



Professor (Dr.) Mahua Chakraborty
Department of Museology
University of Calcutta
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Academic Qualification

Ph.D. (Museology) from University of Calcutta, 2002
M.A. (Museology) from University of Calcutta, 1993
B.A. (Honours in History) from University of Calcutta, 1991
Higher Secondary from WBCHSE, 1988
Madhyamik from WBBSE, 1986

Scholarly distinction

Awarded Gold medal for standing First in First Class in aggregate in MA examination in Museology, C.U. in 1993.

Fellowship and research grant received

- UGC JRF (1998-2000) & SRF (2000-2001) for Ph.D. work.
- Minor research grant from Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, Calcutta University, 2007. Title of project: "Asutosh Museum of Indian Art in the light of 150 years of the University of Calcutta".
- UGC Minor Research Grant, 2007-2009. Title of project: "A study of museums of West Bengal towards preparing a directory".
- Major research grant from Gandhi Memorial Museum, Barrackpore (honorary PI) 2007-10. Title of project: "A survey of social role of museums of West Bengal".

Area of specialization

Collection management, history of museums, history of art, tangible cultural heritage

Research extension

Doctoral thesis guidance

Awarded – 6

1. Gauri Shankar Mahapatra – "Documentation and care of manuscripts in museums in Eastern India – Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand"
2. Sarunya Prasopchingchana – "Symbolic and imagery representation of Lord Buddha in the museums of Eastern India: Collection and communication"
3. Trisha Majumder – "Arts and crafts of Bankura district: tradition and continuity and their exposition through museums"
4. Banya Bandyopadhyay – "Howrah Jelar Silpa o Silpakaushal, Paschim Banga, Aitihiya Ebang Dharabahikata Ebang Tar Prakash Pradarsashalar Madyhyame" (Joint Supervisor)
5. Bipasa Roy Chowdhury – "Ethnic Cultural Heritage in Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya: A Museological Study"
6. Shilpi Maulik – "Flora & Fauna Motifs in Indian Sculptural Art from Early Historic to Pala-Sena Period: A Brief Survey of Monuments and Museums in Eastern India"

Submitted – 1

1. Puspa Das – “Perspective and Prospect of Museums of West Bengal in the Service of Non-Visiting Community – A Micro Study”

Working – 5

1. Aamir Abbasi – “Exhibit Technique & Management for Arts & Archaeological Objects in Indian Museums – An Analytical Study.”
2. Debishree Kundu – “Intangible Tradition and Tangible Heritage of Patachitra of Bengal: Role of Museums in India”. (Associate Supervisor)
3. Farhin Saba – “Muslim Calligraphy of Bengal (AD 1200 – 1707): A Study of Architecture and Museum Artifacts of West Bengal Towards Its Appreciation.”
4. Raihao Hongva – “Cultural Heritage of Tangkhul Naga: A Museological Study.”
5. Sumana Dutta – “Tradition and Continuation of The Ganesha Images – A Survey in The Museums of West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.”

Teaching experience

P.G. teaching since May 2001 in the Department of Museology, University of Calcutta.

Important publications

1. Books

- 1) Museums of India, National Book Trust, India. ISBN 81-237-7846-5.
- 2) Directory of Museums of West Bengal (India), Lambert Academic Publishing, 2012, Germany. ISBN: 9783847305156
- 3) Education in Museum – A Handbook, Lambert Academic Publishing, 2011, Germany. ISBN: 978-3846506493
- 4) Museums of India – A Journey through Ages, VDM Verlag Dr. Muler, 2010, Germany. ISBN: 978-3639238600
- 5) Minor antiquities in the Museums of Eastern India, R. N. Bhattacharya Publishers, 2007, Kolkata. ISBN: 9788187661832
- 6) Museum: Norms & Terms: A Selective Approach. (Jointly authored), Dey's Publishing, 1999, Kolkata. ISBN: 9788176125031

2. Edited Volumes

- 1) Journal of the Department of Museology, Calcutta University Press, Vol. 10, 2014.
- 2) Museum in Motion: Ideas, Issues and Challenges, (special volume published on the occasion of two-day international seminar on the same topic, organized by the Department of Museology, University of Calcutta jointly with the P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum, ISI, Kolkata), Vivekananda Book Centre, 2014, Kolkata. ISBN 978- 93-80973-41-8
- 3) Aspects of Indian History and Culture, (third Co-Editor) Kaveri Books, 2012, New Delhi. ISBN: 9788174791344
- 4) Silper Nana Prasanga, R. N. Bhattacharya Publishers, 2009, Kolkata. ISBN: 8187661607

