

Dr. Smritikumar Sarkar
Professor and Head
Department of History
UNIVERSITY OF KALYANI
Kalyani – 741 235, West Bengal, India

Personal Data

Permanent Residence : 57/2, B C Chatterjee Street, Kolkata – 700 056, W. Bengal, India
Tel. ® : 91 033 2564 4173 & 91 9433263293
E mail : smri4173@dataone.in & smritikumar.karigar@gmail.com
Academic Qualifications: M A (First Class Third) 1973 & Ph D 1992 from Calcutta University
Recipient of : National Loan Scholarship, DPI Merit Scholarship, UGC Junior Research Fellowship & UGC Teacher Fellowship.
Experience : Teaching since 1977
: Five Years' Administrative Experience as Head of the Department

Specialization & Areas of Research Interest

Social & Economic History of Modern India, Indian Artisans, Blacksmith Tribes, Traditional Technology and Rural Economy & Society,

Academic Status

Research Experience & Specialization

- Three decades' experience of working on the unorganized sector of Indian economy.
- Worked on Indian Artisans, India's Blacksmith Tribes & Traditional Technology.
- Built up an extensive information and knowledge retrieval networks based on Eastern India.
- Language skill: Bengali & Hindi with working knowledge in Oriya and Assamese.

Awarded Major Research Projects on

1. *Tribal Blacksmiths of Colonial Eastern India* by **ICHR**, New Delhi. 1996-1999.
2. *Brass and bell-metal Workers of Bengal*, by **NISTADS**, New Delhi. 1999-2001.
3. *Social Roots of Craft Technique: Blacksmiths of Eastern India*, by **INSA**, New Delhi 2000 – 2003.
4. *Artisans in India: Social Organization of Production*, by **UGC**, New Delhi, 2003 to 2006.

Visiting Fellow:

- Zakir Hussain Centre, Jawaharlal Nehru University, March 2007.

Acted as a Resource Person to

- Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden; Dhaka University, Bangladesh and Voice America Radio, Washington.
- Planning Commission, UGC, Indira Gandhi National Open University, Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya, Bhopal, The Asiatic Society, All India Radio, Calcutta.
- Universities of Kumaon, Utkal, Berahampore and F. M. of Orissa; Gauhati and Dibrugarh of Assam; Calcutta, Jadavpur, Rabindra Bharati, Burdwan, Vidyasagar, North Bengal, and National University of Juridical Sciences of West Bengal.
- University Grants Commission, West Bengal College Service Commission, SLET Commission (N. E. Region), Public Service Commissions of Punjab and Bihar.
- Member, P. G. Board of Studies, Jadavpur University, 2007 -

Major Research Publications

Book : TECHNOLOGY, DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE,
RURAL BENGAL BETWEEN 1830 AND 1960,
(Forthcoming)

Invited Contributions for Chapters and Papers

A. International Level

1. 'Social Organization of Artisan Production in India: Changing Role of the Market, Technology, and Merchant-Creditor: 18th to 20th Centuries' in Binay Bhushan Chaudhuri (Ed), **Economic History of India from Eighteenth to Twentieth Centuries**, *PHISPC*, Vol. VIII Part 3, (Delhi, 2005), pp. 107-354. ISBN 81-875886-23-0.
2. 'Studying India's indigenous iron industry: Looking for an Alternative Approach' in Jan af Geijerstam and Girija Pande (ed.), **Tradition and Innovation in the History of Iron Making in India and Europe : An Indo-European Perspective**, (Nainital, 2003), pp. 205-224. ISBN 81-86246-19-3
3. 'From *Agaria* to *Lohar*: Blacksmiths in the Tribal Society of Colonial Eastern India' in **Journal of Indian Anthropological Society**, 32 (1997), pp. 139-154
4. 'Caste, Occupation and Social Mobility: A Study of the *Kansaris* in Colonial Bengal', in W. v. Schendel, S. Bandyopadhyay and A. Dasgupta (ed.), **Bengal: Communities, Development and States**, (Delhi, 1994), pp. 65-89. ISBN 81-7304-089-3
5. 'Unseen Sources and Unknown History: A Study of the Primitive Smiths of Colonial Eastern India' in **The Indian Archives, Golden Jubilee Number**, Jan-Dec., 1997, National Archives of India, Government of India, New Delhi, pp. 167-172.
6. 'Ethnic Plurality and State Formation in India - A Historical Perspective' in **Journal of Indian Anthropological Society**, 33 (1998), pp. 9-16.
7. '*Lokavidya*: Conceptualizing People's Housing in India, a case study of the *Koch-Rajbansis* of North Bengal' D P Agrawal (Ed), **Traditional Technologies and Knowledge Systems in India** Sponsored by the **Infinity Foundation**, Princeton, USA, *Forthcoming*

