

## **C.V. OF DR. SHOMA A. CHATTERJI**

NAME DR. SHOMA A. CHATTERJI

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Regular contributor (during the pandemic):

Print media: The Statesman, The Tribune, Chandigarh, Vidura – The Press Institute of India’s quarterly magazine, MEDIA -The Kerala Media Academy’s bi-monthly magazine, Grassroots, One India One People, [www.thecitizen.in](http://www.thecitizen.in), Indian Cultural Forum. [www.TWFIIndia.com](http://www.TWFIIndia.com), [www.upperstall.com](http://www.upperstall.com), CINESTAAN.COM

### **Awards, honours, scholarships:**

#### **Awards**

(a) Best All-round Student Medal at B.Ed. examinations of Calcutta University in 1971.

(b) Silver Medal for Standing First in Teaching Practical at the B.Ed. examinations of Calcutta University in 1971. (Shri Shikshayatan College)

(c) National Award, Best Film Critic, 1991;

(d) Best Film Critic Award, Bengal Film Journalists Association, 1998;

(e) National Award, Best Book on Cinema, 2003; (PARAMA AND OTHER OUTSIDERS – THE CINEMA OF APARNA SEN, Parumita Publications, Kolkata, 2002.)

(f) Excellence in Journalism Award from Bharat Nirman, 2004;

(g) Second Prize from Sahitya Akademi, Delhi, in the All-India Indian Literature Golden Jubilee (1957-2007) Literary Translation

Competition held in July-August 2007 in the category of Fiction; (Translation into English of an original Bengali short story by Sirsendu Mukhopadhyay entitled SEARCH)

(h) Second Prize in Human Rights Defense’s International Essay Competition 2008; (EUNUCHS OF INDIA – DEPRIVED OF HUMAN RIGHTS)

(i) Special Award, the UNFPA-LAADLI Media Awards for Gender Sensitivity, 2009-2010 (Northern and Eastern Region) for “consistent writing on women’s issues with a gender perspective” (English) in May 2010.

- (j) Excellence in Film Studies and Reporting Award 2010 from Kalyan Kumar Mitra Education and Research Society, Kolkata for contribution in the field of film reporting, September 2010
- (k) Lifetime Achievement SAMMAN (Honour) by the Rotary International represented by Rotary Calcutta-Metro City for “outstanding contribution” to journalism awarded on July 29, 2012.
- (l) First Prize at the First Short Story Competition instituted by the online journal *Confidential Woman* for the story *Backlash* which comprised of a sum of Rs.10,000 in December 2016
- (m) Lifetime Achievement Media Excellence Award for Writing on Cinema from Indywood in May 2017
- (n) Kalish Mukherjee Lifetime Achievement Award for contribution for the development of cinema and television in West Bengal awarded by the Bengal Film and Television Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata on May 1, 2018

#### Honours

- (a) Invited to **chair the Asian segment** and to select Indian films by women directors at the Mannheim Filmweek Round Table on Women Directors of the Three Worlds in 1990.
- (b) Member of the International Jury at the 40th International Film Festival at Mannheim, Germany in 1991.
- (c) Member of the FIPRESCI Jury at the 43rd International Film Festival of Mannheim-Heidelberg in 1994 and 1998.
- (d) Special invitee at the 35th Thessaloniki International Film Festival at Thessaloniki, Greece, to present a paper **The Cultural Identity of Indian Cinema** at the International FIPRESCI Colloquia on "Identity Crisis in European Cinemas" part of the 35th Thessaloniki International Film Festival in Greece in November 1994.
- (e) Member of the International Jury at the St. Petersburg International Film Festival on Documentary, Short and Animation Films on the theme "MESSAGE TO MAN", held in St.Petersburg from June 14 to June 20, 1996.
- (f) Invited **as Guest of Honour** to a symposium on Indian Women Directors at the Annual Indian Film Week, Colombo, Sri Lanka, held from 25th July to 2nd August 1996.

(g) Invited as **Course Director on Film Appreciation** (The Language of Film, Political Cinema and Theory, Forms and Functions of Cinema and Feminist Criticism) by the Asian Film Centre in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in April 1997.