3. Articles in edited volumes

- 1) Representation of Vishnu in the living visual arts of Eastern India, pp: 147-155. Chapter in the book “Sanskriti Vichitra”, Essence of Art and Archaeology Museums, Museology and Heritage Management, Vol. 1, S.N. Bhattacharya, R.K. Chattopadhyay and G. Bhattacharya, (eds), Kaveri Books, 2016. ISBN 978-81-7479-183-2.
- 2) Traditional Playing Cards of Vishnupur, a Chapter in the book “Aspects of Indian History and Culture”: S. Ray Bandopadhyay, R. Choudhury and M. Chakrabarti (Eds.), Kaveri Books, pp: 137 - 145, 2012, New Delhi. ISBN: 978817479134
- 3) Banglar Patachitrer Ruprekha, a Chapter in the book “Itihas Sahitya Sanskriti” S. Gangopadhyay, and S. S. Jana (Eds.), Progressive Publishers, pp: 479 - 484, 2008, Kolkata. ISBN: 8180641341.

- 4) Pātachitra, Bangiya Loka Sanskriti Kosh (Book), Edited by Dr. Barun Kumar Chakraborty, Aparna Book Distributors, Kolkata, 1995

4. Articles in Journal

- 1) Reconstructing history through open air museum – a case study in Óbidos, Portugal. (in press). The Past Archeological Journal, Department of Archeology, Sri Lanka.
- 2) Bangiya randhanpronair grantha o Bangali samaj (in Bengali). (in press) Bangla Samatat Journal, Bangladesh.
- 3) Repurposing of Rajbaris- a bygone built heritage of West Bengal as Heritage Hotels. (in press). Professor Alok Tripathy Felicitation volume.
- 4) Traditional cuisine of Bengal – the living material culture and its changes and associations through the ages. (in press) Journal of Bengal Art, Vol. 26
- 5) Prachinkaler samajbikshane anu pratnasampad. (in Bengali). pp. 20-26. Banglar Puratattva, Vol IV, Banglar Puratattwa Gabeshanakendra. 2021. ISSN 2347-8721.
- 6) Stupas with cruciform plans – A review of examples in Central, South and South East Asian Countries. (with Manatunga, A.). pp 31 – 48. “Pakistan Heritage”, (Journal of the Department of Archaeology), Vol. 11, Hazara University, Mansehra-21120, Pakistan. 2019. ISSN 2073- 641X. IF 0.623 (ISI Index)
- 7) Flora and Fauna Motifs in Ancient Sculptural Art of West Bengal: A Brief Survey. (with Maulik, S.). pp. 175-194. Journal of Bengal Art, Dhaka: The International Centre for Study of Bengal Art. Vol. 25, 2020. ISSN 1607- 1344.
- 8) The Religious and Cultural Activities of Ancient Kalinga – An Observation. pp. 35-46. “Journal of History and Civilization”, Department of Islamic History and Civilization, Asian University of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Vol. 4. 2018. ISSN 2310-5429.
- 9) Stepwell – the water architecture of India. pp. 111-128. “Pakistan Heritage”, (Journal of the Department of Archaeology), Vol. 9, Hazara University, Mansehra-21120, Pakistan. 2017. ISSN 2073- 641X. IF 0.623 (ISI Index)
- 10) Biographical museums: existence before existence, pp. 42-54. “Journal of the Department of Museology”, Department of Museology, University of Calcutta, Kolkata, Vol. 13, 2017.
- 11) Indian elephants in entertainment. pp 61 – 72. “Journal of History and Civilization”, Department of Islamic History and Civilization, Asian University of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Vol. 3. 2016. ISSN 2310- 5429.
- 12) Minor antiquities of India and their role in the life pattern of ancient civilization – an interpretation. Pp. 51-68. “Pakistan Heritage”, (Journal of the Department of Archaeology), Vol. 7, 2016. Hazara University, Mansehra-21120, Pakistan. ISSN 2073-641X. IF 0.623 (ISI Index)
- 13) Heritage tourism in India: collaboration with museums towards sustainable development, pp. 9-18. “Journal of History and Civilization”, Department of Islamic History and Civilization, Asian University of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Vol. 2. 2015. ISSN 2310-5429.
- 14) Historic buildings and their adaptive reuse to museums, pp. 16-24. “Studies in Museology”, Ramana, R.V. (ed). Vol. XLVII, Journal of the Department of Museology, MS University of Baroda, Vadodara, 2015. ISSN 0081-8259.
- 15) Responsible tourism: museums’ participation as the driving force – an evaluative study in the state of West Bengal, Journal of the Department of Museology, vol. 10, Calcutta University Press, 2014. pp. 1-11, ISSN 2278- 9685
- 16) Retrospection of the Hindu terracotta temples of West Bengal, India, Journal of History and Civilization, Department of Islamic History and Civilization, Asian University of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Vol. 1, 2013. pp – 33 – 50, ISSN 2310-5429.
- 17) Reinterpretation of figurative forms in Indian art, Kala (the journal of Indian Art history Congress), Vol. XIX, Guwahati, 2013-14, pp. 100 – 103, ISSN 0975-7945.
- 18) Durga – Udbhab o Bibartan, Pragati Patrika (in Bengali), Puja Number, 2013.
- 19) Dharmasrayee Lokashilpa O Bangiya Srishtisilata, Udbodhan, pp. 781- 790, vol. 9, Puja Number, 2012
- 20) Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya – a unique peace museum in West Bengal, Gandhi News, Gandhi Memorial Museum, vol. 1, no. January- March, 2011.
- 21) Chalchitra Katha, Amar Rupashi Bangla, pp. 9 -13, vol. 3, Special Puja Number,

