

Dr. Supurna Banerjee
IDSK
27/D, DD Block, Sector I, Salt Lake
Kolkata 700064.
Email: banerjee.supurna@gmail.com
Ph: +919830469422

Education

- 2009-2014** PhD in Sociology in University of Edinburgh on *Nurturing Resistance: Agency and Activism of Women Tea Plantation Workers in Plantation Spaces* (including course work)
- 2006-2008** MA in Political Science with **first class** from University of Calcutta. Ranked second in Political Science from University of Calcutta.
- 2003-2006** BA in Political Science with **first class** from Presidency College (now University). Ranked second in Political Science from University of Calcutta.

Work Experience

- December 2014-present** Assistant-Professor in the Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata.
- July 2014-December 2014** Post-doctoral fellow in the Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata

Job Description:

Working on the research component for the Indian Council of Social Science Research funded project on 'Trade Union and Collective Bargaining in West Bengal'. Under the broader theme of Urban Labour Markets, this project traces the process of transformation in industrial relations over the period of liberalisation through the changing role of the trade unions, government and business. The project is based on data collection through archival work as well as designing and conducting surveys and interviews.

- September 2013-April 2014** Course organiser, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Edinburgh

Job Description:

Designing the course modules and organising lectures and tutorials for advanced undergraduate courses.

- *South Asia: History, People and Politics.*
- *South Asia: Local and Global Identities.*

- January 2013-January 2014** Project Manager and Administrative Assistant (part time), Edinburgh India Institute, University of Edinburgh

Job description:

Managing project funding, organising workshops and providing logistical assistance to the sub-projects under the Economic and Social Research Council funded project on Advances in Research on Globally Accessible Medicine (AROGYAM) held by University of Edinburgh; South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University; Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health, Jawaharlal Nehru University; Achutha Menon Centre for Health Science Studies, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for

Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum. Administrative support for the various events organised by the Edinburgh India Institute and looking into interdisciplinary research projects. Responsible for the Edinburgh India Institute website creation and maintenance.

September 2013-January 2014 Senior Tutor, School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Edinburgh

Job Description:

Organising and delivering tutorials for the Honours course *South Asia Culture, Politics and Economics*. Also responsible for essay marking.

September- December 2012 Guest lecturer, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh.

Job Description:

Delivered lectures on

- “Gender and Development” in the Honours course on *South Asia and International Development*.
- “Media and the Indian State” in the Honours course on *South Asia: Culture, Politics and Economics*.

January 2011-September 2013 Graduate Tutor, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh.

Job Description:

Designing and delivering weekly seminars on undergraduate course and marking essays.

- *Social and Political Enquiry 2*.
- *South Asian Studies: History, People and Politics*.
- *Sociology IA*.

January 2010-September 2010 Graduate Tutor, School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh

Job Description:

Designing and delivering weekly seminars on undergraduate courses and marking essays.

- *Social and Political Enquiry 2*.
- *Social and Political Theory 2*.

2008-2009 Research Associate, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Kolkata.

Job Description:

Researching on one strand of the Indian Council for Social Science Research project on *Women and Borders in South Asia*. Carrying out on field research through interviews and participant observation and writing papers on the “Lives of women in an enclave society” in enclaves in Nadia, West Bengal.

2007 Student Researcher, Department of International Relations of Jadavpur, University, Kolkata

Job Description:

Completed project titled “Socio-political Integration of East Bengal Refugees in Calcutta: a case study of Bijoygarh”, carrying out primary research.

