

## CURRICULUM VITAE

SANGHAMITRA MISRA

### MAILING ADDRESS

Professor in Modern Indian History  
Department of History,  
Faculty of Social Sciences  
University of Delhi,  
Delhi – 110007

Phone: 9910236948

Date of birth: 27-10-1973

### E-mail

[smisra@history.du.ac.in](mailto:smisra@history.du.ac.in)

### EDUCATION

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| 2004 | Ph.D., Department of History, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Title: 'Space, Borders, Histories: Identity Construction in Colonial Goalpara' |
| 1999 | M.Phil., Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Title: Representing the 'tribe' in Colonial India'   |
| 1997 | M.A. in Modern Indian History, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.  |
| 1995 | B.A.(Hons) History, Indraprastha College, University of Delhi, Delhi   |

### EMPLOYMENT

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Professor in Modern Indian History at the Department of History, University of Delhi, May 2022 – present

Associate Professor at the Department of History, University of Delhi, November 2018 – May 2022

Assistant Professor at the Department of History, University of Delhi, September 2009 – November 2018

Lecturer in the Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Jamia Millia Islamia October 2006 – September 2009.

Associate Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, September 2004 – September 2006, Bangalore.

Ad hoc Lecturer: Indraprastha College for Women, University of Delhi, September 1999 – March 2000

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

**2011** *Becoming a Borderland: The Politics of Space and Identity in Northeastern India* (Routledge, Delhi and London: 2011). (Paperback edition with a revised Introduction, 2015; Third reprint, 2017)

#### **Forthcoming, May 2024:**

*The Long Conquest: Territorialisation, Rebellion and the 'Tribe' in Eastern India, circa 1760 to 1900*, Routledge: Delhi and London. ISBN 9781032514611

### SELECTED ESSAYS IN PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

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- 1998** 'Colonial Intervention in the Naga Hills: 1840 - 1880', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Sameeksha Trust, December 19, 1998, Vol.33, no.51, 3273-3279.
- 2005** (With Tejaswini Niranjana) , 'Thinking Through 'Region'', *Economic and Political Weekly*, Sameeksha Trust, October 29- November 4, 2005, Vol. 44 & 45., pp. 4674 – 4678.
- 2005** 'Changing Frontiers and Spaces: The Colonial State in Nineteenth Century Goalpara', *Studies in History*, Sage Publications, Vol. 21, July – December, 2005.
- 2006** 'Redrawing frontiers: language, resistance and the imagining of a Goalparia people', *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, Sage Publications, Vol. 43:2, 2006.
- 2007** 'Law, Migration and New Subjectivities: Reconstructing the Colonial Project in an Eastern Borderland', *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, Sage Publications, Vol. 44, No. 4, 2007.
- 2018:** 'The Sovereignty of Political Economy: The Garos in a pre-conquest and early conquest era', *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, Sage Publications, 55, 3 (2018): 345–387.
- 2021:** "Peasants, Colonialism and Sovereignty: the Garo rebellions in Eastern India", *Modern Asian Studies*, September 2021, Vol. 55(5), 1681-1717, Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/S0026749X20000426.
- 2021:** 'The Customs of Conquest: Legal Primitivism and British Paramountcy in North Eastern India', *Studies in History*, Vol. 37, Issue 2, August 2021, Sage Publications. DOI: 10.1177/02576430211042143  
0257-6430 (print); 0973-080X (web)
- 2022:** 'Rebellion and Ethnogenesis in Colonial North-Eastern Bengal: The Garos as *Pagul Panthis*', *Studies in People's History*, Vol. 9, No. 1 (2022): 31–45, Sage Publications.
- 2023:** 'Imperial Ethnography and the 'Savage' in the Garo Hills', *Aitijya: The Heritage*, Vol-XIV, Issue-2, 2023.

### SELECTED ESSAYS/IN ANTHOLOGIES

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- 2006** 'Negotiating Frontier Spaces: Narratives and the Idea of a 'Goalparia Identity'', in Sukalpa Bhattacharjee and Rajesh Dev (eds.) *Ethno-. Narratives, Identity and Experience in Northeast India*, Anshah Publications, New Delhi.
- 2007** *New Subjectivities: Writing Histories in Colonial Goalpara and Assam*, Indian Council of Historical Research, North East Regional Centre, Guwahati.

