



ANTHROPOLOGY

BIDHANNAGAR COLLEGE

Govt. of West Bengal

(NAAC Accredited B+ in 2017)

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POST GRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

A Brief History:

The Department of Anthropology was introduced in the year 2008 and the first batch of Anthropology (Hons.) student took admission in 2009 under West Bengal State University, Barasat under (1+1+1) system. From 2018, the college introduced Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) in match with the guidelines of the WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY, BARASAT. The Undergraduate Course in Anthropology include both Core Course and DSE (Departmental Special Elective) Course for students pursuing Anthropology (Hons.) and Generic Course for students pursuing Honours course in other related subjects.

The M.Sc. Course in Anthropology was introduced in the year 2019 under Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) in match with the guidelines of the WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY, BARASAT. The Post Graduate department enjoys Academic Autonomy to conduct the Post Graduate Course in Anthropology. The first 3 batches of M.Sc. students have passed out in the year 2021, 2022 and 2023 with a 100% success record with majority of the students obtaining first class marks.

Academic Specialization:

The Department offers specialization in three specialized sub fields of Anthropology at the Post Graduation level which are:

- a) Biological Anthropology.
- b) Archaeological Anthropology.
- c) Social-Cultural Anthropology.

The Post-Graduate Department also offers opportunities for Active Research at Ph.D. level as two faculties from the Department are enlisted as Ph.D. supervisors under whom 4 NET-Qualified scholars and one young faculty are engaged in Ph.D. work with fellowship from UGC and ICSSR.

Academic Infrastructure:

The Post Graduate department can boast about its infrastructure both from Human and Physical Resources.

(A) HUMAN RESOURCE:

The department provides an excellent blend of senior/experienced faculties and Junior/Young faculties of the rank of Associate Professors and Assistant Professors employed in West Bengal Education Service Cadre under the Government of West Bengal.

Faculty Profile at a Glance

Name	Qualification	Designation	Specialization	Years of experience	No. of M.Sc Dissertation guided in past 4 years	No. of Ph. D/ M. Phil. Students guided for the last 4 years
Bandana Chakrabarti	M.Sc, Ph.D	Associate Professor	Prehistoric Archaeology	32		
Sankhapriya Guha	M.Sc, Ph.D	Associate professor	Social Cultural Anthropology	19	6	2 PhD Research scholars (ICSSR Fellows) under Supervision.
SudesnaChanda	M.Sc, Ph.D	Assistant professor	Biological Anthropology	18	23	
Kaushik Bhattacharya	M.Sc, (Ph.D. Thesis Submitted)	Assistant professor	Social Cultural Anthropology	17	6	
Krishnendu Polley	M.Sc, Ph.D	Assistant professor	Prehistoric Archaeology	16	2	2 PhD Students under Supervision. I UGC-NET Fellow & other Assistant Professor.
KartickChakarborty	M.Sc	Assistant professor	Social Cultural Anthropology	8	6	
Soumita Biswas	M.Sc	Assistant professor	Social Cultural Anthropology	8	4	

Research profile of faculties with publication details (Last Five Years)

Dr. Bandana Chakrabarti:

Area of Research Interest: Palaeoanthropology and Prehistoric Archaeology of West Bengal.

Conferences/ Symposia/ Seminar/ Workshop:

- Workshop on CBCS in the UG Syllabus Organizer: Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, Date: February 2, 2018; February 23, 2018 & April 2, 2018.
- Seminar cum Workshop on 'Fieldwork in Anthropology at the Crossroads' Organizer: Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, Date: March 25 & 26, 2019.
- National Seminar organized by IQAC, Bidhannagar College on Quality Enhancement of Student Centric Teaching Learning and Evaluation Process on November 14-15, 2019.

Dr. SankhaPriyaGuha:

Area of Research Interest:

Urban Anthropology, Anthropology of Space, Medical and Ecological Anthropology.

Research Scholar Details:

Two PhD students are working on Medical Anthropology Anthropology of Space.

