

UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA
ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT
FACULTY ACADEMIC PROFILE/ CV

- 1. Full Name of the Faculty Member:** Sayantani Pal
- 2. Designation:** Associate Professor, Department of Ancient Indian History & Culture, University of Calcutta.
- 3. Specialisation :** Epigraphy, Paleography, Numismatics
- 4. Contact Information:**
Address: 599-A, Block – ‘O’, New Alipur, Kolkata – 700053
E-mail: syantani72@gmail.com
Phone: +919830126830
- 5. Academic qualifications:** M.A, Ph.D in Ancient Indian History and Culture, University of Calcutta
- 6. Positions held/ holding:** Associate Professor in Department of Ancient Indian History & Culture, University of Calcutta
- 7. Research interests:**
 - Early Indian Epigraphy
 - Early Indian Numismatics
 - Early Indian Palaeography
 - History of Bengal
 - Social History

8. Research guidance : Number of researchers awarded M.Phil/ Ph.D degrees : M.Phil: 8

Number of researchers pursuing M.Phil/ Ph.D : M.Phil: 2, Ph.D: 3

9. Projects

Completed Projects:

- Undertook a Short term Research Project entitled ‘Monetary History of Pre-Islamic Bengal’ under the auspices of the Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities with Dr. Susmita Basu Majumdar.
- Worked as a co-investigator in a UPE Project entitled Interaction and Exchanges between India and Central and South Vietnam: 1st – 10th centuries A.D. The Project was funded by the UGC. Project report submitted and presented to the UGC team on 1.3.11.
- Worked as a co-investigator in the UGC-UPE Project in the University of Calcutta. The title of the Project was ‘ Rewriting Regional History: South Eastern Bengal from c. 500 C.E to 1300 C.E’ for 2 years.
- Was Co-investigator in the Project entitled ‘Land Holding, the Recording of Property Transfer and the Formation of Kingdoms: The Comparative experience of Medieval Scotland and Bengal’. It is a joint project between University of Calcutta and University of Glasgow. The project was funded by the British Academy. The period is 9/1/2014 – 31/8/2015. Report submitted to the British Academy. The outcome is a book ‘The Forms and Format of the Copper-plate Inscriptions of Early Bengal’ in *Copper, Parchment and Stone: Studies in the sources for Landholding and Lordship in Early Medieval Bengal and Medieval Scotland*, ed.s John Reuben Davies & Swapna Bhattacharya, Glasgow: University of Glasgow, 2019, (e-publication). ISBN: 978-0-85261-950-6.
- Principal investigator in the project on ‘Early India’s interaction with Early South East Asia: Re-Interpreting the Old and Opening up New Vistas’, UPE Phase II Project by the Department of Ancient Indian History & Culture, University of Calcutta. Duration:

3 years (13.09.2017-13.09.2020). Final Manuscript for volume under preparation (to be submitted by December, 2020)

Current Projects:

- Currently a co-investigator in the project on 'A Corpus of Inscribed Images of Eastern India (Fourth to Thirteenth Century CE)'. The project is being funded by the Asiatic Society, Kolkata. Duration is 3 years:1.6.2017-1.6.2020 (Recently the tenure has been extended due to the pandemic situation).

10. Select list of publications:

a) **Journals:**

- 'Matsyanyaya of Khalimpur Inscription: Revisiting its Geo-Historical Significance' in *Journal of the Asiatic Society*, Vol.L, no.2, 2008.
- 'Observations on the Palaeography of the Bengal Coins and Inscriptions (5th – 8th century)' in *Journal of Bengal Art*, vol.13 & 14, Dhaka,2009.
- 'The Chopra Image Inscription of Mahipala' in *Pratna Samiksha*, New Series, Volume 1, Kolkata, 2010.
- 'Pala Dynasty : A Power in the East' in *Heritage India* Volume 4, Issue1, Pune 2011.
- 'Bengali : A Journey Through Time' in *Heritage India*, Volume 5, Issue 3, Pune 2012.
- 'Religious Patronage in the Land Grant Charters of Early Bengal' in *Indian Historical Review*, vol. 41, no.2, 2014.
- Book Review: Subrata Kumar Acharya, *Copper-plate Inscriptions of Odisha: A Descriptive Catalogue (Circa Fourth Century to Sixteenth Century CE)* in *Indian Historical Review*, December 2015.

