

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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### **Academic Qualifications**

- a) M.A., Modern History, 1990, Calcutta University.
- b) M.Phil in History, 1991, Calcutta University. Area of Specialization : Reform experiments in the Soviet Union (1985-1991). Title of M.Phil Dissertation: *Soviet Union Between June 1988-August 1991: The Tortuous Path to Democracy.*
- c) Ph.D. (Department of Modern History, Calcutta University) in 2002. Title of thesis: *The Emirate of Bukhara, 1868-1924: Encounters with Transition.*

### **Research**

Associated with Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata since 1993. Research Associate for the period 1993-2000 and Fellow since 2000. Current project (w.e.f. 15 December 2008) *Inner Asia Reconsidered: Ethnic resurgence and developmental strategies*. Previous project *From Siberia to the Kazakh Steppe: Re-Exploring Regional Histories of Eurasia*. [Submitted manuscript entitled *The steppe in history: Essays on a Eurasian fringe* in November 2008].

Previous research projects in the Institute are (a) *The Tajik Civil War and the foundations of the state in contemporary Tajikistan* [Book based on this project—*Society and politics*

*in Tajikistan in the aftermath of the Civil War*, Gurgaon: Hope India Publishers, 2000].  
(b) *Social Responses to Political and Economic Reforms in Central Asia in the post-Soviet period*. [Book based on this project---*Mind and Vision-perceptions of reform in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan*, Delhi: Bookwell Publishers, 2006].

### **Language proficiency**

English, Russian. Preliminary knowledge of Farsi and Kazakh.

### **Teaching experience**

- Part time lecturer in History, Women's Christian College, Kolkata (1990-1991)
- Lectures on Bengali language and grammar in South Asian Languages Department at the Institute of Oriental Studies, Tashkent from February 14----March 13, 1998.

### **Field trips**

- Participated in seminar-series in Bishkek, Almaty and Novosibirsk with institutional support, 25 May-4 June 2007.
- Institute-supported field trip to Moscow and Almaty from 22 November to 7 December 2003.
- ICSSR-supported field trip to Uzbekistan from February 13 to March 16, 1998.

### **Collaboration**

Collaboration with Siberian research team headed by Institute of History, SBRAS, Novosibirsk. Engaged in organizational work of the seminar *Russia in Asia: Envisaging Partnerships and communities in Eurasia and assessing the role of Siberia*, Kolkata, 13-15 February, 2008. Seminar organized by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies and Institute of History (Novosibirsk).

Collaboration with Monde-Iranien group of CNRS, Paris since 2000. Contributor for the bibliographical journal *Abstracta Iranica*. Teheran and Paris, Issue No. 22, 2001.

Recently engaged in book-review activities of Paris-based bibliographical journal *Central Eurasian Reader*. Member of Redaction Committee of this journal.

### **Interactive meets**

In May-June 2008, discussions with Dr. Vicken Cheterian, Director of CIMERA (Geneva), a specialist evaluating regime change and political revolutions in Serbia, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Georgia, Didier Chaudet, researcher associated with the Paris-based think tank IFRI (Institut Francais des Relations Internationales) that projects European views about policymaking in the post-Soviet space and shows interest in the diplomatic rhetoric of an expanding friendly neighbourhood that includes India.

Discussions with Dr. Joachim Otto Habeck, co-ordinator of Siberian Research Team of Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology regarding methodologies in history and sociology for research on Siberia. I have committed to submit an article for the refereed journal *Sibirica*.

Interaction with Prof. Stephane A. Dudoignon (Turkic and Ottoman Studies, CNRS-EHESS, Paris) about future collaborative work on *Central Eurasian Reader*, the first volume of which has already been published (Berlin: Klaus Schwarz Verlag, 2008) and in which my review article on Indian perspectives about China's interests in Central Asia have been published. I will be submitting similar reviews on Indian perspectives for Volume 2 of the Reader.

### **Research Publications**

#### *Books*

1. *Mind and Vision: Perceptions of reform in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan*, Bookwell (New Delhi), 2006. [Review in Europe Asia studies,
2. *Politics and Society in Tajikistan in the aftermath of the Civil War*, Hope India Publications (Haryana, India) and Greenwich Millenium Press Ltd. (London), 2002.

Review of book by Konstantin Parshin (“Tajikistan at a turning point”) in *Transitions Online* dated 29 January 2003.