2011.

- 22) Museums of India – a mirror of society, pp 27-36, Journal of the Department of Museology, vol. VIII - IX, Calcutta University Press, 2010. ISSN 22789685
- 23) Museum-er Sekal Theke Ekal: Ekti Sankshipta Paryalochana, Amar Rupashi Bangla, pp. 7 – 10, vol. 2, Special Museum Issue, 2010.
- 24) Alpanar Katha, Udbodhan, pp. 750 – 754, vol. 9, Saradiya Number, pp. 750 -754, 2007.
- 25) Changing concepts of museum and museology, pp 32-39, Journal of the Department of Museology, vol. IV, Calcutta University Press, 2005. ISSN 22789685
- 26) Role of BSI in protecting India's natural heritage, pp 61-67, Journal of the Department of Museology, vol. III, Calcutta University Press, 2004. ISSN 22789685
- 27) Museums and communication, pp 42-50, Journal of the Department of Museology, vol. II, Calcutta University Press, 2003. ISSN 22789685
- 28) Museum and tourism in Indian panorama, Journal of the Department of Museology, vol. I, Calcutta University Press, 2002. ISSN 22789685
- 29) Kalighat Pata: a glimpse, Sangasathi, vol. VI, no. April 1997.
- 30) Sara painting of Bengal, Sangasathi, vol. V, no. September 1996

5. Full papers published in conference proceedings

- 1) Palanquin – the wheel-less luxury cart. pp. 161-172. Manatunga, A. (ed). "History of Land Transportation, Locomotive Heritage and Road Culture of South Asia", Centre for Heritage Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, 2017. ISBN 978-955-704-072-1.
- 2) Man and Horse Sculpture at Isurumuniya, Anuradhapura – A New Interpretation. pp. 73-79. Manatunga, A. & Khanna, A.K. (Eds). "Buddhism and Jainism in Early Historic India. Centre for Asian Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka in collaboration with All India Digambar Jain Heritage Preservation Organization, New Delhi, India, 2017. ISBN 978-955-704- 020-4.
- 3) Museal museum: new dynamics: mission possible? "Dynamics of museum & social inclusion", Bhowmick, A.C. et al. P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum, ISI, Kolkata & Indraprastha Museum of Archaeology, New Delhi, 2015. ISBN 978-93-80973- 55-5.
- 4) Radio Ceylon – the cultural landscape in India during the twentieth century: a brief note, pp. 29-35. 3rd Biennial international conference volume, Manatunga, A. (ed.). International Association for Asian Heritage, Centre for Asian Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. 2015. ISBN. 978-955-4563-63-6.
- 5) British Orientalism in 18th-19th centuries and its impact on genesis of Indian museums, pp. 23-28. "Orientalism: Past and Present", Alam, Md. J. and Rahman, Md. M. (ed). Department of Arabic, Aliah University, Kolkata, 2014, Biswa Bangiya Prakashan, Kolkata. ISBN 81-88792-41-1.
- 6) Encyclopedic museum: social and legal issues towards its future. "The Future Museum: An Asian Perspective", Manatunga, A. (ed). Centre for Asian Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka, 2014. ISBN 978-955- 4563-26-1.