- 'Rajendralal Mitra: A Nineteenth Century Scholar on the Interpretation of a Land Grant Record,' in *Journal of the Asiatic Society*, Vol. LX, Number 3, 2018, pp.147-152.
- 'Village Seals of Nalanda: Understanding Linkages between the Monastery and its Environs' in *Pratnasamiksha*, New Series, vol.10, 2019, pp.95-103.

b) Books/ book chapters :

- 'Creation of Sacred Structures in Ancient Bengal (c.A.D. 400-1300): A Study Based on Inscriptions' in S. Ghosh et.al. *Revisiting Early India, Essays in Honour of D.C. Sircar*, Kolkata, 2013
- Observations on the Palaeography of Bengal Coins and Inscriptions (5th-11th century A.D)' in *Abhyudaya: Recent Researches in Epigraphy & Numismatics* (Commemoration Volume in Honour of Dr. K.V. Ramesh), ed.s, T.S. Ravishankar, S. Swaminathan. 1st edition, 2016, ISBN: 978-81-8090-377-9, Bharat Kala Prakashan, Delhi. Pp.10-19.
- 'Land Sale Documents of the Guptas from North Bengal' in *ABM Habibullah Commemoration Volume*, A.F. Salahuddin Ahmed et.al. Dhaka:The Editorial Board, national Committee for ABM Habibullah Birth Centenary Celebration, 2018, pp. 291-301. ISBN:978-984-34-4366-3.
- Joint paper (second author) with Suchandra Ghosh, 'Everyday Life in early Bengal' in *History of Bangladesh*, vol.2, ed.s Abdul Momin Chowdhury & Ranabir Chakravarti, Dhaka: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, 2018, pp.3-42. ISBN: 978-984-34-4520-9.
- 'Revisiting the Kaivartta Revolt: Locating the Emergence of a Caste' in *Early Indian History and Beyond: Essays in Honour of B.D. Chattopadhyaya*, ed.s Osmund Bopearachchi & Suchandra Ghosh, Delhi: Primus Books, 2019, pp.502-517. ISBN: 978-93-5290-597-3.
- 'Media of Exchange under the Palas and Senas as Reflected in their Inscriptions' in *From Mountain Fastness to Coastal Kingdoms: Hard Money and 'Cashless' Economies in the Medieval Bay of Bengal World*, edited by John Deyell and Rila Mukherjee, Manohar, 2019, pp.53-76. ISBN: 978-93-88540-32-2.

- 'The Forms and Format of the Copper-plate Inscriptions of Early Bengal' in *Copper, Parchment and Stone: Studies in the sources for Landholding and Lordship in Early Medieval Bengal and Medieval Scotland*, ed.s John Reuben Davies & Swapna Bhattacharya, Glasgow: University of Glasgow, 2019, (e-publication). ISBN: 978-0-85261-950-6.
- 'Donors of Kurkihar Images: An Investigation into their Socio-Economic Background' in *Art and History: Texts, Contexts and Visual Representations in Ancient and Early Medieval India*, edited by R. Mahalakshmi, Bloomsbury, 2020, pp.208-223. ISBN: 978-93-88414-29-6.

c) Conference/ seminar volumes:

- 'Archaeology in the University of Calcutta' in '*Archaeology in India-Individuals, Ideas and Institutions*' edited by Gautam Sengupta and Kaushik Gangopadhyay, Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, New Delhi, 2009.
- 'Early Medieval Society of South Eastern Bengal: Situating its Identity', in *South Asian Archaeology & Art: Contextualizing Material Culture in South & Central Asia in Pre-Modern Times*, eds Verena Widorn, Ute Franke & Petra Latschenberger, Brepols Publishers, Belgium, 2016, pp.309-316. ISBN: 978-2-503-56642-9.
- 'Charles Wilkins and the Beginning of Researches in Indian Epigraphy' in *Reinterpreting Indology and Indian History: Institutions, Intentions, Sources and Issues*, ed. Radha Madhav Bharadwaj, Delhi: Pratibha Prakashan, 2019, pp.122-130. ISBN: 978-81-7702-44-9.
- 'Inscribed Images Donated by Merchants in Bihar and Bengal (8th-12th century)' in *South Asian Archaeology and Art 2014*, ed. Eva Myrdal, Dev Publishers, 2020, pp.271-281. ISBN: 978-93-87496-36-1.

d) Other publications :

- Contributed 6 entries to the 'Encyclopedia of Empire' published by Wiley Blackwell in 2014.
- Contributed 12 modules (E-content, video-lecture etc.) on the subject Indian Culture in E-PG-Pathshala (Production of Courseware e-content development for Post-Graduate subjects), the MHRD project under NME-ICT organized by the Tirupathi SVS University & the University of Calcutta in July-September, 2017.
- Contributed content for 2 units on 'Harsha and the rise of Kanauj' and 'Trade Network and Urbanisation (200 BC-300 AD)' for Core Course 'History of India' in B.A Honours for IGNOU in February, 2018.
- 'Image Inscriptions: What Can They Tell Us about Our Cultural History?' in the Section on 'Indian Epigraphy' published online in 2020. www.sahapedia.org
- Contributed 4 entries (2000 words each) on 'Harshavardhana', 'Bhaskaravarman', 'Sasanka' and 'Rajputs-Rajputization' for The Encyclopedia of Ancient History: Asia and Africa in May, 2020 to be published online by Wiley.

