
Dr SOHINI SAHA

Assistant Professor

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EXPERIENCE

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata - *Assistant Professor*

AUGUST 2023 - PRESENT

Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri College, Calcutta University, Kolkata -

State Aided College Teacher

JANUARY 2020 - AUGUST 2023

Guest Faculty

AUGUST 2015 - DECEMBER 2019

Jadavpur University, Kolkata - *Visiting Faculty*

OCTOBER 2017 - PRESENT

Presidency University, Kolkata - *Visiting Faculty*

AUGUST 2016 - DECEMBER 2016

EDUCATION

Jadavpur University, Department of Sociology, Kolkata- *PHD*

DECEMBER 2022

UGC CBSE NET in Sociology

JUNE 2015

Presidency University, Department of Sociology, Kolkata - *Masters*

Degree of Arts

2012 - 2014

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Department of Sociology, Kolkata

- *Bachelor's Degree of Arts*

2009 - 2012

Harendra Leela Patranavis School (Formerly Better High School),

Kolkata - *ISC*

Year of Passing 2009

**Hirendra Leela Patranavis School (Formerly Better High School),
Kolkata - ICSE**

Year of Passing 2007

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Gender Studies, Masculinities Studies, Sexuality Studies, Sociology and Anthropology of the body, Sociology and Anthropology of health, South Asian Studies, Poetry and Politics.

PhD Thesis: My PhD Thesis titled “Bayam, Male Body and Masculinity: An Exploration of the Bayam Samitis and Akharas of Kolkata” is an ethnographic study in the *byayam samitis* and *akharas* of Kolkata to understand the male body in *byayam* (exercise). My thesis explores not only the political history of *byayam samitis* (traditional gymnasiums) of Kolkata, Bengal through historical ethnography but also studies the place and space of the *samitis* and *akharas*, the concept of health, brahmacharya and breathing in *byayam*, and the place of bodily pain in these embodied practices of body cultivation.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Rethinking Pain and Body in the Context of Everyday. Social Trends. Vol 11, pp: 169-179. March 2024.

The Poetics and Politics of Faiz Ahmad Faiz’s Poetry. Urdu Studies. Vol 4 (1). pp: 84-97, August 2024.

The Bio-moral Politics of Semen. Society, Springer (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12115-023-00945-7> (Peer-reviewed).

The Phallus in the Practice of Brahmachaya in Journal of Bodies, Sexualities, and Masculinities, Berghahn Journals. (Peer-Reviewed). Vol. 3, No. 1 (March 2022): 38–56. ISSN: 2688-8149 (print) 2688-8157 (online). doi: 10.3167/jbsm.2022.030105

Virile Men, Healthy Bodies: Exploring Interiority and Masculinity in Bayam Culture in ‘Reimagi(ni)ng Identities in the Global South: Challenges,

Transgressions and Articulations' in The IACLALS Journal. (Peer-Reviewed). Vol. 6, 2020: 191-200. ISSN: 2395-1206

Bengal, Body and Bayam: Masculinising Colonial India in Journal of Sociology Jadavpur University (Peer-Reviewed). Vol 11, No. 11. March 2020: 175-196. ISSN: 0976-5212

Book Chapters

'Beyond the Symbolic Masculine Body: Interrogating Embodied Power and Inner body in Byayam' in Rajni Singh and Debapriya Ganguly (eds.) *Beyond The Hegemonic: A Global Exploration of Theory and Praxis of Men and Masculinities*. USA: Lexington Books. (Forthcoming 2025).

'Embodied Nationalism: A Historical Ethnography of the Byayam Samitis of Kolkata' in Rakesh Batabyal, Megha Yadav and Swapna Liddle (Eds.) *History and Historiography in Contemporary India: Themes, Sources and Methods*. Primus Books, Delhi. ISBN no- 978-93-7033-820-3. (Forthcoming 2025).