B. National Level

8. 'Deindustrialization under British Rule', in **YOJANA**, A Development Monthly, (Planning Commission, New Delhi), Special Issue, August 2007, Pp. 29-35.
9. 'From Artisan to Merchant: Looking From Below' in C Palit and P Bhattacharyya (Ed.), **History of Indian Business**, (Delhi 2006), pp. 193-220.
10. 'Understanding the Concept of People's Housing in India: Case of the Koch-Rajbangshi', **Journal of Historical Research** (Dibrugarh University), Vol. XIV, 2004, pp. 38-48.
11. 'An aspect of Artisanal Technology in India – Some Methodological Arguments', in Arun Kumar Biswas (ed.), **History, Science and Society in the Indian Context**, (Calcutta, 2001), The Asiatic Society, pp. 125-158.
12. 'On Craft Technique: Tribal Blacksmiths of Colonial Eastern India' in Vijay Kumar Thakur (ed), **Science, Technology and Medicine in Indian History Essays in Honour of Dr. Devendra Kumar Singh**, (Patna, 2000), pp. 217-252.
13. 'Tribal Society in Transition: A Study of the Primitive Blacksmiths in Early Colonial Eastern India', in S. C. Padhy and S. K. Panda (ed.), **Society Culture and Polity in Eastern India**, (Berhampore University, 1999), pp. 92-102.
14. 'Indian Craft Technology, Static or Changing: A Case Study of the *Kansari's* Craft in Bengal, 16th-18th centuries', **Indian Journal of History of Science**, (Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi), Vol. 33 (2), 1998, pp. 131-142.
15. 'Pre-modern Iron-smelting: A Study of Blacksmiths in the Tribal society of Colonial Eastern India', **The Proceedings of the Indian Historical Records Commission**, 56th Session 1997, Jabalpure, National Archives of India, (Delhi 1998), pp 97-107.
16. 'The Changing Image of the Craftsman: Blacksmith in Colonial Jharkhand', in **The Calcutta Historical Journal**, 18 : 2, July-Dec. 1996, pp. 67-85.
17. 'The Rice Milling Industry in Bengal: A Study of the Impact of Mechanization on the Local Peasant Economy', in **The Calcutta Historical Journal**, 13 (1-2), July 1988-June 1989, (University of Calcutta) pp. 1-111.
18. 'Technology in Indian Artisanal Industries: A Case Study of the Metal Workers of Bengal', in **Keynote Papers of the Second Congress of the Traditional Sciences and Technologies of India**, (Madras, 1995).
19. 'From autonomy to subordination: a study of the changing organization of artisanal production in colonial Bengal; the cases of the *Kansaris* and *Shankharis*', in **The Calcutta Historical Journal**, 16 (2), July-Dec., 1994, pp. 105-151.
20. 'Perspective of Rural Bengal: A Study of the Impact of Mechanization, 1920-1950', in **The Proceedings of the Indian History Congress**, 51st Session, Calcutta, 1990, pp. 625-632.
21. 'Ethnicity, Society and State in India: Conflict and Collaboration – An Historical Outline.' in Danda, A. K (ed.), **Ethnic Plurality and State in India**, **Asiatic Society, Calcutta, Forthcoming**.

