

Dr. Binayak Bhattacharya

Present Position: Associate Professor

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Education

- PhD (Film Studies and Visual Culture), EFL University, 2016
- MA (Film Studies), Jadavpur University, 2009
- BSc Physics (Hons.), University of Calcutta, 2005

Professional Experience

- Associate Professor, Adamas University (2026–Present)
- Associate Professor & HoD, Media Science, MAKAUT, WB (2022–2026)
- Assistant Professor, MAHE Manipal (2019–2022)
- Film Historian, NFAI (2017–2018)
- Assistant Professor, Amity University (2015–2017)
- Earlier teaching appointments (full and/or part-time) at iLEAD, University of Hyderabad, Symbiosis, CentumU and Osmania University.

Research Projects

- Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) international project titled *The British Empire, Scotland, and Indian Famines: Writings on Food Crisis in Colonial India* (2022–24)
- ICSSR Minor Research Project titled *A study of the status of film education in NIRF-ranked institutes, colleges, and universities in India* (2022–23)
- NFAI Research Programme: *The Screen Battles* (2019–20)

Selected Publications

Book(s):

1. Magdum, P., & Bhattacharya, B. (2018). *Women in Indian Cinema*. New Delhi: Publications Division, ISBN: 978-81-230-2939-9.

Journal article(s)/Book review(s):

1. Bhattacharya, B. (2024). Modernities and the popular melodrama: the Suchitra–Uttam Yug in Bengali cinema: by Smita Banerjee, New Delhi, Orient BlackSwan, 2023, 312 pp., INR 1045 (Paperback), ISBN 9789354424526. *South Asian History and Culture*, 16(1), 85–87.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/19472498.2024.2447197>. (Book review)
2. Bhattacharya, B. (2021). In the Footsteps of ‘Lenin’: Peace, Struggle and the Progressive Intelligentsia in Colonial Bengal. *Studies in People’s History*. Vol. 8, no. 2, pp. 241-252. ISSN: 2348-4489.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/23484489211041151>
3. Bhattacharya, B. (2021). Romancing the Reds: Early Encounters with Soviet Cinema in India. *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema*. Vol. 15, no. 3, pp. 176-194. ISSN: 1750-3132. <http://doi.org/10.1080/17503132.2021.1968568>
4. Bhattacharya, B. (2019). Seeing Kolkata: Globalization and the Changing Context of the Narrative of Bengali-ness in Two Contemporary Films. *Asiatische Studien - Études Asiatiques*, Vol. 73, no. 3, pp. 559-574. ISSN: 2235-5871.
<https://doi.org/10.1515/asia-2019-0050>
5. Bhattacharya, B. (2016). ‘Not in Our Good’: Nationalist and other Concerns in the Censorship Debates in Early Indian Cinema. *Sanglap: Journal of Literary and Cultural Inquiry*, Vol. 2, no. 2, pp. 217-235. ISSN: 2349-8064
(<http://sanglap-journal.in/index.php/sanglap/article/view/127/140>).
6. Bhattacharya, B. (2013). People’s Art or Performance of the Elites?: Debating the History of IPTA in Bengal. *Rupkatha Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*, Vol.5, no. 2, pp. 179-188. ISSN: 0975-2935
(<http://rupkatha.com/ipta-in-bengal/>)
7. Bhattacharya, B. (2014). Looking Back to IPTA after 70 Years: Some Anecdotes of the Progressive Cultural Movement in Bengal. *Visva-Bharati Quarterly*, Vol. 22, no. 3-4, pp. 88-100. ISSN: 0972-043X.
8. Bhattacharya, B. (2012). Lone Alternative for the Marginal Nation: A Cultural History of the Leftist Politics in Bengal. *Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences*, vol. 5, no. 2, pp. 9-22. ISSN: 0973-8738.

Chapter(s) in edited book(s):

1. Bhattacharya, B. (2016). The Left Encounter: Progressive Voices of Nationalism and Indian Cinema to the 1950s. In V. Kishore, A. Sarwal and P. Patra (Eds.), *Salaam Bollywood Representations and Interpretations*. Routledge, pp. 25-45. ISBN: 978-11-38649-620.
2. Bhattacharya, B. (2017). Terror, Violence and Those Fearsome Images: Turbulent Seventies and the Crisis of Bhadrak Lok Public. In P. Basu (Ed.), *Naxalism: Post-Structuralist and Post-Colonial Perspectives*. New Delhi, Setu Prakashani, pp. 165-191. ISBN: 978-93-80677-23-1.
3. Bhattacharya, B. (2017). Pragatishil Sangskritik Andolon O Bangalir Somaj Sochetan Chalacchitra. In A. Chatterjee (Ed.), *Itihase Janasanskriti: Parisare Unish-Bish Shatak*. Kolkata, Gangchil, pp. 283-303. ISBN: 978-81-933168-1-8.

Conference Presentations

International (abroad)

1. Presented a paper titled “‘They Shall Not Pass!’: Fascism, Popular Front, and Wartime Cinema in India, circa 1941-46” at *Building Fronts*, Radical Film Network (RFN) International Conference, hosted by Sorbonne Nouvelle University, Paris, on 12-15 June 2026.
2. Presented a paper titled “The 1943 Bengal Famine and Cinema of the Left, circa 1940s” at *The British Empire and Colonial Famines: History, Culture, Critique*, conference held at the University of Edinburgh on 24-25 May 2023.
3. Presented a paper titled An “Aesthetic of Hunger’?: Famine and Cinemas of India during the 1940s” at Dublin City University’s 4th Annual South Asia Conference organised by the Ireland India Institute held virtually on 28-30 April 2021.
4. Presented a paper titled “(It)... stars the People”: Communist Enterprise and the Early Days of Radical Cinema in India” at Transnational Radical Film Conference, held on 3-5 June 2019, at University of Nottingham, UK.
5. Presented a paper titled “Nuances of the Political: Satire and Activism in Contemporary Bollywood” at the *24th European Conference on South Asian Studies* (ECSAS), July 27-30, 2016, University of Warsaw, Poland.
6. Presented a paper titled “From ‘Peace’ to ‘Struggle’: The Two Great Wars and the Progressive Bengali Intelligentsia” at *The Great War and English Studies*, organized by the Department of English, at University of Dhaka, Bangladesh on 18-19 December, 2014.

