*, Issue 1. <[www.theinclusive.org](http://www.theinclusive.org)>
- Shabnam S. (with Bino Paul GD & Sony Pellissery *et al*) (2008). 'Educational Attainment of Youth and Implications for Indian Labour Market: An Exploration through Data' in *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, Conference issue, Vol. 51, No. 4, pp.813—830.
- Shabnam S. (with Pellissery S.), (2008). 'Microfinance Globalization' in Reddy V. & Charyulu Y. (Ed.) *Indian Agriculture: Challenges of Globalization*, New Delhi: New Century Publications.

### **Publications in Newspapers:**

- Shabnam, S. 'Power and Perversity', *The Telegraph*, July 13, 2020.
- Shabnam, S. 'Dual Burden: Women and Domestic Space', *The Telegraph*, September 25, 2020.
- Shabnam, S. 'Tumpa and the *bhadralok*', *The Telegraph*, April 7, 2021.

- Shabnam, S. 'The death of reason', *The Telegraph*, September 22, 2022.

### **Papers Presented at International/National Conferences/Seminars:**

- *Rights, Justice and Alterity: Addressing the Gender Question in India* in presented in the Research Workshop organization be Just Society, University of Southern Denmark on "Merging law and politics to ensure equal access to welfare rights" from 12 to 14 September 2022.
- *Doing Good, Being Political: Understanding the 'Old Middle Class' in Contemporary Bengal* presented at the National Seminar on "Experiences, Aspirations and Struggles: New Middle Class in Indian Cities" held at TISS, Mumbai on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2018.
- *In Defence of Sustho Sanskriti (Healthy Culture): Understanding Bengali Middle Class-ness in Neoliberal India* presented at the international seminar on 'The Middle Class in World Society' held at ISEC (Institute of Social and Economic Change), Bangalore, on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2016.
- *Middle class Hegemony and Distinction: An Ethnographic Exploration in West Bengal, India* presented at the 'How Class Works' 2014 Conference held at State University of New York at Stony Brook, USA from 5-7 June, 2014.
- *'Bengali Middle Class' and its Political-ideological Standpoint in a Neo-liberal Developing Nation: Voices from two cities in West Bengal, India* selected for presentation at the Second International Conference on Middle Class titled 'The Middle Class as the Precondition for Stability of Society: Fifteen Years Later' organized by Bulgarian Sociological Society at Sofia, Bulgaria on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2013.
- *The Making of the Contemporary Bengali 'Middle class' and the Ideological Lineages of 'Bhadralok'* presented at the colloquium on "Middle Class" organized by the department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay on 30<sup>th</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2012.
- *Towards Re-thinking the 'Middle Class': an exploration*, presented at the national conference on Literary and Cultural Studies, Researchers at Work Conference, 2011 at Hyderabad Central University, on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.
- *Finishing school in retail*, coauthored with ATLMRI research team, presented at conference on "Finishing school: A solution to Employability?" at TISS, Mumbai on July 11, 2008.
- *Is the 'social' in microfinance washed away with Globalization*, co-authored with Dr Sony Pellissery, presented at national conference on Emerging Trends in Global Economy: Post-Globalization Dimensions at Kakatiya University, Andhra Pradesh on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2007.

### ***Invited papers/talks/teaching***

- *Fashioning Self, Building Hegemony: The Curious Case of the Bengali Middle Class*, talk based on PhD research work, presented at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore as part of CSSEIP Special Lecture Series on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016.
- *Claiming "Bengali Middle Class-ness" through Social Sensitivity: The Case of Durgapur Steel Plant Township, West Bengal* presented at the National Conference on Middle class titled 'Tracking the Growth of India's Middle Classes' organized by the Centre for Culture and Development at Vadodara, Gujarat on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013.
- Presented guest lectures on invitation at the department of Management and Labour Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai; at the department of Sociology, St. Xaviers College, Mumbai and at the department of Sociology, Ramkrishna Sarada Mission Vivekananda Vidyabhavan, South Dumdum, Kolkata.

### **Current Research Projects:**

- Associated with a long-term international collaborative research project by ‘Just Society’, based at the University of Southern Denmark, titled “*merging law and politics to ensure equal access to welfare rights*”.  
<<https://www.sdu.dk/en/forskning/forskningsenheder/samf/justsociety>>

### **Courses Taught:**

#### ***Undergraduate:***

Sociological Theory, Introducing Sociology, Introducing India, Social Stratification , Research Methods , Sociology of Everyday Life, Sociology of Globalisation, Social Institutions , Social Thinkers, Sociology of Religion, Reading Ethnography

#### ***Postgraduate:***

Classical Sociological Thinkers, Journey and Cultures of Capital, Contemporary Sociological Thinkers, Power and its Dimensions

### **Courses Framed:**

- Framed the new UGC curriculum of Choice-based Credit System introduced in 2017 along with colleagues and framed the Core courses on Social Stratification, Indian Society, Research Methods I.
- Framed the curriculum for the Masters in Sociology program introduced from July, 2020 at St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous) Kolkata. The specific courses framed include Core Courses of Classical Sociological Thinkers and Contemporary Sociological Thinkers (Compulsory Core Courses); Understanding Intersectionality, Power and its Dimensions, Urban Studies (Optional Courses).

### **Mentoring/Supervision:**

- UG: Ten to twelve undergraduate dissertations per year; the summary versions of best dissertations get published in the annual departmental journal “Young Sociologist”.
- PG: Three to four PG dissertations per year

### **Seminar/Conferences organized:**

Organized a National Webinar on “Privilege and the ‘New Normal’ of COVID-19 in India” on behalf of the Post-graduate Department of Sociology at St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous), Kolkata on 7th October 2020.

### **Consultancy/Additional Teaching:**

Conducted 8 modules of an online UG course titled “Introduction to Sociology I” coordinated by Dr. Sarbani Bandyopadhyay, Assistant Professor, St. Xavier’s College (Autonomous) as part of UGC-MOOC produced by EMMRC, St. Xavier’s College for the July-August 2021 semester.

**Extra-curricular activities:**

Former member of “Pankhudi” an NGO working for under privileged children in Mumbai; Other interests: Reading, Painting and sketching, Listening to music