

## **Professor Sukanya Sharma**

### **Professor in Archaeology, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati**

**Work Address:** Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Guwahati-781039, Assam, India

**Work phone:** +91-0361-2582559

**Email:** [sukanya@iitg.ac.in](mailto:sukanya@iitg.ac.in)

**Alternate email:** sukanyasharma2013@gmail.com

### **Education**

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Anthropology from Cotton College, Guwahati, 1993

Master of Arts (MA) in Ancient Indian Culture and Archaeology, Deccan College PG and Research Institute, Pune, 1995

PhD from the Department of Archaeology, Deccan College PG and Research Institute, Pune, 2002

Title of PhD Research: Cultural Affinities Between Southeast Asia and Northeast India during Prehistoric Times with special reference to Ganol and Rongram river valley in Meghalaya

### **Professional Career**

1995-2000 Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology, North Guwahati College, Guwahati, Assam, India

2000-20002 Junior Research Fellow, Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR), Department of Archaeology, Deccan College Post-graduate and Research Institute, Pune, Maharashtra, India

2002-2004 Fellow in Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training Eastern India (CASTEI), Kolkata, west Bengal, India

2004-2006 Senior Fellow in the Centre for Northeast India and South East Asian Studies, Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social Change and Development, Guwahati, Assam, India

2006 Joined IIT Guwahati as Assistant Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati

Since 2019 Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati.

Since 2020 Associated Faculty Member, Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, IIT Guwahati.

## **Publications**

### **BOOKS (4)**

#### **2024**

Sharma, S., Uppaluri, R. V. S., Dutta, V., & Kashyap, A. (2024). *Policies for research and innovation* (Vol. 1, pp. XXVI, 103). Springer Singapore.

#### **2022**

Tamta, P., & Sharma, S. (2022). *The Kāmākhyā Temple and its Art and Architecture*. Kamakhya Devalaya Management Committee. Bhabani Publication House. ISBN 978-93-5659-019-9.

#### **2014**

Sharma, S. (2014). *A Sourcebook of the Archaeology of the Himalayan Region: Arunachal Pradesh*. Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training Eastern India. ISBN 978-81-930422-0.

#### **2007**

Sharma, S. (2007). *Celts, flakes, and bifaces: The Garo Hills story*. British Archaeological Reports. Oxford, England: John and Erica Hedges Ltd. ISBN 978-1-4073-0068-9.

### **BOOK CHAPTERS (16)**

#### **2024**

Bagchi, M., & Sharma, S. (2024). The 'North-East' label: Need for a heritage education policy. *In Policies for Research and Innovation* (pp. 17-31). Springer Singapore. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-5681-0>

Harit, E., & Sharma, S. (2024). Rules, recommendations, and requirements: A study of regulations on archaeological excavation and exploration in India. *In Policies for Research and Innovation* (pp. 33-48). Springer Singapore. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-5681-0>

Chettri, U., & Sharma, S. (2024). The Longchoks of Sikkim and North Bengal: The need for heritage preservation and awareness. *In Policies for Research and Innovation* (pp. 49-70). Springer Singapore. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-5681-0>

## 2023

Sharma, S. (2023). Assam from Prehistory to History. In *Northeast India through the ages: A transdisciplinary perspective on prehistory, history and oral history* (pp. 27-61). Routledge India. ISBN 978-1-032-46864-4.

## 2020

Sharma, S. (2020). Using Pottery to Study Past Economic Organisations of Northeast India. In *Converging Spectrum of Anthropology with Emphasis on Assam and Adjoining Areas*. EBH Publishers (India). ISBN 978-93-88881-45-6.

Singh, P., Tamta, P., & Sharma, S. (2020). Exploring the Bamuni Hill remains: An Archaeometric Study of Pottery. In M. K. Chauley & M. Hazarika (Eds.), *Archaeology in Northeast India: Recent trends and Future Prospects* (pp. 226-238). Research Indian Press. ISBN 978-93-5171-171-1.

## 2019

Sharma, S. (2019). Rock Art Heritage of Northeast India. In *Hominid adaptation in prehistoric Northeast India with special emphasis on the Ganol and Rongram River Valley, Garo Hills, Meghalaya* (pp. 67-80). Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. ISBN 978-81-943803-3.

