

Office:

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**SOHINI DATTA**

Career Objectives: To excel as an Assistant Professor, I aim to leverage my teaching and research expertise to inspire students to think critically and engage deeply with the subject matter. I also seek opportunities for growth and collaboration in impactful research that addresses relevant issues and contributes to the academic community.

Research Interest: My research focus so far includes a keen interest in gender and sexuality, rural transformation, and governance.

My doctoral dissertation titled '*Gendered Labour Relations in Agriculture: A Study of Select Districts In West Bengal*' investigates the impact of patriarchal ideologies and intersecting forms of discrimination on gender disparities in the agricultural sector of rural West Bengal. Historically, these ideologies have entrenched gender biases that disadvantage women, reflected in restricted land ownership, limited access to agricultural resources, and unequal decision-making power. Women face significant systemic barriers, such as exclusion from formal credit systems and inadequate representation in decision-making bodies, which hinder their economic opportunities. A striking statistic is that 87% of unpaid women workers in rural India are engaged in agriculture and related sectors, highlighting their critical role yet persistent undercounting (Swaminathan et al. 2020). These barriers prevent women from negotiating better working conditions, securing fair wages, and accessing essential social protections like healthcare and family planning. Additionally, restrictive gender norms curtail their involvement in leisure activities, social mobility, and educational pursuits, further limiting their personal and professional growth. This comprehensive understanding emphasises the need for targeted interventions to address these systemic inequities in the agricultural sector. The study employs qualitative methods, including in-depth interviews, focus groups, and participant observations, to gather rich, context-specific data. However, quantitative data will also be used to support findings from qualitative data and for triangulation purposes. Ontologically, the research will be situated in the subjective tradition, focusing on understanding phenomena and processes from participants' perspectives. Relativism, reflexivity, and interpretation will be utilised.

In addition to this, I am profoundly interested in themes of gender and sexuality that interrogate and deconstruct prevailing cultural narratives, norms, and power dynamics, particularly those affecting marginalised groups, including non-binary identities. From a post-colonial to a post-modern perspective and beyond, I explore how diverse mediums such as Governance, Administration, Education, Literature, Film, Visual Art, Music, Social Media, Activism, Pornography, Prison, and more can challenge fixed meanings and representations, explore desire and passion, assert agency, and catalyse transformative social change. By embracing multiplicity, we enrich our understanding of the human experience.

Academic Qualifications:

March 2021 – Present: Pursuing Ph.D. in Political Science (University of North Bengal, India).

Thesis title: ‘Gendered Labour Relations in Agriculture: A Study of Select Districts in West Bengal’, Supervisor- Dr. Isha Tirkey.

July 2023 - Completed One-year PG Diploma in Human Rights and Duties, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University, India. (Dissertation Supervised by Dr. Subhajit Naskar)

July 2019 - Completed M.A degree in Political Science from Presidency University, India. (One-year M.A Dissertation Supervised by Dr. Yarraguntla Suresh Babu)

July 2017- Completed B.A (Hons.) degree in Political Science from Lady Brabourne College affiliated to Calcutta University, India.

Professional Qualifications:

Sep 2020 - Qualified UGC NET for Assistant Professorship.

Dec 2019 - Qualified UGC NET for Assistant Professorship.

Dec 2019 - Qualified West Bengal SLET (State Level Eligibility Test for Teaching in College and University).

Work Experiences:

Sep 2024 - present: Assistant Professor at the Department of Public Administration, Royal Global University, Guwahati, India.

Courses Taught: Administrative Theory, Educational Administration, Health Administration, Corporate Governance.

October 2023 - August 2024: Guest Faculty at the Department of Political Science, Hindi University, Howrah, India.

Courses Taught: Western Political Thought, Feminist Theory, Indian Government and Politics (structures and institutions), Research Methodology.

Dec 2022 - July 2023: Guest Faculty at the PG Department of Social Science, F.M University, Balasore, India.

Courses Taught: Public Administration, Indian Government and Politics, Indian Political Thought, Advanced Political Theory.

March 2020 - September 2022: Guest Faculty at the Department of Economics and Politics, Visva-Bharati (A Central University of National Importance), Santiniketan, India.

Courses Taught: Indian Government and Politics (structures and institutions), Political Theory.

Publications:

Datta, S. (2024). Visible and invisible work. In S. Gonsalves & V. Roy (Eds.), *Conceptualising, living, interrogating gender: A student's manual* (pp. 237-250). Global Net Publication. New Delhi.

Datta, S. (2022). Re-defining Survival of Labour in a Post-Covid World Order. In (Eds.), *Covid 19: Impact and Response* (Vol. 12, pp. 58-68). Bhumi Publishing, India. ISBN: 978-93-91768-95-9.

Datta, S. (2020). Reminiscing Manabendra Nath Roy" Radical Humanism: Sovereignty, Rationality, and Freedom (21 March 1887–25 January 1954). IRJMSH, India. ISSN 2277 – 9809 (Online).

Seminars and Presentations:

(2024) Participated and Co-ordinated in One Day State Level Seminar on Dr. Ambedkar's Views on Indian Knowledge System hosted by Hindi University in Howrah, West Bengal, on May 9th, 2024.

(2024) Participated in the Training Program on First Hand Experience on SPSS- Introductory Module, organised by Research Foundation of India & RFI-Care from 14 May to 21 May, 2024.

(2023) Participated and Volunteered in INDIA@75: THE GANDHIAN PERSPECTIVES, a Two-Day International Conference hosted by University of North Bengal and Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan on 28-29 th August, 2023.

(2022) Participated (Online Mode) in Agrarian Change Seminar on Differentiated outcomes of agrarian change among India's Adivasis: land, labour and class inequality by Rajanya Bose (University of Sheffield) on Thursday, 19 October, 2022 4:15-6:00 pm UK time.

(2022) Participated in a special lecture on Why are Working Classes all around the World Turning Right, not Left? By Pranab Bardhan on December 9, 2022, IDS, Kolkata.

(2022) Participated in 105th annual Indian Economic Association (IEA) Two Day International Conference hosted by Fakir Mohan University in Balasore, Odisha, from December 27-29, 2022.

(2021) Participated in and completed the Online Faculty Development Programme on Research Methodology in Rural Development conducted by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD) and Northeastern Regional Centre (NERC), Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India from 21st June to 25th June 2021.

(2020) Participated as Resource Person and delivered a lecture on "Role of Constitution in Ensuring Gender Justice" on Constitution Day chaired by Professor Bidyut Chakrabarty, Vice-Chancellor Visva-Bharati and organised by Visva-Bharati University on 20th November 2020. https://youtu.be/KfAxP0tX8Sw?si=4-FH8Tjn4rXn_Drg

(2020) Participated as Resource Person and delivered a lecture on "Indian Constitution and Child Rights" on Constitution Day, organised by FOB Bardhaman, Regional Outreach Bureau, Kolkata, on 28th November 2020.

(2019) Presented a Paper in a day-long workshop on “Social Science Research: Methods and Problems” in the Department of Political Science, Presidency University organised by Department of Political Science, Presidency University and Council for Political Studies on 13th March, 2019.

Departmental and University Responsibility:

(2023) Supervised six M.A. dissertations at F.M University, Balasore, India.

(2024) Supervised two M.A dissertations at Hindi University, Howrah, India.

(2023) Conducted and judged Essay Competition in F.M University, Balasore, India.

Awards:

2016 - Ranked 2nd in Undergraduate District Level Essay Competition, Kolkata, India.

Computer Proficiency:

Working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel, MS Power Point.