

Dr Argha Banerjee, Reader, Department of English, St. Xavier's College, (Autonomous) Kolkata, Calcutta University, West Bengal, India.

Email: banerjeeargha@hotmail.com

Designation: Dean of Arts (2011-) & Faculty English Department

Qualifications: MA. MPhil (JU). PhD (Sussex, UK).

Commonwealth Research Scholar (2004-07, Sussex University, U.K.) & Charles Wallace Fellow (2012, U.K.)

Education & Experience: Dr Argha Banerjee completed his B.A. (Honours), M.A. & M.Phil. in English Literature from Jadavpur University (Kolkata, India). His M.Phil. research was on the poetry of John Keats, under the supervision of Prof Malabika Sarkar (Ex Vice Chancellor, Presidency University). Subsequently, he was a Commonwealth Research Scholar at the Department of English, University of Sussex, U.K. (2004-2007) where he wrote his PhD thesis on poetry of the First World War under the supervision of Prof Laura Marcus. He qualified for the SLET (Lectureship Eligibility Test) examination in 1997 and has been a permanent faculty member of the Department of English, St. Xavier's College, under Calcutta University, Kolkata since 1999. He has also been on the guest faculty at the postgraduate level at departments of English— Jadavpur University, Presidency University and Loreto College. He has made several conference presentations both at home and abroad. Beyond academic writing he has also contributed poems and features to various dailies based in Kolkata. He is an active member of the Centre for Studies in Romantic Literature, Kolkata and takes an active part in organising its annual international conference every year.

Research Interests: Nineteenth and Twentieth Century British Literature; War Literature; Indian Writing in English; Literature and Spirituality; Eco-criticism.

Refresher /Orientation Course:

a) Successfully completed UGC Sponsored Short Term Course on 'Thinking through Gender' from 1st to 7th February 2018 organised by the Human Resource Development Centre (HRDC) Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

b) Successfully completed Refresher Course in English from 20 January to 11 February 2014, organised by UGC Academic Staff College, Jadavpur University (Grade awarded: A).

b) Successfully completed 16th refresher course in English, from 2 January to 22 January 2010, organised by Academic Staff College, Calcutta University. (Grade awarded: A).

c) Successfully completed the 22nd orientation program of UGC Academic Staff College, Jadavpur University, from 17th Nov 2008 to 15 December 2008. (Grade awarded: A).

International Research Grants/Awards /Scholarships:

- a) Charles Wallace India Trust (U.K.) Scholarship/ Research Grant for post-doctoral research on war literature in the United Kingdom during May – June 2012.**
- b) Commonwealth Scholarship Award by the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the United Kingdom, following initial selection and nomination made by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, India. Tenure of the Award: 2004 to 2007 at the Department of English, University of Sussex, United Kingdom. Research successfully completed leading to D.Phil. degree being awarded by Sussex University.**

- c) Full tuition fee Scholarship for postgraduate research study at Nottingham University U.K. (2003-04).
- d) Overseas Scholarship Award 2003-04 by University of Kent, Canterbury, U.K.

UGC Grants (University Grants Commission, India)

**Minor Research Project (2014) — Grant Amount: Rupees 230000/ only.
Research Period: August 2014 to July 2016.**

Publications

BOOKS/MONOGRAPHS:

***Women's Poetry and the First World War* (New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers, 2014) (ISBN 978-81-269-1856-0).** Favourably reviewed by leading journals like *Modernism & Modernity*, *English Literature in Transition*, *Cambridge Quarterly*, *Textual Practice* etc.

'Poetry of the First World War: A Critical Evaluation' (New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers, 2011) (ISBN 978-81-269-1554-5). Favourably reviewed by *English Literature in Transition*.

***Female Voices in Keats's Poetry* (A psychoanalytic reading of female figures in Keats's Poetry) published by Atlantic Publishers, New Delhi, 2002. (ISBN 81-269-0174-8)**

A compilation of original poems (published in various magazines and dailies) entitled *Songs of the Soul* published by Writers Workshop, Kolkata, 2001.

