

## Curriculum Vitae

Name : Ashis Sengupta

**Academic Qualifications** :  
M.A. (1984); Ph.D. (1994)

### Professional Positions:

Professor of English	University of North Bengal	08/05—Present
Reader in English	University of North Bengal	08/97—08/05

Lecturer in/ Asst Professor of English	ABN Seal (Govt.) College, Coochbehar (West Bengal)	08/91—08/97
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Lecturer in English	Darjeeling Govt. College (W.B.)	08/88—08/91
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Lecturer in English	St. Joseph's College, Darjeeling	11/85—08/88
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### Specialization/Research Interests:

Literary and cultural theory, Theatre and Performance studies, US studies, South Asian studies.

### Honours, Awards, Grants, etc.:

- University of North Bengal Research Grant, 2016-17; 2019-20.
- SASNET Guest Professor, Malardalen University, Dalarna University, Vaxjo University, Sweden, 2009
- Visiting Fulbright Professor, Rhode Island College, Providence, RI, USA (2006)
- Guest Lecturer, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (December 2003); University of North Carolina at Greensboro; University of Connecticut at Storrs (2006-07).
- Fellow, Fulbright American Studies Institute (May 30—July 10, 2002), New School University, NYC, USA.
- Olive I. Reddick (Junior) Award, 1995
- TSG (American Studies Research Center [ASRC] Winter Award), 1994-95.
- TRG (ASRC Winter Award), 1989-90.

**Peer-review:**

- *Theatre Survey*, Cambridge University Press (2019-20, 2023-24)
- Bloomsbury Methuen London (2016)
- South Asian Canadian Literature (University of New Brunswick) 2015.

**Select Publications:****Books:**

- *Postdramatic Theatre and India: Theatre-Making since the 1990s* (London: Bloomsbury Methuen [Engage Series]), January 2022)

**Books (edited):**

- *Performing the Radical: India in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (London: Bloomsbury Methuen, Forthcoming/2025).
- *Islam in Performance: Contemporary Plays from South Asia* (London: Bloomsbury Methuen, 2017)
- *Mapping South Asia through Contemporary Theatre: Essays on the Theatres of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014).

**Translations**

- Excerpts from *Tin Shohorer Galpo*. By Tapas Sen. In *A Poetics of Modernity: Indian Theatre Theory, 1850 to the Present*. Ed. Aparna Bhargava Dharwadker. New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2019. 261-65.
- ‘Bhumika,’ *Nabanna*. By Bijan Bhattacharya. In *A Poetics of Modernity: Indian Theatre Theory, 1850 to the Present*. 162-67.

**Articles/Book Chapters/Book Reviews (Over 50): only selected ones here**

1. “Abhilash Pillai’s *Midnight’s Children*: Performing Politics through Optics”, *Theatre Research International* 48.3 (2023). (Cambridge University Press).
2. Review of Abhijit Sen’s *Rabindranath Tagore’s Theatre* (London: Routledge, 2022), in

*Asiatic* 16:1 (2022).

