

Arka Maitra

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ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION

- Master of Arts, Presidency University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India. English Literature. July 2021. Secured a CGPA of 7.05.
- Bachelor of Arts, Presidency University, Kolkata, West Bengal, India. English Literature. June 2019. Secured a CGPA of 6.9.

ACADEMIC PROJECTS

Title – Luzhin as the “Puddle”: Class System of 19th Century Russia in Crime and Punishment. April 2021 to June 2021

Team size: 6

- The focus of the research project was to draw from the text of “Crime and Punishment” a comparative analysis of Dostoevsky’s expression of the class structure within his narrative in a historical context, through social phenomenon such as the social institution of Serfdom, and the imperial paradigm in Russian society and the history of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Title – The Similarities in the Methods of Depriving Agency to the Marginalized Sections of a Society in both Colonial and Post-Colonial States, and a View on Subversion as the Mode of Resistance, as seen through “Draupadi”. February 2021 to March 2021

- The focus of the paper is an analysis of the maintained continuity in the methods of subjugation and oppression by both the Colonial and Post-Colonial State upon the “Subaltern” populations under their political control through a comparative analysis of Mahasveta Devi’s “Draupadi” in the Indian political and historical context.
- The paper also attempts to analyze the idea of subversion of oppressive tactics deployed by the State Apparatus, as an effective mode of resistance, through textual analysis of Mahasveta Devi’s narrative.

Title – A view on Caste beyond its Divinity: An Understanding of Caste as a Discursive and Cultural Formation. (Dissertation) April 2020 to July 2020

- The paper is an attempt to understand and analyse the perennial nature of the caste structure and view it as a socio-cultural phenomenon rather than the Marxist understanding of caste as a socio-economic problem, solvable through economic reform, and placing the uniquely Indian phenomenon of the Caste structure within the scope of universal hegemonic discourse of power relations.
- For the purpose of deconstructing the phenomenon of caste the very nature of “culture” and “religion”; which form the backbone of the discourse of caste, are analyzed as discursive formations, along the lines of the seminal publications of distinguished academicians and authors, such as Raymond William’s work on the teleological nature of cultural formations in the book “Resources of Hope”, and Michel Foucault’s work on the discursive nature of tradition and religion in “Unities of Discourse”.

Title - Nazism as a Function of Repressive and Ideological State Apparatuses. November 2019 to December 2019

- The primary focus of the research, was to observe through the example of post 1919 Germany, how the “State”, masquerading as the “Nation”, free from political organization, uses the idea of “nationalism” as a tool for implementation of State Apparatuses, as described by Louis Althusser, in “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses (Notes towards an Investigation).”, both Ideological and Repressive, with the ultimate goal of “Nazification” of German national identity.

Title – Persepolis: A Study of Alienation March 2019 to April 2019

- The paper is primarily focused on the recurring theme of Alienation in Marjane Satrapi’s “Persepolis”, whether that be alienation from the self, through the “fatwas” implemented by the newly formed Islamic Republic in her home country of Iran, especially the “fatwa” of the enforcement of the veil for all women, or alienation from the west, which prejudices regarding her national identity as an Iranian which kept her from being fully accepted by the west.

Title – Shame in Rushdie’s Life.

August 2018

Team Size: 7

→ The focus of the research project was a comparative analysis of the text of “Shame” and Rushdie’s own personal life, based on the themes of shame as a restrictive force used to maintain the status quo and shamelessness as a resistive force to resist oppression and retake subjectivity.

PAPER PRESENTATION & PUBLICATION

Book Title – Interrogating Crises and Configuring Responses: Indian Perspectives

Publisher – Bharata Vidya Charcha Kendra (www.bharatavidya.org.in)

Title – A view on Caste beyond its Divinity: An Understanding of Caste as a Discursive and Cultural Formation. March 2021

Place: Burdwan University, Burdwan, West Bengal.

→ The paper was an attempt to understand and analyse the perennial nature of the caste structure and view it as a socio-cultural phenomenon rather than the Marxist understanding of caste as a socio-economic problem, solvable through economic reform, and placing the uniquely Indian phenomenon of the Caste structure within the scope of universal hegemonic discourse of power relations.
→ For the purpose of deconstructing the phenomenon of caste the very nature of “culture” and “religion”; which form the backbone of the discourse of caste, are analyzed as discursive formations, along the lines of the seminal publications of distinguished academicians and authors, such as Raymond William’s work on the teleological nature of cultural formations in the book “Resources of Hope”, and Michel Foucault’s work on the discursive nature of tradition and religion in “Unities of Discourse”.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Textual analysis
- Ontological research, organization and compilation from multiple sources
- Content creation
- Microsoft Office Package

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

→ Led two group research projects and presentations on “Shame in Rushdie’s Life” (August 2018) and “Luzhin as the “Puddle”: Class System of 19th Century Russia in Crime and Punishment.” (April 2021 to June 2021)

→ Internship at Green Revolution Global Certification Program (July- September 2017)