Departmental Profile

History

Introduction

The Department of History is one of the oldest departments of the University of Burdwan. It came into being in 1960 with Prof. S.B. Chaudhury, the eminent historian as the Departmental Head. The faculty was impressive from the very beginning. Prof. Sumit Sarkar, Prof. Barun De, Prof. Rajat Dutta, Prof. Partha Sarathi Gupta, Prof. Diptendra Banerjee, Prof. Ranabir Chakravarty, Prof. Chittabrata Palit, Prof. Ramakanta Chakraborty, Prof. B.D. Chattopadhyay and many other historians have graced the department in the past. The department offers Masters and M.Phil courses and research programme leading to Ph.D. degree. The current student strength in Post-Graduate courses is 167 in each semester. The approved faculty strength of the department in total is 11 (2 Professors, 4 Associate Professors, 5 Assistant Professors). At present, the current faculty in position is 9 (3 Professors, 3 Associate Professors and 3 Assistant Professors). We also have 3 office-staff in the department at present.

I. DRS/SAP under UGC

The University Grants Commission had sanctioned Rs. 33 lakh (non-recurring 10 lakh + recurring 23 lakh) to the Department of History, the University of Burdwan at DRS level-I for five years from April 2007 to March 2012 under the Special Assistance Programme (SAP). The department takes pride in successfully completing the programme and achieving an upgradation to level-II under the same programme from the UGC. We have been sanctioned a grant of Rs. 53 lakhs for the period from 2013 to 2018 in the second phase under UGC SAP Level-II.

The thrust area of the DRS programme during the first phase was ‘Life and Culture in Bengal: Colonial and Post-colonial Times’ which was divided into five sub-themes ---- i) the bhadralok: their rise, decline and survival, ii) the women: in search for agency in history, iii) the tribals: caught between preservation and assimilation, iv) disease, medicine and society, and v) history of Rarh. In the second phase at DRS level-II the thrust area is Life & Culture in Bengal: From Pre-Modern to Contemporary Times.
II. Visiting Professors & Fellows

We invited Visiting Professors and Fellows from amongst eminent scholars in the country and aboard on the basis of their availability under DRS programme. We were fortunate enough in having the following scholars as our Visiting Professors and Fellows during the last five years (2009 -2014).

1. Professor Deepak Kumar, ZHCES, JNU, New Delhi
2. Dr. Subhayu Chattopadhyay, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan
3. Dr. Projit Palit, Assam University, Silchar
4. Dhrub Kumar Singh, Banaras Hindu University
5. Professor Sujata Mukherjee, Rabindra Bharati University
6. Professor Chandi Prasad Nanda, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack,
7. Prof. Suchibrata Sen, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan
8. Prof. Sandip Basu Sarbadhikari, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan
9. Dr Hitendra Kumar Patel, Rabindra Bharati University, Calcutta
10. Dr. J N Sinha, Rajdhani College, New Delhi
11. Professor Parasnath Singh, Banaras Hindu University
12. Prof. Bipasha Raha, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan

III. Seminar/Workshop/Symposium

The department has been involved in organizing seminars, workshops and conferences at national and international levels since inception. Mentioned below is the list of seminars taking place in the department during the last five years (2009-2014).

- A one-day National seminar on *State and Society in India* held on April 8, 2010.
- DRS National Seminar on *Rethinking Bengal: Structure, Agency and Paradigm* held on February 24-25 2011.
• Seminar organized by the Dept. of History in collaboration with M. Phil Programme on Women Studies, B.U., on the 150th birth centenary of Kadambini Ganguly on *Women: Education, Disease, Health, and Medicine* on March 6, 2011.

• 2-day International Seminar on *Bangladesh Liberation War: Implication in Contemporary History*, organized by the Dept. of History in collaboration with MAKAIAS and ICSSR on March 16-17, 2011.


• International Seminar on *India’s Look East Policy* held on 18-19 Dec. 2013, organized by the department of History in collaboration with the *Indian Council of Historical Research*.

The Department also organized some Endowment Lecture Programes during the same period. Some of the eminent historians of the country were invited to deliver those endowment lectures.

• Professor V R Muraleedharan, IIT, Madras, initiated the Dr. U N Brahmachari Memorial Lecture on *Malady in Madras: A Study in Rockefeller Intervention* on 19 December, 2008.

• Professor Chittabrata Palit delivered the Dr. U N Brahmachari Memorial Lecture on 22nd December, 2011 on ‘Felix Carey’.

• The Department also organized Professor J N Sarkar Memorial Lecture. The opening lecture of this series was delivered by Professor Irfan Habib. Professor Tanika Sarkar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi spoke on ‘*Agun Khaki: The Debates on Immolation of Women in Colonial India*’ on 21st December 2010.

Departmental Talks:
• Professor Kuntala Lahiri-Dutt, Australia National University visited our Department on 24th December, 2010, and she delivered a talk on ‘History of Gender: A Review on Methodology’.

• Professor Sekhar Bandyopadhyay, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand delivered a Special Lecture on ‘Writing Dalit into the Narratives of Partition in Bengal’, in the Department of History under UGC-SAP-DRS Programme on December 13, 2011.