## 2017

Sharma, S., Singh, P., & Das, M. (2017). The past and the present of the craft of pottery in Assam. In S. G. Deo, A. Baptista, & J. Joglekar (Eds.), *Rethinking the past: A tribute to Professor V.N. Misra* (pp. 330-342). Indian Society for Prehistoric and Quaternary Studies. (Monograph No. 7). ISBN: 978-81-908330-6-6.

Sharma, S. 2017. Imagery of North-East India: An Archaeological Perspective, *ICON Journal of Archaeology and Culture*. Vol 4. 2017, pp 181-192.

## 2011

Sharma, S. (2011). Rethinking the Neolithic of Northeast India: Issues and prospects. In K. S. Singh (Ed.), *Neolithic of Eastern India*. Indian Archaeological Society.

Sharma, S. (2011). Indigenous Knowledge, Sustainability, and Shifting Cultivation: The Garo Experience. In *The North East Umbrella: Cultural-Historical Interaction and Isolation of the Tribes in the Region (Pre-history to 21st Century)*. Shillong: Don Bosco Centre for Indigenous Cultures.

## 2009

Sharma, S. (2009). Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti and History of Archaeological Research in Assam. In G. Sengupta & K. Gangopadhyay (Eds.), *Archaeology in India: Individuals, Ideas and Institutions*. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal.

## 2007

Sharma, S. (2007). Chapter on Introduction to Archaeology. In *Asomiya Biswakosh* (Vol. 7). Asom Sahitya Sabha.

## 2006

Sharma, S. (2006). Settlement Pattern of the Prehistoric Inhabitants of the Ganol and Rongram River Valleys: An Ethnoarchaeological Analysis. In G. Sengupta, S. Roychoudhury, & S. Som (Eds.), *Past and Present: Ethnoarchaeology in India*. New Delhi: Pragati Publishers.

## 2002

Sharma, S. (2002). The Prehistoric Sites of West Garo Hills, Meghalaya. In G. Sengupta & S. Panja (Eds.), *Archaeology of Eastern India: New Perspectives*. Kolkata: Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training Eastern India.

## 1999

Sharma, S. (1999). Kirata Janagosthir Itivritva-Nritvattik or Pratnatvattik Parcyalochana. *Prachya Prava*. Sarat Chandra Sharma Prachya Tatva Adhayan Kendra, Guwahati.

## RESEARCH PAPERS (40)

### 2024

Upasna Chettri and Sukanya Sharma, "Integrating Folktales in Archaeological Investigations: A Study from Sikkim-Darjeeling Himalayas", *Space and Culture, India*, vol.12, Issue no.3, pp.83-106 [2024].

Kumar, J., Sharma, S., Sharma, R., & Chopra, S. (2024). AMS 14C dating of the sites of Digaru-Kolong River Valley, Assam-Meghalaya Foothills, India. *Radiocarbon*, 66(4), 664–675.

Rohit, & Sharma, S. (2024). Identifying anthropogenic and palaeoenvironmental markers of Holocene prehistoric assemblages of Northeast India: A case study of Khasi Hills (Meghalaya). *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, 53, Article 104397, 1-17.

Sharma, S. (2024). Cultural heritage managers: An Indian perspective. *Legal News and Views*, 5-7.

### 2023

Singh, P., Sharma, S., & Laskar, J. J. (2023). Thin Section Petrography of Neolithic Pottery from Northeast India. *Journal of Neolithic Archaeology*, 149-164.

Tamta, P., & Sharma, S. (2023). The Stylistic Treatment of the Sculpture of Goddess Chamunda in the Kamakhya Temple, Assam, India. *Puratattva*, 53, 104-115.

## 2022

Ashraf, M., Saikia, A., & Sharma, S. (2022). Legacy of co-existence between rhino and people in a protected area in India. *Environmental Challenges*, 9, Article 100639, 1-10.

## 2021

Deori, S. K., Sharma, S., Bora, D., & Barua, U. (2021). Comparative material study of ancient bricks and mortars of Sivasagar and Charaideo area, Assam, India. *AIP Conference Proceedings*, 2358, Article 090017, 1-8.

Tamta, P., & Sharma, S. (2021). Surya Sculptures in Sculpture Art of Kamakhya: A Glimpse of Artistic Evolution of Surya Sculpture in Assam. *Journal of Bengal Art*, 26, 251-272.