Grants and Scholarship

- 2013 A grant from Foundation Scotland Fran Trust to cover travel and living expenses for paper presentation in British Association of South Asian Studies conference in the University of Leeds.
- 2013 £1200 grant from Centre for South Asian Studies Postgraduate Scholarship in recognition of achievement and as a contribution towards living expenses.
- 2012 £500 grant from Gilchrist Educational Trust for assistance towards PhD writing up.
- 2012 £600 grant from Charles Wallace India Trust as a cost towards completion of the PhD.
- 2012 £300 from Roger and Sarah Bancroft Clark Charitable Trust as a cost towards writing up phase of PhD.
- 2012 British Sociological Association Conference fund to cover travel and living expenses for paper presentation at the European Conference on South Asian Studies in University Institute of Lisbon.
- 2009-2012 College Scholarship from College of Humanities and Social Science, University of Edinburgh to cover the tuition fees at Home/EU rate.
- 2009-2012 University of Edinburgh Overseas Research Scholarship covering the difference between International Fees and Home/EU fees.
- 2009 £2000 from the Department of Sociology as Postgraduate bursary.
- 2009 £5000 grant from JN Tata Endowment Fund as contribution to living expenses during PhD.

Awards and Prizes

- 2014 Nominated for Postgraduate Tutor Award from the School of Social and Political Science, University of Edinburgh.
- 2009-2012 Certificate of Honour awarded by the Principal of University of Edinburgh for securing Scottish Overseas Research Scholarship.
- 2008 Certificate of Honour: Lilabati Roy Memorial Prize from Presidency College, Kolkata for securing highest marks in Political Science MA Part II exams, from the college.
- 2006 Order of Merit from University of Calcutta for securing 2nd position in Political Science BA exams.
- 2006 Certificate of Honour: Rajendra Kishor Memorial Prize, Nitish Chandra Chakroborty Memorial Prize, Chandan Kumar Bhattacharyya Memorial Prize from Presidency College, Kolkata for securing highest marks in Political Science BA exams from the college.
- 2006 Certificate of Honour from Political Science Institute, Department of Political Science, Presidency College, Kolkata for securing highest marks in Political Science BA Part II exams.
- 2005 Certificate of Honour: Netaji Subhash Ch Bose prize from Presidency College, Kolkata for securing highest marks in Political Science BA Part I exams.
- 2005 Certificate of Honour from Political Science Institute, Department of Political Science, Presidency College, Kolkata for securing highest marks in Political Science BA Part I exams.

Research interests

My primary research interest is gender more specifically women studies. My doctoral thesis offers an analysis of labour relations and social space in the tea plantations of north-east India. I have looked at

how the women workers are placed in a subordinate position in both the domestic and the work sphere which are legitimised through gender discourses along with caste, religious and other intersectional identities. Moving away from the prevailing victimhood narrative I argue that the women in spite of and within their position of disadvantage continue to be agents. Not all these acts of agency can be understood as emancipatory, rather they need to be studied in the context of patriarchal and capitalist domination prevalent in the tea plantations. I am currently involved in a project which traces industrial relations through the triad of state, capital and labour. As a part of this I have undertaken extensive research on the trajectory of labour disputes and the legal framework within which it operates. My earlier research projects have dealt with the ideas of borders and how they are often inscribed on and through the women's bodies. I have interrogated what the concepts of belonging and integration signifies in the everyday life of the women. My other interests include migration, media and films, urban spaces, religion and activism.

Administration and Organisation

In addition to my experience as Administrative Assistant and Project manager mentioned above, I have experience of organising a conference on “**Women and Borders**” (2009) while working as a Research Associate in Calcutta Research Group. I have also organised three major workshops in the University of Edinburgh as a PhD student. **The South Asian Anthropological Group (SAAG 2012), AROGYAM Kick off workshop (2013), UKERI-ESRC workshop on Institutionalising Marginal Actors: Policies, Practices, Processes and Pitfalls (2013)** and **ESRC workshop on Caste and Politics in Contemporary Tamil Nadu (2013)**. All these workshops had attendees from different universities not just in Europe but also South Asia. Alongside the academic content of the workshops, I was responsible for the logistical and administrative side too. All the workshops were completed within budget and were great successes. Also AROGYAM workshop brought together not only academics from the Social Science background but also from Global Health and Mental Health as well as medical practitioners. I liaised with other departments, other universities and in many cases with professionals outside the university. As a Senior Tutor and Course organiser I have had to liaise with academic staff and tailor the lectures in a way that suited their timetables and the course also followed a chronological order. I have also been actively involved in the Sociological Society of the University of Edinburgh and have organised various events for them, I have also been engaged in organising events with the International Office such as the International Office Calling Campaign, Postgraduate Open Day, Namaste Edinburgh.

