

NILANJANA MUKHERJEE

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Date of Birth: 4 March 1979

Associate
Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute
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● RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

Postcolonial Studies, Visual Culture, Space and Spatiality, Landscape Paintings, Critical Cartography, Geocriticism, British & English Literature, Cultural Studies, Women in Literature and Art, Bangla Literature and Culture, Nation and Nationalism, Media Studies, Mobility Studies, Border Studies, Livestock and Literature

● EMPLOYMENT

Professor, Department of English, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi, 14th January – to present.

Associate Professor, Department of English, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi, August, 2018 – 13th January, 2022.

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi, 10th March, 2006 – August, 2018.

Adjunct Faculty, Department of English, South Campus, University of Delhi, 2011-2013.

Assistant Professor (Temp), Satyawati College, University of Delhi, 2006.

Assistant Professor (Ad Hoc), Dyal Singh College (E), University of Delhi, 2005 – 2006.

Guest Lecturer, Gargi College, University of Delhi, 2005.

● FELLOWSHIPS

- Awarded Jamnalal Kaniram Bajaj Visiting Fellowship, Lakshmi Mittal and Family South Asia Institute, **Harvard University** for the year 2024.
- Offer of research stay received from **Universitat Leipzig, Germany**, DFG Funded SFB 1199 for the research project “Mapping Spatial Alterities/Maps and Its Others”.
- Awarded **Charles Wallace India Trust Visiting Fellowship**, British Council jointly at the Institute of Advanced Studies in Humanities and the Centre for South Asian Studies, **University of Edinburgh**, September – December, 2017.

- Awarded Visiting Doctoral Scholarship by **King's College London**, University of London in 2009.

• GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Awarded Travel Grant by the **University of Regensburg, Germany** for attending the initial workshop and constitution of thinking group 'State Descriptions Revisited: Historical Forms of Territorial Representations', September-October, 2022.
- **Delhi University Foundation Day Award of Excellence** conferred by University of Delhi, September 11, 2021.
- Awarded Travel Grant by the Collaborative Research Centre SFB (1199), funded by the German Research Foundation for an invited research paper presentation at the **University of Leipzig**, Germany in October, 2018.
- Awarded **Minor Research Project Grant**, 2016-17 by the University Grants Commission, Government of India, for the project titled "Women and Art in Colonial India".
- Article titled "Drawing Roads/Building Empire: Space and Circulation in Charles D'Oyly's Indian Landscapes" published in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, Vol. 37, Number 2, June 2014. ISSN: 0085-6401, has been awarded the distinguished **Meenakshi Mukherjee Memorial Prize** for the best publication for the year 2014 by the Indian Association of Commonwealth Languages and Literature Studies. I was invited to deliver a talk on the same at the Annual Convention of IACLALS held at BITS Goa in February 2015.
- Awarded the **International Travel Grant** by the University Grants Commission to visit Sydney in order to present the paper titled "Ocular Gaze/Making Geographies" at the DNS XV Conference held at the University of Sydney, Australia.

• PROJECT NETWORKS

- Nodal committee member of DFG, Germany, funded project network, 'Historical Forms of State Representations' in collaboration with University of Regensburg and Leibniz Science Institute
- Member and contributor in network, 'Communal Geographies', University of Nottingham

• EDUCATION

Ph. D. from Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 2011.

My Ph.D. dissertation was titled *Articulating Colonial Space: British Representations of India*.

M.Phil. from Department of English, University of Delhi, New Delhi, 2005.

I wrote my 'Supervised Essay' towards partial fulfilment of the requirements for M.Phil on 'Mapping "Hindoostan": The Production of a Nation'.

M.A. from Centre for English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 2003.

B.A. (Hons.) in English from St. Xavier's College, University of Calcutta, 2001.

• PUBLICATIONS

• BOOK

[*Spatial Imaginings in the Age of Colonial Cartographic Reason: Maps, Landscapes, Travelogues in Britain and India*](#). UK: Routledge. July, 2020 ISBN 978-0-367-43018-4.

• EDITED BOOK

Mapping India: Transitions and Transformations in the Eighteenth Century, UK: Routledge. July, 2019. ISBN 978-1-138-50642-8

• BOOK CHAPTERS

“Cartographic Anxiety on the Thar Desert: The Border Security Forces and Jaisalmer’s Tanot Mata Mandir”. In Stephen Legg, William Gould and Charu Gupta eds. ‘Communal Geographies before and beyond Partition in South Asia’. UK: Routledge (forthcoming)

‘The Great Indian Desert in Colonial and Nomadic Narratives of Travel’. In Manjeet Baruah and Lipokmar Dzuvichu eds. *Frontiers and Boundaries in British India*. UK: Routledge, 2025.

