

## Rajarshi Sengupta

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### Education

- 2019            **University of British Columbia**, Vancouver, Canada  
Ph.D., Art History  
  
Thesis title: *Making Kalamkari Textiles: Artisans and Agency in Coromandel, India*  
  
University of British Columbia **Four Year Fellowship** (2013-2017) and Tuition Award (2013-19)  
**Kau Shao Ching Graduate Travel Award** in Art History (2015)
- 2009-11        **University of Hyderabad**, Hyderabad, India  
M.F.A. (Fine Arts)  
**Award** (gold medal) in Printmaking, University of Hyderabad (2011)  
Performance award from University of Hyderabad (2010-11)
- 2005-09        **Rabindra Bharati University**, Kolkata, India  
B.F.A. (Fine Arts, Printmaking)  
**Award** (gold medal) in Student's Annual Exhibition (2009)  
Certificate of Merit in Student's Annual Exhibition (2008)  
Stipend for performance (2006-07, 2007-08)
- 2017            **Weavers' Service Centre**, Hyderabad, India  
Natural dyeing, wood-block printing, and wax-resist painting program
- 2015            **American Institute of Indian Studies**, Hyderabad, India  
Telugu Summer Language Program

### Professional Experience

- 2021            Dept. of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur  
**Assistant Professor**, Fine Arts  
  
(January-July) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Kangra  
Guest Associate Professor, Fashion Design  
Course offered: History of Costume (14th Century to Contemporary)  
Art and Design Aesthetics
- 2019-21        **S. N. School of Arts & Communication**, University of Hyderabad  
Guest Assistant Professor, Art History  
Courses offered: History of Western Art, Twentieth-Century Indian art,  
Twentieth-Century Western Art  
  
**Craftmark**, India

Associate, Andhra Pradesh

- 2018 **University of British Columbia**, Vancouver, Canada  
Teaching Assistant, ARTH 345: History of Photography: Archive, Spectacle, Reality  
Instructor: Dr. Jillian Lerner
- University of British Columbia**, Vancouver, Canada  
Teaching Assistant, ARTH 339: 19<sup>th</sup>-century Art and Social Space  
Instructor: Prof. Maureen Ryan
- 2017 **University of British Columbia**, Vancouver, Canada  
Teaching Assistant, ARTH 253 Asian Architecture: Sacred and Urban Spaces  
Conducted tutorials and assisted students to develop research papers  
Instructor: Prof. Katherine Hacker
- 2016, 2017-18 **University of British Columbia**, Vancouver, Canada  
Research Assistant, Visual Resources Centre  
Supervisor: Mr. Michael Mao
- 2011-13 **National Institute of Advanced Studies**, IISc, Bengaluru, India  
Junior Research Fellow, Digital Hampi Project, funded by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India  
Supervisor: Prof. Sharada Srinivasan

#### **Examination of Bachelor/Master Thesis**

- 2021 Second Examiner, M. A. Art History dissertation by Bonnie Chen and Hanah Lee, Dept. of Art History, **University of Hong Kong**
- 2020 Second Examiner, M. A. Art History dissertation by Irene Lee Do, Dept. of Art History, **University of Hong Kong**

#### **Awards**

- 2017-18 **IARTS Textiles of India Grant, Royal Ontario Museum**, Toronto, Canada  
Recipient of the first IARTS Grant for developing an independent project on the textile artisans in Deccan (South India).  
Project: *From Repetition to Reconstruction: Textiles, Tools, and Artisanal Knowledge of the Deccan*
- Travel Grant, Northwestern University, Evanston, USA  
*Grant for travel and accommodation for the annual art history symposium*
- 2016 **Curatorial Grant, Korean Cultural Centre**, New Delhi, India  
Recipient of the grant along with Prof. Baishali Ghosh to co-curate an art-research project involving young international contemporary artists that culminated in an exhibition and a catalogue  
Project: 'WE', a **शब्द/ شبد**

## Curation

- 2016 ‘WE’, a **शब्द/ شبد**, with Dr. Baishali Ghosh, **Korean Cultural Centre**, New Delhi  
Funded by Korean Cultural Centre, New Delhi

