

Dr. ANIRBAN MUKHERJEE

Professor

Department of Philosophy, University of North Bengal, Siliguri, India. Pin-734013
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Education:

- 2011** **Department of Philosophy, University of Reading, UK**
PhD in Philosophy
Thesis on “Perceiving Aspects: Unfolding the Wittgensteinian Notion” under the supervision of Dr. John Preston and Prof. Maximillian de Gaynesford
Examined by Prof. Rom Harré and Prof. Emma Borg.
- 1999** **Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University**
MA in Philosophy (Specialization in Cognitive Science)
- 1997** **Department of Philosophy, Presidency College (Calcutta University)**
BA (Hons.) in Philosophy with Mathematics & History

Teaching Interests: Cognitive Science, Aesthetics, Philosophy of Kant, Wittgenstein and Gandhi

Research Interests also include: Applied Philosophy, Risk Theory, Meta-Ethics, Philosophy of Politics & Economics, Semiotics, Philosophy of Nagarjuna, and Recent Indian Thought

Languages Known: English, Bengali, and Hindi. Basic Marathi, German, Gujarati and Sanskrit.

Scholarships, Grants and Awards:

- Felix Scholarship for Research at University of Reading, 2005-2009
- University Gold Medal and Professor Gopinath Bhattacharyya Memorial Medal for 1st rank in MA (Philosophy), Jadavpur University, 1999
- Post Graduate Studies Scholarship, Jadavpur University, 1997 - 99
- National Merit Prize (West Bengal Board of Secondary Education, India), 1994

Projects:

1. North Bengal University supported UGC project 2017-2018 on ‘Kalidas Bhattacharyya and his Alternating Reals’
2. North Bengal University supported UGC project 2014-2015 on ‘Escaping the constraint of extremes: A new theory of the middle way following Mādhyamaka Philosophy’
3. ICPR project 2012-2013 on ‘Philosophical Explorations into the Legacy of Satyajit Ray’

Details of Professional Teaching and Research Experience:

- Professor in the Department of Philosophy, North Bengal University since 16th August 2018
- Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy, North Bengal University from 16th August 2015 – 15th August 2018
- Head of the Dept. of Philosophy, NBU from 27th November 2017 to 25th November 2019
- Assistant Professor (previously designations were Lecturer and Senior Lecturer) in the Department of Philosophy, North Bengal University from 16th August 2001 to 15th August 2015
- Associate, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla from 2013 - 2015
- Seminar leader in the Department of Philosophy, University of Reading, UK from 2006-2008 for Undergraduate modules on 'Metaphysics and Philosophy of Religion' and 'Philosophy of Mind and Epistemology'
- Assistant Master in Philosophy at Barasat P. C. S. Govt. High School, India under West Bengal Educational Service from June 2000 to August 2001

University Faculty Training:

1. Attended One-week workshop on Soft Skills for Teachers of Higher Education on the theme 'Rethinking Soft Skills in Teaching Learning Process' at UGC- HRDC, BPS Mahila Vishwavidyalaya, Haryana from 05-08-2015 to 11-08-2015
2. Attended Refresher Course on 'Metaphysics - Indian and Western' held at Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University in 2011
3. Attended Orientation Course for Lecturers in Indian Colleges and Universities held at Academic Staff College, Jadavpur University, Kolkata in 2007
4. Attended Refresher Course on 'Cognition and Representation' held at Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University in 2003

Detailed Teaching and Research Supervision Experience:

Research Guidance:

Submitted and Passed / Degree Awarded:

- Mr. Nasimul Hoque: Gandhian Economics and the State: A Quest for Justice (MPhil 2017)
- Mr. Jayprakash Show: Saussure's Semiology: A Philosophical Study (MPhil 2020)
- Dr. Eagam Khaling: Kant's Philosophy of Physics (PhD 2021)

Currently working: Research scholars working separately on following PhD projects:

- Mr. Soumitra Chakraborty: Civic Virtues and the Gandhian concept of Enlightened Anarchy
- Ms. Kabita Roy: Kant on Human Cognition
- Ms. Soma Sarkar: Educational Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore: Inculcating Cosmopolitanism
- Mr. Subhankar Poddar: Photography and Photographs: A Philosophical Study
- Ms. Nasima Begum: Constructivism: A Philosophical Enquiry
- Ms. Ankita Paul: Sex Work and Empowerment: A Philosophical Study
- Mr. Subham Saha: Expressivism in Aesthetics: A Critical Study

Research Examining:

- PhD Thesis (Speech Acts and the Language of Protest: Ms. Rinki Jadwani) Examiner at Delhi University, 2022
- MPhil Dissertation (Is Knowledge Contextual? Understanding the Nature of Knowledge Ascriptions: Mr. Himanshu Parcha) Examiner at Delhi University, 2021
- PhD Thesis (Silencing, Social Relations and Power: A Feminist Intervention into Speech Act Theory: Ms. Ritu Sharma) Examiner at IIT Bombay, 2021
- PhD Thesis (Kant's Philosophy of Physics: Mr. Eagam Khaling) Examiner at NBU, 2021
- MPhil Dissertation (Saussure's Semiology: A Philosophical Study: Mr. Jayprakash Show) Examiner at North Bengal University, 2020
- MPhil Dissertation (The Problem of De Se Attitudes: Mr. Akshat Jaiman) Examiner at DU, 2019
- PhD Thesis (Philosophical Reflections on Self-Awareness: Indian and Western Perspectives: Ms. Shnaoli Seal) Examiner at Jadavpur University, 2018
- MPhil Dissertation (Gandhian Economics and the State: A Quest for Justice: Nasimul Hoque) Examiner at North Bengal University, 2017
- MPhil Dissertation Examiner in Department of Philosophy at Jadavpur University, 2010

Courses Taught:

M. Phil / PhD coursework (University of North Bengal)

- 2011-2022: Initiation to Thesis / Dissertation writing
- 2018-2019: Ethics and Politics (Study of Amartya Sen's *The Idea of Justice*)
- 2014-2015: Epistemology (Study of Wittgenstein's *On Certainty*)
- 2011: Metaphysics (Study of Aristotle's *Metaphysics*)
- 2008-2009: Epistemology

M.A. (University of North Bengal)

- 2017-2022: Western Aesthetics
- 2009-2022: Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason*
- 2020-2021: Indian Aesthetics
- 2013-2021: Philosophy of Gandhi
- 2003-2005, 2018: Philosophy of Wittgenstein
- 2013-2016: Buddhism (Nagarjuna's *Mulamādhymakakārika*)
- 2009-2017: Western Ethics and Meta-Ethics
- 2009-2012: Postmodern Philosophy
- 2010-2012: Modern Indian Thinkers
- 2010-2011: Analytical Metaphysics
- 2009-2011: Western Epistemology
- 2009-2010: Applied Ethics (Capital Punishment)
- 2003-2005: Existentialism
- 2001-2005: Western Epistemology; Philosophy of Language (Western: Analytic)
- 2001-2003: Selections from (1) Berkeley: *Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*, (2) Plato: *Phaedo*
- 2001-2002: Philosophy of Aurobindo; Indian Ethics

UG Seminar Teaching Experience (University of Reading, UK)

- Mind & World (first year undergraduate course on Descartes' *Meditations*), University of Reading, Spring 2006, Spring 2007 for Professor David Oderberg
- Metaphysics and Philosophy of Religion (first year undergraduate course): Autumn 2007, Autumn 2008 for Professor John Cottingham

Academic Organizational Activities:

1. Organised a national seminar on 'Engaging with Philosophy' in the Department of Philosophy, North Bengal University on 22 February 2018
2. Organised an international seminar on 'The Language of Art' in the Department of Philosophy, North Bengal University on 16-17 February 2017
3. Organised a national seminar on 'The Postmodern Paradigm in Philosophy' in the Department of Philosophy, North Bengal University on 13-14 February 2014
4. Organised a national seminar on 'The Nature of Philosophy' in the Department of Philosophy, North Bengal University on 19 March 2013
5. Organised a national seminar on 'Contemporary Issues in Ethics' in the Department of Philosophy, North Bengal University in August 2010
6. Organised a Refresher Course on Philosophy, Psychology and Society in the Department of Philosophy, North Bengal University in 2005

Publications:

Edited books

Language and Ontology (co-edited), Northern Book House, New Delhi, 2007

Published Papers

1. 'Aspects, Insights and Creativity' in *Mind and Cognition: An Interdisciplinary Sharing; Essays in Honour of Professor Amita Chatterjee*, Eds. Kuntala Bhattacharya, Madhucchanda Sen and Smita Sirker, D. K. Printworld, Delhi, 2019, pp. 191-200
2. 'The Challenge for Education and the Practice of Philosophy' in *Philosophical Papers (Journal of the Dept. of Philosophy, North Bengal University)*, Vol. XIV, 2018
3. 'Aspect Perception as a case of Interpretation' in *Philosophical Papers (Journal of the Dept. of Philosophy, North Bengal University)*, Vol. XIII, 2017, pp. 99-107
4. 'How McDowell Moves away from Kant' in *Gauhati University Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. I, No. 1: December 2016, pp. 57-66.
5. 'On Globalization' in *Philosophical Papers (Journal of the Dept. of Philosophy, North Bengal University)*, Vol. XI, 2015, pp. 28-32
6. 'History in Philosophy, Philosophy beyond History: Swami Vivekananda's curious predicament' in *Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences*, Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, 2008 (published in 2014), pp. 29-40

