



BARNALI CHANDA

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Current Affiliation:

- Assistant Professor in the department of English Language and Literature, Adamas University
- Visiting Research Associate at the Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi.

Past Affiliations:

- Assistant Professor of English and Literary Studies at Brainware University, Kolkata since August 2024 to 10 January'25
- China Studies Post Doctoral Fellow at Ashoka University : September 2020-December 2023.
- Assistant Professor, International Studies and History, CHRIST(Deemed to be University), Bangalore : May 2019 to June 2020
- Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, Kolkata : March, 2019-May 2019.
- Assistant Professor of English, Techno India University, Kolkata : January 2018 – March 2019
- Harvard Yenching Institute Comparative Literature Visiting Fellow 2016-17-spent a year at Harvard Yenching Institute at Harvard University : August 2016- June 2017
- Guest Faculty and Teacher-in-Charge of Chinese Language, School of Languages and Linguistics, Jadavpur University : February 2014-May 2019

DETAILED EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

08/2018- Present : Visiting Research Associate, Institute of Chinese Studies, New Delhi

9/2020-12/ 2023 : China Studies Post Doctoral Fellow at Ashoka University

Courses taught:

- Spring 2021 and Monsoon 2021 : (HIS-4510) Cross-Cultural Exchanges between India, China, and the World
- Spring 2022, Monsoon 2023: (HIS-3517/ ENG-3060) A Cultural Reading of India and China: Cultural Networks

05/ 2019 – 06/2020 : Assistant Professor, International Studies and History, Christ University, Bangalore.

Courses taught:

- World Literatures (60 hours)
- Chinese Language (Level 1 and 2 / 60 hours each and 45 hours each)
- China and the World - History of China and the world connections (30 hours)
- Transnationalism and the Globalized World (60 hours)
- Literatures of Mobility (15 hours)

01/2018 – 03/2019 : Assistant Professor of English, Techno India University, Kolkata

Courses taught :

- Travel and Literature
- Modern Drama (European and Chinese)
- Cross-Literary Exchanges : Europe and Asia
- Literary Theories
- English Romanticism
- History of English Literature
- Greek Drama (Old Comedy and Tragedy)
- Communicative English

EDUCATION

- PhD, 11/2017** Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University
Thesis: *Tracing Cross-Cultural Literary Exchanges between India and China: A Comparative Thematic Study of Selected Narratives of Medieval China and India*
- MPhil, 2007** Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University,
Thesis: *Adaptation of the Jatakas in the Chinese and the Indian Literary Traditions*
- Master of Arts, 2005** Comparative Literature (Jadavpur University)
- Bachelor of Arts, 2003** English (Calcutta University)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016 -17 Harvard Yenching Institute Comparative Literature Visiting Fellow, Harvard University
- 2009-2011 and 2013-14 Research Assistant
At the West Bengal State Archives supervised by Dr. Tansen Sen, Professor, Director, the Center for Global Asia, NYU-Shanghai.
- 2005-08 Project Fellow, Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University
University Grants Commission (UGC) Centre of Advanced Study (CAS) Programme

LANGUAGES

- 2016-17 Trained in Classical Chinese Language (credit course) at Harvard University for an academic year.
- 2012 Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL): successfully qualified the 4th level
- 2011-12 Huayu Enrichment Scholarship: Completed training of Chinese Language (初篇-essay writing and reading) in the Chinese Language Division, National Taiwan

University, Taiwan.

- 2010- 11 Preliminary and Advanced level Functional Courses in Sanskrit at the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, India.
- 2008-09 Government of PRC Scholarship (Human Resource and Development): completed training in Chinese language from South China Normal University, Guangzhou, China.