• Professor Mahbubur Rahman, Director, Institute of Bangladesh Studies, Rajshahi University, on “Nature and Trends of Historical Studies in Contemporary Bangladesh” on 27 January, 2011.

• Professor Biman Chand Prasad, Dean, School of Business and Economics, University of South Pacific, on “Indian Diaspora in Fiji: Political and Economic Security” on 2 November, 2011.

IV. Project (Major & Minor)

Teachers of the department are engaged in their individual capacity in various research activities along with the DRS. Their publications are testimonies to their research activities in different fields.

V. Departmental Publications & Journal

The department has been publishing its Journal titled History every year since 1997, which has recently been raised to the status of a refereed journal with ISSN Number. The latest issue of the departmental Journal History Vol. XII is in the press and will be published very soon. The department has also published two Proceedings Volume entitled Life & Culture in Bengal: Colonial & Post-Colonial Experiences and The Revolt of 1857: Memory, Identity, History based on the deliberations of different resource persons who have attended DRS National Seminars in different years during 2007-2012.

VI. Syllabus Revision
The department of History has been involved periodically in revising the syllabi and course-structure of both the under-graduate and post-graduate courses as per the guidelines set by the UGC. A major revision was made in the course structure at the post-graduate level in 2005 in order to make it compatible with the emerging fields of study. In 2014 we have undertaken a massive revision of our post graduate courses and have introduced credit-based system (CBS) of evaluation. We have tried to revise our M.A. syllabi with wholesome and integrated approach with emphasis on the following thrust areas: historiography and methodology; socio-economic and cultural history of India; women’s history; history of the artisans and peasants, history of science, technology, environment and medicine (HISTEM); local history or history of South-West Bengal, etc. Revision of the under-graduate syllabi is also under process.

VII. Students Achievements in NET/SET/ Examinations & Ph.D.

Keeping in view the need to impart training in NET/SET examinations the department has been organizing NET/SET and remedial coaching for students. The success rates of students in NET/SET examinations have gone up recently, thanks to the multiple-choice objective-type pattern of the test. However, in the absence of any mechanism to maintain the record of students qualifying in such examinations, around 10 students if not more (as per unofficial information) have been reported to have qualified NET/SET examinations during the last five years 2009-2014.

The department also strives for excellence in research. The following students have been awarded Ph.D. degree in history during the last five years (2009-2014).


4. Pradip Mandal, in 2011, Manbhumer Bhasha-Andolan O Jela Puruliar Paschim-Bangabhuki,


A good number of registered research scholars are currently working for their PhD degrees in the department.

**VIII. Alumni Association**

Our alumni association comprises a long list of individuals successful in different professional fields. They serve in various professions as wide-ranging as in teaching profession, as librarians and in different administrative services. However, though majority of them are teachers serving in different academic institutions like universities, colleges and schools of the state, a handful few have joined various administrative posts. A short list of members with experience in administrative job and university teaching is only given below-

1. Mr. Sandhi Mukherjee, Former ACP, WBP
2. Nabani Dey, WBCS Executive Officer, West Bengal
3. Goutam Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, SKBU
4. Dr. Mrinal Chattopadhyay, Principal, Kankra College
5. Dr. Debabrata Ghosh, Principal, Balaparh College
6. Prof. Achintya Dutta, Professor of History, B.U.
7. Prof. Pradip Chattopadhyay, Professor of History, B.U.
8. Dr. Malabika Ray, Associate Professor of History, B.U.
9. Dr. Binata Sarkar, Assistant Professor of History, B.U.
IX. Faculty Publications in last five years (2009-14)

Research and publication have always received a special attention in the department.

Prof Arabinda Samanta

Books:


Book Chapters:


Papers:


Review Article


Prof. Achintya Kumar Dutta

Articles in journals:


Articles in Books:


Book Review:


Prof. Pradip Chattopadhyay


Book Chapters


Mr. Sudit Krishna Kumar

- **Book chapter**

- **Singly edited journal**

Dr. Malabika Ray

Book Chapters-


Dr Syed Tanveer Nasreen

a) **Edited Volumes**

   Jointly Edited

   i) Arabinda Samanta, Arup Chattopadhyay, Syed Tanveer Nasreen (eds) : *The Revolt of 1857 Memory Identity History*, Kolkata, 2009

**Singly Edited**

i) HISTORY, Vol XI, 2012 ISSN

b) **Translated Autobiography** (annotated text):


**Refereed Journals:**


**Proceedings Volume:**


**Research Publication:**

ii) ‘Voices from two Villages’, in Jasodhara Bagchi and Subhorajan Dasgupta (ed.) The Trauma and the Triumph Gender and Partition in Easteen India Vol. 2, Kolkata 2009


**Book Reviews:**


**Dr. Aparajita Dhar**

**List of Articles**


3. *Western Gynaecology and Bengali Male Physicians* in Clio Published by the Corpus Research Institute, Kolkata, 2010.

Dr. Binata Sarkar

Book chapter


Proceeding Volume


Dr. Suvobrata Sarkar (Joined on 22nd July, 2014)

Article in Peer-reviewed International Journal: