

Ishita Dey

EDUCATION

- July, 2016** **Ph.D in Sociology**
Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
Dissertation title: Production, Caste and Ritual in the 'Bengali' Sweet Industry
Supervisor: Professor Rajni Palriwala
- February, 2008** **M.Phil Sociology**
Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
Dissertation title: Migration and Entrepreneurship: Chinese Community in Kolkata
Supervisor: Professor Meenakshi Thapan
- 2003-2005** **M.A in Sociology**, Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
- 2000-2003** **B.A. in English**, Miranda House, University of Delhi

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Food, Senses, Labour and Intimacy

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- November 2018 - **Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, South Asian University.**
- July 2016 – October 2018 **Assistant Professor, Centre for Development Practice, Ambedkar University Delhi.**
- January - July 2016 **Assistant Professor, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi.**
- August - December 2015 **Guest Lecturer, Lady Shri Ram College for Women, University of Delhi.**
- October 2012- April 2013 **Guest Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Delhi.**

COURSES TAUGHT

M.A. Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences, South Asian University

- Gender and Society in South Asia
- Social Stratification
- Politics of food and foodways: Taste, Health, and Nutrition
- Intimacies: Of Relatedness, Love, and Companionship

M.A Sociology, School of Liberal Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi

- Social Theories

M.Phil in Development Practice, Ambedkar University Delhi

- Researching the Rural
- Reflections on Justice
- Equality, Discrimination, Marginalisation and Development.

B.A. Sociology, School of Undergraduate Studies, Ambedkar University Delhi

- Food and Society
- Marriage, Family and Kinship

B.A. in Sociology, University of Delhi

- Sociological Perspectives
- Political Sociology
- Agrarian Sociology

SUPERVISION

M.Phil Dissertation

South Asian University, Delhi

Mukherjee, Procheta. 2022. 'A Study of CCTV as a Technology for Women's Safety: Care or Surveillance?'. M.Phil Diss, South Asian University.

Ambedkar University Delhi

Ahuja, Himalaya. 2018. 'Rural Electrification. Politics of Infrastructure in Khannat'. M.Phil Diss, Ambedkar University Delhi.

Kumar, Sanjeev. 2018. 'Towards Food Sovereignty. Locating 'jackfruit' within politics of local food system'. M.Phil Diss, Ambedkar University Delhi.

Samom, Beerjurekha. 2018. 'Politics of hope. Youth and development in Lalpur, Madhya Pradesh'. M.Phil Diss, Ambedkar University Delhi.

Rose, Anushka. 2018. 'Disavowing Differences: Vikas as Performative in Kuraili'. M.Phil Diss, Ambedkar University Delhi.

John, Anjana. 2017. 'Heart of Darkness: A study on electrification and energy poverty in Pindrukhi', Madhya Pradesh. M.Phil Diss, Ambedkar University Delhi

Shikha, Shashi. 2017. 'Shifting the language around teenage/ unmarried pregnancy: From risk to cohabitation'. M.Phil Diss, Ambedkar University Delhi

Invited to Committee/s

Doctoral Research Committee

IIT Jodhpur, IIT Delhi, Tezpur University, Shiv Nadar University

Curriculum Review Committee, MA Sociology, IGNOU, 26-27 July 2023

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

2007-2010 **Research Associate, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata** (Research organisation on issues of forced migration, displacement, rights and justice)

RESEARCH

March 2023- October 2023 **Principal Investigator of a project 'Journeys and Internal Migrants Workers: A Report on Railway Connectivity' by Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group.**

2022 onwards Part of a collaborative research project on Gastrofeminism with Dr. Sohni Chakraborty, University of St. Andrews, and Professor Debarati Sen, University of Houston

March 2018- October 2019 Principal Investigator of an art research project '**Smells of the city: scents, stench and stink**' supported by Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi.