List of Publications:

1. Guha S P, 2018. Culture and Anthropology of Space: Theorizing the contemporary urban behaviour among the apartment house dwellers in Kolkata city IN *Journal of the Indian Anthropological Society* Vol. 53 (1):63-84.
2. Guha S. P. 2019. Auto-ethnography of an Anthropology Fieldworker in Two Housing Complexes in the City of Kolkata in India: A Semiotic Study on Anthropology of Space IN *Oriental Anthropologist* Vol. 19 (2):63-84.
3. Guha S. P. and K. Bhattacharya 2020. The Dynamics of Space and Place in the Mountain village of Sillarygaon in Kalimpong District, West Bengal IN *Journal of the Indian Anthropological Society* Vol. 55:25-34.
4. Mandal, R. and Guha, S. P. 2021. Inscribed Space and Occupational Shift: An Anthropological Study from Saltgheri Village of Mousuni Island in South 24 Parganas of West Bengal *Oriental Anthropologist* 1:1-17.

5. Ghosh, S. and Guha, S. P. 2021. The Supernatural Dimension of Health, Disease, Illness, and Healing Practices: An Anthropological Ethnography amongst the Santal Migrants of Mousuni Island and Patibunia in South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India. *Genus Homo* 5:80-96.

6. Ghosh, S. and Guha, S. P. 2021. The Traditional Healing Practices Vis-A- Vis Modern Medicine Among The Santals: An Anthropological Study In Susunia Hill Region Of Bankura And Mousuni Island Of South 24 Parganas, West Bengal. *Man in India* 101(3-4):189-211.

7. Guha S. P. 2022. Architectural Anthropology in Urban Housing Complex: A Spatial Study on the culture construct of a Community Design Architecture IN *Journal of the Anthropological Survey of India* 1:1-18: Sage.

Conferences/ Symposia/ Seminar/ Workshop:

- Human Diversity and Development: From Local to Global. (March, 27-28th, 2017) organized by University of Calcutta.
- Tribal Development in West Bengal. (June, 15th& 16th, 2017) organized by Cultural Research Institute, Govt. of West Bengal.
- Man, Environment and Culture. (Sept, 14, 2017) organized by University of North Bengal International Conference on Indigenous People, Human Security and Sustainable Development: Emerging Challenges in the present Global Context (Jan, 19-21 2018) organized by Commission of Human Rights, IUAES & WBSU.
- Tribal Situation in India: Contemporary Issues and Concerns. (Jan, 29-31 2018) organized by IGNTU, Amarkantak.

- Socio-economic Development of the People in India: Prospects and Challenges (September, 6-8 2019) organized by Institute of Social Research & Applied Anthropology.

Dr. Sudesna Chanda:

Area of Research Interest: Biological Anthropology, Human Genetics and Population Genetics.

List of Publications:

1. Chanda, S. 2020. On the variation of primates head hair: An insight into Primate Evolution; BOOK edited: Lambert Academic Publishing. Republic of Moldova, Europe.
2. Chanda, S. 2021. Covid 19 Pandemic: A biosocial approach of understanding, International Journal of Applied Social Science: Volume 8 (3 – 6): 150-155.
3. Chanda, S. 2021. Side Effects of Covid Vaccines among the Bengali Indian Population: an anthropological report. Lambert Academic Publishing. Republic of Moldova, Europe.
4. Chanda, S. 2021. Covid 19 and pandemic World: An Anthropological Report; chapter in book titled – Science of Covid 19- People and society edited by Atanu Saha, published by Avenel Press Delhi.
5. Chanda, S. 2021, Variation in shaft and medullary diameter in primates head hair. Uttar pradesh journal of zoology. Volume 43(Issue 8).

Conferences/ Symposia/ Seminar/ Workshop:

- International conference of Indigenous people, Human security and sustainable development: Emerging challenges in present global context. 19-21 January 2018.organized by human rights commission, Department of Anthropology, West Bengal state University and Indian Counsel of Medical Research.

- International conference of Indigenous people, Human security and sustainable development: Emerging challenges in present global context. 19-21 January 2018. organized by human rights commission, Department of Anthropology, West Bengal state University and Indian Counsel of Medical Research.
- International webinar on “The emerging Pandemic crisis: Physiological and socio-environmental imperatives. Organized by Physiology Department, Sister Nivedita Government general degree college for girls in association with IQAC on 3rd August 2020.