### *Working Paper*

*Regional rivalries in Tajik Politics: The Current Scene, Maulana Azad Working Paper Series*, 1995.

### **Articles in journals**

- ‘Povtornoie prisoedinenie Sibiri’, *Gumanitarniye Nauki v Sibiri*, No 3, 2008, Novosibirsk, Izdatel’stvo SO RAN, pp. 68-72.
- ‘Siberia: regional dynamics’, *Asia Annual 2006*, New Delhi: Standard Publishers.
- ‘Siberia and the Russian Far East: A re-examination of ‘peripheries’’, *Asia Annual 2005*, New Delhi: Shipra Publishers.
- ‘Developmental trends in Kyrgyzstan’, *Asia Annual 2003*, New Delhi: Shipra Publishers.
- ‘Politics and society in Tajikistan in the aftermath of the Civil War in the light of recent writings’, *Contemporary Central Asia* (New Delhi), Vol V, No 2, 2001.
- ‘The ‘New’ Literature in Central Asia’, *Contemporary Central Asia* (New Delhi), Vol IV, Nos. 1-2, 2000.
- ‘Mahalgaroi and the fragmentation of Tajik society during the Tajik Civil War’, *Asia Annual 2001*, New Delhi: Shipra Publications. Also available in the website [www.eurasiasouthasia.com](http://www.eurasiasouthasia.com).
- ‘Shared Identities: Iran and Tajikistan’, *Asia Annual 2000*, New Delhi: Shipra Publishers.

### **Articles in seminar proceedings**

- ‘Changing Perceptions of Siberia’ in *Siberia in Focus* (Proceedings of the conference “Eurasia-Regional perspectives”, June 2-3 2007, Novosibirsk), Kolkata: Towards

Freedom, 2008. Russian version of article-‘Izmenenie vozpriyatiya Sibiri’, in *Evraziya-regional’nye perspektivy (Sbornik materialov mezhdunarodnoi nauchnoi konferentsii 1-4 Iuniya 2007 godu)*, Novosibirsk: Sibirskoe Nauchnoe Izdatel’stvo, 2007.

- ‘The steppe as regional potential’ in *Eurasia: Regional Perspectives*, Kolkata: Towards Freedom (a publication of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies), 2008. [Proceedings of an Indo-Kazakh workshop, Almaty, 2007)
- ‘Staying connected: the past and present of a Turkic contact zone’ in *Globalization and the Turkic civilization: Indian perspectives*, Kolkata: Towards Freedom (a publication of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies), 2008. [A compilation of papers presented at the Third International Congress on Turkic Civilizations, Bishkek, 2007).
- ‘Indian Scholar-traveller Rahula Sankrityayana and his perceptions of Soviet ‘order’ in *ESCAS Proceedings IX*, published by Cambridge Scholars’ Press (U.K.) (Forthcoming).
- ‘Chokaev, Mustapha (1890-1941)’, *Supplement to the Modern Encyclopaedia of Russian, Soviet and Eurasian History*, Vol 6, Gulf Breeze, Florida: Academic International Press, 2005.
- ‘Reconciling differences in Central Asia’, in V. Nagendra Rao and Mohammad Monir Alam eds. *Central Asia: Present Challenges and Future Prospects*, New Delhi: Knowledge World, 2005. (Publication of Centre of Strategic and Regional Studies, University of Jammu, Jammu).
- ‘The Emirate of Bukhara in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries: Reflections on Transition’, in Gabriele Rasuly Paleczek and Julia Katshnig eds. *Central Asia on Display, Proceedings of VII ESCAS Conference of the European Society for Central Asian Studies*, Wien: Lit Verlag, 2004.
- ‘The Rehabilitation of Heroes in Central Asia’, in Giampiero Bellingeri and Giovanni Pedrini edited *Central Asia: A Decade of Reforms, Centuries of Memories*, [Proceedings of ESCAS VI (Venice, 8-10 October 1998)], Dipartimento do Studi Eurasiatici, Universita Ca’ Foscari di Venezia, 2004.
- ‘History writing in Tajikistan’, *Proceedings of First Biennial Conference of the Indian Association for Asian and Pacific Studies*, 2004, Kolkata.
- ‘Resituating Tajikistan in World History: Revisions of the scholarship of Barthold and Gafurov in recent Tajik historiography’, in *B. G. Gafurov: Dialogue of Cultures and*

*Civilizations, (The Issues of the Scholars of the International Conference on Academician Bobojan G. Gafurov on the Occasion of his 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, July 28-29, 1999, New Delhi), Moscow, 2000.*

- ‘From Robert Shaw to George Nathaniel Curzon: British Penetrations into Eastern Turkestan in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century’, *Indian History Congress Proceedings*, Calcutta, 1996.