July 2016 – October 2018 Project – In – Charge of a research project '**Unlocking the value potential of Non-timber forest produce**' as part of the research programmes of the Centre for Development Practice, Ambedkar University Delhi.

2015-2017 I was invited to be part of Indo-Japanese research team for a project entitled '**Ideas of Food and Body in South Asia : Analyses of cookbooks from the medieval life to present**'. Funded Jointly by ICSSR and JSPS

2014-2016 I was invited by Calcutta Research Group to be part of the research collective on "**Cities, Rural Migrants and the Urban Poor – Issues of Violence and Social Justice**" supported by the Ford Foundation and to write a research paper on the theme of The Migrant in a Service Village in the City: Working Conditions and Rights, supported by Ford Foundation. For details please visit http://www.mcrg.ac.in/Rural_Migrants/Final_Research_Briefs.pdf.

2010-2015 Doctoral Researcher, Department of Sociology, University of Delhi. This research study was funded under the scheme UGC – Junior Research Fellowship.

2010-2012

I was invited by Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group to be part of the research platform – transit labour. As part of this study I looked into IT Workers in Rajarhat New Town, Kolkata.

For details

http://www.mcrg.ac.in/TransitLabour/Transit_Concept.asp

May 2009- September 2009

Co-Researcher of a study on “Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, ‘Women, Peace and Security’ in the context of Finnish Development Policy”. Was in charge of conducting an assessment study of women’s organisation in protracted situations of conflict in North East India: Manipur and Nagaland.

http://www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/Resources/Government/1325_implementation1325finnishdevelopmentkenyanepalneindia_banerjeeetal_jan312010.pdf

2007-2010

I conducted independent research project on the following areas: forced migration and labour rights. I worked as a Programme Associate for the Fifth and Sixth Annual Winter course on Forced Migration, a UNHCR certified winter school on Forced Migration in South Asia. Jointly coordinated the ICSSR supported Research Programme- Globalisation & sustainability of rights since March 2009. For details about the research programmes visit <http://www.mcrg.ac.in/>.

PUBLICATIONS

Journals

Forthcoming

‘Regulating Sweets in Bengal. Control Orders and their Afterlife,’ *Contributions to Indian Sociology* (forthcoming)

Guest Editor of a special issue on ‘Migrant Asias’, *Refugee Watch* (forthcoming)

Published

2022. ‘Who Owns Bogurar Doi? An Ethnography of Placemaking and Craftsmanship in Bangladesh’, *Gastronomica* 22 (3): 35–45. <https://doi.org/10.1525/gfc.2022.22.3.35>

2021. ‘Cadbury weds *Mishti*: Fusion, Taste and Selling Authenticity’, *International Journal of South Asian Studies* 11 :47-60 (<https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/browse/ijzas/list/-char/en>)

2021. ‘Smells, intimate labour and domestic work in Delhi, India’, *The Senses and Society* 16 (3): 339-350. Online ISSN: 1745-8935

2021. ‘Trust’, Sociality and the Pandemic’, *Society and Culture in South Asia* 7(1):11-15.

2021. ‘On Pandemic Imaginary. An Interview with Christos Lynteris’, *Society and Culture in South Asia* 7(1) 175–180.

2021. ‘Trust and Everyday Healthcare at a Resettlement Colony in Delhi’, *Refugee Watch* 57 :34-43.

2020. "Fighting" COVID-19 with Anti-Corona Sandesh'. *Gastronomica: The Journal for Food Studies* 3:111-112, ISSN 1529-3262.

2015. 'Beyond zoning: India's corridors of 'development' and new frontiers of capital' (with Giorgio Grappi). *The South Atlantic Quarterly* 114(1) :153-170, ISSN 0038-2876

2010. 'State of Research on Forced Migration in the East and North-East' (with Geetisha Dasgupta) in *Economic and Political Weekly*, Vol 25(21): 37-41

2009. 'On the Margins of Citizenship: Principles of Care and Rights of the Residents of the Ranaghat Women's Home, Nadia District', *Refugee Watch* 33 :1-22.