Essay/ Chapter Contribution in Book/Conference Proceedings:

The chapter "The poetry of the earth is never dead": The Garden and British Romantic Poetry' in the book entitled *Enchanted, Stereotyped, Civilized: Garden Narratives in Literature, Art and Film* published by **Konigshausen & Neumann, Germany, 2018 (ISBN 978-3-8260-6444-9).**

The chapter "Women's Poetry, First World War and Working Class Experience in British Munition Factories, in the book entitled *New Women's Writing: Contextualising Fiction, Poetry and Philosophy* published by **Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne, U.K, 2018 (ISBN 10: 1-5275-0814-5; ISBN 13: 978-1-5275-0814-9).**

The essay "Refugee in my own country": Trauma and Memory in Writings of Kashmiri Pandits in Exile', in the book entitled *On Trauma and Traumatic Memory* published by **Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne, U.K., 2017 (ISBN 10:1-4438-9509-1; ISBN 13: 978-1-4438-9509-5).**

The essay "Why Can't I Have the Vote?": Women's Poetry, Politics, and the First World War', in the book entitled *Ideological Messaging and the Role of Political Literature* published by **IGI Global, USA, 2017 (ISBN: 978-1-5225-2391-8, eISBN: 978-1-5225-2392-5).**

The essay 'Memory and Remembrance: Women's Elegies of the First World War (1914-18), in the book entitled *The Arts of Memory and the Poetics of Remembering* published by **Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne, U.K., 2016 (ISBN (10): 1-4438-9723-X; ISBN (13): 978-1-4438-9723-5).**

The essay 'Suicide in the Trenches: British Poetry, Modernism and the First World War (1914-18)' in the compilation *1914 and Beyond: Reflections of War* (Conference proceedings of UGC sponsored National Seminar) published by **Excel India Publishers, New Delhi, 2016. (ISBN: 978-93-86256-16-4).**

The essay 'Gardeners camouflaged as Soldiers': Great War Poetry, Nature and British Culture. Published in the book entitled *On the Frontline: Critical Essays on War*, published by **Levant Books, Kolkata, 2011. (ISBN 978-93-80663-28-9).**

The essay 'The Holy Bible and the War Poetry of Wilfred Owen'. Published in the book entitled 'The Word and the World', published by **Earthcare books, Kolkata, 2009. (ISBN 81-85861-36-6).**

National /International Journals:

'Negotiating Shell-Shock, Writing War: Trauma and Transatlantic Poetry of the First World War' published in *Aviskaar: A Xavierian Journal of Research*, vol. 10. Jan 2018, pp 39-55. (ISSN (Print): 2277-8411, ISSN (Online): 2278-1048).

'Poetry, Spirituality and Patriotism' published in *Aviskaar: A Xavierian Journal of Research*, vol. 9. Jan 2017, pp. 58-68. (ISSN (Print): 2277-8411, ISSN (Online): 2278-1048).

'Tracking Tigers, Writing Wildlife', published in *Aviskaar: A Xavierian Journal of Research*, 'vol.8, Jan 2016, pp.57- 60. (ISSN: 2277-8411).

'Simple Rhymes for Stirring Times': Women's Poetry, Politics and the First World War (1914-1918) published in *Efflorescence*, peer reviewed journal of the Department of English, Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya. Issue 5, 2015 (ISSN 22783873), pp.9-25.

'Memory and Remembrance: Women's Elegies of the First World War (1914-18)' published in *The Lincoln Humanities Journal*, Fall 2015, Volume 3, pp.13- 25. (Published by the Lincoln University, U.S.)

'Poetics of Resistance: HD's *Sea Garden*', published in the international journal *The War Poetry Review: The Journal of the War Poets Association 2014-2015* (ISSN 1753-9463), pp.52-58.

