

Saikat Mukherjee

Contact Information

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Summary

Erasmus Trainee, Institut für Ur-und Frühgeschichte und Vorderasiatische Archäologie, Universität Heidelberg, Germany; Research Intern, Museo Egizio, Turin, Italy; Postgraduate Member, Royal Historical Society, London; Research Assistant, Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata, India; Contingency Grant Scholar, Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, India; Post Graduate, University of Calcutta, India; Assistant Professorship Awardee by National Testing Agency, University Grant Commission of India.

Work Experience

Institut für Ur-und Frühgeschichte und Vorderasiatische Archäologie

Heidelberg, Germany

Erasmus Trainee

Sep '23- Mar '24

Project:

Salt production and Consumption Patterns in Late Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean and Near East

Main Activities and Responsibilities:

Carry forward a research project on the Salt production and consumption patterns and its salient socio-religious and ethno-economic enterprises prevailed in Late Bronze Age Western Asia as a postgraduate thesis under the affiliation of University of Pavia, Italy and University of Heidelberg, Germany. Besides, assisting the staffs of the Institut für Ur-und Frühgeschichte und Vorderasiatische Archäologie in processing and archiving the documentation of the projects of archaeological fieldwork of the institute.

Tutor:

Prof. Dr Joseph Maran, Head of the Institute for Prehistory, Protohistory and Near Eastern Archaeology, Professor for Prehistory and Protohistory, University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Museo Egizio

Turin, Italy

Research Intern

Mar '23

Project:

Food and Nutrition in Predynastic, Pharaonic and Ptolemaic Egypt

Main Activities and Responsibilities:

Carry forward a research project on the gustatorial and nutritional evolution of the Egyptian diet under the changing socio-economic and religious pattern from the Predynastic to Ptolemaic period. The study is the outcome of an archaeobotanical and archaeozoological investigation based on the architectural and organic remains exhibited at the Museo Egizio (Egyptian Museum) of Turin supplemented by literary evidences

across the Mediterranean world. The study not only envisages the dietary evolution of the Nile Delta between the third and early first millennium BCE but also tries to investigate the supra-Nilotic institutions and their possible interaction with Egypt that made the dietary evolution possible. The study will be transformed into a guided tour and a temporary exhibition at the Egyptian Museum of Turin in 2024/25.

Tutor:

Johannes Auenmueller, Curator, Museo Egizio, Turin, Italy.

Bihar Heritage Development Society

Patna, India

Intern Archaeologist

Jun '22- Jul '22

Archaeological Excavation at Telhara Mahavihara (Buddhist Monastery)

Indian Institute of Management

Kolkata, India

Research Assistant

Aug '21- Jan '22

Assisting Prof. Aditi Bhutoria, Education Economist, Assistant Professor, Public Policy and Management Group.

Main activities and responsibilities:

Carry forward a research project on the history and evolution of educational centres in Early Medieval India (c. 600 CE- 1200 CE). The specimen here is to be the sequestered monastery of Nalanda in eastern India. How was the Buddhist mode of education was different from that of Brahmanical mode? What makes the monastery, as an educational institute and its teaching process, still now relevant? Who were the scholars once associated with the monastery? What did they give to mankind? How their lives were while reading in that monastery? this project deems to see the history of Nalanda as an educational institute by casting away its religious connotations and tries to highlight, and adopt if possible, those aspects which once made the institute distinguishable from its other contemporaries.

Indian Council of Historical Research

New Delhi, India

Contingency Grant Scholar

Jul '21- Jul '22

Appointed as an Independent Researcher

Main activities and responsibilities:

Carry forward a research project on the socio-political identity of regional cuisine. How cultural assimilation shapes food, how it can be a spokesperson to a high supraregional authoritarian aristocracy, how it is being used as a medium of the political embargo; as we perceive in the temple cuisine of Jagannatha, Puri, Odisha, India.

Education and Training

- **Post-Graduation**
Dipartimento degli Studi Umanistici, LM-2, The Ancient Mediterranean World: History Archaeology and Art, Università degli Studi di Pavia [2022- Present].
Dept of Ancient Indian History and Culture, University of Calcutta [2018-2020].
- **Assistant Professorship**
National Testing Agency, University Grants Commission [2019-]

- Aggregate- 56.67% (Percentile Score- 98.1264936).
- **Graduation**
Dept of Ancient Indian and World History, The Sanskrit College and University [2015-2018].
- **Intermediate (12th)**
West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education [2015]
- **Matriculation (10th)**
West Bengal Board of Secondary Education [2013]

Language Competencies

- Bengali
C2 (Native or Bilingual Proficiency)
- English
C2 (Working or Bilingual Proficiency)
- Hindi
C1 (Working or Bilingual Proficiency)
- Sanskrit
B2 (Working Proficiency)
- Italian
A2 (Working Proficiency)
- German
A2 (Working Proficiency)