### **Articles in edited volumes**

- ‘Changing Perceptions of Siberia and the Russian Far East: From Colonial Narratives to Local Dynamics’, in Anuradha M. Chenoy and Ajay Patnaik eds *Commonwealth of Independent States: Energy, Security and Development*, Delhi: Knowledge World Publishers Pvt Ltd., 2007.
- ‘Shifting realities in Kyrgyzstan’, in K. Santanam and Ramakant Dwivedi eds *India-Kyrgyz Relations: Perspectives and prospects*, New Delhi: The India-Central Asia Foundation, 2008.
- ‘Crossing Paths and Romanticising contacts: Memories of Enduring Legacy” in P.L. Dash and Andrei Nazarenko eds *Indo-Russian Diplomatic Relations: Sixty Years of Enduring Legacy*, Delhi: Academic Excellence, 2008.
- ‘Blurred Images: Interaction and alliance-building in Siberia and its borderlands’ in P.L. Dash edited *Emerging Asia in Focus: Issues and Problems*, New Delhi: Academic Excellence, 2008.
- ‘Islamic Revivalism in Tajikistan’, in Indranil Banerjee edited *India and Central Asia*, Northolt, U.K: Brunel Academic Publishers Ltd, 2004.
- ‘Reinterpreting radicalism in Central Asia’: a case study of Tajikistan’ in *Terrorism and Religious Extremism in Central and South Asia: Collection of Essays of international seminar on the challenges of terrorism*, translated by Yang Shu, Langzhou University (Gansu) Publication Department 2003; Mahavir Singh edited *International Terrorism and Religious Extremism: Challenges to Central and South Asia*, Kolkata: Anamika Publishers, 2004.
- ‘The Shaping of Alliances in Bukharan People’s Soviet Republic (1920-24)’ in *The Turks*, Vol 5, Part 68, Yeni Turkiye Publications, Ankara, 2002. Translated into Turkish

as 'Buhara Halk Sovyet çumhuriyeti'nde Ittifaklarin Sekillenmesi' in *Turkler*, Vol 18, *Yeni Turkiye Yavanlari*, Ankara, 2002.

- 'Empires, kingdoms and mobile frontiers in Central Asia', in Ranabir Samaddar edited *Space, Territory and the State: New Readings in International Politics*, Hyderabad: Orient Longman, 2002.
- 'Religion and Popular Beliefs in Central Asia: Resurgence or Continuity?' in R.R. Sharma and Shashikant Jha edited *Reform, Conflict and Change in the CIS and Eastern Europe*, New Delhi: Radiant Publishers, 1999.
- 'Unveiling stereotypes: Transitional Politics and Gender in Central Asia', Joint Paper in Ranabir Samaddar edited *Women in Asia*, New Delhi: Vikas Publishers, 1997.

### **Newspaper articles**

- 'Tajiks: The child of Iran amidst pan-Turkic world', *The Asian Age*, May 22, 1996.

### **Book Reviews, research reports**

- Gulshan Sachdeva, 'India's attitude towards China's growing influence in Central Asia', *The China and Eurasia Forum Quarterly*, 4/3, 2006; Ramakant Dwivedi, 'China's Central Asia policy in recent times', *The China and Eurasia Forum Quarterly*, 4/4, 2006 in *Central Eurasian Reader: A Biennial Journal of Critical Bibliographical and Epistemology of Central Eurasian Studies*, Berlin: Schwarz Verlag.No 1, 2008.
- 'The steppe in orbit, stereotypes and reversed trends', *Asia Annual 2008* (forthcoming).
- 'Between Heaven and Hell: Romancing Siberia or portraying gloom?', review article in *Asia Annual 2007*, Delhi: Manohar Publishers.
- Stephane A. Dudoignon and Hisao Komatsu edited *Islam in Politics of Russia and Central Asia (Early Eighteenth to Late Twentieth Centuries)*, London: Kegan Paul, 2001 in *Central Eurasian Studies Review* (Harvard Forum of Central Asian Studies), Vol 2, No 1, 2003.