7. 'Understanding Helmholtz' in *Language and Thought*, Eds. Koushik Joardar and Jyotish Basak, Northern Book House, New Delhi, 2012, pp. 153-177
8. 'Debating Aspect Perception' in *Philosophical Papers (Journal of the Dept. of Philosophy, North Bengal University)*, 2009, pp. 33-37
9. 'Aspect Jungle' in *Jadavpur Journal of Philosophy*, Vol. 16, No. 1&2, 2005
10. 'Saussure-er Chinha-tatta (Saussure's Semiotics)' (in Bengali) in *Sabdārtha Bichar*, Eds. Raghunath Ghosh and Bhaswati B. Chakraborty, Allied Publishers, Kolkata, 2005, pp. 225-238
11. 'Description. What else!' in *Meaning and Reference*, Eds. Manjulika Ghosh and Chandidas Bhattacharyya, Allied Publishers, Kolkata, 2005, pp. 327-349
12. 'What's wrong with our reasoning?' in *Understanding Philosophy- Eastern and Western Perspectives*, Ed. Manjulika Ghosh, Sundeep Prakashan, New Delhi, 2004, pp. 121-128
13. 'Another Look at an Old Picture' in *Theories of Meaning: Eastern and Western*, Ed. Raghunath Ghosh, Allied Publishers, Kolkata, 2003, pp. 313-323
14. 'Chine Gharer Samasya (Problem of the Chinese Room)' in *Monodarshan (Philosophy of Mind in Bengali)*, Eds. Amita Chatterjee, Madhabendranath Mitra and Prayash Sarkar, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, 2003, pp.293-308

Book Reviews and Critical Notices

1. Sudhir Kakar, *Young Tagore* (New Delhi: Penguin-Viking, 2013) in *Biblio- India*, November-December 2013
2. Richard Giulianotti and Roland Robertson eds. *Globalization and Sport* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2007) in *Soccer and Society* (London: Routledge), Vol. 12, No. 5 (2011) pp. 701-703
3. Brendan Hyde, *Children and Spirituality: Searching for Meaning and Connectedness in International Journal of Public Theology: Volume 5, Number 3, 2011*, pp. 380-381(2) ISSN: 1872-5171, E-ISSN: 1569-7320
4. Semir Zeki, *Splendors and Miseries of the Brain: Love, Creativity, and the Quest for Human Happiness* (London: Wiley-Blackwell, 2008) in *Metapsychology Online* Volume: 14, Number: 29 (2010) http://metapsychology.mentalhelp.net/poc/view_doc.php?type=book&id=5649&cn=396
5. Graham McColl, '78: *How A Nation Lost the World Cup* (London: Headline, 2006) in *Soccer and Society* (London: Routledge), Vol. 10, No. 2 (2009) pp. 280-297
6. Daniel Burdsey, *British Asians and Football: Culture, Identity, Exclusion* (London: Routledge, 2007) in *Soccer and Society* (London: Routledge), Vol. 9, No. 4 (2008), pp. 439-454
7. Daniel Dennett, *Sweet Dreams: Philosophical Obstacles to a Science of Consciousness* (2005), in *Metapsychology Online* Volume: 11, Number: 41 (2007) http://metapsychology.mentalhelp.net/poc/view_doc.php?type=book&id=3863&cn=394
8. Stephanie Kaza (Ed.) *Buddhist Writings on Greed, Desire, and the Urge to Consume*. (Boston: Shambhala, 2005), in *Metapsychology Online* Volume: 11, Number: 17 (2007) <http://mentalhelp.net/books/books.php?type=de&id=3604>
9. John Carlin, *White Angels: Beckham, Real Madrid and the New Football – The Inside Story*. (London: Bloomsbury, 2004), in *Soccer and Society* (London: Routledge), Vol. 8, No. 1 (2007), pp. 144-146
10. Gary Armstrong and Richard Giulianotti (eds.), *Football in Africa: Conflict, Conciliation and Community*. (London: Palgrave 2004), in *Soccer and Society* (London: Routledge), Vol.6, No.1 (2005), pp. 115-117