AWARDS AND GRANTS:

- 2019 AAS-LDC Grant to participate in the AAS in Denver Conference from 21st to 24th March, 2019
- 2018 HYI (Harvard Yenching Institute) grant for participating in AAS in Asia (New Delhi) in July, 2018
- 2017 HYI (Harvard Yenching Institute) grant for participating in AAS in Asia (Seoul, South Korea) in June, 2017
- 2015 HYI and ICI, New School, New York Grant to visit Harvard Yenching Institute Library from 20th-28th April, 2015
- 2015 Emerging Scholar, India China Institute. The New School New York
- 2010-2015 UGC Meritorious Fellowship for the Humanities and Social Sciences for pursuing PhD

Fellowships and Scholarships :

- 2020-2023 China Studies Post Doctoral Fellowship, 2020-2023 by Harvard Yenching Institute and Ashoka University
- 2019 RUSA 2. Post Doctoral Fellowship
- 2016 -17 Harvard Yenching Institute Comparative Literature Visiting Fellow, Harvard University
- 2011-12 Huayu Enrichment Scholarship: Completed training of Chinese Language (初篇-essay writing and reading) in the Chinese Language Division, National Taiwan University, Taiwan.
- 2008-09 Government of PRC Scholarship (Human Resource and Development): completed training in Chinese language from South China Normal University, Guangzhou, China.

WORK-IN-PROGRESS PAPERS/ BOOKS:

- Paper : Cross-Literary transaction of the Buddhist Motif ‘吞 *tun*’ – A Study of Classical Chinese and Sanskrit Narratives in the Premodern Era. (Under review)

- Paper : Images of “Naga” and the “Dragon” in the Chinese and Indic Buddhist Literature: Discussing the Stories of Connections and Adaptations (Under review)
- Paper : “Understanding the ‘Strange’ : Knowledge of Emotions and Cognizance in Early Chinese and Sanskrit Traditions” (Under Review)
- Book (work in progress) : Translation of Classical Chinese 傳奇 *chuanqi* stories into Bengali

PUBLICATIONS

Upcoming “Translation as a means of Cross-Geographic Connection between Premodern India and China” in the Rutledge Collection of Essays on “The ‘Geo’ turn in Translation Studies” in December, 2024

Published :

- 2020 “A Comparative Understanding of Travelogues Connecting India and China” *Asian Studies*, Vols. XXXVIII January 2020 – December 2020 Nos. 1 & 2, ISSN 0970-7301, 38-42
- 2020 “Understanding Cultural Transaction: Translating from Classical Chinese into Bengali” *Journal of Comparative Indian Language and Literature* Vol.-V, 2019-20, ISSN 2278-2621, 98-106
- 2019 Analysis : *Travel as a Metaphor : A Short Introduction to the Travelogues on China Written in Bengali* in the online journal of Institute of Chinese Studies <https://www.icsin.org/ics-analysis>
- 2017 Book Review of “Maoism and the Buddhist Philosophy of India and China (মাওবাদ ও ভারত-চীনবৌদ্ধদর্শন) by Narayan Sen published from Kolkata: Creative Publication, 2013. The review has been published in the New Frontiers in Asian Scholarship, an online portal of Harvard Yen-ching Institute, 1st August, 2017 (<https://www.harvard-yen-ching.org/research/maoism-and-buddhist-philosophy-india-and-china/>)
- 2017 Book Review of “The Female Children of Bengali Children’s Literature-Bangla Sishu Sahityer Choto Meyera: A collection of Essays by Sibaji Bandyopadhyay” Kolkata: Gangcheel Press, 2007 in the New Frontiers in Asian Scholarship, an online portal of Harvard Yen-ching Institute, 31st January, 2017 (<https://www.harvard-yen-ching.org/research/female-children-bengali-children-s-literature/>)
- 2015 Book : (with Suchorita Chattopadhyay) “*Strange tales of Medieval China: Tellings and Retellings*” Jadavpur University March, ISBN 978-93836-60094.
- 2015 “Parrot Tales in Chinese and Indian Classical Literary Traditions: A Comparative Study” Jadavpur Journal of Comparative Literature 51-52, 2014-2016, ISSN 048-

1143, 119-142

2009 Book : (with Subha Chakraborty Dasgupta) *Of Asian Lands: A View from Bengal –An Annotated Bibliography of a Century of Travel Narratives to Asian Lands*(in Bengali), Jadavpur University, ISBN 81-86954-46-5.