- 2012 'Practices of sovereignty, practices of the market: reimagining spatial histories of northeastern India', in Swarupa Gupta ed., *Nationhood and Identity Movements in Asia*, Manohar, 2012, pp. 55-77.
- 2015 New introduction for the paperback reprint of *Becoming a Borderland: The Politics of Space and Identity in Northeastern India* (Routledge India, Delhi and London: 2011).
- 2019: "Bengali Communities in Colonial Assam." In the *Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of Asian History*. Ed. David Ludden. New York: Oxford University Press. ISSN: 9780190277727; DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190277727.013.123.
- 2022 'Conquest and Colonisation' in Jelle Wouters and Tanka Subba eds. *Routledge Companion to Northeast India*, Routledge: Delhi and London, ISBN 9780367725662.
- 2023 'Practices of Sovereignty, Practices of the Market and Early Colonialism' in Sumi Krishna edited, *Routledge Readings on Colonial to Contemporary Northeastern India: Customary Practices, Gender, and Livelihoods*. (Routledge, Delhi and London: 2023)

## PUBLISHED SEMINAR PROCEEDINGS

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- 2008 'Between Borders: Writing Histories of Borderland Identities in Northeastern India', in Published Proceedings of a seminar, *Contested Space and Identity in the Indian Northeast*, Academy of Third World Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia on 14 February 2008. Published by the Heinrich Boell Foundation.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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- 2006 'Interrogating the 'Region'', *Region, Culture and Politics in India* by Rajendra Vora; Anne Feldhaus, *Economic and Political Weekly*, June 24, 2006.
- 2008 Review of Samir Das (ed.) *Blisters on Their Feet, Tales of Internally Displaced Persons in India's North East*, in *Third Frame: Literature, Culture and Society*, Cambridge India Press, Volume 1, No.4.
- 2009 Review of Satish Saberwal and Mushirul Hasan (eds.) *Assertive Religious Identities: India and Europe*, in the *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, April-June 2009, Vol. XLVI, No.2.
- 2012 Review of Sajal Nag, *Pied Pipers in North East India, Bamboo Flowers, Rat Famine and the Politics of Philanthropy, 1881-2007* in the *Indian Historical Review*, Vol. 38 (2)
- 2012 Review of Bengt G. Karlsson, *Unruly Hills: Nature and Nation in India's Northeast*, Orient Black Swan, Delhi, 2011. Pages: 336, *Economic and Political Weekly*, February 4, 2012 Vol xlvii no 5
- 2014 Review of Paula Bannerjee *Borders, Histories, Existences, Gender and Beyond: Paula Banerjee*, Sage Publications, 2010, Delhi, *Indian Historical Review*, Vol 41.1.
- 2014 Review of Gunnel Cederlof, *Founding an Empire on India's Northeastern Frontiers, 1790-1840; Climate, Commerce, Polity*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi, 2014, *Seminar*, May 2014.
- 2014 Review of Rita Kothari, *Memories and Movements: Border and Communities in Banni, Kutch, Gujarat*, Orient Blackswan, 2013, Summerhill, IIAS, Shimla.
- 2014 Review of Jayeeta Sharma, *Empire's Garden: Assam and the Making of India*, Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2011, in *Agricultural History*; Summer 2014, Vol. 88 Issue 3.
- 2016: Review of Neilesh Bose, *Recasting Region*, in *Indian Historical Review*, Vol. 43, No. 1.
- 2017: Review of Madhumita Sengupta, *Becoming Assamese: Colonialism and New Subjectivities in Northeast India*, in *Economic and Political Weekly*, November 4, 2017 vol. 52, no 44.

- 2019:** Review of Jangkhomang Guite, *Against State, Against History: Freedom, Resistance, and Statelessness in Upland Northeast India*, Oxford University Press, 2018, *Indian Economic and Social History Review*, Vol. 56., No. 4, October –December 2019.
- 2020:** Review of Arupjyoti Saikia *Unquiet River: A Biography of the Brahmaputra*, Oxford University Press: 2019, *The Book Review*, April, 2020.