'Gandhi and the Question of Masculinity' (2025) in Nibedita Bayen and Swapan Sarkar (Eds.) *Searching Genealogy of Riot, Death and Truth in Subcontinent: Reinterpreting Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi*. Kolkata: Progressive Publishers. ISBN: 934967129-8

Online Articles

Secularism is not Neutrality: The Politics of Condemnation and Our Liberal Guilt in Groundxero. 27th April 2025.
<https://www.groundxero.in/2025/04/27/secularism-is-not-neutrality-the-politics-of-condemnation-and-our-liberal-guilt/>

The Politics of Horror in a Totalitarian Regime in Cafe Dissensus. Issue 65. December 30, 2022. ISSN: 2373-177X
[<https://cafedissensus.com/2022/12/30/the-politics-of-horror-in-a-totalitarian-regime/>]

The Politics of Semen in Cafe Dissensus. Issue 64. November 13, 2022. ISSN: 2373-177X [<https://cafedissensus.com/2022/11/13/the-politics-of-semen/>]

The Little Protesters: Shaheen Bagh and its Children in Cafe Dissensus. Issue 55. September 29, 2020. ISSN: 2373-177X.

<https://cafedissensus.com/2020/09/28/the-little-protesters-shaheen-bagh-and-its-children/>

Book Reviews

Book review: "Sikh Nationalism: From a Dominant Minority to an Ethno-Religious Diaspora by Gurharpal Singh & Giorgio Shani" in Sikh Research Journal. ISSN: 2771-3532. (Forthcoming 2025).

CONFERENCE/SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

'Breathing, Power and Subjectivity: An Embodied Approach to Masculinities Studies in India' presented for the American Men's Studies Association's (AMSA) digital conference, to be launched from 31st May 2025. <https://www.masculinities.online/2025-digital-conference>

"The Paradox of the Male Body: Power and Vulnerability in the Practice of Byayam" presented at the Two Day National Conference on "Vulnerable Bodies in Literature and Culture" at IIT Hyderabad, organized by the Department of Liberal Arts, Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad in collaboration with The Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), on 28th Feb-1st March 2025.

"The Politics of Physical Cultures in 20th Century Colonial Calcutta" presented at the PHYSICAL CULTURES OF THE BODY V Conference at the The University of Texas at Austin on 16-17th of January, 2025.

"Ghoul and the Politics of Horror as Resistance" for the International Conference on Disruptive Frames in Post-Colony: Locating South Asian Cinema Beyond Global Cosmopolitanism, organized by the Department of English, Midnapore College (Autonomous) on 10th August 2024, at Midnapore, West Bengal, India.

"The Practice of 'Songjom' in Byayam Samitis: Interrogating Foucauldian Concept of 'Biopolitics'" presented as Panelist in 'World Foucault Congress Kolkata 2024', on 'Foucault and Postcolonial Governmentalities in South Asia', Organized by Postcolonial Studies Association of the Global South (PSAGS) Institute of Language Studies and Research (ILSR) Kolkata on 24th and 25th May, 2024 at Kolkata, India.

‘Embodied Nationalism: A Historical Ethnographic Exploration of Bayam Samitis of Kolkata’ presented at the Delhi History Congress, 2024 organized by The History Collective on 4th-6th February 2024 in Delhi, India.

‘Shaheen Bagh & the Politics of Children in Protests’ presented at a two day international conference on Cultures of Childhood in Contemporary South Asia organized by the Department of Sociology South Asian University in collaboration with CRY and ICSSR in Delhi, India on 14-15th of December 2023.

‘Urdu Poetry in the Age of Digital Resistance’ presented at IUEAS Post Congress, 26-27th October 2023, at Department of Anthropology, University of Hyderabad.

‘Urdu Poetry, Digital Space and Resistance’ presented at a two day national conference on ‘Technology and Everyday Life: Exploring Societal Impacts and Transformations’ organized by Sister Nivedita University in collaboration with Indian Sociological Society RC 13, Science, Technology and Society on 28th & 29th September at Kolkata.