## Publications

- 2021 “**From Reference to Knowledge Repositories**: On Mimetic Aspects of Kalamkari Making,” *South Asian Studies*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02666030.2021.1969807>
- The Porcelain Rose*, Paula Sengupta. New Delhi: Gallery Espace, 2021. Exhibition catalogue,  
<https://www.galleryespace.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Paula-Sengupta-The-Porcelain-Rose.pdf>
- 2020 “Ruptures, Continuations, and Innovations: On Contemporary *Kalamkari* Making in the Coromandel and Deccan,” in *Cloth that Changed the World*, ed. Sarah Fee (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2020), 228-39.
- “Performing Histories: Enduring Dyes and Waterways in Artisanal Lives,”  
*Journal of Textile Design Research and Practice*, 8, no. 3 (2020): 335-57.
- 2019 “**An Artisanal History of Kalam?**,” *Journal of Textile Design Research and Practice* 7, no. 1 (2019): 25-37.
- 2017 “**Many Gatherings**: Cosmopolitan World of a Golconda Coverlet,”  
*Journal18*, vol. East-Southeast (October 2017)
- 2016 ‘WE’, a **शब्द/ شبد**, co-authored by Dr. Baishali Ghosh, ‘WE’, a **शब्द/ شبد** -  
*Interstecies*, Incheon Art Platform G1 Gallery, Incheon, South Korea
- Others
- 2018 Blog post, “**Facing Histories**: A Block Maker, A Dye Specialist, and a Textile Study Room, Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) Blog  
<https://www.rom.on.ca/en/blog/facing-histories-a-block-maker-a-dye-specialist-and-a-textile-study-room>
- 2014 Catalog essays for *Trajectories: 19<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup>-century Printmaking from India and Pakistan*, curated by Dr. Paula Sengupta and Camila Chaudhary, **Sharjah Art Museum**, UAE
- 2012 Catalog essays for *The Printed Picture*, by Dr. Paula Sengupta, and *Manifestations VIII*, **Delhi Art Gallery**, New Delhi, India
- Review**
- 2021 (**Book review**) *Textile Trades, Consumer Cultures, and the Material Worlds of the Indian Ocean: An Ocean of Cloth*, eds. Pedro Machado, Sarah Fee and Gwyn Campbell, *Shillong Times*, January 31.
- 2018 Madiha Sikander and Rajarshi Sengupta, “**Versions of Contemporaneity**: revisiting the qualifier “indigenous”,” *Rungh* 5, no. 3 (March 2018).

## Symposiums and Presentations

- 2021 (Webinar) **Textile Museum of Canada** in partnership with Royal Ontario Museum  
With Dr. Sarah Fee and Dr. Ruth Barnes  
Presentation title: “The Fine Art of Indian Chintz: Then and Now.”
- (Webinar) Dhi Artspace, Hyderabad  
With Shruti Mahajan, Sharmistha Kar and Sumana Som  
Presentation title: “**Allegories of Thread**,” in conjunction with the exhibition  
*Allegories of Threads*, July 12- September 18.
- 2020 (Recorded Lecture) **University of the Fraser Valley**, Abbotsford, Canada  
Lecture title: “Perceiving Textiles: Materials, Significance, and Interpretations.”
- (Webinar) **INTACH** Bengaluru and National Institute of Advanced Studies (**NIAS**)  
Presentation title: Sensorial Histories of Kalamkari: Reconstruction of Artisanal  
Knowledge in Southern India.”
- Dept. of Communication, S. N. School of Arts & Communication  
Seminar 2020-Bodily Habitations: Cinema, Cast, Religious and Gender Practices  
Chair for “**New Spaces, New Bodies: A Case Study of Colonial Bengal**” By Prof.  
Anindita Mukhopadhyay
- 2019 **Salarjung Museum**, Hyderabad  
Paper title: “Suppressed impressions: On Undertheorized woodblock making and printing  
in the Deccan.”
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)**, Hyderabad  
Panel Discussion on *Perspectives on Work, Home, and Identity from Artisans in  
Telangana: Conversations on Craft*, by Dr. Chandan Bose  
Paper title: “Theorizing Practice and “Writing Visuals”.”
- 2018 IARTS Textiles of India Grant Final Presentation, **Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)**,  
Toronto  
Paper title: “**Repeating Innovations: Textiles, Repetitive Actions, and Knowledge  
Making in the Deccan.**”  
Co-presenters: Jagada Rajappa and Gangadhar Kondra
- Roundtable: *Traditional Textiles in the Contemporary World*. Contemporary Textile  
Studio Co-op, Toronto
- Visual and Material Culture Seminar Series, **Museum of Anthropology (MOA)**,  
Vancouver  
Paper title: “Repeating and Rhyming after the Past: Textile Reconstructions in the  
Deccan.”