- Kamoludin Abdullaev and Shahram Akbarzadeh edited *Historical Dictionary of Tajikistan*, Lanham: Scarecrow Press, 2001 in *Journal of Central Asian Studies*, Vol VI, No 1, Fall/Winter 2001.
- Olivier Roy, *The New Central Asia: The Creation of Nations*, London: I.B. Tauris Publishers, 2000, in *The Book Review* (New Delhi), Vol XXV, No. 8, August 2001.
- N.N. Vohra edited *Culture, Society and Politics in Central Asia and India*, in *Abstracta Iranica*, (Teheran and Paris), Issue No. 22, 2001.
- Ahmed Rashid, *The Resurgence of Central Asia: Islam or Nationalism?* Karachi: Oxford University Press, 1994, in *The Book Review* (New Delhi), Vol. XIX, No 9, September 1995.

### **Maulana Azad Newsletter Publications during 1994-1998**

Themes include regionalism in Tajikistan, turbulence in the Tajik-Afghan frontier and the role of the Russian military, linguistic minorities in Tajikistan (Badakhshanis), Tajik elections, the plight of the Tajik returnees in the aftermath of the Civil War, trends in Uzbek historiography and rehabilitation of Uzbek nationalists of the 1920's and the 1930's, the cultural milieu of the nomads of Kyrgyzstan, images of the October Revolution in Central Asia, orientalist from Barthold to Gafurov.

### **Invited talks**

- 'Siberia, tangled histories', invited talk at Siberian Studies Centre, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, Halle/Salle, June 10, 2008.
- 'From the past to the present: Indian perspectives on Central Asia and Siberia', invited talk at Slavic Research Centre, Hokkaido University, 18.12.2007.

### **Presentations**

- 'The Mongol phenomenon in Eurasian History', *Fourth Biennial International Conference of Indian Association for Asia and Pacific Studies*, Visvabharati, Santiniketan, 22-24 August, 2008.

- ‘Siberian Studies: re-examining a distant domain’, in *Russia in Asia: Envisaging partnerships and communities in Eurasia and assessing the role of Siberia*, Kolkata, 13-15 February, 2008, organized by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies and Institute of History (Novosibirsk).
- ‘The Prelude and the Interlude: Representations of Transfer of Power in Bukhara, 1920-24’, *Central Asian Studies: History, Politics and Society*, 14-16 December, 2007, University of Tsukuba, Japan.
- ‘Profiling Inner Asia: In the trail of the merchant, the artist and the ghumakkar’, *ESCAS X Conference*, 12-15 September 2007, The Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey.
- ‘The steppe as a regional potential’, *Eurasia: Regional Perspectives I*, Institute of World Economy and Policy, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 30 May 2007.
- ‘Staying Connected: The Past and the Present of a Turkic Contact Zone’, *Third International Congress on Turkic Civilization: Globalization and Turkic Civilization*, Kyrgyz-Turkish Manas University, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, May 28-31, 2007.
- ‘Changing Perceptions of Siberia’, *Eurasia: Regional Perspectives II*, Institute of History, Russian Academy of Sciences, Siberian Branch, Novosibirsk, June 2-3, 2007.
- ‘Siberia Disconnected or Re-Connected?’, *India-Central Asia: Reinforcing Traditional Relationship through synergy of culture and energy*, Centre for Central Asian Studies, SOS in Political Science and Public Administration, Jiwaji University, Gwalior, January 20-22, 2007.
- ‘Changing Perceptions of Siberia and the Russian Far East: From Colonial Narratives to Local Dynamics’, *The CIS: Energy, Security and Development*, Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies, JNU, New Delhi, 16-17 February 2006.
- ‘Ethnicity and *Konfliktologii* in Central Asia’, in *Ethno-Nationalism in post-Soviet Central Asia*, Centre for South-Central Asian Studies, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, 3-4 February, 2006.
- ‘Indian scholar Rahula Sankrityayana and his perceptions of Soviet ‘order’’, *European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS) IX Conference*, Uniwersytet Jagiellonski: Instytut Filologii Orientalnej, Krakow, Poland, 12-14 September 2005.