3. "Project Nationalism and Theatre in Contemporary India, *Contemporary Theatre Review* 32.1 (2022). (Taylor and Francis).
4. "India's Postdramatic: Conversations with Theatre-Makers and a Critique." *Marg* (March 2019): 46-63.
5. "Staging Diaspora: South Asian American Theatre Today." *Journal of American Studies* 46.4 (2012): 831-54. (Cambridge University Press, U.K.).
6. "Different Strokes: The Chinese Male Subject in *The Chickencoop Chinaman* and *M. Butterfly*." *Comparative American Studies* 10.1 (2012). (Maney/University of East Anglia, U.K.).
7. "Of Race/Religion, Nation and Violence: *Incident at Vichy* and *Final Solutions*." *Comparative American Studies* 8.3 (2010): 179-93. (Maney/University of East Anglia, U.K.).
8. "'Coming Out of the Closet': Re-reading *The Boys in the Band* and *On a Muggy Night in Mumbai*." *The Journal of American Drama and Theatre* 22.1 (2010): 33-49. (CUNY, USA).
9. "'Paradise Keeps Slipping Back': *The Misfits* and *After the Fall*." *The Arthur Miller Journal* 3.1 (2008): 29-42 (USA).
10. "The Hyphenated Identity in Contemporary Multiethnic American Drama." *Americana: E-Journal* 4.1 (2008). (Hungary.)
11. "The Late Plays of Arthur Miller: Problematizing the Real." *Miller and Middle America*. Ed. Paula Langteau. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2007. 107-24.
12. "From the Pages of a Fulbrighter's Diary." *Indian Fulbrighter* (Fall 2006): 6.
13. "The Archbishop's Ceiling." Review. *The Arthur Miller Journal* (USA) 1.2 (2006): 91-94.
14. "Mahesh Dattani." *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, Vol. 323: *South Asian Writers in English*. Ed. Fakrul Alam. Detroit: BCL, 2006. 80-85.
15. "How to Accommodate Many Faiths at Work." *The Providence Journal* 30 November, 2006: B5. (USA).
16. "Mahesh Dattani and the Indian (Hindu) Family Experience." *Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies*. 11.2 (2005): 149-67.

17. "James Baldwin's *Amen Corner*: From the Spirituals to the Blues." *UYO Journal of Humanities* 8 (2003, published 2005): 157-73. (University of UYO, Nigeria)
18. "Plays as Political Allegories: *The Ride Down Mount Morgan* and *Tughlaq*." *The Arthur Miller Society Newsletter* (USA) 9 (June 2004):14-15.
19. "Meeting History." Interview with Niyi Osundare. *The Sunday Statesman* 12 April 2004: 5.
20. "*Silence! The Court is in Session* and *Naga-Mandala*: On Sexual Colonization". *Reclaiming Places and Space*. Ed. Ruzy Suliza Hashim and Ganakumaran Subramaniam. Bangi: Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 2003. 59-68.
21. "The Outsider." On Susan Sontag. *The Sunday Statesman Magazine* 19 October 2003: 5.
22. "Crossing Borders with Two 'Power' Plays: *Ghashiram Kotwal* and *The Archbishop's Ceiling*." *Studies in American Literature*. Vol. 3. Calcutta: American Center, 2003. 1-13.
23. "Politics as Theater in Arthur Miller". *The Arthur Miller Society Newsletter* (USA) 7 (June 2003):11.
24. "The Best of Both Worlds". On N. Scott Momaday. *The Sunday Statesman* 8 June 2003, Sec. Literary: 3.
25. "Between Faith and Scepticism: A Study of Arthur Miller's Later Plays". *The American Literary Mosaic*. Ed. T.S. Anand and S. Mandal. Leeds: Wisdom, 2003. 52-62.
26. "*The Sound and the Fury*: Faulkner's Grope for Meaning". *William Faulkner: A Centennial Tribute*. Ed. S. Mandal. New Delhi: Prestige, 1999. 100-10.
27. "*The Glass Menagerie*: 'Bits of a Shattered Rainbow' ". *A Mosaic of Encounters: India & USA*. Ed. A.A. Mutalik-Desai *et al.* New Delhi: Creative Books, 1999. 21-28.
28. "*The Archbishop's Ceiling*: Truth and Fiction in Arthur Miller". *Indian Journal of American Studies* 28. 1 & 2 (1998): 61-64. (ASRC)
29. "William Wells Brown's *Clotel*: A Critique of Slave Life in America". *Indian Views on American Literature*. Ed. A.A. Mutalik-Desai. New Delhi: Prestige, 1998. 117- 25.
30. "*The Red Badge of Courage*: Stephen Crane on Heroism". *North Bengal University Review* (1997): 60-67.