Presentations at Conferences, Workshops and Seminars and as Lectures

1. 'Introduction to Philosophy' in a course on Research and Publication Ethics organized by the HRDC, University of North Bengal on 19 and 22 April 2022.
2. 'A Researcher's Guide to Surviving Social Theory' in a seven-day workshop (7 – 13 March 2022) on 'Methodological Significance of Social Theories' organized by Department of Sociology, and the HRDC, University of North Bengal on 9.3.2022
3. 'Wittgenstein and the Social Bubble: Recovering Meaning, Truth and Agency' in an International Webinar on 'Determinacy and Indeterminacy in Meaning: From Wittgenstein's Perspectives' organized by the Department of Philosophy, University of Gour Banga on 13-14 October 2020
4. 'Philosophy as a Life Skill' at a webinar organized by Skeptics, the Philosophy association of the Department of Philosophy, Daulat Ram College. Delhi University on 29 September. 2021.
5. 'The Crux of Gandhi or How to Read Gandhi as Philosopher' in a state Level seminar on 'Revisiting the Vision of Mahatma Gandhi' organized by Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University on 17 December, 2020.
6. 'Making Sense of Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak' in a National Webinar on 'Women of Achievement in Academia' organized by the Department of Philosophy, Mumbai University on 27 May 2020
7. 'On Winch's Wittgensteinian Look at Social Sciences' at a National Seminar on 'Ideology, Art and Science in Social Science' held at the Department of Sociology, North Bengal University on 6-7 March 2020
8. "Who am I? Authenticity and the Problem of Self-Knowledge' at a National Seminar on 'Mind and Reality: The Sceptics' Challenge' organized by the Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University on 2-3 March 2020
9. 'Meaning of Life and the Play of Ideology' at a National Seminar on 'Meaning of Life: Identity and Crisis' at Department of Philosophy, North Bengal University on 13-14 February 2020
10. 'Idea of Interdisciplinary Research: Disciplinary Limits and Beyond' and 'Research: The Why and How for College and University Teachers' at an Orientation course held at HRDC, North Bengal University in December 2020.
11. 'Existentialist Feminism of Simone de Beauvoir' at Refresher Course in Women's Studies at North Bengal University on 12 February 2019
12. 'Art, Aesthetics and Ethics' at Refresher Course in Philosophy on 'Ethics, Human Rights and Social Responsibilities' at North Bengal University on 5 February 2019
13. 'Human Existence, Rights and Obligations' at Refresher Course in Philosophy on 'Ethics, Human Rights and Social Responsibilities' at North Bengal University on 4 February 2019
14. Invited lecture on 'Discourses in Philosophy / Philosophy of Discourse' at Fergusson College, Pune on January 3 2019
15. 'In Search of the Ground Beneath my Feet: Exploring Discourses in Philosophy' at World Philosophy Day celebration at Department of Philosophy, University of Gour Banga held on 18 December 2018
16. 'Logic (Part-I)' (Teaching Indian Logic) at a Five-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) on 'Teaching Methodologies in Philosophy' held at Ramanujan College, University of Delhi from November 1-5, 2018
17. 'I Get Your Logic' at a UGC SAP DRS III sponsored National Seminar on 'The Role of Language in Logic: Traditional Issues and Contemporary Developments' held at the Department of Philosophy, North Bengal University from 8-9 March 2018