Kaushik Bhattacharya:

Area of Research Interest: Anthropology of Art, Anthropology of Folklore, Impact of Globalization on Culture, Political Anthropology.

List of Publications:

1. Bhattacharya, K. and A Das. 2021. Madhubani Painting: The Marker of Indian Civilization. International Journal of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS) Volume 26, Issue 1,
2. Bhattacharya K. et. al. 2000. Stigma and Mental Illness: Pilot Study of Laypersons and Health Care Providers with the EMIC in Rural West Bengal, India, International Medical Journal Vol. 7, No. 4
3. Guha S. P. and K. Bhattacharya 2020. The Dynamics of Space and Place in the Mountain village of Sillarygaon in Kalimpong District, West Bengal IN Journal of the Indian Anthropological Society Vol. 55:25-34.

Dr. Krishnendu Polley:

Area of Research Interest:

Experimental Archaeology, Stone tool Analysis, Geo-archaeology, Rock Art Study, Stone Age Archaeology of eastern India.

Research Scholar Details:

Two PhD students are under supervision. One of them is UGC-Senior Research Fellow. One of the PhD student is doing Archaeological exploration in Dulung river valley, eastern India, other is working on Geo-archaeological studies on the Stone Age sites of Kharla river valley, eastern India.

List of Publications:

1. Polley, K., S. Chandra, A. Banerjee. (2017) The Impact of Raw Material Properties on Lithic Debitage Assemblage Variation: An Experimental Assessment in Indian Context, *Man and Environment XLII(1):36-49.*
2. Banerjee, A., K. Polley, A. Makal, B. M. Das. (2017) The Insiders' Experience of an Undergraduate Level Ethnographic Fieldwork Training Program in India, *The Qualitative Report 22(8):2308-2330.*
3. Polley, K. (2017) Preliminary Observations on the Quaternary Sediments and Associated Cultural Remains of the Subarnarekha River Basin, Ghatsila, Eastern India, *Journal of Indian Anthropological Society 52:45-61.*
4. Makal, A., A. Banerjee, K. Polley, B. M. Das. (2018) Continuity and Change among the Koras of Bindukata: An Ethnographic Re-analysis, *Asian Journal of Social Science 46(1-2):52-78, Brill.*
5. Baul, S. K. Polley, K. (in press) Quaternary Sediments and Prehistoric Cultural Remains of Dulung River Valley, Eastern India: A Report. *Journal of India Anthropological Society* accepted for publication.

Conferences/ Symposia/ Seminar/ Workshop:

- UGC Sponsored National Seminar on “Fieldwork and Legacy of T. C. Das organized by Department of Anthropology, Vidyasagar University.
- National seminar on "Bio-Cultural Heritage of Eastern India 28/03/2018 and 29/03/2018 organized by Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta Sponsored by Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology and Biotechnology, Govt of West Bengal.
- International Conference (From 07th to 09th January, 2022) organized by Asiatic Society for Social Science Research, New Delhi.
- National conference Anthropology in 21st Century and Beyond (Feb 9-11, 2022) organized by Department of Anthropology, University of Delhi.

Kartick Chakrabarty:

Area of Research Interest: Anthropology of Religion, Applied and Developmental Anthropology, Gender Studies in Anthropology.

List of Publications:

1. Chakraborty K. (2020) Change in Status of Woman and Economic Empowerment: An Anthropological Understanding. In *Women's Voices Women's Lives*, ed. by Dipankar Nasakar. Offbeat Publishing, Kolkata.

Conferences/ Symposia/ Seminar/ Workshop:

- National Seminar organized by Department of Anthropology, University of Calcutta on Human Diversity and Development: From Local to Global Perspectives, on March, 27-28, 2017.
- Third International Conference jointly organized by *Paschimbanga Anchalik Itihas o Lokosanskriti Charcha Kendra* and Bidhannagar College on July, 1-2, 2017.
- National Seminar organized by Department of Anthropology, Department of Calcutta on Bio-cultural Heritage of Eastern India: Theoria, Praxis and Poesis on March, 28-29, 2018.
- National Seminar organized by Offbeat Publications in collaboration with The Indian Anthropological Society, Banglar Puratatwa Gobesana Kendra, Punyatma Dipak Narayan Dhar-Bhabani Sankar Singha Tarpanashram on Reading of the Changing Faces of Rural and Urban Life on July, 14-15, 2018.
- International Seminar organized by Punyatma Dipak Narayan Dhar-Bhabani Sankar Singha

Tarpanashram in collaboration with the Institute of Social Research and applied Anthropology, the Indian Anthropological Society, Offbeat Publicing, Simli Cure Homeo Research Centre on September 6-7, 2019.