(h) Invited as Press Delegate to attend the 44th Oberhausen Shortfilmfestival at Oberhausen, Germany, from 23rd to 28th April 1998.

(i) Invited by the Departments of Social Anthropology and Political Science to make two audio-visual presentations at the Institute of South-Asian Studies at the Heidelberg University, Germany on 4th and 5th May 1998. One paper was on **The Portrayal of Women in Indian Cinema** and the other was on **The Political Participation of Women in India**.

(j) Invited as member of FIPRESCI Jury to the Donostia San Sebastian International Film Festival in Spain from 17th. to 26th. September 1998.

(k) Invited to make an audio-visual presentation on **The Culture-Specific Use of Sound and Silence in Indian Cinema** at an International Symposium on Sound and the Moving Image, by E.P.E.Projects Limited, School of Sound, London, in April 1999. (This paper was later published in a much enlarged form in Encyclopedia Britannica's volume on Hindi Cinema)

(l) Invited as member-delegate of a six-member delegation (Women's Sahyog) by the Women's Union of Viet Nam on a goodwill tour of Ho Chi Minh City, in November, 2003.

(m) Invited to present a paper at 9<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Women in Asia, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, 2008 on Sexuality in Senior Women in Indian films directed by women.

(n) Member of the Jury (Non-Feature films), National Film Awards, Directorate of Film Festivals, Delhi, July 1999.

(o) Member of the Jury (Best Writing on Cinema), National Film Awards, Directorate of Film Festivals, Delhi, July 2005.

(p) Presented a Paper on **Ashapoorna Devi – The Violence of “invisibility” and the Politics of the Antahpur** at Breaking the Silence – Reading Virginia Woolf, Simone de Beauvoir and Ashapoorna Devi organized in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Ashapoorna Devi by The Dept of English (DRS, SAP III, Phase II) ,

Women's Studies Research Centre, University of Calcutta, January 15, 2001,

(q) Invited to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Cairo International Film Festival, November 2010, to make a presentation on **Contemporary Indian Cinema of the Mainstream – Problems and Issues** at a seminar on Indian Cinema;

(r) Invited to the 34<sup>th</sup> Cairo International Film Festival in November 2011 as Special Guest and Press Delegate;

(s) Member of FIPRESCI Jury at the 12<sup>th</sup> OSIAN-CINEFAN Festival of Indian, Asian and Arab films at Delhi in July-August 2012;

(t) Presented a paper on **The Impact of Tobacco Use in Indian Cinema on Children and Government Moves to Censor Tobacco in Films** on invitation and sponsorship at 43rd Union World Conference on Lung Health in Kuala Lumpur, November 12 – 17, 2012

(u) Member of the Jury at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Siliguri International Short and Documentary Film Festival in October 2012

(v) Presented a Paper on **An analysis of Issues Related to Two Children's Stories of Sirsendu Mukhopadhyay translated from Bengali to English** on invitation by Sahitya Akademi, Kolkata at a Symposium on Translation of Children's Literature from Bengali to English on 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2014,

(w) Invited to present a paper on **The Role of Films in Enhancing or Diminishing Trust and Confidence of the Litigants in the Court System** by the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal at their annual conference on Public Trust and Confidence in the Justice System, in September 2015.

(x) Member of Critics Jury at 21<sup>st</sup> Kolkata International Film Festival 2015

(y) Member of the Managing Committee in the Selection of Screening section for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Kolkata International Film Festival in 2016

(z) Member of the Managing Committee in the Selection of Screening section for the 23<sup>rd</sup> Kolkata International Film Festival in 2017

(a) Member of the Preview Committee for post-censorship of films to be released at Nandan, West Bengal

(b) Member of FIPRESCI Jury at International Film Festival of Kerala, November 2016

- (c) Special Press Invitee at Bengaluru International Film Festival, February 2017
- (d) Convenor of Selection Committee, Eastern Region for MIFF 2018 in November 2017
- (e) Chairperson at Convenor's meet, Final Selection Committee, Mumbai for MIFF 2017 in December 2017
- (f) Invited to participate at the national seminar on REVISITING RAY organized by the Nehru Museum and Library with the support of The Society for the Preservation of Satyajit Ray Archives held in Delhi on May 15 and 16, 2018