Books

Book Manuscript *Sweet Excess: Biography of Sweet Encounters in West Bengal and Bangladesh* (under review).

2013. Co-authored with Ranabir Samaddar and Suhit K. Sen. *Beyond Kolkata. Rajarhat and the Dystopia of Urban Imagination*. New Delhi: Routledge. ISBN: 9781134931378 1134931379.

2011. Co- edited book with Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury. 2011. *Sustainability of Rights after Globalisation*. Sage : Delhi. ISBN 9788132106401(HB).

Chapter in Edited volume, encyclopedia

2021. 'Village Studies and Possibilities of a 'multispecies' ethnography' in *Remembering India's villages*. Edited by Santosh K. Singh. Delhi: Aakar books. ISBN 978-93-5002-720-2

2021. 'Social Distancing, "Touch-Me-Not" and the Migrant Worker' in *India's Migrant Workers and the Pandemic*. Edited By Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay, Paula Banerjee, Ranabir Samaddar. London: Routledge. ISBN 9781032158921

2018. 'Intimacy, Domesticity and Migrant Labour' in *Migrants and the Neoliberal City*. Edited by Ranabir Samaddar. Delhi : Orient Blackswan. Pp 282-306 ISBN 978-93-5287-290-9

2018 'Health, Standardisation and Bengali sweets' in *Farm to Fingers : The Culture and Politics of Food in Contemporary India*. Edited by Kiranmayi Bhushi. Delhi : Cambridge University Press Pp 103-127 ISBN: 9781108416290

2016. 'Sociality' and Representations of Everyday Life of Sweetsshops and Sweets' in *Pratyaha. Everyday Lifeworlds. Dilemmas, Contestations*. Edited by Prasanta Ray and Nandini Ghosh. Delhi : Primus Books. Pp 259-277. ISBN 9384082406.

2015. 'Ledikeni' in *The Oxford Companion to Sugar and Sweets*. New York: OUP. pp 398-399.

2015. 'Rosogolla' in *The Oxford Companion to Sugar and Sweets*. New York: OUP. pp 580-581.

2015. 'Sandesh' in *The Oxford Companion to Sugar and Sweets*. New York: OUP. pp 592.

2015. 'Temple sweets' in *The Oxford Companion to Sugar and Sweets*. New York: OUP. Pp 734

2011. 'Introduction' in *Sustainability of Rights after Globalisation*. Edited by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Ishita Dey. Sage : Delhi. Pp xi-xxi. ISBN 9788132106401(HB).

2011. 'Negotiating Rights : The Case of a Special Economic Zone' in *Sustainability of Rights after Globalisation*. Edited by Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Ishita Dey. Sage : Delhi. Pp 177-205. ISBN 9788132106401(HB).

2010. 'Partitioned Lives : Ranaghat Women's Home, Nadia District, West Bengal' in *Gender, Mobility and Citizenship in Asia*. Edited by Mikako Iwatake. Delhi : Renvall Institute Publications. ISBN 9789521063657.

Articles in digital platforms such as online repositories, research platforms etc.

2021. 'Mistisukh. The politics of Sensory Labour and Sweetmaking in Bengal'
<https://thirdlanemag.com/en/mistisukh-the-politics-of-sensory-labour-and-sweetmaking-in-bengal-ishita-dey-suman-mukherjee/>, 29 October 2021.

2021. 'Notes from a 'waiting room' in a 'Digital' India: states, covid-19 and refusal'
<https://www.conessioniprecarie.org/2021/05/26/notes-from-a-waiting-room-in-a-digital-india-states-covid-19-and-refusal/>

2020. "Book Symposium Tasting Qualities" for Allegra Lab, <https://allegralaboratory.net/book-symposium-tasting-qualities-3/>, 23 October 2020.