- National Seminar organized by IQAC, Bidhannagar College on Quality Enhancement of Student Centric Teaching Learning and Evaluation Process on November 14-15, 2019.

Soumita Biswas:

Area of Research Interest: Women Studies, Women Empowerment, Rural Democracy.

List of Publications:

1. Biswas, S. (2021) Participation and Empowerment: Women in Local Government of Rural West Bengal, India. In “*Various Dimensions of Women Empowerment in India*” ed by C.B. Bhange, M. Jangir, N.A. Ansari, M. Baig. Bharati Publications, New Delhi.
2. Biswas, S. (2021) Efforts to Promote Women Education by ‘KanyashreePrakalpa’: Reflections from Literature. In “*Emerging Issues in Indian Education*” ed by Sudipta Chakraborty& Suman Atta. N.B. Publications, U.P.

Conferences/ Symposia/ Seminar/ Workshop:

- Workshop on CBCS in the UG Syllabus Organizer: Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, Date: February 2, 2018; February 23, 2018 & April 2, 2018.
- Seminar cum Workshop on ‘Fieldwork in Anthropology at the Crossroads’ Organizer: Department of Anthropology, West Bengal State University, Date: March 25 & 26, 2019.

(B) PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE:

1) LABORATORY:

The department has 2 in-built Laboratories for Biological and Archaeological Anthropology Practical. The laboratories are equipped with modern, specialized digital equipments and other relevant resources for conduct of practical classes.

2) ARCHAEOLOGY/PALAEOANTHROPOLOGICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHY MUSEUM:

The department has one Archaeology/ Palaeoanthropology and Ethnography Museum meant for Demonstration of Raw Materials and Fossil Casts for students for academics at Post Graduation level and research purpose.

3) SEMINAR LIBRARY:

The department can boast of its Seminar Library consisting of more than 100 quality Text Books as well as Reference books. Apart from the Seminar Library, the college also has a resourceful Central library consisting of Numerous Anthropology Books, Periodical and Journals.

4) TECHNICALLY EQUIPPED CLASSROOMS:

The M. Sc Class rooms are provided with technical gadgets like LCD Monitor with Laptop support for seminar based classroom presentation.

AREA OF Ph. D RESEARCH CONDUCTED:

1. Medical Anthropology.
2. Anthropology of Space.
3. Anthropology of Art.
4. Exploratory Archaeology.
5. Anthropology of Religion.

FIELDWORK:

The Department as a Part of the Course Curriculum undertakes Fieldwork at outstation locations (Semester-1, 2 and 3) the expenditure for which has to be borne by the student.

Students irrespective of Specialization have to undertake a Dissertation Project (Semester-4) as per the curriculum the expenditure of which has also to be borne by the student.

ALLOTMENT OF SPECIALIZATION PAPERS:

Specialization papers are to be opted by the concerned student at the beginning of the 3rd Semester.

However, availability of a specialized paper is subject to condition of human resource availability and the performance of the student in the previous Semester Examinations.

DEPARTMENTAL ALUMNI:

The Department in the span of its Under-Graduate (Honours) Course for over a decade has produced Alumni who are place in the field of Higher Education and Research across the country in both Public Sector and Private Sector.

Since the PG course is only able to produce two batch of outgoing students, their achievement status is worth mentioning.

2 PG students of the Department named Swarnali Sarkar (Batch-2021 Pass-out) and Pragya Sona Biswas (Batch 2023) have qualified for UGC-JRF to conduct Ph.D. research.

1 PG student named Supriti Malick (Batch-2022 Pass-out) has been selected as JRF in the Anthropological Survey of India recently.

1 student from PG department, named Sourav Jha (2022-Pass-out) has been able to acquire the position of an Executive at Managerial level in one of the renowned Private Sector Banking Institution in the Country.