## SELECTED SEMINARS AND LECTURES

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### 2003

'Appropriating the 'Frontier': History Writing and Goalpara in Colonial Assam'---paper presented at the South Asia History Seminar at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London, March 2003.

### 2004

Talk titled 'New Research Methodologies', Department of English, Bangalore University, November 2004.

### 2005

Lecture titled 'New Classifications: Law, Cultural Difference and the Late Colonial Subject in Goalpara', Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore, November 2006.

### 2006

Lecture titled 'Writing New Histories in Assam', New Lecture Series, Department of History, Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam, February 2006.

### 2006

'In a Rhythm of Their Own: Narratives of Resistance from Colonial Goalpara' ---paper presented at a National Seminar on '*Cultural Pluralism and Identities: Rethinking Culture and Politics in Northeast India*', North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, 18th – 19th March 2006.

### 2006

'Language, resistance and the imagining of a Goalparia people'---paper presented at a National Seminar on '*Cultural Transformation in the North East: Continuity and Change*', Dibrugarh, March 2006.

### 2006

Lecture titled 'Erased histories, Forced Boundaries: A Story from Colonial Goalpara', Lecture Series, Indian Council of Historical Research, Guwahati, July 8, 2006.

### 2007

'Telling a Different Story: Reclaiming Histories and New Subjectivities from Colonial Northeast India'---paper presented at a SEPHIS-SEASREP International Workshop on '*The Master Narrative Challenged: Dominant Histories and Emerging Narratives*', Cebu, Philippines, 31st January-- 2ndFebruary 2007.

### 2007

'Of Borderlands and Unfamiliar Stories: Goalpara's Alternative Narratives of Language'---paper presented at an Indian Council of Historical Research International Seminar on '*Identity, Emotion and Culture: The Languages and Literatures of South Asia, 900 C.E.---2000 C.E.*', North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, 15th to 18th May 2007.

### 2008

'Connected Histories, Disconnected Borders: Refashioning Borderland Spaces in Colonial Northeastern India'---paper presented at an International Conference on '*Northeast India and Its Transnational Neighbourhood*', Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> January, 2008. Organisers: International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, the Netherlands and Asian Borderlands Research Network, and Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi

### 2008

'Being Fluid: Cultural Identities in a Northeastern Borderland'---paper presented at a National Conference on '*Towards a New Understanding of North East India*' organized by North East India Studies Programme, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 23-25 January, 2008

**2008**

'Between Borders: Writing Histories of Borderland Identities in Northeastern India' – paper presented at a Seminar on '*Contested Space and Identity in the Indian North East*', Academy of Third World Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, 14th February 2008.

**2008**

'Overlapping Sovereignties: Markets and Authority in the Eastern Borders' –paper presented at a Seminar on '*Revoiving the Silk Route*', Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, Jamia Millia Islamia, 24-25 March 2008

**2008**

Discussant---Workshop on '*Savage Attack: Adivasi Insurgency in India*', University of London, Royal Asiatic Society, London, 30 June - 1July, 2008.

**2008**

'Becoming a Borderland: The Politics of Language in India's Northeastern Borderland'-- paper presented at *The Indian Council of Historical Research National Seminar on Colonialism, Ethnography and State in North East India*, October 2-4, 2008, Manipur University, Imphal.

**2008**

'Ethnic Conflict in Northeastern India and the Politics of Space'---paper presented at the Indian Social Science Congress, Jamia Millia Islamia, 21 December, 2008.

**2009**

'Becoming a Borderland: Space and Identity in Northeastern India'--- paper presented at the International Seminar on *Writing the Northeast: New Historical Perspectives*, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 14-16 January 2009.

**2009**

'Recovering Forgotten Connections: Markets and Exchange in India's Northeastern Borderlands'--paper presented at a Preliminary Workshop for the 15th *World Economic History Congress*, at the Graduate Schools of Economics and Business Studies, Keio University, Tokyo, 15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2009.