The Social Fabric: From Deep Local to Pan Global  
**Textile Society of America's 16<sup>th</sup> Biennial Symposium**, Vancouver  
Paper title: "An Artisanal History of Kalam?"

Art and Work, **Northwestern University**, Evanston, USA  
Paper title: "Workshops as Intermediaries: Dyed Textile Making and Early Modern Knowledge Transmissions."

2017 International Convention of Asia Scholars (**ICAS**), Chinag Mai  
Organized by the **International Institute of Asian Studies, University of Leiden**  
Panel, organized by the participants of *Weaving Knowledge* workshop

2016 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on South Asia, **University of Wisconsin-Madison**, Madison, USA  
Paper title: "The Foundational and the Faux: A case study of the Transitional Practices and Tools of Artisans in Bandar (A.P.)."

**Universities Art Association Canada Annual Conference**, Montreal, Canada  
Paper title: "Painted textiles, textiles painted: Mirroring of virtual and the real in Coromandel textiles."

2015 Art History Graduate Symposium, **York University**, Toronto  
Paper title: "Marbling beyond "Marvelous": Marbling and Sensuous Mimesis from the Seventeenth Century court of Bijapur."

2014 Centre for India and South Asian Research, **University of British Columbia**, Vancouver  
Presentation title: "Of Newfangled Conventions."

2011 Frames of Reference, **Tata Institute of Social Sciences**, Mumbai, India

Emerging artists' presentation, conducted by **Khoj Kolkata** and Gallery Exposure and supported by Birla Academy of Art and Culture, Kolkata, India

## Exhibitions

2012 (**Solo**) *450 Miles of Thriving Silence*, Gallery Sumukha, Bengaluru, India  
This exhibition project explored the layered notion of spaces constructed by travel narratives and historic textiles through a series of drawings, paintings, and backlit installation pieces

## Group Shows

2017 *Migration and Empathy*, **Bursa Migration History Museum**, Turkey

2016 'WE', a **शब्द/ شبد**, Korean Cultural Centre, New Delhi, India

2013 *Tagore Lost & Found*, curated by Bina Sarkar Ellias, Art Bull, New Delhi  
*The Print & Beyond*, curated by Dr. Paula Sengupta, Ganges Art Gallery, Kolkata

2012 *Gennext VI*, **Aakriti Art Gallery**, Kolkata

2011 *Emerging Pallets*, Shrishti Art Gallery (presented by **Goethe-Zentrum and Alliance Francaise de Hyderabad**), Hyderabad

*Final Display'11-the Students' Annual show*, S.N.School, University of Hyderabad

### Workshops

2019 *Audio-Visual Media as a tool in Research*, **Institute for Studies in Industrial Development** (New Delhi), sponsored by Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)

2017 Weaving Knowledge, organized by **International Institute of Asian Studies** and Prof. Pamela Smith, Chiang Mai, Thailand, funded by Dorothy Borg Foundation (New York, USA)  
Convenors: Dr. Pamela Smith, Dr. Annapurna Mamidipudi, Ms. Nussara Tiengkate  
**Travel Grant** for supporting travel, registration fees, and other expenses for the workshop

2014 **International Institute for Asian Studies** Summer School, University of Chiang Mai, Thailand, partially funded by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation  
Convenors: Dr. Pamela Smith, Dr. Francoise Verges, Ms. Aarti Kawlra  
International Institute for Asian Studies (**University of Leiden**) Travel Grant

TAKE on Writing: Contemporary Art Writing in India, **Sunaparanta Center for the Arts**, Goa, India

2011 Curating Indian Visual Culture: Theory and Practice, an initiative by the Indian Foundation for the Arts (**IFA**) in Collaboration with S.N.School, **University of Hyderabad** (funded by Jamsetji Tata Trust)  
IFA Travel Grant

### Others

2020 **Illustrations** for *Gali Kurchiye Nanna Kalugalu (My Feet are the Wheel Chair)*, by Franz-Joseph Huainigg, translated by VSS Sastry (Bengaluru: Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti-Karnataka).

2017-2018 Member, **Search Committee** for the Assistant Professor in the field of South Asian Art University of British Columbia

2012 Qualified for University Grant Commission National Eligibility Test for Lectureship (**NET**), India

2010 Comics' strip, "**The Valiant comes under Veil**," *Comix India* vol. 2

### Languages

Bengali- speaking, reading, writing  
Hindi-speaking, reading, writing

Telugu-intermediate speaking, reading, writing