



# DR. GARGI GANGOPADHYAY

## General Information

**Department:** English

**Designation:** Assistant Professor

**Qualification:** M.A. in English Literature (1997, University of Calcutta), M. Phil (2000, University of Calcutta), PhD (2013, Jadavpur University)

**Specialization:** Popular Literature, Children's Literature and Childhood Studies, Colonial Bengal, History of Travel and Travel Writing

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## Teaching Experience

Ramakrishna Sarada Mission Vivekananda Vidyabhavan (November 2000 - till date)

## Research

UGC Minor Research Project: The Politics of Pictures: Reviewing the Colonial Representations of Colonial Darjeeling, 2017 - 2019.

PhD: 'Reading Leisure: A Print Culture for Children in Colonial Bengal', Jadavpur University, 2013.

Arts Research and Documentation on 'Children's Books from Bengal', under an IFA grant. 2009-2011. 2

UGC Minor Research Project: "East of the Sun and West of the Moon: A Cross Cultural Study of Traditional Nursery Rhymes", 2005-7.

M.Phil: The Game of the Impossible: Nonsense as the Continual Play of Unresolved Contraries. University of Calcutta, 2000.

## Publication

### Books/ Book Chapters/ Articles in Edited Volumes

1. "Our Motherland: Mapping an Identity in Bengali Children's Literature", book chapter in The Nation in Children's Literature: Nations of Childhood, ed. Christopher (Kit) Kelen and Bojrn Sundmark (Routledge, 2013). ISBN 13: 978 -0-415-62479-4 (hbk), ISBN13: 978-0203-10427-9 (ebk).
2. "Folk-Tales of Hindustan: The Text and its Times", in Folk-Tales of Hindustan by [Shaikh Chilli], ed. by Gargi Gangopadhyay and Deeptanil Ray (Kolkata: Charchapada, 2014). ISBN 978-93-80489-35-3.

### **Articles in Journals/ E - journals/Edited Books**

1. "Children, Nursery Rhymes and Nonsense", The Journal of Children's Literature Studies. Volume 1, issue 3, November 2004. ISSN 1743-0526.
2. "Make-belief and Dis-belief: Operations of Fantasy in Fairy Tale and Nonsense", Dream, Imagination and Reality in Literature, South Bohemian Anglo-American Studies No.1, 2007. ISBN 978-80-7394-006-5.
3. "A Strange Cross-cultural Infancy: Children's Books in 19th C Bengal", Art Connect, 2009. ISSN 0975 - 5810.
4. "Children's Books from Bengal: A Documentation", an online illustrated catalogue of early Bengali Children's books, 2011.<http://www.bengalichildrensbbooks.in/>
5. "Imperialism and Nationhood in Children's books in Colonial Bengal", in Journal of Educational Media, Memory and Society, Volume 10, issue 1, Spring 2018. ISSN: 2041-6938.
6. "The Child as Consumer in Colonial Calcutta: A Visual History", Thinking About Children's Food Culture, Feature Essays, The Critical Childhoods and Youth Studies Collective. May 2023.

### **Seminar/ Conference Proceedings**

1. "Moral versus Magic: The Great Debate in Children's Literature", Reading Children: Proceedings of International Conference on Children's Literature, Jadavpur University, Orient Longman, 2009. ISBN: 978 81 250 3700 2.

### **Invited Lectures/ Paper Presentations/ Session Chair**

1. "'We laugh because we want to laugh and that's the reason why': A Child's Delight in Nursery Rhymes and Nonsense", Reading Children, International Conference on Children's Literature, Jadavpur University, 2003.
2. "Make-belief and Dis-belief: Operations of Fantasy in Fairy Tale and Nonsense", Dream, Imagination and Reality organized by the University of South Bohemia, Ceske Budejovice, Czech Republic, 30th June to 2nd July, 2006.
3. "For Master Tommy and Miss Polly': Education, Entertainment and a Market for Children's Books", Reading AdVentures: Perspectives on Reading and Culture of the Book, Jerusalem, Israel, 19th -21st February 2007.
4. "Finding Wonderlands: Defining Fantasy for Children", 1st International Conference of The Children's Literature Association of India, Thrissur, Kerala, March 2007.
5. "'Useful Instructions and Harmless Amusements': Ideas of Censorship in Children's Literature during the Romantic Period", Annual Conference of Centre for Studies in Romantic Literature, Jadavpur University, 7th & 8th February 2008.
6. "'An Entirely New Turn to the Native Mind': A Reading of Children's Books in 19th C Bengal", Evidence of Reading, Reading the Evidence Conference, organized by Reading Experience Database, at the Institute of English Studies, University of London, 21st to 23rd July 2008. (Paper read out by a member of the organizing committee)