‘The Bio-Moral Politics of Semen’ Presented at the National Conference on ‘Health, Science and Society’ at Manipal Centre for Humanities, Manipal, on 10th February 2023 at Manipal, Karnataka, India.

“The ‘Poetics and Politics’ of Love and Resistance in Faiz Ahmad Faiz’s Poetry” presented at the International Seminar on ‘Angarey and The Progressive Writers’ Movement’, organized by Department of English, Avadh Girls’ Degree College and Indian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies, held on 16th and 17th of December 2022 at Lucknow.

‘Embodied Interdependence: Covid 19 and the Shared World’ for the seminar on Negotiating the Pandemic: Voices of the Youth organized by Indian Sociological Society RC 24 and Sister Nivedita University, Department of Sociology on 12th September 2022. Kolkata, India.

‘Rethinking Pain and Body in the Context of Everyday’ presented at the Two-Day offline Seminar on Exploring Aspects of Everyday Life Organized by the RC 28 of the Indian Sociological Society and Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata, India on 27th and 28th June, 2022.

‘Gendered Encounter: Colonialism, Effeminacy and the Rise of Bayam Samities in Bengal, India’ presented at international conference at Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada, Graduate History Conference, “Encountering Colonialism: Land, Lives, and Legacies,” on 19th March 2022.

‘Virile Men, Healthy Bodies: Identities in Transition from ‘Health’ to ‘Fitness’ in Bayam Culture’ Presented at International Conference on “Re-imagi(ni)ng

Identities: Challenges, Transgressions and Articulation” organized by Indian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (IACLALS) in association with Department of English, Jadavpur University from February 5-7, 2020.

“Gandhian Ethics and the Politics of Precarity” presented at the National Seminar on “Revisiting Gandhi at 150”, in the Department of Political Science, Presidency University and Council for Political Studies on 28th January, 2020. Kolkata, India.

Building Bodies, Masculinizing Spaces: Akhara as an Everyday Culture’ presented at the National Seminar in “Sociology and the Everyday: Possibilities and Perspectives”, Department of Sociology, Jadavpur University on 19-20th September, 2019. Kolkata, India.

‘Body, Bayam and Bengal: Understanding Masculinity in Colonial Bengal’ presented at the Annual Research Scholars Conference, Department of History, University of Delhi in March 2019. Delhi, India.

‘Male Body and Pain: The Absent- Presence of Masculinity’ accepted at the 26th Annual Conference of American Men’s Studies Association on “Bodies, Sexualities, Masculinities”, at Minneapolis, March 2018. USA.

‘ReThinking Rape’, in ‘Gender and Society’, Students’ Seminar on Gender Awareness week organized by Presidency University Students’ Union Council at Presidency University, Kolkata, India on 26th March 2015.

INVITED TALKS/LECTURES

Delivered a lecture on “Gender and Crime” as part of the Special lecture series at the Department of Sociology, Sister Nivedita University on 11th April, 2025.

Delivered a Talk on “Situating Identity and Emotions in Research Methods: The Practice of Ethnography Today” as a Guest Speaker 1st March, 2024 at the Department of Sociology, Rani Indira Debi Government Girl’s College.

Delivered a Lecture on Antonio Gramsci at the Department of Sociology, Sister Nivedita University on 24th November 2023.

Delivered an online Talk on “The Place of Pain in Everyday” organized by Research Committee 28: Sociology of Everyday Life, **Indian Sociological Society** on 30th September 2023.

Delivered a Talk on PORICHOY- A Webinar on "what is gender" as a Guest Speaker **organized by Rotaract Club of Calcutta West Ridge and Rotaract Club of Calcutta North East** on 29th October, 2022.Kolkata, India.