Specializations Undertaken

Post-Graduation-

- Archaeological Fieldwork Techniques: Topographic Survey and Use of Total Station
Tutor:
Giacomo Casucci, Ph.D, University of Pavia, Italy.
- Dating Methods in Archaeological Science, as Generic Elective, Dept of Archaeology, University of Calcutta, 2020.
- Conceptualizing Archaeobotany and Archaeozoology, as Generic Elective, Dept of Archaeology, University of Calcutta, 2020.
- Introduction to Biomarkers in Archaeology and Sampling Methods, as Generic Elective, Dept of Archaeology, University of Calcutta, 2020.
- Comprehending Geoarchaeology and Environmental Archaeology, as Generic Elective, Dept of Archaeology, University of Calcutta, 2020.
- Introduction to Ethno-Archaeological Studies, as Discipline Specific Elective, Dept of Ancient Indian and World History, University of Calcutta, 2020.
- Brahmanical Religious Culture and Brahmanical Cults, as Discipline Specific Elective, Dept of Ancient Indian History and Culture, University of Calcutta, 2020.
- Heritage and Heritage Preservation, as Generic Elective, Dept of Archaeology, University of Calcutta, 2019.
- Introduction to South Asian Epigraphy, as Discipline Specific Elective, Dept of Ancient Indian History and Culture, University of Calcutta, 2019.
- Writing and Scripts in South Asia, proficiency in Asokan Brahmi and introducing to Kharoshthi, Siddhamatrika and Gauri scripts, as Discipline Specific Elective, Dept of Ancient Indian History and Culture, University of Calcutta, 2019.
- The History of Vedic Religion and Non-Brahmanical Sects, as Discipline Specific Elective, Dept of Ancient Indian History and Culture, University of Calcutta, 2019.

- Reading Sources, Introduction to South Asian Epigraphy, Numismatics and Texts, as Core Course, Dept of Ancient Indian History and Culture, University of Calcutta, 2018.

Graduation-

- Sculptural Art in Early India (up to c. CE 1300), as Core Course, Dept of Ancient Indian and World History, The Sanskrit College and University (erstwhile Sanskrit College), 2018.
- Temple Architecture in Northern and Southern India (up to c. CE 1300), as Core Course, Dept of Ancient Indian and World History, The Sanskrit College and University (erstwhile Sanskrit College), 2018.
- Regional Influences in Temple Architecture: Odisha and Central Indian Architectures, as Core Course, Dept of Ancient Indian and World History, The Sanskrit College and University (erstwhile Sanskrit College), 2018.
- Buddhist Architectures and Monuments, as Core Course, Dept of Ancient Indian and World History, The Sanskrit College and University (erstwhile Sanskrit College), 2018.
- Proficiency accomplished in the Sanskrit Language, as Generic Elective, Dept of Sanskrit, The Sanskrit College and University (erstwhile Sanskrit College), 2015-17.

Networks and Memberships

- **Royal Historical Society** London, United Kingdom
Postgraduate Member Oct '22- Present
- **Istituto Italiano di Cultura** New Delhi, India
Italian Language Trainee Jun '21- May '22
- **School of Languages, The Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture** Kolkata, India
German Language Trainee 2019-2020

Publications

- Mukhopadhyay, Saikat, 'Krishi Dharmabiswas evam Tantra: Darshana, Sadhana O Devata', *Shoptodina* (ISSN 2395 6054), year 6, vol. 1, 2020, p. 62-102.
- Bhowmik, Suvodeep and Mukherjee, Saikat, '*Single Voice Multiple Uplifts: revisiting Anti-Arracks*', published at 5th State Level Students' Seminar of the Ramakrishna Mission Residential College (Autonomous) Narendrapur, Clivoventure, 2020.
- Mukhopadhyay, Saikat, *Jagannatha*, Tramline Books India, Kolkata, 2019.
- Mukherjee, Saikat, '*Women in Sanskrit Literature: From Apala to Shakuntala*', published at 1st State Level Students' Seminar of the Ramakrishna Mission Residential College (Autonomous) Narendrapur, Clivoventure, 2016.
- **Currently Working on**
Mukherjee, Saikat. (ed. and trans.) '*Vyanjana-ratnakara*' of Munshi Muhammadi Khoshnabish, Sri Tarinicharan Gangopadhyaya, Munshi Gholam Rabbani and Sri Narayan Hazra, Kolkata; Tattwabodhini Sabha, 1858.

Conferences Attended

- **Food Matters and Materials: Critical Understandings of Food Cultures**
Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada
Sep 22-25, 2021.
- **Essen Medien Sinne (Food-Media-Senses)**
Institut für Medienwissenschaft, Philipps Universität, Marburg, Germany
Jul 1-2, 2021.

Seminars Attended

- **Literary Foundation of the History of Indian Antiquity: The Epics and the Dharmashastras**
Dept of Ancient Indian History and Culture, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, India
Mar 12, 2021.
- **Clioventure 2020**
5th Annual Seminar
Ramakrishna Mission Residential College (Autonomous) Narendrapur, India.
- **Clioventure 2016**
1st Annual Seminar
Ramakrishna Mission Residential College (Autonomous) Narendrapur, India.

Digital Skills

Microsoft Office | Microsoft Word | Microsoft Excel | Microsoft Powerpoint | Social Media | Skype

Areas of Interest

Food Psychology- especially in the trauma, resilience, and memory of food, Food and behavioral psychology, Pharaonic and Ptolemaic Egypt, Archaeological Aspects of Pharaonic Egypt, Hieroglyph and associated culture, Papyrology, Cultic history and assimilation in Ancient Near East, Indian Gastronomy, Culinary Aspect of Indian Food, Early Indian Food History, Royal and Temple Cuisine in India, Maritime and Inland Relation of Early India with Western and South-East Asian World, Politico-Religious Pattern of Indian Subcontinent (up to c. CE 1300), Cultural Exchange between India and the Western World (up to c. CE 1300), Myths of the Middle East and beyond.