## 2020

Tamta, P., & Sharma, S. (2020). Understanding the Pattern and Distribution of Sculptural and Architectural Remains in the Archaeological Site of Kamakhya. *Archaeological Research in Asia*, 22 (1).

## 2019

Kumar, J., & Sharma, S. (2019). Slope Instability and Rearrangement of Sealed Sites: A study in Digaru-Kolong River Valley. *Puratattva*, 48, 199-209.

Rani, P., & Sharma, S. (2019). Inspirations of Visual Forms: A study on Painted Mud Houses of Eastern Jharkhand. *Journal of Adivasi and Indigenous Studies*, IX (1), 35-55.

Tzudir, T., Jamir, T., & Sharma, S. (2019). Scientific analysis of iron ore, iron slag, and soils of termite nest from the site of Wui, Nagaland using optical microscopy, XRD, electrical furnace test, and FESEM. *Current Science*, 116(2), 311–319.

## 2018

Kumar, J., & Sharma, S. (2018). Reconnaissance in Search of Sarutaru. *Pratna Samiksha*, Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training Eastern India: Kolkata, 9, 1-14.

Sharma, S. (2018). The heritage issue in India. *Journal of Space and Culture*, ACCB Publications, England 6 (3), 1-4.

Singh, P., Mal, E., Khare, A., & Sharma, S. (2018). A study of Archaeological Pottery of Northeast India using Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS). *Journal of Cultural Heritage*, 33, 71-82. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.culher.2018.03.011>

## **2017**

Sharma, S. (2017). The people, the Megaliths of Cherrapunjee. *Journal of Heritage Management*, 2 (1), 76-88.

Sharma, S. (2017). The Third Perspective on Shifting Cultivation. *Space and Culture India, ACCB Publications, England*, 5 (2), 21-31.

Sharma, S., & Singh, P. (2017). Luminescence Dating of Neolithic Pottery in Northeast India. *Current Science*, 113 (3), 492-496.

## **2016**

Sharma, S. (2016). Re-living an “abandoned” space (Editorial). *Space and Culture India, ACCB Publications, England*, 4 (1), 1-5.

Singh, P., & Sharma, S. (2016). Thermal and Spectroscopic characterization of archaeological pottery from Ambari, Assam. *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports*, 5, 557-563.

## **2015**

Sharma, S. (2015). Memories of a forgotten cosmos. *Economic and Political Weekly, Sameeksha Trust, L* (24), 30-34.

## **2014**

Sharma, S., Tamta, P., (2014). Understanding Patterns: Festivals of Arunachal Pradesh. In: *Traditional Festivals: Appreciating their Sociological and Philosophical Dimensions*, *Quest*, 8(1), Guwahati, India. ISSN: 0976-0040

## **2012**

Sharma, S. (2012). Hominid adaptations in prehistoric Northeast India with special reference to the Ganol and Rongram River Valley, Garo Hills, Meghalaya. *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh (Humanities)*, 56(1–2).

## **2011**

Sengupta, G., & Sharma, S. (2011). Archaeology in Northeast India: The Post-Independence Scenario. *Ancient India*, New Series No. 1.

Sharma, S. (2011). Southeast Asian Elements in the Archaeological evidence of Northeast India. *SPAFA Journal, journal: a publication of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SPAFA)*, Bangkok, Jan-April or May-August.

Sharma, S. (2011). Negotiating transnational identities on the Indo-Myanmar border: The trade factor. *India Quarterly*, 67(1), March.

Sarma, R., & Sharma, S. (2011). The (culturally) disappearing people of Arunachal Pradesh: A conceptual understanding. *Quest*, IV, 132–148.

## **2009**

Sharma, S. (2009). Images of women: The ZEE TV style. *Prologue*, II & III(1&2).

## **2008**

Sharma, S. (2008). The Architectural Landscape of Kamakhya Temple Complex. *Purattava*, 38.

Sharma, S. (2008). Tourism, Technology, and the Entrepreneur: A Case Study from Northeast India. *The ICFAI University Journal of Business Strategy*, 5(4).

## **2007**

Sharma Sukanya "Roads, Routes and Trade in the Indo-Myanmar Border" in *Journal of North-East India Council for Social Research* vol 31:2, 2007.

## **2005**

Sharma, S. (2005). Building roads to Myanmar: A historical overview. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 40(48), 26 November.

Sharma, S. (2005). Further Reading. *Seminar*, 550, June.