2017. Coordinated a module on "Sweet tradition of Bengal" for the online repository archive – sahapedia. For details see "Crafting Sweets in Bengal", <https://www.sahapedia.org/sweet-traditions-of-bengal>.

2012. "Field/s as sites of encounter", <http://transitlabour.asia/blogs/encounter>, 30 October 2012.

2011. "New Town and Labour in Transit", <http://transitlabour.asia/blogs/newtown>, 29 July 2011.

Book Review

2018. "Book Review: Solomon, H. 2016. Metabolic Living: Food, Fat and the Absorption of Illness in India." *Contributions to Indian Sociology*. Vol 52 (3),October 2018. 368–70.

2012. "Book Review: Janeja, M. 2010. Transactions in Taste. The Collaborative Lives of Everyday Bengali Food. Delhi: Routledge. *Food, Culture and Society*. Vol 15(1), March 2012. pp161-162.

2010. Mathur, H.M. (eds). 2008. India: Social Development Report 2008. Development and Displacement. Delhi: Oxford University Press. *Refugee Watch* Issue No 35, June 2010. Calcutta Research Group : Kolkata

Fellowships and other Teaching Responsibilities

Visiting Fellow, Urban Futures Platform, University of Vienna 1-31 October 2023.

Have been part of Diplomat Training Programmes at Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, New Delhi, since January 2023.

CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS/ PUBLIC EVENTS (since appointment in SAU)

2023

Presented a paper, "Of Adjustment and Placemaking: Ethnography of Migrant Journeys in India" as part of Urban Futures Research Platform, University of Vienna, 17 October 2023.

Participated in a two-day conference on Keywords in Refugee and Migration Studies Conference, Europe Asia Research Platform, Institute of Human Sciences, Vienna, 12-13 October 2023.

Roundtable organizer and presenter, "Roundtable: Gastrofeminism: Special Focus on the Global South", 2023 Conference of the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS) and the Agriculture, Food & Human Values Society (AFHVS), Boston University, 31 May 2023 (Virtual Session)

Panel Organiser, "Food in/of Conflict" as part of Association for Asian Studies, Boston 16-19 March 2023.

Presented a paper on “Avoiding Conflict : Of Smells, Loss and Lives in Transit” as part of *Verge* Sponsored Panel “Food in/of Conflict - Part II: Claimmaking, Mobility and Transformation - *Sponsored by Verge: Studies in Global Asias*” at Association for Asian Studies Conference, Boston 16-19 March 2023

Plenary Speaker. “Smell Assembly and Beyond” at Winter School on Reading Cities through Neighbourhoods, Centre for Community Knowledge, Ambedkar University Delhi, 15 February 2023.

2022

Was invited to lecture on “Researching “journeys.” Challenges and Possibilities in Migration Studies” as part of the Seminar Series on Forced Migration hosted by IWM Vienna and MCRG, Kolkata 14 December 2022. Details link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3oCa3RauJ2Q&t=2051s>

Presented a paper “Trust” Networks, Platform Capitalism and India’s Digital Economy as part of International Conference “Digitized Migrants. Europe Asia Research Platform on Forced Migration” hosted by IWM Vienna, MCRG, and MireKoc University, at Koc University, Istanbul, 15-16 September 2022.

Presented a paper “Sensory Archive : Documenting Smells of Delhi” in a Two-day Conference on “Archives and Production of New Forms of Knowledge” Organised by Institute of Development Studies Kolkata. Supported by ICSSR-ERC, 10-11 August, 2022

Resource Person “Policy Formation in Relation to Refugees and Asylum Seekers” Human Resource Development Center and Department of Sociology, School of Social Sciences and Languages Short Term Course on Transnational Migration & Social Development, Lovely Professional University 27 June -2 July 2022.

Special Lecture on ‘Intimate Sense Labor’: Smell, Intimacy and Domestic Work (online) hosted by The Institute for Art and Olfaction, Los Angeles as part of the series Scent and Society Lectures, 21 February 2022.