**2009**

'Recovering Forgotten Connections: Markets and Exchange in India's Northeastern Borderlands' – paper presented at a panel at the 15th *World Economic History Congress*, Utrecht, Netherlands. August 6, 2009.

**2009**

Lecture at the Department of History, University of Delhi. 'Becoming a Borderland: the politics of space and identity in northeastern India', 30<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

**2010**

Paper presented: 'Borderlands as 'Regions': Mapping Transgressions', North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Department of Political Science, SAP NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL FORCES AND POLITICS OF REGIONALISM IN NORTH EAST INDIA", March 10-11, 2010.

**2010**

Discussant for the panel 'Reading the Languages of Law', Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

**2012**

Discussant, AILH 9th International Conference on Labour History at V.V. Giri National Labour Institute Noida, 22<sup>nd</sup>- 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

**2012**

Discussant, Two day workshop: "Forests, Sociality, Borderlands: revisiting issues in Deltaic Bengal", Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, 6th and 7th July 2012.

**2012**

Paper presented: 'Ethnoterritorialism and Northeastern India' at 'Making Sense of Contemporary India', One-day International Workshop co-organised by King's India Institute, King's College London and Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, Teen Murti House, New Delhi, 12 September 2012.

**2012**

Discussant, Two day Conference: 'Rivers and Flood Plain: Landscape and Identity in the Brahmaputra Basin', Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, 26-27 November 2012

**2014**

Lecture titled 'Living at the Margins', St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**2016**

Lecture titled "Ordering and Orienting Spaces: The Ecology of British Imperialism," in a workshop titled 'Borders in Global South', 19 February, 2016, at the Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University.

**2016**

Lecture titled 'The Primitive': Trade, Tribute and Territory in the Garo Hills', Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2016.

**2017**

Lecture titled "The Sovereignty of Political Economy: The Garos in the Pre Conquest Era', Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2017

**2017**

Lecture titled 'The Garos: Becoming 'Savage' under Colonial Modernity', Department of History, University of Delhi, 25 October 2017.

**2018**

Lecture titled 'Ordering and Orienting Spaces: the Ecology of British Imperialism', St Stephen's College, University of Delhi, 21 February 2018.

**2019**

Lecture titled 'The Ecology of British Imperialism: Ordering and Orienting Spaces in Frontiers', Department of History, Hansraj College, University of Delhi, 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2019.

**2019**

Lecture titled 'Political Economy and the State: Staging and Embedding Space' in a panel discussion titled Thinking Space in/through History, Department of History, Miranda House College, University of Delhi, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**2019**

Lecture titled 'The Order of Spaces in 'Frontiers': Ethnicity and the Politics of Territoriality' at a Refresher Course on Comparative Studies, UGC-HRDC, Jamia Millia Islamia, 6 November 2019.

**2020**

Lecture titled 'Historicising the 'Tribe' in northeastern India and elsewhere', at a seminar titled "The Indigenous: North-East India and its Tribes", organized by the North East Society, Miranda House College, University of Delhi, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020.

**2020**

Lecture titled 'The 'tribe' as State Effect: The Genealogy of a Category' at the Faculty Development Programme on New Perspectives in the History of North East India, Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

**2020**

Lecture titled 'Primitivism, Ethnogenesis and the Ecology of British Imperialism: Writing Histories of North East India', at the Refresher Course in History, HRDC, Gauhati University, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**2022**

Lecture titled 'Ethnogenesis and Insurrection: The Garo Hills-- Mymensingh borderlands in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century', at a National Seminar on "Interrogating the Inter-State Border Disputes in Contemporary North-East India," Departments of History & Political Science, Sankardev College, Shillong, 25<sup>th</sup> of February, 2022.

**2022**

Lecture titled ‘‘Conquest, Legal Primitivism and Ethnogenesis in Colonial Northeast India’ , at the Department of History, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, Delhi University, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

**2023**

Lecture titled ‘Conquest, Community and Ethnogenesis in Colonial Northeastern India’ at an Interdisciplinary International Conference on ‘Communities, Culture and Environment: Forging Interactions and Identities’, February 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> 2023, Department of History, University of Delhi.