'European Travel Writing, British Romantic Poetry and "Vale of Cashmere"' published in '*Aviskaar: A Xavierian Journal of Research*', vol.6, 2014, pp.54-59. (ISSN: 2277-8411).

'Teachers and Tradition: Teaching English Literature in Kolkata' published in *Bangabasi Academic Journal* (ISSN 2249-0655) 2012-13, pp. 31-36.

'The War Poems of May Sinclair' published in '*Aviskaar: A Xavierian Journal of Research*', vol.3, 2011, pp.62-70.

'Where the Mind is Without Fear' published in *The Indian Messenger*, Issue 2011, pp. 14-18.

The essay 'Christ in Flanders: The Religious Sensibility of Wilfred Owen' published in *Appropriations: Journal of the Department of English, Bankura Christian College, Bankura, December 2009* (Volume 5, ISSN 0975-1521).

Book review of 'Writer and their Work' series on *Anita Desai* and *Sashi Deshpande* for the journal *Textual Practice* (Routledge Journal, Francis & Taylor), June 2007.

'Went to war with Rupert Brooke, Came Home with Siegfried Sassoon': The Poetic Fad of the First World War.' Published in the international journal (peer reviewed) 'Working with English', Summer 2006, (ISSN 1740-8547) the journal of the Department of English, Nottingham University, U.K.

'Femininity in Endymion' published in the International journal 'Keats and Shelley Review' (annual journal of Keats and Shelley Association, UK), vol. 16, 2002. (ISSN 0952-4142)

Paper presentations in various seminars / conferences

Presented an illustrated research paper entitled 'The Starry Night: Reading Poetry through Painting' at a Seminar cum Workshop on 'Teaching Literature with the Audio-visual aid of the Other Arts, organised by the Jadavpur University Society for American Studies (JUSAS) on **8th November 2017**.

Delivered PhD course work lectures on 'Romanticism' and 'Modernism' at the Department of English, Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol, West Bengal in **July, September 2017** respectively.

Participated as a panellist in a panel discussion on the contemporary issues in Indian democracy entitled Visions 2017, organised by the BA.General department of St Xavier's College, Kolkata on **18th February 2017** and also moderated a panel discussion organised in **February 2017**, by the Department of Political Science, on 'From Local Cultures to a Global Culture' under *Suffragium 2017*.

Presented a paper 'When you see millions of mouthless dead: Scottish Poetry of the Great War' at an international seminar organised by Department of English, Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol on 'Negotiating Scottish Studies: History, Culture and Identity' on **8th January 2016**.

Gave a keynote address on 'Suicide in the Trenches: British Poetry, Modernism and the First World War (1914-18)' at an UGC sponsored national seminar organised by Department of English, Ashannagar Madanmohan Tarkalankar College on **27th November 2015**.

Presented a paper 'I have rendezvous with death': American Poetry and the Great War at the annual conference of JUSAS on 'War and Creativity: World War I and American Literature, Art and Culture' on **9 March 2015 at Jadavpur University**.

Presented a paper 'Romantic Margins: Revisiting the Oeuvre of Mary Lamb' at the International conference organised by the Centre for Studies in Romantic Literature on **6th February 2015 at Presidency University**.

Gave the inaugural lecture of the Centennial Lecture series on 'Modern British Poetry' on Thursday **10 September 2015 at Ashutosh College, Kolkata**.

Presented a paper entitled 'Do Plants Think?': War Poetry and Pastoral at an international seminar organised jointly by the Departments of English, The Bhawanipur Education Society College and Calcutta University, held on **16th December 2014** at The Bhawanipur Education Society College, Kolkata.

Presented paper at the 'British Poetry of the First World War Conference' on **7th September 2014 at Wadham College, Oxford University**.

Presented paper at 'Objections to War' conference at the **University of Hull on 9th September 2014**.

Presented a paper entitled 'Teaching English Literature in Kolkata: Past, Present and the Future' as Dean of Arts, St Xavier's College, Kolkata at a **UGC sponsored State Level Seminar** on 'Reading English in Kolkata: Past, Present and Future', held on **28th March 2012**, organised by Department of English, Bangabasi College, Kolkata.

