

Upasna Chettri

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Academic Qualifications

2019- Present Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Thesis Title: Oral traditions of the Lepchas– An archaeological enquiry in Sikkim

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

2016 - 2018 Master of Philosophy

Dissertation Title: A study of the themes in Buddhist paintings in the monasteries of Darjeeling.

Ancient Indian History Culture and Archaeology

Visva – Bharati University, Santiniketan

2014 - 2016 Master of Arts

Department of Ancient Indian History Culture and Archaeology

Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan

2011 - 2014 Bachelor of Arts

Department of Ancient Indian History Culture and Archaeology

Visva Bharati University, Santiniketan

Publications

- **Chettri, U & Sharma, S.** (2024). *Integrating Folktales in Archaeological Investigations: A Study from Sikkim Darjeeling Himalayas*. *Space and Culture, India* 12:3. Pp. 83-106
<https://doi.org/10.20896/saci.v12i03.1513>
- **Chettri, U., Sharma, S.** (2024). *The Longchoks of Sikkim and North Bengal: The Need for Heritage Preservation and Awareness*. In: Sharma, S., Uppaluri, R.V.S., Dutta, V., Kashyap, A. (eds) *Policies for Research and Innovation*. NERC 2022. (pp. 49-70). Springer, Singapore
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-97-5681-0_4

Conferences and Seminars

- **Upasna Chettri** and Sukanya Sharma, “Longchoks of Sikkim Darjeeling Himalayas: The Need for Heritage Preservation and Awareness” at the *8th National Young Historians’ Seminar, 2024* organised by Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Guwahati on 21-22 September, 2024
- **Upasna Chettri** and Sukanya Sharma, “Tales Toponymy and Terrains: Exploring the geography of Sikkim in Lepcha Folklore” at the Ninth Annual Conference of the Oral History Association of India themed *Mountain History: At the Intersection of Memory, Politics and Identity* held at North Eastern Hill University, Shillong on 13th-15th March, 2024
- **Upasna Chettri** and Sukanya Sharma, “Co-operation and conflict in Lepcha Legends: The story of Longchoks” in the two days National Seminar on *Decadal Celebration of Anthropology in Sikkim University: Challenges and Way Forward* organized by Department of Anthropology, Sikkim University, Gangtok held on 7th-8th March, 2024
- **Upasna Chettri**, “Scientific Techniques for analyzing Ceramic and Soil samples from Daramdin, Sikkim” in Graduate Research Meet themed “*Humanities and Social Sciences in Transition: Perspectives, Exchanges, and Translations*” organized by Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati held on 6th-7th January, 2023
- **Upasna Chettri**, “Between Oral Traditions and Archaeology: A tale of the Stairway to Heaven” in an International Seminar on “*Cultural Heritage of Eastern Himalayas and Northeast India*” organized by Southfield College, Darjeeling held on 25th-27th May, 2022
- **Upasna Chettri**, “The *Longchoks* of Sikkim and North Bengal: The need for heritage preservation and awareness” in North East Research Conclave, Assam Biotech Conclave, 2022 organized by Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati held on 20th – 22nd May, 2022.
- **Upasna Chettri**, “Diffusion of Cultures in the Darjeeling Hills-Interplay of the Lepchas, Bhutias and the Nepalese” in an International Seminar on “*Assimilative nature of Indian Culture and its Continuity*” organized by Benaras Hindu University (BHU), Benaras held on 13th – 15th December, 2019.
- **Upasna Chettri**, “A *Lhadipa’s* Art: Thangka Paintings in Darjeeling” at Graduate Research Meet themed “*Contemporary Trends in Humanities and Social Sciences*” organized by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati, Guwahati from 1st – 2nd November, 2019.

Invited Lectures

- **Upasna Chettri**, “Of Canvas and Colours: A Case Study of Thangka Painting in Darjeeling” in Virasat Talk – 163 and National Webinar organized by Buddhist Heritage Research Institute in collaboration with Heritage Society – Kashmir Circle on 26th May, 2021
- **Upasna Chettri**, “(Hi)stories of Places in Lepcha Tradition” in Weekend Lecture Series organized by Department of Geography, Malda College, Malda held from 18th July – 22nd August, 2021

Workshops

- “**Rewriting World Archaeology – South Asia Workshop, 2023-24**” organized by Durham University, United Kingdom.

- “**National Workshop on Geochronology**” organized by Inter University Accelerator Centre, New Delhi on 3rd - 4th October, 2023.
- “**Manne, Pottery Workshop (Handmade and Wheel-made pottery workshop)**” organized by Heritage Science and Society Programme, School of Humanities, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru on 24th -25th August, 2023.
- “**Young Researchers’ Workshop on Use and Relevance of Mixed Methods in Sociological Research**” organized by Indian Sociological Society and Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati on 18th-19th December 2022.
- “**GIS applications in Social Sciences**” organized by the Discipline of Humanities and Social Sciences Centre of Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar on 13th – 14th May, 2022
- “**Starting your Oral History Project**” organized by Oral History Association of India (OHAI) held on 17th-18th October, 2020.

Awards

- Awarded **Springer Best Paper at North East Research Conclave (NERC), 2022** for the paper “*The Longchoks of Sikkim and North Bengal: The need for Heritage Preservation and Awareness*”. 20th-22nd May, 2022
- Awarded **National Eligibility Test for Assistant Professor** in Archaeology on 31.07.2017 by University Grants Commission (UGC). UGC Ref. No.: 18929/(NET-JAN 2017)

Experience

- **Teaching Assistant (TA)**. January 2023-May 2023. Course: *HS 134- Introduction to Archaeology* (B.Tech Semester IV)
- **Organizing committee member**. Graduate Research Meet 2021 (Virtual) themed *Humanities and Social Sciences in an age of Crisis*. 11th-12th November 2021
- **Teaching Assistant (TA)**. January 2020-May 2020. Course: *HS 134- Introduction to Archaeology* (B.Tech Semester IV).
- **Site Supervisor** in the Archaeological Excavation at Lal Pahari, Lakhisarai, Bihar from 25th November 2017-20th July 2018 (1st Session) carried out in collaboration with *Bihar Heritage Development Society, Patna and Department of Ancient Indian History Culture and Archaeology, Visva Bharati University Santiniketan*.

Memberships

- Student Membership for **Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies (ANHS)**. Membership ID No: 70505869.
- Student Membership for **Oral History Association of India (OHAI)**.
- Life Membership for **Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH)**. Membership ID: L/23101

Miscellaneous

- **Volunteer.** 9-10 December 2024. *10th Graduate Research Meet, 2024.* Organised by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences , Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati.
- **Volunteer.** 21-22 September 2024. *8th National Young Historians' Seminar, 2024.* Organized by Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
- **Volunteer.** 10-11 August 2024. *Research and Industrial Conclave 2024.* Organized by Students Academic Board (SAB) and IITG Research Park, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati.
- Completed a certificate course (6 months) in **Information Technology Application** from *Youth Computer Training Centre.* April-September, 2017.