C. Regional Level

22. '*Aupanibeshik Banglar Karigar Samaj: Utpadaner Samajik Sangathan*', in **Lokashruti**, Government of West Bengal, Vol. 15, (Calcutta, September, 1999), pp. 12-22. *Reprinted* in Sekhar Bhaumik (ed), **Sampratit Itihas Charcha**, (Calcutta, 2005), pp. 132-143.
23. '*Prasanga Karigari Krit-Kaushal: Purba Bharatbarsher Janajati Samaje Lauhakar*', in Aparajita Bose (ed.), **Bharater Itihase Bigyan O Prajukti**, by *Bangiya Bigyan Parishad*, (Calcutta, 1997), pp. 117-142.

24. 'Sankhobaloy O Samajik Sachalata' in **Itihas Anusandhan**, (Calcutta, 1992), pp. 281-288.
25. 'Bhabanipur: Prak-Upanibeshik Kolkatar Pratham Shilpakendra' in **Itihas Anusandhan VI**, (Calcutta, 1991), pp. 218-227.
26. 'Howrah Ramkrishnapur: Unish Sataker Kolkatar Chaler Bazar' in **Itihas Anusandhan**, (Calcutta, 1990), V, pp. 320-328.

Presentation of paper at the

International Seminar

1. International Seminar on Culture of Indigo – Exploring the Asian Panorama at the India International Centre, New Delhi, November 29 to December 1, 2007. Paper: *Traditional Indigo Dyers of India: an ethno-historical study*.
2. Delivered a One-hour Radio Talk on the International Hook up of the Voice of America Radio responding to questions from 17 Countries all over the world on 16 August, 2007. Theme: *Islam and International Terrorism: South Asia Chapter*.
3. International Seminar on Contesting Identities: Tribes, Indigenous Peoples and Adivasis in Colonial and Post Colonial India, held at the Department of History, Visva Bharati in collaboration with the SOAS, University of Cambridge, 26-27 September 2005. Paper: *Conceptualizing a Category or Continuum: the Case of Asur of Agaria*.
4. International Workshop on "Facilitation of Trade and Transport Cooperation between India and China", sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), Government of India, and organised by the South Asia Research Society, in collaboration with Moulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (MAKAIAS), Kolkata, and Peace Studies Group, Calcutta University, on 27-28 November 2003 at the Park Hotel, Kolkata.
5. International Conference on the Environmental History of Asia held at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in collaboration with the Melbourne University, Australia, 4-7 December, 2002. Paper: *Unseen Sources and Unknown History: Exploring the Self-Image of the Forest based Iron-smelting Tribes of India – 18th to 20th Centuries*.
6. International Seminar on the Traditional Knowledge Systems organized by the Infinity Research Foundation, Princeton, New Jersey, USA and held at Winsar Mountain Resort, Almora, 4-7 October 2002. Paper: *Lokavidya: Conceptualizing People's Housing in India, a case study of the Koch-Rajbansis of North Bengal*.
7. International Seminar on the *PHISPC* volume on *Economic History of India 18th-20th Centuries*, held at the Centre for Civilizations, New Delhi, 19-20 April 2001.
8. Acted as a *Resource Person* in the Working Group on Industry in the *International Workshop on Promotion of Investment and Trade in the Eastern South Asia Sub-region* (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal), sponsored by the South Asia Research Society, Kolkata and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, held at the Great Eastern Hotel, Kolkata, from 18-19 October 2001.
9. Presented a paper and acted as a Resource Person in International Seminar on *The History of Iron Making in India*, sponsored jointly by the Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden and the Kumaon University, held at Nainital from 8 to 11 March, 2000.

10. Presented a paper at the International Seminar on the proposed *PHISPC* volume on *Economic History of India 18th-20th Centuries*, held at the India International Centre, New Delhi, 13-14 December 1999.
11. International Seminar on '*Village in Bengal History and Culture*' organised by the Centre for Advanced Research in Humanities, Dhaka University, Bangladesh 22-24 February 1998.