11. Membership of Learned Societies:

Life Member: Asiatic Society

12. Patents : N.A.

13. Invited lectures delivered:

- Economy of Early Medieval India: Land Grants (video lecture) organized by NME-ICT project of the MHRD, Government of India assigned to the EMMRC, Kolkata.
- Kharosthi on Coins in three-months course on 'Numismatics of Eastern India' organized by Centre for Archaeological studies and training, Eastern India, from July to October, 2008
- 'Origin and Development of the Kharosthi Script' in 2nd Semester course on Epigraphy and Numismatics of PGDA students organized by Institute of Archeology, The Archeological Survey of India, Delhi, June, 2011.
- 'Evolution of Scripts in India' in six months course on 'Cultural Heritage and Museum Studies' organized by Indian Museum in August 2012.

- ‘Kharosthi Script: Origin & Development’ in ICHR sponsored National Workshop on ‘Palaeographic Training and Decipherment of Scripts’ organized by Banaras Hindu University in March, 2013.
- Invited to deliver lectures on ‘Image Inscriptions’ in the UGC DSA Workshop on Methodology of Writing Ancient Indian History organized by the Department of History, Jadavpur University and the Asiatic Society, Kolkata on 14-15th September, 2016.
- Invited to act as resource person in a Week-long National Workshop on Early Indian Epigraphy from 27th September – 4th October, 2016 organised by the Asiatic Society, Kolkata & the Department of Ancient Indian History & Culture, University of Calcutta. Delivered 2 lectures on 1. Donative & Image Inscriptions ; 2. Emergence of Copper Plate Charters.
- Acted as resource person in the Advanced Study Course on ‘Ancient Indian Epigraphy’ in October, 2016 organised by the Jnana-Pravaha Centre for Cultural Studies & Research, Varanasi. Delivered 2 lectures on Kharosthi script & Land grants of Early India.
- Delivered the Adhir Chakravarti Memorial Lecture, 2017 on ‘The Emergence of Copper Plate Charters in South & South East Asia: In Search of the Dharmasastric Format’ on 24th April, 2017. It was organised by the Adhir Chakravarti Memorial Trust in collaboration with the Department of Ancient Indian History & Culture, University of Calcutta.
- Invited to deliver lectures on ‘Siddhamatrika and its Derivative Scripts’ and ‘Palasena Inscriptions’ in the the Bihar Heritage Development Society, Patna in July, 2017.
- Delivered a lecture on ‘Approaches to the Study of Early Indian Epigraphy: A Case Study of Image Inscriptions of Bengal in the IDRC in Research Methodology organized by the UGC-Human Resource Development Centre, University of Calcutta on 17th January, 2018.
- Delivered a lecture on Nalinikanta Bhattashali in the Department of History, Women’s College, Agartala on 2nd August, 2018.

- Delivered 2 lectures as Resource Person in the workshop on Indian Epigraphy and Palaeography organized by CAS-Sanskrit (Phase II), Jadavpur University on 3rd January, 2019.
- Delivered a lecture on 'Indian Feudalism' in the Department of History in the Serampore Girls' College on 17th April, 2019.
- Chaired a session in the International Seminar on 'Living in Cities: Historical Perspectives on Urban Environment, Experiences and Cultures' organized by Department of History, Jadavpur University from 6th to 8th February, 2020.

14. Awards :

- Received the Small Study Award (UK), 2008-2009 from the Nehru Trust, for a project on 'Palaeographic Study of Image Inscriptions of Eastern India Housed in Different museums of UK' and Visited different Museums of UK in September-October, 2009.
- Received the Charles Wallace India trust Research Grant (2014-2015) for research on "Charles Wilkins and the Beginning of Research in Indian Epigraphy" in different libraries of UK.

15. Other notable activities :

- Invited as Resource Person by the National Translation Mission in *Bengali Glossary Workshop* in History in September 2011 and September-October 2013.
- Delivered 6 lectures as CAS Visiting Fellow in the Department of Sanskrit, Jadavpur University on Socio-Political Condition of Bengal under the Chandra-Varman Rule in March, 2014.
- Delivered 7 lectures as Visiting Fellow under CAS-Sanskrit (Phase II), Jadavpur University from 14th – 22nd March, 2018.