18. 'The Absolute Necessity and Abject Impossibility of Comparative Philosophy' at an International Conference entitled 'Philosophy in the Desert' on 'Comparative Philosophy at the Crossroad' held at the American University in Dubai from 7-8 April 2017
19. 'In the Middle of Extremes: Buddhism, Politics and Life' at UGC sponsored National Seminar on 'Life: The Buddhist Way' held at the Department of Philosophy, North Bengal University from 27-28 March 2017
20. 'Wittgenstein: Language, Knowledge, and Culture' at Presidency University on 22 March 2017 as an invited speaker
21. 'The Elephant in the Room: Kalidas Bhattacharyya and Alternating Reals' in a National Seminar on 'Approaches to the Real in Contemporary India' held at Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University from 7-8 March 2017
22. 'Revisiting the Chinese Room Argument' at West Bengal State University in November 2015
23. 'Putnam's take on Wittgenstein / Putnam takes on Wittgenstein' at the ICPR sponsored International Seminar on 'Philosophy of Hilary Putnam' held at IIT Bombay from 3-5 October 2015
24. 'Wittgenstein: Language, Knowledge, and Skepticism' at a Refresher Course on 'Epistemology- Eastern and Western' at Calcutta University on 9 April 2015
25. 'Philosophy of Wittgenstein: Early and Later Phase' at a Refresher Course in Philosophy at North Bengal University on 2 January 2015
26. 'Ethics of Globalization: Issues and Perspectives' at Philosophy Day Seminar at North Bengal University in November 2014
27. 'Transgressing the Constraint of Limits' at a seminar on 'Transgression' held at IAS Shimla from 27-29 October 2014
28. 'The Idea of the *Middle Way* in Mādhyamaka Philosophy' at IAS Shimla on 24 September 2014
29. 'Wittgenstein on Some Issues in Philosophy of Mind'- Refresher Course on Philosophy of Mind at Jadavpur University on 23rd November 2013
30. 'History in Philosophy, Philosophy beyond History: Swami Vivekananda's curious predicament' at IAS Shimla in September 2013
31. 'Discovering Mahadevan's Rendering of *Atma-bodha*' at ICPR National Seminar on 'The Philosophy of Professor T. M. P. Mahadevan' organized by the Department of Philosophy, Madras University from 26-28 March 2013
32. 'History in Philosophy, Philosophy beyond History: Swami Vivekananda's curious predicament' at 'Swami Vivekananda: Some Reflections' held at the Department of History, Calcutta University on 23 March 2013
33. 'Informal Fallacies and Critical Thinking' at Orientation Programme on 'Research in Philosophy' at *Darshan Bhawan*, Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi held from 7-9 March 2013
34. 'Questioning the Neutrality of Navya-Nyaya Language' at National Workshop on 'Navya Nyaya Language' organized by the Department of Philosophy, North Bengal University, under UGC-SAP from 12th – 14th March 2012.
35. 'Taking on Conventionalism / Talking of Conventionalism' at a National Seminar on 'Philosophical Approaches to Language: Greco-Roman and Classical Indian' at Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata on 22-23 February 2012
36. 'Wittgenstein and Aspect Perception' at European Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference, University of Utrecht, Netherlands, June 2008
37. 'Understanding Helmholtz on Perception' at European Society for Philosophy and Psychology Conference, University of Geneva, Switzerland, July 2007
38. 'Helmholtz's Theory of Perception' at Graduate Research Seminar, University of Reading (2007).

39. 'Aspect Perception: Digging Deeper into a Wittgensteinian Notion' at Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University, 2006
40. 'Perception as Interpretation' at the Open Minds Conference, Manchester University, UK, 2006.
41. 'Understanding the Interpretation Involved in Perception' at Graduate Research Seminar, University of Reading, 2006
42. 'In and out of the Chinese Room' at the Indian Philosophical Congress, Madurai, 2004
43. 'Aspects, Insights and Creativity' at National Seminar on 'Creativity and Cognitive Science', Department of Philosophy, University of Hyderabad, February 26-28, 2004
44. 'Aspect Perception' in a Refresher course on 'Representation and Cognition', Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University, November 2003
45. 'What's wrong with Human Reasoning?' at Indian Philosophical Congress, Udaipur, 2002
46. Received invitation to present a paper on "The Concept of Svadharma" at the Young Scholars' Seminar organized by Indian Council of Philosophical Research in 1999.
47. 'Chinese Room Argument' at a Seminar on 'Philosophy of Mind and Philosophy of Psychology' at Department of Philosophy, Jadavpur University, March 1999

Administrative Experience:

Head, Department of Philosophy, North Bengal University (November 2017-2019)
 Member, Executive Council, NBU (Feb. - Nov. 2019)
 Convener (as Head of the Dept.), Departmental Research Committee, Dept. of Philosophy, NBU (November 2017-2019)
 Member, P. G. Board of Studies in Philosophy, NBU, India
 Member, Board of Research Studies in Philosophy, NBU, India
 Member, M. Phil Committee in Philosophy
 Member, NBU Library Committee
 Member, Standing Committee, Centre for Studies in Local Languages and Cultures, NBU
 Member, Advisory Committee of UGC SAP (DRS I, II, and III) in Philosophy, NBU
 Member, Exam Moderation Board, UG and PG level, NBU, India (on several occasions)
 Member, Inspection team for introduction of new subject (Philosophy) at UG colleges
 Member, Ethical Committee, North Bengal Dental College, Siliguri

Member of Professional Societies:

Member, Indian Philosophical Congress
 Member, European Society for Philosophy and Psychology
 Member, European Society for Aesthetics
 Member, British Wittgenstein Society
 Member, Aurobindo Society
 Life Member, Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune

Member Editorial Boards

Philosophical Papers (Journal of the Dept. of Philosophy, North Bengal University)

Philosophical Traditions of the World (Journal of the Dept. of Philosophy, University of Mumbai)