## **2003**

Sharma Sukanya "Tradition and Changing Attitude" in *Journal of Northeast India Council of Social Science Research*, October 2003: Shillong.

## **2002**

Sharma, S. (2002). Geomorphological context of the Stone Age record of the Ganol and Rongram valleys in the Garo Hills, Meghalaya. *Man and Environment*, XXVII(2), Pune.

## **1999**

Sharma Sukanya "Adoptive Kinship: A byproduct of Changing Social Structure in a Traditional Village" Published in the *Journal of Northeast India Council of Social Science Research*, Shillong 1999.

## **1998**

Sharma Sukanya "A Study on Dimapur Ruins of Nagaland" Published in *the Bulletin of Assam State Museum*. No.XIV,1998.

## **1995**

Sharma, S. (1995). Archaeological remains in Sri Surya Pahar, Assam: A brief Survey Report. *Purattava*, 26.

## **Sponsored Projects and Collaborations: 10**

### **Radio-Carbon Dating of Archaeological Material from Kahelgaon-Sahbganj region**

**Funding Agency :** Inter-University Accelerator Centre, New Delhi (IUAC)

**Principal Investigator:** Sukanya Sharma

**Co-investigator:** Rajveer Sharma, IUAC

**Duration/Starting Year:** April 2025

### **Scientific Analysis of Iron, Copper and Lead objects from Vadnagar Archaeological Site, Gujarat**

**Supported by Excavation Branch-V, Vadodara, Archaeological Survey of India**

**Principal Investigator:** Sukanya Sharma

**Co-investigator:** Dr. Priyanka Tamta, Rohit and Dr. Abhijit Ambekar, SA, ASI.

**Duration/Starting Year:** March 2023

### **Oral Traditions of the Lepchas: An Archaeological enquiry in Sikkim**

**Funding Agency :** Inter-University Accelerator Centre, New Delhi (IUAC)

**Principal Investigator:** Sukanya Sharma

**Co-investigator:** Rajveer Sharma, IUAC

**Duration/Starting Year:** 2023-08-01 to 2025-12-01

### **Annotated Atlas of the Heritage Sites of Assam: Using GIS**

**Funding Agency:** State Innovation and Transformation Agency (SITA)

**Sanctioning Date:** April 2023

### **AMS dating of the Archaeological sites of Digaru – Kolong River.**

**Funding Agency :** Inter-University Accelerator Centre, New Delhi (IUAC)

**Principal Investigator:** Sukanya Sharma

**Co-investigator:** Rajveer Sharma, IUAC

**Duration/Starting Year:** 2019-08-01 to 2021-12-01

**Title of the Project:** Scientific Analysis of Pottery from Selected sites of West Bengal

**Sponsoring Agency:** Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training Eastern India (An autonomous institute of the government of West Bengal), Kolkata

**Sanctioning date:** May 2018



**Title of the project:** Pottery Making and its Prospects for Rural Employment: Kumar and Hira Communities  
**Sponsoring Agency:** Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)  
**Sanctioning date:** January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014

**Title of the project:** Megaliths in Changing Times: A study in Cherrapunjee  
**Sponsoring Agency:** Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)  
**Sanctioning date:** September 2010  
**Date of Completion:** August 2012

**Title of the Project:** Virtual Anthropology Laboratory  
**Sponsoring Agency:** Ministry of Human Resource Department under National Mission on Education through ICT, Govt. of India.  
**Sanctioning Date:** April 2010

**Title of the project:** A Source Book on the Archaeology of the Himalayas: Arunachal Pradesh.  
**Sponsoring Agency:** Center for Archaeological Studies and Training Eastern India, Kolkata.  
**Period:** July 2009 to June 2010.