‘Moving in Circles: Chakkars in Rajasthani Women’s Songs’. In Avishek Ray ed. *Decolonising Travel(ing) Theory: Vernacular Mobilities in Indic Thought*. UK: Routledge, 2024.

‘Could Kali be Bharat Mata?’ In Sutapa Dutta and Shivangini Tandon eds. *Making the Woman*. UK: Routledge, 2023.

‘Deconstructing the Frontier in the Himalayas’, (submitted) sfb1199 Spatial Imaginations under the Global Condition. Leipzig: Universitat Leipzig.

‘Scottish Resonances in James Baillie Fraser’s Travel Accounts’ in Sutapa Dutta and Nilanjana Mukherjee eds. “*Mapping India: Transitions and Transformations in the Eighteenth Century*” Routledge: India. July, 2019. e-book ISBN 9780429318467.

[‘India in the World Fashion Fair.’](#) Tereza Kuldova ed. *Fashion India: Spectacular Capitalism*. Norway: Akademika, Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo, 2013. ISBN 9 788232 103195.

• JOURNAL ARTICLES

- “Cartographic Anxiety on the Thar Desert: The Border Security Forces and Jaisalmer’s Tanot Mata Mandir”. In Stephen Legg and Charu Gupta eds. Special Issue ‘Communal Geographies’. *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*. (Forthcoming Jan, 2024) Taylor and Francis (SCOPUS enlisted).
- “Tracking Changes in Cartographic Language: Spatiality in the Himalayas”. *JSL: Journal of the School of Languages, JNU*, Issue No. 23, December, 2021. ISSN: 0972-9682. (UGC-CARE listed)

- [“From Nautch to Nritya: Dance and Subversion in Tagore's Dance Drama”](#) *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol. 52, No. 3, Jan, 21, 2017. pp 85-92. ISSN: 00129976. (SCOPUS enlisted)
- [“Drawing Roads/Building Empire: Space and Circulation in Charles D'Oyly's Indian Landscapes”](#) *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*. Vol. 37, Number 2, June 2014, pp. 339-55. Taylor and Francis, ISSN: 0085-6401. (SCOPUS enlisted)
- [“‘A desideratum more sublime’:Imperialism's expansive vision and Lambton's Trigonometrical Survey of India”](#) *Postcolonial Studies*, Volume 14, Number 4, December 2011, pp. 430-447. Taylor and Francis, ISSN: 1368-8790. (SCOPUS enlisted)
- “Spectacular India: Performing the National Imaginary” in *JSL: Journal of the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies*, Autumn 2006, New series 6. pp. 46-58. ISSN: 0972-9682. (UGC-CARE listed)
- “Khowabnama: Nationalism's Dream-Other” in *Creative Forum* Vol. 18, No. 1, Jan-Jun 2005. pp. 15-27. ISSN: 0975-6396.
- “Translations/ Representations/ Colonisations” in *Language Forum* Vol. 30, No. 2, July-Dec 2004. pp. 137-42. ISSN: 0253-9071.

• BOOK REVIEWS

- Intellectual and Imaginative Cartographies in Early Modern England, *Imago Mundi*, 25:2, 2023. (forthcoming).
- Tracing Pedagogical Shifts through Sutapa Dutta’s *Disciplined Subjects: Schooling in Colonial Bengal*. Vol. 28:2, *Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences (SH&SS) Journal*: IAS, Shimla, Winter, 2021.
- Review of G.J.V. Prasad’s *This World of Mine*. *The Mint Lounge*, Saturday, 27th November, 2021.
- Review of Raghav Kishore’s *The (Un)governable City: Productive Failure in the Making of Colonial Delhi*. *Rupkatha Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*, 13:4, December, 2021. ISSN 09752935
- Review of [Nabaneeta Deb Sen's The Holy Trail](#). *The Book Review*, Vol. 38 Number 10 October 2014. p. 32. ISSN: 0970-4175
- [‘Tagore's Internationalism’](#) Review of Mohammad A. Quayum ed. *The Poet and His World: Critical Essays on Rabindranath Tagore*. *The Book Review* Vol. 37 Number 7 July 2013. p. 22. ISSN: 0970-4175
- [‘The Survived Poesis’](#) Review of Rabindranath Tagore's *The Last Poem* translated by Dilip Basu, *The Book Review*, Vol. 37 Number 1 January 2013. p. 17. ISSN: 0970-4175
- 'Terror and Trauma' Review on Geetanjali Shree's *The Empty Space* tr. by Nivedita Menon, *The Book Review*, Vol. 36 Number 7 July 2012. p. 34. ISSN: 0970-4175

- **NEWS PAPER ARTICLES**

Cartographic Imagination and Colonial Landscape Paintings in and around Bengal, *The Daily Star*, Bangladesh, July 8, 2024

- **STUDY MATERIAL**

Developed and produced study material and question banks on Eighteenth Century Literature and Romanticism and distance learning modules on George Crabbe and William Blake for Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU).