31. "Images of Black Women in *The Bluest Eye* and *Meridian*". *Literary Voice* (1995): 62-68.
32. "A *Memory of Two Mondays*: The Paradox of Life in Arthur Miller". *American Literature and Culture: New Insights*. Ed. Laxmi Parasuram. New Delhi: Prestige, 1995. 74-78.
33. "Afro-American Women's Fiction: Perspectives on Race and Gender". *New Quest* (March-April, 1995). 89-98.
34. "Arthur Miller's *The Price*: An Appreciation". *Literary Voice* (1994): 11-14.
35. "Search for Black Womanhood in Alice Walker's *Meridian*". *New Quest* (July-August 1994). 221-24.
36. "*Incident at Vichy*: Guilt and Responsibility in Arthur Miller". *American Literature Today*. Ed. S. Bala. New Delhi: Intellectual, 1994. 157-61.
37. "Robert Frost: 'Two Eyes Make One in Sight'." *Journal of the Dept. of English, Burdwan University* (1993-95): 95-101.
38. "*The Creation of the World and Other Business*: On Guilt and Responsibility". *Indian Journal of American Studies* 22.2 (1992). 96-100. (ASRC)
39. "Arthur Miller: A Study of His Life-Vision". *Journal of the Dept. Of English, North Bengal University* (1990): 29-37.

### **Invited Talks/Lectures:**

1. 'The Politics of Othering and the Changing Language of Theatre: India in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'. Refresher Course, Department of Philosophy, University of North Bengal (NBU), 26 February 2024.
2. 'Revisiting Culture and Politics through Theatre and Performance'. Refresher Course, Department of English, NBU, 17 January 2024.
3. 'Rethinking Culture through Contemporary Theatre and Performance'. Research Methodology Workshop, CSSSC, Kolkata, 28 August 2023.
4. Moderator, Artist in Conversation (Director, Sri Venkateswara Surabhi Theatre), International Theatre Festival of Kerala (ITFoK), 8 February 2023.
5. 'Performing the Radical/Radicalizing Performance,' International Theatre Festival of Kerala (ITFoK), 7 February 2023.

6. "Postdramatic Theatre and India", University of Raiganj, 26 May 2022.
7. "Postdramatic Theatre in India", Cultures Research Centre, University of Lancaster, 19 May 2022.
8. "The Postcolonial and the Postdramatic: Contemporary Indian Theatre," Jamia Millia Islamia, 9 September 2021.
9. "The Genealogy of Gender and the Performative Turn in Indian Theatre," Department of Women's Studies, NBU, 11 September 2021.
10. 'Postdramatic Theatre in India,' Theatre Appreciation Course, National School of Drama (NSD), Delhi, 4 June 2019.
11. "Voices from the Margins," Keynote, Salesian College Seminar, Siliguri Campus, 22 Feb 2019.
12. "Towards the Optic: The Changing Language of Theatre in India," World Theatre Forum, NSD, Delhi, 17-18 Feb 2019.
13. "Text, Performance, Theatre-Making," speaker at Plenary Session, ITFoK International Theatre Seminar, Thrissur, 22-24 Jan 2019.
14. "Fragmented Nations, Fractured Lives, and Theatre in South Asia," National Seminar, NEHU Campus, 17 Nov 2017.
15. "Presenting *Islam in Performance*," International Conference, Dept of English, NBU, 24-25 February 2017.
16. "What is Woman," Refresher Course, NBU, 22 August 2016.
17. "Why Study Literature?," Orientation Programme, NBU, 9 August 2016.
18. "Pakistan: Women, Politics and Performance," Certificate Course in Women's Studies, NBU, 15 March 2016.
19. "Playing Islam / Reading South Asian Plays," paper at MELUS-MELOW International Conference, 19-21 February 2016.
20. 'Literature Today: Strategies of Reading,' Special Lecture, Gyan Jyoti College, Siliguri, 4 December 2015.
21. 'What is Literature Today?,' Orientation Programme, NBU, 30 November 2015.