Professional Membership

2009-present British Sociological Association (BSA)

2010-present European Association for South Asian Studies (EASAS).

2013-present Indian Association of Women's Studies

Language Skills

Language	Reading	Speaking	Writing
English	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
Bengali	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
Hindi	Moderate	Fluent	Moderate
Nepali	Poor	Moderate	-

Papers and Presentations

Published and Forthcoming Articles, Book Chapters and Book reviews

- Accepted for publication A book chapter on “We are still junglis to them: institutionalising marginalities among the Adivasis in Dooars” in edited collection on *Institutionalising Marginal Actors in South Asia: Processes, Policies, Practices and Pitfalls* edited by Hugo Gorringer, Roger Jeffery and Suryakant Waghmore (accepted for publication by Sage Publications).
- Under review "Intersectionality and Spaces of Belonging: Understanding the Tea Plantation Workers in Dooars" for *Sociological Research Online*.
- Under review “The Silence behind the slogans: Understanding Activism in the life of women in the tea plantations of Dooars” in special issue on *Private Lives and Public Protests: ethnographic, archival and autobiographical narratives of women activists* edited by Patricia Jeffery and Radhika Govinda.
- Under review “‘We were not getting our rights and facilities’: Understanding Everyday Activism of Women Workers” in *Contributions to Indian Sociology*.
"Intersectionality and Spaces of Belonging: Understanding the Tea Plantation Workers in Dooars" for *Sociological Research Online*.
- 2009 Review of Ravinder Kaur’s “Since 1947: Partition Narratives among Punjabi Migrants of Delhi” (Oxford University Press 2007) published in *Refugee Watch* (Issue 34).
- 2009 Review of Michel Warchawski’s *On the Border* (Pluto Press, 2005) in *Refugee Watch Online* (www.mcrg.ac.in) June 2009.
- 2007 “Theories of Civil Society” published in academic journal *Student* of University of Calcutta in 2007.
- 2007 Project report on “Socio-political Integration of East Bengal Refugees in Calcutta: a case study of Bijoygarh”, under the *Student Attachment Programme* under the Department of International Relations of Jadavpur University, Kolkata in March 2007.

Work in progress

Monograph

‘*When Survival is a struggle*’: *Women’s Agency and Labour in Dooars Tea Gardens* to be submitted for consideration by Routledge Edinburgh South Asia series.

Articles

"Intersectionality and Spaces of Belonging: Understanding the Tea Plantation Workers in Dooars" for *Sociological Research Online*.

“Narratives of Belonging: A Study of Inter-generational oral histories,” for *Oral History*.

“Researching Women in South Asia: How much can we apply the ethical forms to the fieldwork?” with Dr. Feyza Bhatti for *Ethics*.

“The High Court and Collective bargaining: a case study of Calcutta High Court judgments 1994-2014” with Dr. Zaad Mahmood (journal unconfirmed).