Delivered a lecture on “Ethnography” in PG Diploma Course in Society, Religion and Social Work on 01.09.2021 at **The Center for the Study of Religion and Society, Jadavpur University.**

Delivered a lecture on “Religion and Nationalism” in PG Diploma Course in Society, Religion and Social Work on 18.08.2021 at **The Center for the Study of Religion and Society, Jadavpur University.**

ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENTS

Moderated a panel discussion on “Desire, Pleasure, and Body Politics” at Jadavpur University Women's Conclave (JUWC) in collaboration with the Jadavpur University School of Women's Studies held on 28th March 2025 at Jadavpur University.

Chaired a post film screening discussion with Dir. Kasturi Basu on ‘A Bid For Bengal’ (Dir. Kasturi Basu, Dwaipayan Banerjee) at Lifeworld 2024, organized by the Department of Sociology, Jadavpur University, held on 19th September 2024 in Kolkata.

Moderated ‘Dialectique: A Paper Presentation Event’ at Verstehen 2025, organized by the Department of Sociology, St. Xavier’s College, (Autonomous) Kolkata held on 13th February 2025 in Kolkata.

Judged ‘Social Commentary- Creative Writing Event’ at Verstehen’25, organized by the Department of Sociology, St. Xavier’s College, (Autonomous) Kolkata, held on 13th February 2025 in Kolkata.

Chaired a Session on 'Labour , Power and Spaciality' at the ‘World Foucault Congress Kolkata 2024’ on ‘Foucault and Postcolonial Governmentalities in South Asia’, Organized by Postcolonial Studies Association of the Global South (PSAGS) Institute of Language Studies and Research (ILSR) Kolkata, India, held on 24-25th May 2024.

Chaired a paper presentation session at a one-day seminar on “DISCOURSES ON YOUTH: A SOCIOLOGICAL INQUIRY” organized by the Department of Sociology, Jadavpur University, on 2nd April 2024.

Moderated a paper presentation session at Verstehen 2024, organized by the Department of Sociology, St. Xavier's College, (Autonomous) Kolkata on 5-6th March 2024.

Judged an academic paper presentation session at Jadavpur University Women's Conclave (JUWC) - (A New Wave of Feminism: Deconstructing the Future) on 13th March 2022 at Jadavpur University.

Judged an academic paper presentation at Indian Sociological Society RC 24, Department of Sociology, Jadavpur University and Teach for India: session on Child Rights and Sustainable Development Goals in the Youth Convention on the Rights of the Child held on 25th September 2019 at Jadavpur University.

WORKSHOPS/FDPs/COURSES COMPLETED

Completed LMS workshop on Shisak Learning Management System on 19th March 2025 organized by St. Xavier's College, (Autonomous) Kolkata.

Completed LMS workshop on 22nd July 2024 organized by St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata.

Completed a 3-day workshop on "Data Driven Decision-Making in Research" organized by the Department of Statistics in Collaboration with the Postgraduate Department of Sociology at St. Xavier's College, (Autonomous) Kolkata, held between July 18th to 20th, 2024 in Kolkata.

Participated in the Faculty Development Programme on Integrating Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education organized by Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and supported by Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), held on 5th October, 2023 in St. Xavier's College, (Autonomous) Kolkata.

Completed a Two Day Short Course on 'Decolonization of Knowledge and Post-Colonial Studies' on 14th and 15th of July, 2023, 10 hour duration, at The Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies and Research in Social Sciences, Slster Nlveda University, Kolkata, India.

Professional Experience

Member of the Organizing Committee for Inter-College State Sports Meet 2025.

Member of the Editorial Team for college magazine 'Xaverian'25', St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata.

Member of Organizing team for the Faculty Development Programme on Integrating Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education, organized by Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) and supported by Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), held between 3rd and 6th October, 2023 in St. Xavier's College, (Autonomous) Kolkata.

Editorial Assistant for the Jadavpur University, Journal of Sociology, 2020-21.

Research Assistant under Lauren Wilks, University of Edinburgh (1 year) for her PhD Research in Sociology on the topic of Gender, Migration and Domestic Labour in West Bengal, India. August 2015 - May 2016

Date: 30.05.2025

Place: Kolkata

Signature: Sohini Saha