7. Presented a paper “Globalizing Region, Glocalizing Rhetoric: The City of Calcutta and Its Narratives in Two Contemporary Indian Films” at *23rd European Conference on South Asian Studies (ECSAS)*, 23-26 July 2014 at University of Zurich, Switzerland.
8. Presented a paper titled “The Rebellious Politics and Counter-Aesthetics of the Bengali Popular Films Now” at the *ECSAS 2012: 22nd European Conference on South Asian Studies*; an international conference organized by the ISCTE-Lisbon University at Lisbon, Portugal on 25-28 July 2012.
9. Presented a paper titled “Bhadralok Vanguard and ‘Cultural Governance’: The Bipartite Leftism of West Bengal” at the *ECSAS 2012: 22nd European Conference on South Asian Studies*; at Lisbon, Portugal on 25-28 July 2012.

International (in India)

1. Presented a paper titled “Wind from The West: Fascism, War, Popular Front and Many Origins of Progressive Cinema in India” at *Encountering World Cinema in India*, Department of Film Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata, held on November 3-4, 2016, at Kolkata, India.
2. Presented a paper titled “Relocating the Boundaries, Reclaiming the Nation: The Journey of *Indian People’s Theatre Association* and Indian Cinema to 1950s” at *Beyond Borders 2013*, 1st Multidisciplinary Conference in Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore, December 20th - 21st, 2013.
3. Presented a paper titled “Cinematic Journey of the Dissident Nationalists: Indian People’s Theatre Association and the Hindi *Social* Films” at the conference *Traditions of Dissent in Sub-continental Literatures*, Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod, Kerala, on 15-17 October, 2012.
4. Presented a paper titled “Re-making Meaning?: The Invasion of the Southern and the *Bhadralok* Cinema” at the *Cinema Cultures in South India*; organized by CPRACISIS (The Centre for Performance Research and Cultural Studies in South Asia) at Thrissur, Kerala, India on 13-14 October, 2012.
5. Presented a paper titled “Who Were the ‘People’ in IPTA?: Revisiting the History of Marxist Cultural Movement in India” at the *Arts and Aesthetics in a Globalizing World*- international conference organized by Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi on 3-6 April 2012.

National

1. Presented a paper titled “Studying Indian Cinema as a Textual Mode of Social History: Some Contemporary Critical Approaches” at the UGC sponsored conference *Contemporary Critical Theories*, organized by Department of English, DBF Dayanand College, Solapur, Maharashtra on 31 August-1 September, 2013.
2. Presented a paper titled “The Nation and its Narrative: Revisiting the Popular Aesthetics of the 1940s and 1950s Hindi Films” at the UGC sponsored national seminar on *Representation, Imagination and Narration: Tracing and Locating the Nation through History and Narration* organized by the Department of English, St. Joseph’s College, Darjeeling, West Bengal on 19-20 March, 2012.
3. Presented a paper titled “Imagining the Real Nation: Popular Aesthetics of the 1940s-50s Hindi Films” at a national seminar *Reading Indias* organized by the Department of English, Christ University, Bangalore, on 20-21 February, 2012.
4. Presented a paper titled “West Bengal: Relocating the Cultural Boundaries” at the *RAW.CON: A National Researcher’s Conference* organized by the Centre of Comparative Literature at University of Hyderabad on 20-22 September, 2011.
5. Presented a paper titled “Reading Resistance: Politics of Change in Some Recent Bengali Popular Films” at *Performing Resistance*, seminar organized by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai in 27-28 January 2011.

Workshops

International (abroad):

1. Participated in the 3rd Biannual Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society (IACSS) Summer School on *Modern Asian Thought* at International Institute for Cultural Studies, University System of Taiwan (IICS-UST), Hsinchu, Taipei, Taiwan 1-15 July, 2014.

International (in India):

1. Participated in the “Workshop on Audio Preservation” jointly organized by British Library, London, and School of Cultural Texts and Records, Jadavpur University, Kolkata on 11-13 October 2023 at Jadavpur University, Kolkata.
2. Participated in the “Film Preservation & Restoration Workshop - India 2019” organised by the Film Heritage Foundation and the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAF) on December 8-15, 2019 at Annapurna Studios, Hyderabad, India.

3. Participated in the “International Workshop for Research Scholars on Early Cinema” at the Dept. of Film Studies, EFL University on October 19, 2011

National:

1. Participated in the *Research Writing Workshop* for PhD scholars organized by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT-Delhi on 28-29 March, 2014..

Courses Taught

- Film Theory, Film Studies, World Cinema, Film Appreciation, Photography, Media History and related courses.

Academic & Administrative Responsibilities

- Former HoD, MAKAUT; Coordinator, Centre for Film Studies (MAHE); Board memberships and editorial responsibilities.

Grants, Fellowships & Awards

- Alfred Friendly Fellowship; ECSAS bursary; Swiss National Science Foundation grant; UGC Research Fellowship; Tata Trust scholarship.

Professional Memberships

- Radical Film Network; former EASAS member.