7. "19th C Primers for Children: A Post Colonial Critique", the Fourth Biennial International Conference of Indian Association for Asian & Pacific Studies, Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan, 22nd-24th August, 2008.
8. "'Enemies and Usurpers' as 'Friends and Patrons': Children's Print Culture in 19thC Bengal", International Symposium on Global Perspectives in Multicultural Children's Literature, at Sister Nirmala College for Women, Coimbatore, 8th -10th September, 2008.
9. "Nils' Flight across Cultures: A Bengali Adaptation of Selma Lagerlof's Text", 19th Biennial Conference of the International Research Society of Children's Literature at J. W. University, Frankfurt, 8th -12th August 2009.
10. "A Battleground of Cultures: Children's Periodicals in Nineteenth Century Bengal", The Material Culture of Periodicals, 42nd Annual Conference of the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals held at Yale University, Connecticut, New Haven, 10 & 11th September 2010.
11. "'Rule Britannia'?: Reading War and Childhood in a Colonial Climate", Leverhulme International Network Project Conference, Approaching War: Europe, Newcastle University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK, 16th-17th March, 2013.
12. "A Museum in the Himalayan Foothills: Early Representations of Darjeeling in 19th C Scholarly Writings", Learned Societies and Academies: Travel and Travellers, Exploration and Explorers, 1600-1900, Clermont-Ferrand, France, 15th-17th November 2013.
13. "From the Dandy to the Darjeeling Himalayan Railways: Engineering a Hill Station in Colonial India", Victorian Transport, organized by the Australasian Victorian Studies Association at the University of Hong Kong, 10th-12th July, 2014. Moderated a session at the same Conference.
14. "School Texts and Homely Tales: Imperialism and Nationhood in Colonial Bengal", Die Welt der Kinder, Institut für Sozialanthropologie und Empirische Kulturwissenschaft (ISEK), Universität Zürich, 4th-6th February, 2016.
15. 'Once Upon a Time: A Brief Introduction to Fairy Tales', Finding Neverland: A Tete-a-tete on Fairy Tales, Mrinalini Dutta Mahavidyalaya, 17th March 2016.
16. "Politics of Pictures: Reviewing the Colonial and Post-colonial Representations of Darjeeling", Rethinking Modernity: Interdisciplinary Perspectives, Aliah University, Kolkata, 11th and 12th August 2018.
17. "Through the Looking Glass: Reviewing Alice in the Classroom", Popular Literature: An Overview, organized by Dept. of English, Mrinalini Dutta Mahavidyalaya and West Bengal Higher Education Council, 27th September 2019.
18. Lecture on Romanticism, organized by the Department of History, RKSMVV, 17.12.2019.
19. "Growing Up in Colonial Calcutta: Tracing the Beginnings of Modern Urban Bengali Childhood", ICSSR sponsored E-conference "Childhood and Intersectionality in the Indian Context", jointly organized by the Departments of Sociology and English, HMM College, 12th, 13th and 14th September 2020.
20. "What is the Use of a Book without Pictures?: Alice Books and the History of Children's

Literature in English”, online lecture via Google Meet for the students of Barasat Government College, 16th December 2021.

21. “Of Football, Friendships and Functions: Exploring Childhood in the Paras of Kolkata”, jointly presented with Dr. Anasua Chatterjee, “Spaces/Places of Growing Up: Mapping the Geographies of Childhood”, International Phygital Conference, 15th&16th September, 2022.

22. Chaired the session “Childhood, Colonization and Nationhood”, “Spaces/Places of Growing Up: Mapping the Geographies of Childhood”, International Phygital Conference, 15th&16th September, 2022.

23. “Growing up in the Para: A Study of Coming of Age in the 1990s Kolkata”, jointly presented with Dr. Anasua Chatterjee, International Biennial Conference (online) of the YAStudies Association, 31st October - 4th November, 2022.

### Awards/ Fellowships/ Grants

1. Minor Research Project from U.G.C for researching the social history of Nursery Rhymes (2005).

2. Research Fellowship for two months awarded by the InternationaleJugendbibliothek, Munich, to study at the library as a research scholar of children's literature (June- August, 2006). Received a Cultural Exchange travel grant from UGC for the same (2006).

3. Partially funded research grant from the Charles Wallace India Trust for accessing archival materials for doctoral research at the British Library, U.K(2006).

4. Teachers' Fellowship for pursuing doctoral research under UGC's Faculty Improvement Programme (2008-2011).

5. An Arts Research and Documentation grant by the India Foundation for the Arts, for compiling a public domain encyclopedic web archive of Bengali children's books from its incunabulum to the early decades of the 20th century (2008).

6. Minor research grant from the Bibliographical Society of London (2009).

7. Short-term fellowship at InternationaleJugendbibliothek, Munich, to review and assess the Indian Language books in the historical Geneva Collection compiled by the Bureau of Education under the League of Nations (October 2016).

8. Minor Research Project from U.G.C on visual representations of colonial Darjeeling. (2017-2019)

### Teaching Experiences in other Institutions

Guest Lecturer, PG II, Dept. of English, Presidency College (2009-12).

Guest Lecturer, PG I, Dept. of English, Lady Brabourne College (2013 -2018)

Guest Lecturer, Translation Studies Course, run by the School of Language Studies, Rabindra Bharati University (2015).

Guest Lecturer, PG II, Dept. of English, West Bengal State University (2017)

### **Administrative Responsibilities in College**

Member, IQAC

Joint Convener, Website Subcommittee

### **Honorary Posts/Positions Held**

1. Referee for Bookbird: A Journal of International Children's Literature (ISSN 0006 7377). (2017 to 2021)
2. Referee for Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences (ISSN 0973-8737).
3. Jury for Big Little Book Award given by Tata Trusts for children's books in Indian languages, 2017