22. Keynote, National Seminar, Changing Directions of Postcolonial Indian Theatre, University College, Coochbehar, 29 September 2015.
23. Panellist, Theatre for Peace Seminar (organized by Ajoka Theatre, Pakistan, and held at SIS, JNU), 18 September 2015.
24. Women's Studies/Feminist Studies and India, Refresher Course, NBU, 20 August 2015.
25. "From 'Indian Theatre' to 'Theatres of/in India'", Orientation Programme, University of North Bengal, 14 August 2015.
26. 'Power, Performance, Censorship: Contemporary South Asian Theatre,' paper at MELUS-MELOW International Conference, 20-22 February 2015.
27. 'From Empowerment to Self-definition,' Refresher Course, Women's Studies Centre, University of North Bengal, 22 May 2015.
28. "Women, Performance, Contemporary India," University of North Bengal, 10 November 2014.
29. "Theatre and Real Life," Orientation Programme, University of North Bengal, 28 December 2013.
30. "Essay as a Literary Form," Refresher Course, Nepali Dept, University of North Bengal, 27 December 2013.
31. "Does Theatre Matter? Postscript: In a Literature Conference?," International Seminar, Dept of English, University of North Bengal, 4-5 December 2013.
32. "Sharing Commonwealth Experience through Theatre," National Conference, Government Degree College, Khumulong, Tripura, 12-13 July 2013.
33. "Theatre, Aesthetics, Activism: Understanding South Asian Theatre," Refresher Course, Academic Staff College, NBU, 20 June 2013.
34. "Untold Stories, Innovative Patterns: Women Playwrights and Directors in Contemporary India, Melus-Melow Int'l Conference, Chandigarh, 8-10 Feb 2013.
35. Moderator, Panel Discussion on "Quarrel," following the launch of Ranjan Ghosh's book, *A Lover's Quarrel with the Past* (Berghahn Books, 2012). University of North Bengal, 21 Sept 2012. Introductory lecture by Ashis Sengupta.
36. 'Theatre, History and Representation,' Orientation Programme, University of North Bengal, 10 August 2012.

37. "The Ethnic, the Diasporic, the Transnational: Non-Mainstream American Theatre Today," Garden City College Int'l Conference, 27-28 January 2012.
38. Post 9/11: US, Them, and South Asian Diaspora Theatre," Special theme lecture, Gour Mahavidyalay, Malda, 28 November 2011.
39. Understanding South Asian Americans through Theatre," Gyan Jyoti College, Siliguri, 18 November 2011.
40. "Staging South Asian Diaspora," MELUS-India Conference, Hyderabad, 22-24 September 2011.
41. "Dalit and Women's Theatre in India," Orientation Program Lecture, Academic Staff College, NBU, 2 Sept 2011.
42. "Other Men and Women in Contemporary Indian Drama: Perspectives on Religion, Caste and Gender," Refresher Course Lecture, Department of History/Academic College, NBU, 22 July 2011.
43. "Women in Contemporary India," National Seminar organized by the Center for Women's Studies, University of North Bengal (NBU), 28-29 March 2011.
44. "The 'Yes' and the 'No' of the American Environmental Imagination: *Walden* and *Moby-Dick*," Refresher Course lecture, Department of English/Academic Staff College, NBU, 17 February, 2011.
45. "IndiaContemporary: Women, Theatre, and Women's Theatre," Refresher Course lecture, Center for Women's Studies, NBU, 18 November 2010.
46. "Power, Gender, and the 'Inquisition': American/Indian Realities through Drama."
47. National Seminar, Burdwan University, 17-18 Feb 2010.
48. Fulbright Outreach Program lecture, NBU, 22 March 2010.
49. "Talking Gender: Feminism and Feminist Theatre in India," Gour Banga University, 23 May 2010.
50. "How to Popularize American Studies Today?" International Conference on "American Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," organized by American Embassy, New Delhi, and American Consulate, Hyderabad, OUCIP, March 29-30, 2010.
51. "Negotiating 'Asian American' on the Stage: Frank Chin, David Henry Hwang and Shishir Kurup." ICSSR-NERC national seminar, North Eastern Hill University,

16-18 March, 2010.