Presented a paper entitled 'Collective Memories of the Civil War in American Poetry and Painting' at a JUSAS seminar organised at Jadavpur University, Department of English on **6th March 2012**.

Invitation Lectures delivered on English Romantic Poetry at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira (An Autonomous Residential College under University of Calcutta) Belur Math, Howrah-711202 on **17th and 22nd November 2011** on William Wordsworth and John Keats respectively.

Paper title: 'Beauty in Death': Romantics and Poetry of the Great War. Paper presented at the annual International Conference organised by Centre for Studies in Romantic Literature, Kolkata, at Jadavpur University on **3rd February 2011**.

Paper title: 'Poetry, Politics & Spirituality'. Paper presented at a UGC sponsored national seminar organised by the Department of English, Pondicherry University, on **4th & 5th March 2010**.

Paper title: 'Poetic Space and Private Grief: Psychodynamics of Elegies of the Great War'. Paper presented at a UGC sponsored national conference organised by International College, Jaipur, University of Rajasthan, on **29 & 30th January 2010**.

Paper title: 'Gender and War Literature'. Paper presented as a Resource person at the Annual Seminar on **4th September 2009**, organised by the Department of English, Women's Christian College, Kolkata.

Paper title: 'Et in Arcadia Ego: Pastoral and Poetic Response to the Great War.' Paper presented at a UGC sponsored national seminar organised by the Department of English, Loreto College, Kolkata, **26th & 27th February, 2009.**

Title: 'Inter-war British Poets', Resource person at a seminar organised by the Department of English, Kidderpore College, Kolkata, affiliated to Calcutta University, **23rd March, 2007.**

Paper title: 'Romantic Imagination and the Debatable Land of Kashmir'. Paper presented at the BARS biennial international conference on the theme 'Debatable Lands' held at the **University of New Castle Upon Tyne** on **28th July 2005.**

Paper title: 'The Artist as Nation: Poetry, First World War and Identity'. Presented at the International Conference 'From Self to Shelf' organised by **Balliol College, University of Oxford, 1st July, 2005.**

Paper title: "Went to War with Rupert Brooke, Came Home with Siegfried Sassoon": The Poetic Fad of the First World War." Paper presented at a Conference on 'Literary Fads and Fashions' organised by the Department of English, **University of Nottingham, in November 2004.**

'The War Poetry of Charlotte Mew': paper presented at a conference 'Great War Colloquium' organised by **University of Kent at Canterbury** in **December 2004.**

'Diversity of Colonial Experience in Malgudi: A Study of R.K. Narayan's Fiction', paper presented at UGC sponsored National Seminar on 'Writing India: Texts, Contexts, Theories', organised by **Department of English, Bolpur College, Bolpur, 15-16 November 2002.**

Presented a paper on Shaw's Religion, at a State Level Seminar on George Bernard Shaw, organised by Srijan on **24th November 2001.**

Presented a paper on 'Keats and Gender' at the Annual International Conference of the Centre for Studies in Romantic Literature (CSRL) on **23rd February, 2000.** Besides presentation of paper has been actively involved in organisation of the annual international seminars of CSRL from 1997 till date.

Presented a paper on 'Contemporary British Poetry', at a seminar jointly organised by the British Council and Ramakrishna Sarada Vidya Mahapith, Kamarpukur College, on **3rd February 1999.**

Membership of Literary Societies

Member of CSRL or Centre for Studies in Romantic Literature. An active participant in organising its annual international conferences.

Member of the organising committee of JUSAS or Jadavpur University Society for American Studies.

Miscellaneous Publications

Contributed several poems, short stories and features to various Kolkata based English dailies.

General series editor for Macmillan Publishers India for their compilation of compositions at the Secondary and High Secondary levels: ***Essays and Letters for Winners: Ideas for Creative Writing (2 vols) (Macmillan Publishers, India, 2012).***