Others:

2010-2011 Travel narrative “Knowing China” in a biweekly Bengali newspaper Sambad Manthan from August 2010 to August 2011.

2006-07 Published occasional articles in Bangla on Chinese oral traditions and the rituals of story-telling in a Bengali magazine *Paraspathar*.

INVITED LECTURES

2024 Was invited to present a paper titled “‘Discussing Ice with Summer Insects’ - Connecting the World with ‘Strange’ and Knowledge of Emotions in the Early Chinese and Indic Traditions” Conference ‘New Directions in History and International Relations’ on 6-7 May, 2024 at Ashoka University, Haryana.

2024 Was invited to present a paper titled “‘The Earliest Tidings’: Travelers to China after Tagore’ in the International Conference Commemorating the Centenary of Rabindranath Tagore’s Visit to China” on 1-2 April, 2024 at the Cheena Bhavana, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan.

2023 Was invited to present my current research work “‘Understanding the ‘Strange’ : Knowledge of Emotions and Cognizance in Early Chinese and Indic Traditions” at the Institute of Chinese Studies on 7 June, 2023

2022 Was invited to give two lectures (2 and 4 November 2022) at the Centre for Translation and Indian Literatures on the 'translation as skill '. I spoke about my experience of translating stories from classical Chinese to Bengali

SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS PARTICIPATED:

INTERNATIONAL:

2022 “Translation as a means of Cross-Geographic Connection between Premodern India and China” submitted to the seminar “The ‘Geo’ turn in Translation Studies” on 17 June, 2022 in the ACLA Annual Meeting.

- 2021 Organized a panel titled ““Journey across Asia: A Comparative Study of the Geo-Political and Cultural Understanding of Asia through Documents/Narratives” consisting of 10 papers and presented a paper titled ““Studying Bengali and Chinese Travelogues of the Early Twentieth Century” at the annual conference in American Comparative Literature Association (8-11 April, 2021).
- 2021 Panelist at an in-house workshop on ‘Crossing Borders through Buddhism’, April 17, 2021 organized by Department of History, Ashoka University
- 2019 Presented a paper “A Comparative Understanding and Reimagining India and China: Studying Travelogues written during 1930-1940’s” in the Association of Asian Studies Conference in Denver, USA, held from March 21 to 24, 2019.
- 2019 Participated in the ‘Methods in India China Studies’ in the New York University-Shanghai, China from 10th to 12th January, 2019.
- 2018 Presented a paper titled *A Comparative Thematic Study of the Theme of Naga or Dragon Maiden (龍女) in the Selected Narratives of Pre-modern China and India* in the panel titled, “Sino-Indian Literary Connections Through the Ages” in the AAS in Asia-18 New Delhi (July 5-7 ’18)
- 2017 Presented a paper “Translating Classical Chinese Stories : Telling the Untellable” in the panel Negotiating the West and the East : Translation, Transculturation and Transformation in the Association of Asian Studies Conference 2017 held on 24-27 June, 2017 at Korea University, Seoul, Republic of Korea.
- 2017 “*Defining the ‘Strange’: Reading Classical Chinese and Sanskrit Story Literature*” at the 26th Annual Graduate Student Conference on East Asia held at EALAC, Columbia University, New York, USA, February 24-25
- 2017 “*Tracing Cross-Cultural Literary Exchanges between India and China: A Comparative Thematic Study of the Motif ‘Devouring’ in the Selected Narratives of Pre-Modern China and India*” at the New England Region Association for Asian Studies (NEAAS) Annual Conference, Boston College, Boston, USA, January 28-29
- 2015 “*Discussing The Concept Of The “Strange” And The “Fantastic” In The Indian And Chinese Narrative Traditions*” at the International Conference On Civilizational Interface between India and China, Opportunities and Challenges in

