

Shaoni Shabnam

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Postgraduate Department
of Sociology
St. Xavier's College
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Research Interest

Class and Culture; Class and Religion; Indian middle class; Bengali middle class; Intersections of Class, Class, Gender

Education

Degree	College / University / Institute	Specialization	Year of Joining	Year of Completion
PhD	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	Sociology	2009	2016
M.Phil.	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	Sociology	2005	2007
M.A.	University of Pune	Sociology	2003	2005
B.A.	Lady Brabourne College, Calcutta University	Sociology (Hons.)	2000	2003

Thesis/Dissertation

PhD Thesis: "Fashioning Self, Constructing Hegemony: A Study of the Contemporary Bengali Middle Class" (awarded degree in August 2016)

MPhil Dissertation: "Alternative Socialization for Underprivileged Children: A Study of Three NGOs in Kolkata" (awarded in 2007)

Experience

Institute	Position held	Date of Joining	Date of Leaving
St. Xavier's College (Kolkata)	Assistant Professor	Jan 2017	Continuing
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	Research Associate at Dept of Humanities & Social Sciences	Jan 2016	June 2016
Tata Institute of Social Sciences Mumbai	Research Assistant at Adecco-TISS Labour Market Research Initiative project at the Dept. of Mgmt & Labour Studies	July 2007	June 2009

Publications

- Shabnam S. (2021) ‘Doing Good, Being Political: Middle Class *Bhadralok* Narratives from Neoliberal India’, in Manish K. Jha & Pushpendra (Eds.) *Beyond Consumption: India’s New Middle Class in the Neo-Liberal Times*, by Routledge India. ISBN 9780367565718
- Shabnam S. (2018) ‘In Defence of *Sustho Sanskriti* (Healthy Culture): Understanding Bengali Middle Classness in Neoliberal India’ in *History and Sociology of South Asia*, Vol. 12, No. 1, pp. 48--64. DOI: 10.1177/2230807517741794
- Shabnam S. (2015) “Claiming ‘Bengali Middle Class-ness’ through ‘Social Sensitivity’: The Case of the Durgapur Steel Plant Township, West Bengal” in Lancy Lobo & Jayesh Shah (Eds.) *The Trajectory of India’s Middle Class: Economy, Ethics and Etiquette*, Cambridge Scholars Publication, U.K.
- Shabnam S. (2012) ‘The Indian Middle Class, the State and Development: An enquiry into the broad claims of shifts in Neo-liberal India’ in *Inclusive*, Issue 1.
- <www.theinclusive.org>
- Shabnam S. (with Bino Paul GD & Sony Pellissery *et al*) (2008). ‘Educational Attainment of Youth and Implications for Indian Labour Market: An Exploration through Data’ in *Indian Journal of Labour Economics*, Conference issue, Vol. 51, No. 4, pp.813—830.
- Shabnam S. (with Pellissery S.), (2008). ‘Microfinance Globalization’ in Reddy V. & Charyulu Y.(Ed.) *Indian Agriculture: Challenges of Globalization*, New Delhi: New Century Publications.

Publications in Newspapers:

- Shabnam, S. ‘Power and Perversity’, The Telegraph, July 13, 2020.
- Shabnam, S. ‘Dual Burden: Women and Domestic Space’, The Telegraph, September 25, 2020.
- Shabnam, S. ‘Tumpa and the *bhadralok*’, The Telegraph, April 7, 2021.

Papers Presented at International/National Conferences/Seminars:

- *Doing Good, Being Political: Understanding the ‘Old Middle Class’ in Contemporary Bengal* presented at the National Seminar on “Experiences, Aspirations and Struggles: New Middle Class in Indian Cities” held at TISS, Mumbai on 26th and 27th July, 2018.
- *In Defence of Sustho Sanskriti (Healthy Culture): Understanding Bengali Middle Class-ness in Neoliberal India* presented at the international seminar on ‘The Middle Class in World Society’ held at ISEC (Institute of Social and Economic Change), Bangalore, on 16th and 17th December, 2016.
- *Middle class Hegemony and Distinction: An Ethnographic Exploration in West Bengal, India* presented at the ‘How Class Works’ 2014 Conference held at State University of New York at Stony Brook, USA from 5-7 June, 2014.
- ‘*Bengali Middle Class’ and its Political-ideological Standpoint in a Neo-liberal Developing Nation: Voices from two cities in West Bengal, India* selected for presentation at the Second International Conference on Middle Class titled ‘The Middle Class as the Precondition for Stability of Society: Fifteen Years Later’ organized by Bulgarian Sociological Society at Sofia, Bulgaria on the 3rd and 4th December, 2013.
- *The Making of the Contemporary Bengali ‘Middle class’ and the Ideological Lineages of ‘Bhadralok’* presented at the colloquium on “Middle Class” organized by the department of Humanities and Social

Sciences, IIT Bombay on 30th April and 1st May, 2012.