- **PRESENTATIONS**

- **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS**

- Delivered talk titled ‘Rethinking the Bengal School of Art through the life and art of Ardhendu Prasad Banerjee’, Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute, co partnered by Harvard Asia Center and India Ocean Worlds Workshop, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, 12th February, 2025.
- Delivered talk titled ‘Unmapping the Thar: The Desert Reimagined’ at the Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute, Harvard University, 22nd Nov. 2024.
- Invited Presentation titled ‘Spatial Imaginings in the Age of Colonial Cartographic Reason’, Ringvorlesung Lecture Series, 2024, Department of Interdisciplinary and Multiscalar Area Studies, University of Regensburg, Germany, 15 May 2024.
- Invited Special Lecture ‘Why literature? Whither Space? Mapping Literary Cultures’ at Department of English, Tezpur University, Assam on 4th March, 2024.
- Invited talk ‘Imagining the Political Space of India Globally’. CITAS (Centre for International Studies), University of Regensburg. 27 September, 2022.
- Invited to present paper ‘Spatialising the Great Indian Desert’ at the workshop titled ‘State Descriptions Revisited: Historical Forms of Territorial Representations’ 18th -21st Centuries, 20-21st January, 2022, University of Regensburg, Germany and Leibniz Institute for East and South East European Studies, Regensburg, Germany.
- Invited for a talk by selected former Fellows, Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh, titled ‘Finding the Great Indian Desert at Cartography’s Edge’ to celebrate 40 years of Charles Wallace India Trust, 13th October, 2021.
- Invited to give a talk on my book ‘Spatial Imaginings’ at the 2nd IACLSC Author’s Workshop, 10th October, 2021.
- Invited as resource person to lecture on the topic “Interdisciplinarity and Intersectionality in Literary Studies” for 16th Online Refresher Course in English organized by UGC-HRDC, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, 2nd September, 2021.

- Presented paper titled 'The Himalayas as a Spatial Imaginary'. ECSAS (European Conference on South Asian Studies), University of Vienna, 29th July 2021.
- Presented research paper titled 'Space Myths in the Himalayas' at IACLALS, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, February 2020.
- Presented research paper titled "Deconstructing the Frontier in the Himalayas: Reading Spatial Alterities" at the Third Annual Conference, of the SFB 1199, Leipzig, Germany 4th October, 2018.
- Presented paper titled "The Scots in the Himalayas: Tracing Highland Influences" in the international conference titled 'Between Empires: the Making and Unmaking of Borders' held at the Centre for North East Studies, JNU on 1st February, 2018.
- Presented paper titled "From Highland to Himalayas: Making of a Borderland" at the Center of Modern and Contemporary History and Center for South Asian Studies, University of Edinburgh on 28th November, 2017.
- Presented research paper titled "Framing the Himalayas" at the Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities, Edinburgh in 21st November, 2017.
- Presented paper titled "The Cartographic Project in Colonial India" at the ISECS 6th, IIC, March, 2017.
- Presented paper titled "Map Stories from the North Eastern Frontier" at the Annual IACLALS Convention, IIT Guwahati, 16th February, 2017.
- Presented paper titled "The Museumisation of the Aboriginal Body and Space" at the IASA, JNU, New Delhi, 17th January, 2016.
- Invited for Meenakshi Mukherjee Memorial Prize Talk at Annual IACLALS Convention, BITS Pillani, Goa, 14th February, 2015.
- Presented paper titled "From Celtic Fringes to Himalayan Highlands: Scottish Resonances in James Baillie Fraser's Travel Accounts" at the Annual IACLALS Convention, BITS Pillani, Goa, 12th February, 2015.
- Presented paper titled "Ocular Gaze/Making Geographies" at the DNS XV Conference at the University of Sydney on 10th December, 2014.
- Presented paper titled 'Dance and Subversion: Dance Drama of Rabindranath Tagore' at the annual international conference of the IACLALS, Central University of Punjab, Chandigarh, 21st February, 2014.
- Presented paper titled "From Celtic Fringes to Himalayan Highlands" in Global Mobilities Futures Conference, Centre for Mobilities Research, Lancaster University, September, 2013.
- Presented research paper titled "Articulation of Colonial Space in Charles D'Oyly's paintings" at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, New Delhi on 5th November, 2012.
- Presented paper titled "Travelling Images" at the international conference "Travel Ideals: Engaging with Spaces of Mobility", University of Melbourne, July 2012.
- Presented paper titled "India in the World Fashion Fair" at the ASA (Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth), 2012 at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India on 6th April, 2012.