52. Performing Asian America, Department of English Colloquium, NBU, 29 May 2010.
48. “Do You Speak American? ‘Change Is Gonna Do Ya Good’.” Invited lecture, International Seminar titled “Englishes,” Jalpaiguri Government Engineering College, 23 February, 2009.
49. “Indian Theatre: Vintage and Contemporary.” Dalarna University, Sweden, 23 March, 2009.
50. “Gender and Sexuality: Reading India through Contemporary Drama in English.” Vaxjo University & Malardalen University, Sweden, 20 & 26 March, 2009.
51. “Re-reading *The Boys in the Band* and *On a Muggy Night in Mumbai*.” The Melus-Melow International Conference, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, 28-30 November 2008.
52. “Changing Directions in Asian American Drama: *M. Butterfly* and *Walls*.” The 11<sup>th</sup> American Literature Study Circle Conference, American Center, Kolkata. 29 July-1 August, 2008.
53. “Nation, Gender and Sexuality: Reading Indian Drama in English.” UGC-sponsored Refresher Course, Department of English, University of Burdwan. 23-24 July, 2008. (Spoke as a resource person.)
54. “The Hyphenated Identity in Contemporary Multiethnic American Drama.” The 10<sup>th</sup> American Literature Study Circle Conference (organized by the American Center, Kolkata), Fort Raddison, Raichak, 11-13 September, 2007.
55. “‘Paradise Keeps Slipping Back’: *The Misfits* and *After the Fall*.” The 10<sup>th</sup> Arthur Miller Conference, Community College of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, 19-21 October, 2006.
56. “South Asian Drama: An Introduction.” Community College of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas, 23 October, 2006.

57. "Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Indian English Drama." University of North Carolina at Greensboro, October 30, 2006.
58. "South Asian Playwrights in English." University of Connecticut, Storrs, November 6, 2006.
59. "Destabilizing Gender and Sexual Identity: South Drama in English." Rhode Island College, Providence, RI, November 8, 2006.
60. "Culture Clash and the Family: American and Indian Perspectives through Drama." American Literature Study Circle (Intl.) Seminar, Kolkata, 29-31 August 2005.
61. "August Wilson and the African American Experience." UGC-sponsored Refresher Course, Department of English, University of Calcutta, 22 July 2005. (Spoke as a resource person.)
62. "Gender and Sexuality in Mahesh Dattani." UGC-sponsored Refresher Course, Department of English, University of Calcutta, 21 July 2005. (Spoke as a resource person.)
63. "Rethinking Indian Culture: The Plays of Mahesh Dattani." National Seminar, Burdwan University, 29-30 March 2004.
64. "Negotiating Difference: The Plays of Mahesh Dattani." International Seminar, University of North Bengal, 18 March 2004.
65. "Contemporary Indian English Drama," Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 19 December 2003.
66. "Anita Desai's *Voices in the City*: Reconstructing Indian Female Identity," International Conference, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 16-18 December 2003.
67. "The Late Plays of Arthur Miller: Problematizing the Real". The 8<sup>th</sup> International Miller Conference, Nicolet College, Wisconsin, 3-4 October 2003. (Read by Lois Gough, Nicolet College.)
68. "Gender and Power Politics in the Plays of Girish Karnad and Vijay Tendulkar". UGC-sponsored Refresher Course, Department of English, University of North Bengal, 6-26 March 2003. (Spoke as a resource person.)
69. "James Baldwin's *Amen Corner*: From the Spirituals to the Blues". International Seminar, Visva-Bharati, 15-17 December 2002
70. "Crossing Borders with Two 'Power' Plays: *Ghashiram Kotwal* and *The Archbishop's Ceiling*". American Literature Study Circle (Intl.) Seminar, Kolkata, 27-29 August 2002.