South and South-east Asia in Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, on September 26-27, 2015

- 2015 “*Discussing the ‘Strange and Fantastic’ With Special Reference to the Literary Motifs in Indian And Chinese Narrative Traditions*” at the Fourth Annual Interdisciplinary Symposium for Emerging Scholars on China India Studies, held on April 16, 2015, in New School, New York, USA.
- 2014 “*Defining the “Strange and Fantastic”: The Portrayal of Women in the Indian and Chinese Classical Narrative Traditions*”, in the XII-CLAI (Comparative Literature Association of India) Biennial International Conference, 1-4th March 2014 held in the University of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
- 2014 “*Translating the “Strange”: Tales of Medieval China*” in the International Conference on ‘China, India and Beyond: Understanding Cooperation, Competition and Development’ on 18th October, 2014, at IMI Kolkata.
- 2014 “*The Storytelling: A Comparative Study in Indian And Chinese Narrative Evolution*” in the International Conference On China, India And The Subcontinent: At The Crossroads of The ‘Geo-Civilizational’ And The ‘Geo-Political’, held in CheenaBhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, On September, 20-21, 2014.
- 2013 “*The Strange and the Fantastic’ Stories - A parallel study of Buddhist motifs in the narrative traditions in medieval Indian and Chinese literatures* in the CLAI (Comparative Literature Association of India) Biennial International Conference, in January 2013 held in Jadavpur University, Calcutta.
- 2007 “*Influence of Jatakas on Chinese Stories*” in the Eighth Biennial CLAI (Comparative Literature Association of India) International Conference in Kolkata from January 18-20, 2007 organized by Comparative Literature Association of India held at Jadavpur University.

NATIONAL

- 2018 “*Travel as a Metaphor : Comparative Understanding and Reimagining India and China : Studying Travelogues written during 1930-1960*” in the All India Conference of China Studies, 2018 (November 15-17’18)
- 2013 “*Interpreting Social Reality Through the Strange Tales In Chinese And Indian Narrative Traditions*” in the Sixth All India Conference of China Studies, IIM, Kozhikode, Kerala, December 12-14, 2013 organized by Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS).
- 2012 “*“Strange and Fantastic’ Narrative Awareness: Indian and Chinese narrative tradition in 7th-11th century*” in the national workshop “Following Forkhead

Paths: Discussions on the Narrative” organized by the Centre of Advanced Study (Phase II), Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University on January 18 - 19, 2012.

- 2010 “Adaptation of Jatakas on Indian and Chinese Medieval Narrative Literature: A Comparative Study” In Third All India Conference of China Studies held in Kolkata on December 20-21, 2010

SEMINARS, CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

March, 2021-April, 2022

Organized a Lecture series 'Beyond Borders: Understanding China' at the Ashoka Centre for China Studies

- 2021 Organized a panel consisting of 10 papers at the annual conference in American Comparative Literature Association (7-10 April, 2021).
- 2021 Organized a panel (Cross Asiatic Connection in the Late Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries) at the Institute of China Studies in collaboration with Ashoka University on 1st September, 2021 and presented a paper along with three other panelists.
- 2020 Organized China Studies Workshop for the Post-Graduate students in the Department of International Studies and History, Christ University
- 2020 Organized the First China-India Public Lecture Series by Professor Tansen Sen and Professor Arunabh Ghosh in the Department of International Studies and History, Christ University
- 2018 Panel organized (jointly with Gal Gvili) “Sino-Indian Literary Connections Through the Ages” in the AAS-18 New Delhi (July 5-7 '18)

Summer Programme

- 2009 3-week Summer Programme on Buddhist Studies from 5 August-27 August, 2009 organized by the University of British Columbia, Tzu-Chi University of Taiwan

and Renmin University of People's Republic of China which was held in Beijing and Suzhou in China.