Invited lectures

1. Delivered online lecture on "Culinary Tradition of West Bengal", organized by the Heritage Society, Virasat Talk: 82, on 29 November 2020. <https://m.facebook.com/HeritageSociety/videos/virasat-talk-82-culinary-tradition-of-west-bengal-heritage-society/4688468921227073/>
2. Delivered a lecture on #StoriesofWorldCultures:#42:Temples of Bagan: A Journey: Prof Mahua Chakrabarti:University of Calcutta, organized by the Indian Museum, Kolkata <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVdkKCOjPI0>
3. Delivered lecture on "Museum and Research" at the UGC sponsored six-day Research Methodology workshop on Comparative Literary Studies, organized by the Department of Comparative Indian Language and Literature, University of Calcutta, on 7 March 2020.
4. Delivered Extension Lectures on some topics of Museology as a Resource Person in the History Department of the New Alipore College, Kolkata, 2019.
5. Delivered invited lecture on "Indian Floor Painting" at the Art Appreciation Course,

- organized by the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, on 15 January 2016.
6. Delivered lecture on “Portuguese built heritage in West Bengal: heritage tourism for the promotion of academic and cultural relations between India and Portugal” at the international conference on “Of silk, sugar and spices: new directions in East-West cooperation”, organized by the Centre for Intercultural Studies (CEI) at the Instituto Superior de Contabilidade e Administração do Porto (ISCAP-IPP), Portugal, 11-13 November, 2015.
 7. Delivered lecture on “Rickshaw painting: the pop art of Bangladesh reflecting socio-cultural milieu” at the international seminar on “History and Heritage of Bangladesh: through the Ages” organized by the Department of Islamic History and Civilization, Asian University of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh on 7 & 8 March 2015.
 8. Delivered lecture on “Encyclopedic Museum: social and legal issues towards its future” at the Centre for Asian Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka on 28 October 2014 at the international seminar on “Future Museum – An Asian Perspective” organized by the Centre for Asian Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka on 28 – 29 October 2014.
 9. Delivered lecture on “British Orientalism in 18th-19th centuries and its impact on genesis of Indian museums” at the International Conference on Orientalism, organized by the Department of Arabic, Aliah University, Kolkata, on 17 & 18 February 2014.
 10. Delivered lecture on “Museum Architecture and Public/Private Building” at the Indian Museum, Kolkata on 31 January 2013.

Papers presented in seminars, conference, etc.

1. “Museum and COVID-19: Impact and Challenges during lockdown and post lockdown phases” at the National Webinar organized by Faculty of Tribal Studies, Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Amarkantak (M.P.) on 9 June 2020.
2. “Flora and Fauna Motifs in Ancient Sculptural Art of West Bengal: A Brief Survey” (jointly with Shilpi Maulik) in the Silver Jubilee of Bengal Art, held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, 15-17 December 2019.
3. “The Orchha Fort Complex – Reviving a city’s heritage through heritage tourism” at the 6th International conference of SOSAA, held at the Indian Museum, Kolkata, 16-18 March 2018.
4. “Enlivening the past through open air museums – a case study in Óbidos” at the national seminar on “Reconstructing history through museums and the living issue of archaeology and Museology”, organized by the Asiatic Society, Kolkata on 22 & 23 August 2016.
5. “Biographical Museum: existence before existence” at the international seminar on “Museums as expression of national identity, with special focus on biographical museums”, organized by the P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum, ISI, Kolkata, on 28 & 29 March 2016.
6. “Community, heritage and Museology: two case studies in India and Portugal” at the international seminar on “Community participation in Museological practices”, organized by the Department of Museology, Calcutta University, 2 December 2015.
7. “Museal museum: new dynamics: mission possible?” at the international seminar on “Dynamics of museum & social inclusion”, jointly organized by the P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum, ISI, Kolkata & Indraprastha Museum of Archaeology, New Delhi, on 26 & 27 February 2015.
8. “Virtual museum and transmission of memory” at National Level Conference on “Museum & memory” organized by the Gandhi Memorial Museum, INC-ICOM & Museums Association of West Bengal, 18 May 2011.
9. Participated in panel discussion on the topic related to National level seminar on “From Natural History to Archaeology to Science & Technology: Paradigm Shifts in the Indian Museums” organized by the Department of Museology, Calcutta University, 2010.

Book review:

Archaeo-Books 0014 | The Story of Indian Archaeology, 1784-1947. Department of Archaeology, Government of Sri Lanka.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AoaZHI4TF8>

Research projects:

- Ph.D. thesis, 2002: “Minor Antiquities in the Museums of Eastern India: Problems of Communication to the Visitors”.
- UGC minor project, 2007-09: “A survey of Museums of West Bengal towards preparing of a directory”.
- Minor research grant from Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities, Calcutta University, 2007. “Asutosh Museum of Indian Art in the light of 150 years of the University of Calcutta”.
- Major research project, 2009. Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya: “Social Accountability of Museums of West Bengal with special reference to Gandhi Memorial Museum, Barrackpore”.
- Content writer, UGC E-PG Pathshala Project in Museology & Conservation.
- Co-PI, UGC-UPE II, Major Project, 2018-20, Museology Department, Calcutta University, entitled “Musealisation of the Great Indian Epics: Case Studies in South-East Asia”.