#### **Invited Talk**

1. "Radio Carbon Dating of Archaeological Site in Digaru- Kolong River Valley, Assam" Invited Lecture in Aitijya- the Museum Festival, Directorate of Museums, Assam on 4/1/2025.
2. "Knowledge Defined" talk delivered in UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC) (Formerly UGC-HRDC) at Maulana Azad National Urdu University Hyderabad on 11/12/2024.
3. Conservation, Protection and Culture Resource Management, Invited Lecture, RUSA Workshop (6 to 9 November 2023) on Heritage Tourism, Employability & Entrepreneurship DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC HISTORY AND CULTURE UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA (ALIPORE CAMPUS) 1, REFORMATORY STREET, KOLKATA – 700027 Kolkata on 8/11/2023
4. "Tradition of Ancient Indian Materialism" Invited Lecture, NEP-2020 Orientation & Sensitization Programme" Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), (Formerly UGC-HRDC) at Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad on 9/3/2024
5. "The Goal of Mankind is Knowledge, Invited Lecture, UGC-MMTTC, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad on 3/7/2024.
7. "Lokayata", Invited Lecture in the programme on Indian Language, Cultural Oneness and National Integration, Mizoram University, Aizawl on 23/3/2024

8. "Utilitarianism and Intangible Cultural Heritage: A Study in Assam, Invited Lecture in Amrit Kaal Vimarsh, National Institute of Technology Shillong on 12/10/2023
9. "The Discourse of the Unwritten Past of Northeast India" Dharani Sen Memorial Lecture, Tripura University, Agartala on 24/11/2022.
10. Special Lecture organised by the Dept. of AIHC and Archaeology, University of Allahabad. 4th August, Friday The Megaliths, the People and the landscape of Cherrapunjee, Meghalaya 2017
11. Occasional Lecture Series of the Centre for Archeological Studies and training Imagery of Northeast India: An Archaeological Perspective, 23rd July 2013
12. "The city of Guwahati" in the *World Heritage Meet*, Guwahati, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2012.
13. "Typo-Technological Assessment of the Stone Tool Industries of Garo Hills, Meghalaya" Archaeology of Northeast India organized by Indian Museum, Kolkata and the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training Eastern India, Kolkata, 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> November 2009.
14. "Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainability" in Indigenous Technology, Livelihood Options and Habitat Utilisation organized by Northeast Regional Centre for Development, IGNOU, Guwahati November 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 2009.
15. "Negotiating Transnational Identities in the Indo-Myanmar Border" in International Workshop on Southern Silk Route: Historical Links and Contemporary Convergences, Kolkata., August 2008.
16. "Border Trade and Transnational Flows in Northeast India" International Seminar titled "Reviving the Silk Route", Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi, March 2008.
17. An Anthropological Perspective of the population of ancient Kamrup and their Society, Kamrup District Sahitya Sabha (A unit of Asom Sahitya Sabha) Invited Lecture, 4th November 2007.

**Course Titles:**

- 1) Introduction to Archaeology- Graduate level
- 2) Archaeological Studies in Ancient Technology- Graduate Level
- 3) Development Anthropology- Post graduate
- 4) Transnationalism and Migration: Issues of Development- Post Graduate
- 5) Research in Cultural Studies- Post Graduate
- 6) Cultural Anthropology-Post Graduate

7) Heritage, Identity and Archaeology- Post Graduate

8) Issues in Culture Studies- Post Graduate

**Awards:**

e Northeast Award 2016 for Virtual Anthropology Laboratory in the e-learning and Education Category by Digital Empowerment Foundation in collaboration with Northeast Council (NEC)

**External Affiliations:**

Member of Senate of NIT Agartala for two (2) years from 16/9/2021.

Member of the Board of Studies, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, NIT Shillong from 26/12/2023.

Member of the Academic Council of Cotton University, Guwahati, Assam for three (3) years from 21/11/2024

Member of Executive Council and Research Advisory Council, Vivekananda Kendra Institute of Culture, Guwahati (A Unit of Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari), 2014 onwards

Selected Member of the Executive Council of the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training Eastern India (An autonomous institution of the Govt. Of West Bengal), Kolkata since 2008- 2012

Selected Member of the Executive Committee for 3 years of the Indian Society for Prehistoric and Quaternary Studies (ISPQS), Pune from 1st April 2013 to 30th March 2016.

**Professional Affiliation**

1. Life member of Indo-Pacific Prehistoric Association (IPPA), Canberra, Australia.

2. Life member of Indian National Confederation and the Academy of Anthropologists INCAA
3. Life member of Indian Society for Prehistoric and Quaternary Studies (ISPQS), Deccan College, Pune-6.
4. Life Member of Kamrup Anusandhan Samitee, Guwahati, Assam.
5. Life Member of Indian Council of Social Science Research, Shillong.
6. Annual Member of the American Anthropological Association (AAA)2014-2018
7. Annual Member of the Society of American Archaeology (SAA)2014-2018

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