National Level Seminar

12. National Seminar on Resistance Against Colonialism: Life and Times of Veer Surendra Sai, held at the Sambalpur University, Orissa on 08 March 2008. Delivered lecture as Guest of Honour. Theme: *Veer Surendra Sai: Locating the Local Hero in the Contemporary National Perspective*.
13. National Symposium on 1857 held at the Utkal University and organized by the Orissa History Congress, Bhubaneswar on 22 December 2007. Delivered the Keynote address. Theme: *1857: Looking from the Below*.
14. National Workshop on Human Rights at the Indira Gandhi Centre for National Integration, Visva Bharati, 23 February 2007. Paper: *Globalization of Indian Economy: Denying the Artisan his right to livelihood*.
15. Delivered an one-hour talk at the IGNOU sponsored National hook-up of the All India Radio on the occasion of the *Hundred Years of Gandhi's launching Satyagrah in South Africa* on 11 September 2006.
16. National Seminar on Economy and Society in Modern India at the Department of History, Visva Bharati, 12-13 March, 2005. Paper: *Tarashankar's Ganadevata: a study of the transition of Village based relationship*.
17. National Seminar on *Bengal: from the First to Second Partition* in the History Department of Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata 22 March 2005. Paper: *The Swadeshi Reconsidered*.
18. National Seminar on *Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and Social Transition in Modern Bengal* organized by Vidyasagar College for Women in collaboration with Victoria Memorial Hall at Darbhanga Hall, Calcutta University on 25 September 2004. Paper: *Technology and Development: Rural Hinterlands of Colonial Bengal*.
19. National Seminar on the Business History of India at the Department of History, Jadavpur University, 15-16 March 2002. Paper: *From the Artisan to the Merchant: Looking from the Below*.
20. National Seminar on *Rural India* in the History Department of Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, May 2002. Paper: *Changing Scenario of Rural Bengal: Case of the Artisan*.
21. ICHR sponsored *National Seminar on Rural Bengal: Society and Economy, the Colonial Period and After*, held at the Department of History, University of Kalyani, 18-19 December 2000. Paper: *Social Organization of Production: Artisans in early twentieth century Bengal*.
22. National Seminar on the *Native kingdom of Kamta-Kochbihar* (in connection with the releasing of a book on Koch Behar by Rajmata Gayatri Devi) held at the Department of History, University of North Bengal, on 20 April, 2000. Paper on *Lokavidya: A Study of the concept of People's Housing among the Rajbansis of North Bengal*.

23. Presented a Paper on the 'Social Mobility of the Artisans: Study of the Kansaris of Bengal' at the Seminar on *Communalism and Casteism in South Asia* sponsored by the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, and held at the Dept. of History, University of Calcutta, 11-12 April, 1992.
24. National Seminar on *Situating Tribals in Indian History*, organised by the P. G. Department of History, Berahampore University, Berahampore, Orissa, 24-25 March, 2000. Paper: *Technique et Culture: Tribal Society of Jharkhand*.
25. National Symposium on Indian Metallurgy, held at the Anna University, Madras, 27-31, Dec. 1995. Paper: *Indian Craft Technique: a Case Study of the Braziers of Bengal*.
26. National Seminar on *Society, Culture and Polity in Eastern India*, Sponsored by the UGC and held at the Berhampore University, Orissa, 21-22 March 1997. Paper: *Tribal Society in Transition: a Case Study of the Primitive Blacksmiths of Eastern India*'.
27. National Seminar sponsored by the IHRC, National Archives and held at Rani Durgabati University, Jabalpure, M. P., 4-5 February, 1997. Paper: *Pre-modern Iron-smelting: A Study of the Blacksmiths in the Tribal Society of Colonial Eastern India*.