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

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- 2015--2017:** Fellow, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library
- 2008** British Academy-AHRC-ESRC Visiting Fellow at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, London.
- 2000--2003** Commonwealth Scholar at SOAS, University of London.
- 2003 – 2004** Harold Hyam Wingate Fellow, University of London

## **AWARDS, GRANTS**

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- 2019:** CAS Research Travel Grant, Department of History, Delhi University (February 2019)
- 2015:** Charles Wallace Grant
- 2014:** Research and Development Grant, University of Delhi.
- 2014:** Foreign Travel and Maintenance Grant from the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi.
- September 2003 –  
September 2004** Wingate Scholarship from the Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation, London
- July 1999--  
July 2000** Ph.D. Research Fellowship from the Indian Council for Social Science Research.
- 1998** National Eligibility Test, UGC
- September 1997--  
February 1998** Rajiv Gandhi Junior Short Term Fellowship from, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati.
- 1995** Bhagawati Kapoor Memorial Scholarship for the Highest marks in BA (Hons) History, Part III, 1995.
- 1994** Bhagawati Kapoor Memorial Prize for the Highest marks in BA (Hons) History, Part I and II, 1994.

1993 K.N. Kukreja Memorial Prize for the Highest marks in BA (Hons) History,  
Part I, 1993.

## OTHER ACADEMIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

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### **Supervision of research students:**

PhD students awarded degrees: 1

M Phil students awarded degrees: 5

I am currently supervising nine Ph D students and two M Phil students

### **Referee for the following journals:**

*Studies in History, Indian Economic and Social History Review, Modern Asian Studies, Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, Indian Historical Review, South Asian History and Culture, Postcolonial Studies, Journal of Borderland Studies, International Journal of Asian Studies, Contemporary South Asia*

**Referee for the following publishing houses:** Orient Blackswan, Oxford University Press, Brill, Routledge India, Cambridge University Press, NCERT

### **Members of Committees**

Member, Regional Advisory Committee, North East Regional Centre, Indian Council for Historical Research, 2013 – 2016.

Expert Committee Member in the Committee for Research and Consultancy, Ambedkar University Delhi (2020)

Nominated as Examiner by the Director, National Archives of India, for dissertations submitted in the One Year diploma Course in Archives and Records management session 2018-2019.

Successfully completed UGC-Refresher Course in History, Jamia Milla Islamia, 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014-27<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

Successfully completed UGC-Orientation Course in Jamia Milla Islamia, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2015- 2nd May 2015.

Successfully completed UGC-Refresher Course in Human Rights and Social Inclusion, Jamia Milla Islamia, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

## INSTITUTIONAL WORK

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### **Courses taught at the MA programme:**

Problems in the Rise and Growth of Capitalism

Labour History

Contemporary India 1947-1964

Asian Borderlands

South East Asia and Anthropology

Margins of History

Colonial Northeastern India

Peasants and Tribal Movements in India

### **Courses taught at the M Phil programme:**



Course 1: Lectures on 'The Anthropological Turn'  
Course 2 and Course 3.

**Curriculum development, Delhi University**

**2022**

Revised two courses as part of the exercise of Course Revision.

**2019**

Revised three courses as part of the exercise of Course Revision.

**2018**

Revised three courses as part of the exercise of Course Revision in the Department for CBCS.

**2011---present**

Convenor, BA (Hons) History, IV Sem, II Year, Paper: History of SE Asia in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Convenor, BA (Hons), II Year, Annual, Paper: South East Asia (Circa 1800-1970)

**Administrative Experience**

2012 – 2015, 2017 – 2019: Library Committee, Anti-ragging committee; NE Students Helpline

2014 – 2015: Infrastructure Committee;

2013 – 2015, 2017 – 2019; 2021--: Department Research Committee

2017--2019: M Phil Committee

2014, 2017, 2019: Deputy Superintendent, Exams

2019: Admissions Committee

Committee of Courses: 2017---2019

Convenor: Library Committee, 2017 – 2020

Convener: M Phil Course 2 – 2019

2020 – 2022: Examination Committee, North East Students Helpline

Nodal Officer for the Department of History, OBE Portal Examination II, December 2020; March 2021; December 2022

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