

# Tridib Mukherjee (he/they)

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*I am a PhD scholar and my current research interests broadly lies in the areas of urban anthropology, human geography and sociologies of gender, identities, and resistance. I have previously engaged with research projects that broadly lay in diverse areas such as healthcare, education, and media. I have more than 3 years of experience in doing fieldwork, and my academic training and fieldwork experiences together have fostered and facilitated a deep understanding and rigorous documentation of various kinds of qualitative and quantitative data.*

## EDUCATION

### **Doctor of Philosophy, Humanities and Social Sciences (Sociology) Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, 2021 – (pursuing)**

- Thesis topic: *Space, Morality and Resistance in a Red Light Area: Study in Silchar, Assam.* Supervisor: Prof. Sawmya Ray.
- PhD Coursework subjects: Methodologies of Social Sciences, Social Research Methods, Politics of Knowledge Production, Urban Geographies.
- Coursework GPA: 9.11/10
- Workshops/Other Courses: a) Ethnography of Urban Material Circulation by Prof. Atsuro Morita, Osaka University at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.  
b) Vital Spaces: Wellbeing, Mental health and the City by Prof. Steven Brown, Nottingham Trent University at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.

### **Master of Arts, Sociology**

#### **South Asian University (SAARC University), New Delhi, 2019-2021**

- Dissertation topic: *Immoral Geographies of Tolerance: An Ethnography of Sonagachi Red Light area.* Supervisor: Dr. Ravi Kumar
- GPA: 6.66/9
- Awarded a merit-scholarship and a full fee waiver for securing the 5<sup>th</sup> rank in the university admission examination.

### **Bachelor of Arts, Social Sciences**

#### **Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati, 2016-2019**

- Dissertation topic: *Contemporary Assertions of a Bengali Language Identity in the Barak Valley of Assam.* Supervisor: Dr. Sanjay Barbora.
- GPA: 7.6/10
- Second highest grade in the cohort.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **The YP Foundation**

#### **Research Consultant; September 2024**

- Prepared a detailed report on Experiences of Violence on College Campuses for the YP Foundation's Campus Caravan programme.
- Used rigorous data analysis methods on SPSS to prepare key findings from a quantitative survey on experiences of various forms of violence across two college campuses of Jaipur.
- Facilitated a Consultative Workshop-cum-Focused Grouped Discussion with a selected cohort of participants from these colleges.

- Ideated solutions for prevention of violence and creating safer campuses based on key findings of the report and in consultation with guidelines of the UGC and other such statutory bodies and committees.
- Prepared the YP Foundation's Campus Caravan's Policy Document titled, *Recommendations for Safer, Inclusive and Violence Free Campuses: A Youth-led Policy Guide*.

### **Durbar Mahila Samawaya Committee**

#### **Research Intern; December 2019-January 2020**

- Demonstrated my ability to effectively lead and advocate as a part of the Self-Regulatory Board to ideate and develop policy solutions for preventing sex trafficking.
- Conducted M&E for DMSC's domestic workers' rights forum, Durbar DISHA, for the assessment of social security of the domestic workers.

### **South Asian Forum for Environment**

#### **Intern; May 2018-June 2018**

- Participated in an internal impact assessment survey for the UN award winning WASH-US (Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Urban Slums) project in Kalikapur, Kolkata.
- Designed survey tools and questionnaires for surveys on plastic-usage, followed up with extensive field surveys in the periphery of Kolkata.

### **PROJECTS AND FIELDWORK**

- Ongoing PhD fieldwork in Northeast India's only red-light area in Silchar, Assam, involving a year-long ethnographic study.
- Fieldwork in Sonagachi red light area, Kolkata during the COVID pandemic (September-November'20; March-April'21; March'22)
- Participated in a gap-assessment survey on sanitation in the public-funded and state-run schools of Guwahati, Assam under the guidance of Dr. Rajdeep Singha, Assistant Professor, TISS, Guwahati, as a part of a CSR project for Habitat for Humanity (2019).
- Participated in a demographic survey funded by the Government of Assam – Assam Inlands Waterways Sector Study on Gender and Trade – under the guidance of Dr. Abhinandan Saikia, Assistant Professor, TISS Guwahati (2018).

### **AWARDS / DISTINCTIONS**

- SMUS Grant (2024): Awarded a full funding grant by GCSMUS-DAAD for attending the 4th International and Interdisciplinary Conference of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, jointly organized by “Global Center of Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability” (GCSMUS), International Sociological Association (ISA), European Sociology Association (ESA) and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).
- GATE (2021): Qualified GATE 2021, conducted by IIT Bombay, in Humanities and Social Sciences (Sociology) with an all-India rank of 35 (top 2 % of the exam-takers).
- Second Highest Grade (2019): Secured the second highest rank in the B.A. in Social Sciences cohort at Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Guwahati.
- SAU Merit Scholarship (2019): Recipient of South Asian University Merit Scholarship for securing 5th rank in the university entrance examinations.
- TISS-BAT (2016): Highest scorer in the Bachelors Entrance Test (TISS-BAT) conducted for admissions into the integrated B.A.-M.A. course at the Guwahati campus of Tata Institute of Social Sciences.
- District Topper (2016): Scored the highest marks in Higher Secondary examinations in the district of Chirang, Assam (91.8%), conducted by the Assam Higher Secondary Education Council.

## **ACADEMIC PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

- Moral Geographies and Spatial Governance: A Study of Sex Work in Silchar, India  
**4th International and Interdisciplinary Conference on Spatial Methods for Urban Sustainability (SMUS)**, Bangkok, Thailand (July-August 2024)
- *Wrestlers' Protests and Hashtag Activism: Examining Mediated Solidarity in Women's Movements (co-presented)*  
**Annual Conference of the Indian Association for Women's Studies**, Thiruvananthapuram (September 2023).
- *Moral Geographies of Sex Work: Producing and governing Northeast India's only red-light area for brothel-based sex work in Silchar, Assam*  
**International Conference on Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Development**, jointly organised by NITI Aayog, University of Florida & Institute of Human Development, New Delhi (August 2023)
- *Memes and Technical InstituteS in India: Understanding Meme Culture in the IITs (co-presented)*  
**Anusandhan Research Conclave**, IIT Mandi (June 2023).
- *Silchar vs Sonagachi: A Case for Sex Workers' Unionisation*  
**63rd Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Labour Economics** at Rajiv Gandhi University, Itanagar (March, 2023).
- *Conceptualising Resistance in a 'Third Space': Moral Geographies of Sex Work and Resistant Subjectivities of Sex Workers*  
**Young Graduate Meet 2022**, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Mandi (June, 2022).

## **PUBLICATIONS (NON-ACADEMIC)**

- From Kuhn to Foucault: Understanding the complex relationship between science and society, Eleventh Column Magazine (23 July, 2020). Link: <https://www.eleventhcolumn.com/2020/07/23/from-kuhn-to-foucault-behind-the-complex-relationship-between-science-and-society/>
- Assam Elections 2021: Unpacking the Bengali vote behind the mandate. Eleventh Column Magazine (7 May, 2021). Link: <https://www.eleventhcolumn.com/2021/05/07/assam-election-2021-unpacking-the-bengali-vote-behind-the-mandate/>