- ‘Exploring Diversities in Kazakhstan’, *Central Asia in Transition: Dynamics of Political, Economic and Social Development*, Centre for Eurasian Studies, University of Mumbai, 10-11 March 2004.
- ‘Social Distance in post-Soviet Central Asia’, *Identity and Geopolitics in Central Asia, 1991-2003*, Academy of Third World Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, 9-10 December 2003.
- ‘Reinterpreting radicalism in Central Asia: a case study of Tajikistan’, *Religious Extremism and International Terrorism: Challenges for Central and South Asia*, New Delhi, 31 January-1 February 2003.
- ‘Representations of transfer of power in Bukhara, 1920-24’, *European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS) VIII Conference*, Bordeaux, 25-27 September 2002.
- ‘History writing in Tajikistan’, *First Biennial Conference of the Indian Association for Asian and Pacific Studies*, Kolkata, 1-3 March 2002.
- ‘Politics and society in Tajikistan in the aftermath of the Civil War in the light of recent writings’, *Central Asia: Ten Years of Independence*, New Delhi: India International Centre, 21-22 November 2001.
- ‘Modernizing education in Central Asia: Limitations of jadidism in the Emirate of Bukhara’, *Indian History Congress (Countries Other Than India section)*, Calcutta University, 2-4 January 2001.
- ‘The Emirate of Bukhara in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries: Reflections on Transition’, *European Society for Central Asian Studies (ESCAS) VII Conference*, Vienna, 27-30 September 2000.
- ‘Resituating Tajikistan in World History: Revisions of the Scholarship of Barthold and Gafurov in recent Tajik historiography’, *Commemorating the Birth Anniversary of Bobojan Gafurov*, New Delhi: 28-29 July 1999.
- ‘Rehabilitating Nationalist Heroes in Central Asia: Interrogating Stalin’s Purges’, *Nationalism in Russia and Central Asia*, Centre for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 11-13 February 1998.

- ‘Shared Identities: Iran and Tajikistan’, *Systemic Transformations in Russia and Central Asia*, Centre for Central Eurasian Studies, University of Mumbai, 5-6 February 1996.
- ‘From Robert Shaw to George Nathaniel Curzon: British Penetrations into Eastern Turkestan in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century’, *Indian History Congress (Countries Other Than India Section)*, Rabindra Bharati University, 28-30 December 1995.
- ‘Unveiling stereotypes: Transitional Politics and Gender in Central Asia’, (Joint paper with Madhumita Majumdar and Anita Sengupta), *Women in Asia: Work, Culture and Politics*, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Calcutta, 17-18 August 1995.
- ‘Regional rivalries in Tajik Politics: The Current Scenario’, *Central Asia in the Emerging World Order: Trends and Developments*, Centre for Russian, Central Asian and East European Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, 22-23 March 1995.

### **Discussions/Round tables**

- Session discussant in *Workshop on the problems and prospects of Cooperation between Northeast India and Southwest China*, Kolkata, November 15, 2007.
- Session discussant in *India-Central Asia in India-Central Asia: Reinforcing Traditional Relationship through synergy of culture and energy*, Centre for Central Asian Studies, SOS in Political Science and Public Administration, Jiwaji University, Gwalior, January 20-22, 2007.
- Presentation ‘Divergence in Central Asia: Re-assessment of Ethnic Conflicts’ in round-table discussion on *Central Asia in Transition: Implications for Regional Peace and Security*, 13 December 2005, School of International Relations and Strategic Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

### **Other academic activities**

- Chief Editor of *Asia Annual 2006* (New Delhi: Standard Publishers).
- Member of editorial team of *Asia Annual 2007* (New Delhi: Manohar Publishers).

- Edited seminar proceedings *Siberia in Focus* (2008), *Globalization and Turkic Civilization: Indian perspectives* (2008), *Eurasia: Regional Perspectives* (2008) and *Russia in Asia* (forthcoming) in collaboration with other members of the Institute.
- Co-ordinated Central Asia/Eurasia seminars in the Institute in collaboration with other members of the Institute.
- Participation in Refresher Course on South Asian Peace Studies organised by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies with UNHCR assistance, Calcutta from 20-29 October 1997. Presented paper on *Peace-building in Tajikistan in the aftermath of the Civil War*.
- Seminar Convenor of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies during 1997-2000, July 2007-June 2008.
- Internal staff seminars on socio-political developments in Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in the post-Soviet period.
- Participation in institutional activities.
- Lectures on *Jadidism in Central Asia* to students of M.A. First and Second Year (Russian History Special Paper), Department of History, Calcutta University 2002-2003.
- M.Phil Examiner of *Ganga Jalbantana Samsya O Bharat Bangladesh Samparka* (“The problem of water sharing of the Ganges and Indo-Bangladesh relations”, History Department, Calcutta University, 2008) by Bipul Chandra Mandal.