71. "Doing Things with Marvell's 'To His Coy Mistress' ". UGC-sponsored Refresher Course, Department of English, NBU, 4-26 March 2002. (Spoke as a resource person.)
72. "Being and Role-Playing: Reading Girish Karnad's *Tughlaq*". UGC National Seminar, NBU, 3-5 October 2001.
73. "*Naga-Mandala and Silence! The Court is in Session: Critiquing Sexual Colonialism*". International Seminar on Women's Studies, NBU, 26-27 March 2001.
74. "Between Faith and Skepticism: A Study of Arthur Miller's Later Plays". Annual Conference of the Indian Assn. For Am. Studies, Madurai Kamraj Univ., 23-25 June 2000.
75. "Arthur Miller: The Playwright in Recent Times". Annual Conference of the Indian Assn. For Studies in Contemporary Literature, G.K. University, Hardwar, 26-27 October 1998.
76. "*The Glass Menagerie: 'Bits of a Shattered Rainbow'* ". IAAS Conference, Mysore University, 1996.
77. "William Wells Brown's *Clotel: A Critique of Slave Life in America*". IAAS Conference, Pondichery University, 27-29 January 1995.
78. On Student Services. Orientation Program for Academic Counselors, IGNOU Study Centre, Cooch Behar (W.B.), 26 March 1995. (Spoke as a resource person.)
79. "*A Memory of Two Mondays: The Paradox of Life in Arthur Miller*". IAAS Conference, Lucknow University, 2-4 April 1994.
80. "Robert Frost: 'Two Eyes Make One in Sight'." Orientation Program, Burdwan University, 30 June 1993. (Spoke as a participant.)
81. "*Incident at Vichy: Guilt and Responsibility in Arthur Miller*". All-India English Teachers' Conference, Osmania University, 29-31 Dec. 1993.
82. "Arthur Miller: A Study of His Life-Vision". UGC National Seminar, North Bengal University, 19-21 February 1990.
83. "Arthur Miller as a Social Playwright". Scholars' Meeting, ASRC (Hyderabad), January 1990.

**Supervision of PhD theses (awarded): 07 / Ongoing: 02**

**Examination of PhD theses (including those from other universities): 16**

**Supervision of MPhil dissertations: 08**

**Service/Miscellany:**

- Chair, Department of English, University of North Bengal, 02/2018-02/2020
- Chair, Department of English, University of North Bengal, 11/2004-7/2006; 7/2012-7/2014
- Member, Executive Committee, University of North Bengal, 2014
- Director, International Seminar, Department of English, NBU, 15-16 December 2014
- Member, Executive Committee, Melus-Melow, India, 2013
- Member, NBU Cultural Committee, 4/2012--
- Coordinator, Department of English Colloquium, 4/2010-3/11.
- Hosted US Fulbrighter, Dr. Mary Hanneman, for a talk at the Dept of English, NBU, 18 December 2010.
- Academic Associate to Professor Mishtooni Bose of Christ Church College, Visiting lecturer at the University of North Bengal, 8/2008.
- Academic Associate to Professor Adam Klein, U.S. Fulbright Visiting Lecturer at the University of North Bengal, 2-4/2008
- Member, National Screening Committee for Fulbright Lectureships, United States Educational Foundation in India (USEFI), 9/07
- Member, Review Panel, Pearson Longman, Malaysia, 2007
- Member, Advisory Board, *Americana: E-Journal of American Studies* (Hungary), 10/05—
- Coordinator, Book Discussion Program, University of North Bengal (in association with American Information Resource Center-Calcutta), 9/05
- Coordinator, Student Seminar Committee, NBU, 4/05
- Member, Fulbright FLTA National Selection Committee, USEFI, 1/05
- Chair, Expert Committee in English (PG), Directorate of Distance Edn., NBU 11/04—7/06
- Jt. Coordinator, International Seminars on “Indian English Literature: Changing Perspectives” (USEFI-sponsored) & “Emergent Voices in American Literature” (UGC-sponsored), NBU, 3/04.
- Chair, Board of UG Studies in English, NBU, 2/99-2/03.
- Secretary, Interdepartmental Seminar, NBU, 2/99.
- Member, Board of Research Studies in English, NBU, 1998-Present.
- Member, Curriculum Revision Committee, Dept. Of English, NBU, 1997-Present
- Asst. Coordinator, IG National Open University Study Centre, Coochbehar (WB), 1993-95.
- Secretary, Teachers’ Council, ABN Seal College, Coochbehar, 1992-93.

**Memberships of Professional Bodies/Organizations:**

- Fulbright-India
- U.S. State Alumni Community
- MELUS-MELOW (Member, Executive Committee 2012-2015)
- Indian Association for American Studies

- Indian Association for English Studies
- Former member, The Arthur Miller Society (USA)
- Osmania University Centre for International Programmes (Hyderabad)