Conference papers

- February 2015 Invited for Summer Academy workshop “Work in Post-slavery Societies; Gender and Generations’ organised by IGK Work and Human Life Cycle in Global History, Humboldt University and University Cheikh Anta Diop Dakar, Senegal in Dakar, Senegal.
- December 2014 “Judicial intervention and industrial relations: exploring industrial disputes cases in West Bengal” in panel presentation in Indian Study of Labour Economics annual conference in BITS, Meshra.
- April 2014 “‘Write about our struggles too’: Conducting inter-personal social research with women” invited talk in Ambedkar University Delhi.
- April 2014 “‘I can survive’: (Re)interrogating Victimhood”, invited talk in Centre for Women Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University Delhi.
- March 2014 “‘We are women, how will we have such brute strength?’ Gendered Space and ‘natural’ labour in tea plantations” invited talk in Centre for Women’s Development Studies Delhi.
 “How long can we keep quiet while we see our children going hungry”: understanding everyday politics among tea plantation women in Dooars in seminar on *Gender, Society and Politics* organised by Council for Political Studies and Rabindra Bharati University Women’s Studies Centre in Kolkata.
- February 2014 “‘We were not getting our rights and facilities at the right time’: Understanding everyday activism among the women workers of Dooars tea plantation.” in XIV National Conference on Women’s Studies on Equality, Pluralism and the State: Perspectives from the Women’s Movement organized by the Indian Association of Women Studies in Guwahati University.
- September 2013 “We are still junglis to them: institutionalising marginalities among the Adivasis in Dooars” in the UKERI-ESRC funded project conference on *Institutionalising Marginal Actors in South Asia: Processes, Policies, Practices and Pitfalls* in the University of Edinburgh.
- April 2013 “The Silence behind the slogans: Understanding Activism in the life of women in the tea plantations of Dooars” in the panel *Private Lives and Public Protests: ethnographic, archival and autobiographical narratives of women activists* in British Association of South Asian Studies (BASAS) annual conference.
- September 2012 “Spaces of belonging: identity and group formation among women workers in tea plantations in India” in *Sixth European PhD workshop on South Asian studies* organized by Lund University.
- September 2012 “We cannot be touched: Understanding Women’s activism in tea plantations in Dooars, India” in *South Asian Anthropological Group (SAAG) workshop on Persons, Bodies and State in South Asia: Changing Concepts and Relations* held in University of Edinburgh.
- July 2012 “The language of poverty and the rhetoric of protest: the story of women’s agency in the tea plantations of Dooars, India” in panel on *New subalterns? Marginalization and resistance in contemporary India* in the 22nd European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS) Lisbon.
- May 2012 “Identity and Belonging: the perception of group-formation among the women workers of Tea plantations in Dooars, India” in conference on *Intersectionality and Spaces of Belonging* in Bangor University.
- 2010 “Gender, Space and Women” to the *New Directions in Sociology PG Conference*, University of Edinburgh.
 “Lives on Border: Women’s everyday life in an Indian enclave” in ICSSR (Indian Council for Social Science Research) funded conference on *Women and Borders in South Asia*.

Other competencies

IT	Proficient in using qualitative data analysis software Atlas ti and adequate ability to use quantitative data analysis software SPSS at a basic level. Experience of website designing and maintenance. Highly skilled in using MS Words, Excel and Power points.
Project management	Experienced at managing projects with single or multiple participating institutions. Skilled at providing logistical support to projects including checking on and managing the budget, scanning through applications, organising events and communicating with partners.
Communication	Adept at communication at multiple levels. Elected Class Representative for three consecutive years (2004-006) in undergraduate and postgraduate years. Chosen as a member of the International Office, University of Edinburgh's team for Calling Campaign with prospective international students. Selected as student volunteer on Postgraduate Open Day, University of Edinburgh. Also, long experience of tutoring graduate students honed skills of communication. Experienced at communicating with multiple participants and project partners.

References:

1. Prof. Roger Jeffery

Professor of Sociology of South Asia and Dean (International)
 School of Social and Political Science
 University of Edinburgh
 2.04, 7 Buccleuch Place
 Edinburgh EH8 9LD
 Email: R.Jeffery@ed.ac.uk

2. Prof Sobhanlal Dattagupta

S.N. Banerjee Professor of Political Science (retd.)
 Department of Political Science
 University of Calcutta
 13/3/5 Swinhoe Street
 Kolkata-700019
 Email: sobhanlaldattagupta@gmail.com