State Level Seminar

1. Seminar on *Bharater Bigyan O Prajukti* jointly organized by the Bangiya Bigyan Parishad and Paschimbanga Itihas Sangsad at the Bangla Academy, Calcutta, on 11-12 August, 2000. Paper: *Karma Kaushal: Purba Bharatbarsher Janajati Samaje Lauhakar*.
2. Seminar on *Lokasanskriti O Itihas*, organized by Folk and Tribal Welfare Centre of the Government of West Bengal at Bangla Academy, Calcutta on 25 June 1998. Paper: *Upanibeshik Banglar Karigar Samaj: Utpadaner Samajik Sangathan*.
3. Seminar on *Adibasi Samaj O Sanskriti* held at the Department of Folklore, University of Kalyani, on 20-21 February 2001. Paper: *Asur-Agaria Louhakar: Adibasi Sanskritir Annya Rup*.
4. UGC sponsored National Seminar on *Recent Perspectives in Indian History* held at Mahisadal Raj College, Midnapore, on 13-14 February 2001. Paper: *Samajik Itihas: Prasanga Baratiya Karigar*.

Special Invited Lecture

- Zakir Hussain Centre, Jawaharlal Nehru University, 19 March, 2007. Theme: *New Technology in Old Environment: Rural Bengal since the mid-nineteenth Century*.
- Annual Lecture at the Department of History, Visva Bharati, 22 February 2007. Theme: *New Technology in Old Environment: Birbhum since the mid-nineteenth century*.
- Department of History, University of North Bengal on 31 March 2005, Theme: Oral Tradition as a Source of History: Destitute Women in Rural Bengal, case of the Kutni (Husker).
- The Asiatic Society on 15 February 2001. (History of Science Programme), Theme: *Tribal Metallurgy in India*.
- The Asiatic Society of Bengal on 21 March 2000, (History of Science Programme), Theme: *Artisanal Industry: a study of people's technology*.

Refresher Course Lectures

1. Refresher Course on *Recent Trends in the Historiography of Modern India*, Department of History, Utkal University, 22-23 December, 2007.
2. Refresher Course on *State and Society on Colonial and Post-Colonial India* Department of History, Jadavpur University, 19 November, 2007.
3. Refresher Course in History on *Recent Trends in Modern Indian History* at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar, 05-06 December 2006.
4. Refresher Course in History on *Literature as Fact of History* at Visva-Bharati University, Shantiniketan, on 30 January 2005.
5. Refresher Course in History on *Recent Trends in Historiography* at Visva-Bharati University, Shantiniketan, on 12 December, 2003.
6. Refresher Course in History on *Tradition and Modernity in Indian History* at the University of North Bengal on 21-22 January, 2002.
7. Refresher Course in History on *India in the 19th and 20th Centuries, Society, Polity and Economy*, at the Rabindra Bharati University on 17 January 2002.
8. Refresher Course in History on *Colonialism, Nationalism and the Third World* at the Jadavpur University, on 5 January, 2002.
9. Refresher Course in History on *India in the 19th and 20th Centuries: Continuity and Change*, University of Kalyani on 26 November, and 13 December 2001.
10. Refresher Course in History on *New Dimensions of Social History* at the University of Burdwan on 12-13 September, 2000.
11. Refresher Course in History on *Society and Culture in Indian History*, held at the University of Calcutta from 21 February 1996.
12. Refresher Course in History on *Transformation of State and Society in Ancient and Medieval World, with special reference to History of Greece and History of Medieval Europe*, held at the, University of Calcutta, from 5 December, 1995
13. Refresher Course in History on *National Movement in India*, held at the University of Calcutta, from 17 February to 09 March, 1994.
14. Refresher Course in History on *Impact of Colonialism on Indian Economy and Society*, University of Calcutta, 8 December, 1993.

Freelance Writer

To all leading Newspapers published from Calcutta such as *The Statesman*, *Anandabazar*, *Bartaman* and *Dainik Statesman*.

Kolkata
Date: 10 March 2008

Sd. Smritikumar Sarkar