- *Towards Re-thinking the 'Middle Class': an exploration*, presented at the national conference on Literary and Cultural Studies, Researchers at Work Conference, 2011 at Hyderabad Central University, on September 23rd, 2011.
- *Finishing school in retail*, coauthored with ATLMRI research team, presented at conference on “Finishing school: A solution to Employability?” at TISS, Mumbai on July 11, 2008.

- *Is the 'social' in microfinance washed away with Globalization*, co-authored with Dr Sony Pellissery, presented at national conference on Emerging Trends in Global Economy: Post-Globalization Dimensions at Kakatiya University, Andhra Pradesh on 3rd & 4th Nov, 2007.

Invited papers/talks/teaching:

- *Fashioning Self, Building Hegemony: The Curious Case of the Bengali Middle Class*, talk based on PhD research work, presented at the National Law School of India University, Bangalore as part of CSSEIP Special Lecture Series on 18th March 2016.
- *Claiming "Bengali Middle Class-ness" through Social Sensitivity: The Case of Durgapur Steel Plant Township, West Bengal* presented at the National Conference on Middle class titled 'Tracking the Growth of India's Middle Classes' organized by the Centre for Culture and Development at Vadodara, Gujarat on the 27th, 28th and 29th November 2013.
- Presented guest lectures on invitation at the department of Management and Labour Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai; at the department of Sociology, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai and at the department of Sociology, Ramkrishna Sarada Mission Vivekananda Vidyabhavan, South Dumdum, Kolkata.

Seminar/Conferences organized:

- Organized a National Webinar on "Privilege and the 'New Normal' of COVID-19 in India" on behalf of the Post-graduate Department of Sociology at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata on 7th October 2020.

Online teaching:

- Conducted 8 modules of a UG course titled "Introduction to Sociology I" coordinated by Dr. Sarbani Bandyopadhyay, Assistant Professor, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) as part of UGC-MOOC produced by EMMRC, St. Xavier's College for the July-August 2021 semester.

Contribution to Course Development

1. Framed the new UGC curriculum of Choice-based Credit System introduced in 2017 along with colleagues and framed the Core courses on Social Stratification, Indian Society, Research Methods I.
2. Framed the curriculum for the Masters in Sociology Programme introduced from July, 2020 at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) Kolkata. The specific courses framed include Core Courses of Classical Sociological Thinkers and Contemporary Sociological Thinkers; Class and Intersectionality; Sociology of Power; Urban Sociology (Optional Courses).

Teaching Experience

Serial No	Title of course taught	Postgraduate or Undergraduate	Sole instructor or with others
1.	Sociological Theory	Undergraduate	Sole Instructor/Co-Instructor
2.	Introducing Sociology	Undergraduate	Co-Instructor
3.	Introducing India	Undergraduate	Co-Instructor
4.	Social Stratification and Mobility	Undergraduate	Co-Instructor
5.	Research Methods	Undergraduate	Co- Instructor
6.	Sociology of Everyday Life	Undergraduate	Co- Instructor
7.	Sociology of Development and Globalisation	Undergraduate	Co- Instructor
8.	Social Institutions	Undergraduate	Co-Instructor
9.	Sociology of Religion	Undergraduate	Co-Instructor
10.	Classical Sociological Thinkers	Postgraduate	Co-Instructor
11.	Journey and Cultures of Capital	Postgraduate	Co-Instructor
12.	Contemporary Sociological Thinkers	Postgraduate	Co-Instructor

Mentoring/Supervision

Have been supervising 10 to 14 undergraduate dissertations (of 100 marks) per year, the summary versions of the best dissertations get published in our annual departmental journal “Young Sociologist”. Also, currently supervising 3 PG dissertations.

Awards

- Teaching Assistant scholarship for M.Phil in the Dept. of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT, Bombay for the period 2005-7
- Teaching Assistant scholarship for PhD in the Dept. of Humanities & Social Sciences, IIT, Bombay for the period 2009-2013
- UGC-NET JRF, awarded in December 2013

Other academic engagements:

Reviewer at *Irish Journal of South Asian Studies*, an online peer-reviewed journal since January 2018.

Extra-curricular activities:

- Former member of “Pankhudi” an NGO working for under privileged children in Mumbai
- Other interests: playing the piano, acting in plays, reading, sketching, listening to music