- Presented research paper titled “The Cartographic Gaze and the Articulation of Colonial Space” at the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi on 18th October, 2011.
- Presented paper titled “William Hodges' Travels in India: The 'First Impressions of an Artist-in-Transit’ at the seminar panel Travel Narratives and Alterity, ASECS, Vancouver, March, 2011.
- Presented a paper titled 'Transparencies of the Empire: India in the London Panorama Shows of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries' as part of the visiting fellows' seminar in King's College, London on 9th October, 2009.
- Presented a paper titled “India in the London Panorama” at the ninth CLAI (Comparative Literature Association of India) Biennial International Conference held in Central University of Hyderabad on 29th January, 2009.
- Presented a paper titled “State and its Images: Tracing Colonial Continuities” at the Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies held in University of Udaipur on 30th January 2008.
- Presented a paper titled “Identifying the Criminal Body: Colonialism and Photography in the nineteenth Century” at the Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies held in Benaras Hindu University in 23rd January, 2007.
- Presented paper titled “Of Home and Hearth: Representation of Women in Rohinton Mistry’s *Tales from Firozsha Baag*”, at the National Seminar, Critical Idioms, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College and Shashtri Indo-Canadian Institute, March, 2007.
- Presented a paper titled “Performing the National Body: Representations and Negotiations in the Republic Day Parade” at the Tenth Annual Cultural Studies Workshop held in January 21-26, 2005, in Bhubaneswar, India organized by the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta, in collaboration with the Ford Foundation (India) and SEPHIS (the Netherlands).
- Presented a paper titled “Translations/ Representations/ Colonisations” at the Annual International Conference organized by the Indian Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies in JNU, 25th January, 2003.

• **OTHER QUALIFICATIONS**

- **Qualified for Lectureship in English through the UGC (university Grants commission) conducted NET. Qualified for JRF (Junior Research Fellowship) in the examination held in July, 2003.**
- Completed MOOC Course titled ‘Introduction to Film Studies’, Swayam Portal
- Completed MOOC Course titled ‘Introduction to Philosophy’, University of Edinburgh, 2018

- **COURSES TAUGHT:**

Post Graduate Courses:

- Landscapes in Art and Literature (Visual Culture): Classical Topography and Religious Paintings, Romanticism and Landscapes in Britain, Thomas Gainsborough, John Constable, J.M.W. Turner
- Orlando by Virginia Woolf and Sigmund Freud (Gender and Literature)
- Brontes and George Eliot (Women in 19th Century Literature)

Undergraduate Courses:

- Women's Writing and Feminism: Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Plath, Alice Walker, Marge Piercy, Doris Lessing, Simone De Beauvoir, Elaine Showalter, Julia Kristeva, Hellen Cixous
- Literary Theory (Marxism, Feminism, cultural Materialism, Post Structuralism, Post modernism, Postcolonialism)
- British Poetry and Drama (17th Century): William Shakespeare, John Webster, John Milton, Aphra Behn, John Dryden, Alexander Pope
- 19th Century British Literature: Jane Austen, Charles Dickens. Charlotte and Emily Bronte

- **MEMBERSHIP OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES:**

- Joint Secretary, India International Society for Eighteenth Century Studies.
- Member of Indian Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies

- **ACADEMIC SERVICES:**

- Reviewer of book manuscripts and book proposals, Routledge, India

- **ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

(at Shaheed Bhagat Singh College)

- Teacher in Charge, 2022-23
- Member, International Collaborations Committee, 2018-2020
- Convener, Computerisation Committee, 2018-19
- Member, Finance Committee, 2017-18
- Convener, Library Committee, 2017-18
- Department Representative at IQAC for NAAC Accreditation of College which received grade A, 2017
- Member, Timetable Committee, 2016-17
- Member, Admissions Committee 2016-17

- Member, Workload Committee 2016-17
- Teacher-in-Charge 2016-17
- Member, Canteen Committee, 2015-16
- Member, Discipline Committee, 2011-12
- Convener, Discipline Committee, 2010-11
- Teacher-in-Charge, Department of English, 2009-10
- Member, Admissions Committee, 2009-10
- Member, Workload Committee, 2009-10
- Member, Timetable Committee, 2009-10
- Convener, Library Committee, 2007-9