Special Lecture on Politics of food, and Politics of Smell at the 7th Faculty Induction Programme (FIP-07) (via googlemeet) at the UGC – Human Resource Development Centre, University of North Bengal from 05 January 2022 – 9 February 2022.

2021

Presented a paper on “Menstruating bodies at work: Intimate Sense-labour and domestic work in India” as part of a panel “Chemosenses beyond science: how the humanities and social sciences can inform science” European Chemoreception Research Organisation (ECRO) 2021, 16 September 2021(<https://www.ecro.online/meetings/ecro-2021/program/>)

Presented a paper on “Food Safety, “Home” Chefs, Platform Capitalism, and ‘Ghar ka khana’ in ‘Food in/ of the Pandemic’ by Christ University, Bangalore and Liverpool Hope University, U.K., 6-12 May 2021

Presented a paper “Smells” and Intimate Labour: Domestic work in perspective in Uncommon Senses III 2021 by Centre for Sensory Studies, Concordia University 7-9 May 2021.

2020

Presented a paper “Cadbury weds Mishti: Fusion, taste and selling "authenticity", in” Food and Power in South Asia – a series” by The Center for South Asian Studies, The University of Tokyo, Institute for Advanced Global Studies, 28 August 2020.

Presented a paper “Food, caste and culture and taxonomy of sweet making in Bengal” in “Visible (and Invisible) Boundaries of Distinction and Exclusion: Understanding Subalternity in contemporary South Asia,” Waseda University, Tokyo, 16-20 January 2020.

Presented a paper “Mishti and Geographical Indication (GI): Place making vs Community Rights”, Colloquium Series, Department of Sociology/ Anthropology, Ashoka University, Sonapat, 21 January 2020

2019

Special Lecture “Sweet talk. Life of Sweets: An anthropological Quest”, Miranda House, University of Delhi, 24 September 2019.

Presented a paper “Caste and Culinary Practices” in a National conference “Marginal Studies in India: Revisiting Ambedkar’s Perspective”, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, 17 September 2019.

Guest Lecture on ‘Social Life of Mishti : Anthropology of Sweetness’, Department of Anthropology, Dhaka University, Bangladesh 8 July 2019.

Special Lecture on ‘Sociological Perspectives on Food and Eating : South Asian Perspective’ Department of Sociology, Varendra University, Bangladesh, 4 July 2019.

Master class Series on “Anthropology of food” at Rajshahi University, Bangladesh 2-4 July 2019.

Special Lecture on ‘Why do we gift? Exchange, Reciprocity & Obligation’ Department of Sociology, Bharati College, University of Delhi, 15 April 2019.

Presented a paper on ‘Smell and the city : Towards an ethnography of ‘nose’ in Friday Research Colloquium, Department of Sociology, University of Delhi, 15 March 2019.

Presented a paper “Anthropology of Sweetness” as part of the Seminar Series, Department of Sociology, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University, 7 March 2019.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

‘Smell Assembly’, an exhibition on Smells of Delhi, September 2019- November 2019, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art.

Media coverage of the exhibition

<http://cms.newindianexpress.com/cities/delhi/2019/nov/02/smells-of-the-city-scents-stench-and-stink-2056057.html>;

<https://www.asianage.com/life/more-features/071119/scents-and-the-city.html>;

<https://www.livemint.com/mint-lounge/features/the-art-world-s-private-eye-11580485658107.html>

Host of Podcast Travel Matters

https://open.spotify.com/show/2Ym5JkCjLwAe1PSII0HO6x?si=6WPTTh6u2Qh6nWynOTRrVIA&dl_branch=1

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Member, Editorial Collective, *Society and Culture in South Asia* (Sage)

Guest Editor.2021. Special Issue, 'Social' Distancing, COVID-19 and South Asian Experiences, *Society and Culture in South Asia*