Positions held / holding

Designation	Employer	Period of service
Junior Museum Participant	Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Gol Park, Kolkata	12 April 1997 to 11 October 1997
Lecturer (Museology)	Calcutta University	22 May 2001 – 21 May 2005
Lecturer in Senior Scale (Museology)	Calcutta University	22 May 2005 – 21 May 2010
Reader (Museology)	Calcutta University	22 May 2010 – 21 May 2013
Associate Professor (Museology)	Calcutta University	22 May 2013 – 21 May 2016
Professor (Museology)	Calcutta University	22 May 2016 – till date

Organized National/International Seminars

Title of conference / Seminar	Organized by	International/National
‘Museum and Value Education’	Department of Museology, C.U. & Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore	National seminar (31 March 2013)
‘Heritage, Visuality and Museology’	Department of Museology, C.U.	International seminar (4 & 5 December 2013)
‘Museums in motion: ideas, issues and challenges’	Department of Museology, C.U. and P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum, ISI, Kolkata.	International seminar (23 & 24 March 2014)
“Heritage of South and South East Asia: Issues on Musealisation”	Department of Museology, CU & UGC-UPE II scheme under focus area “India Looking East”	International seminar (15-16 November 2018) (Diamond Jubilee celebration of the Department)

'The Past in the Present: The Future of Heritage'	Department of Museology, C.U.	International seminar (28-29 November 2019)	
Session chaired, key note address, vote of thanks delivered etc.			
Title of Lecture/Academic Session	Title of conference / Seminar etc.	Organized by	Whether International/National
Delivered welcome address	'Heritage, Visuality and Museology'	Department of Museology, C.U.	international seminar (4 & 5 December 2013)
Chaired a session	'Heritage, Visuality and Museology'	Department of Museology, C.U.	international seminar (4 & 5 December 2013)
Delivered keynote address	'Museums in motion: ideas, issues and challenges'	Department of Museology, C.U. and P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum, ISI, Kolkata.	International seminar (23 & 24 March 2014)
Chaired a session	'Museums in motion: ideas, issues and challenges'	Department of Museology, C.U. and P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum, ISI, Kolkata.	International seminar (23 & 24 March 2014)
Chaired a session	"Future Museum – An Asian Perspective"	Centre for Asian Studies, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka	International seminar (28 & 29 October 2014)
Delivered vote of thanks	"Community participation in Museological practices"	Department of Museology, Calcutta University	International seminar (2 December 2015)
Chaired a session	Museums as expression of national identity, with special focus on biographical museums	P.C. Mahalanobis Memorial Museum, ISI, Kolkata	International seminar (28 & 29 march 2016)
Other academic activities			
Programme	Duration	Organized by	
Coordinated Special summer school	13 July – 03 August 2013 (22 days)	Department of Museology, C.U. & ASC-UGC, C.U.	
Coordinated Special summer school	29 May – 18 June 2015 (21 days)	HRDC, C.U.	
Coordinated Orientation Programme 113	15 February – 12 March 2016 (27 days)	HRDC, C.U.	
Other notable activities			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member of the Ph.D. Committee in Museology, Calcutta University from January 			

2005 to December 2011; November 2021 to till date.

- Interim Head of the Department of Museology, from 5 May to 20 May 2012.
- Head of the Department of Museology from 10 July 2012 – 9 July 2014 and from 1 July 2018 to 28 December 2020.
- Convener of the Ph.D. Research Advisory Committee of Museology, C.U. from 2012 - 2016 and 2016 - 2021.
- Member of the Faculty Council, University of Calcutta.
- Member of the Editorial Board of Journal of History and Civilization, Department of Islamic History and Civilization, Asian University of Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- International expert of PhD programme, The Department of Tourism and Hospitality, Hazara University, Mansehra (Pakistan).
- External member of the Syllabus Committee of PhD, PG and UG Programmes of Dept. of Museology, IGNTU, Amarkantak, 2021.
- External expert for DRC meeting in the Department of Museology, IGNTU, Amarkantak, 29-4-22 to 28-4-23.

Membership in profession related committees

Member of ICOM
Life Member of the Museums Association of India
Life member of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata
Life member of the Indian Art History Congress

Mahua Chakrabarti
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