#### Scholarships/Fellowships:

- (a) Merit Scholarship from the Department of Education, University of Mumbai, 1975-1977, for studies leading to M.Ed. Degree open to students who had obtained First Class in B.Ed.
- (b) Research Fellowship, National Film Archive of India, Pune, for research in cinema, 2003-2004;
- (c) Full Scholarship from The Network University, The Netherlands, for an online course on Gender and Conflict Transformation, 2004.
- (d) Senior Research Fellowship from PSBT (Public Service Broadcasting Trust) for Women Portrayals in Soaps and Advertisements on Indian Television and the Politics of Representation, New Delhi, 2007-2008.
- (e) Senior (Post-Doctoral) Research Fellowship on Politics of Celluloid Representation of Working Women in Post-Colonial Bengali Cinema (1950-2003) from the Indian Council of Social Science Research, Delhi, (2009-2011).

#### Academic Qualification

- (a) B.A. (Hons) Economics, University of Bombay, 1964.
- (b) M.A. (Economics) University of Bombay, 1967.
- (c) B.Ed. (First Class), Sri Shikshayatan College, Calcutta University, 1971.
- (d) M.Ed., (Merit Scholarship) University of Bombay, 1976.
- (e) Ph.D. (History) from Netaji Subhas Open University, 2008.  
(INDIAN MEN DIRECTORS – WOMEN'S VOICE – 1959-2003).

Special Qualifications:

(a) Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism with First Class First from the Somaiya Institute of Journalism and Mass Communications, Mumbai, 1980-81.

(b) Journalist-to-Journalist Training Programme on Lung Health and Tuberculosis at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Conference on Lung Health and TB held in Kuala Lumpur in November, 2012.

Some Workshops and Presentations

- Film Appreciation Workshop for one week – Colombo, Sri Lanka, 1998
- Presentations for undergraduate management students – PTVA's Mulund College of Commerce, Mumbai, for two weeks in 2000
- Writing a Good CV. And a Covering Letter. Jogomaya Devi College. Kolkata
- Personality Packaging
- Original Points for an Interview
- Freelance Journalism
- Creative Writing
- Careers in the Media
- Getting rid of Fear
- Public Speaking

Books Authored:

- *The Indian Women's Search for an Identity*, Vikas Publishing House, Delhi, 1988, 1989, 1997.
- *The Indian Woman in Perspective*, Ajanta International, Delhi, 1993.
- *Yes and Other Stories*, (short stories) Writers Workshop, Calcutta, 1988.
- *Kamini and Other Stories*, (short stories), Har-Anand Publishers, Delhi, 1997.
- *Subject Cinema – Object Woman, A Study of the Portrayal of Women in Indian Cinema*, Parumita Publications, Calcutta, 1998.
- *Indian Women– From Darkness to Light*, Parumita Publications, Calcutta, 2000.
- *Suchitra Sen – Charitabali Series*, Rupa & Co., Delhi, 2002.
- *Mrinal Sen – The Survivor, Charitabali Series*, Rupa & Co., Delhi, 2003

- *Ritwik Ghatak – The Rebel, Charitabali Series*, Rupa & Co., Delhi ,2004.
- *Women in Black, White and Technicolour*, Rupa & Co, Delhi, 2004.
- *Baker’s Dozen*, (short stories), Rupa & Co., Delhi, 2003.
- *Parama and Other Outsiders – The Cinema of Aparna Sen* – Parumita Publications, Calcutta.
- *Cinema Shudhu Cinema Noy* (Compilations of articles in Bengali), Parumita Publications, Calcutta, 2004.
- *The Goddess Kali and Kolkata* – a History of the city of Calcutta linked to Kali and Kalighat, UBSPD, Delhi, 2006.
- *Gender and Conflict*, UBSPD, Delhi, February 2006.
- *P.C.Barua – Crownless Prince – Deathless Devdas* – The Wisdom Tree, Delhi, 2008.
- *Women in Perspective – Essays on Gender* –Vitasta Publications, Delhi, 2010.
- *Reading Rituparno* – Sparrow Publications, Kolkata, November 2013
- *100 Years of Jump-Cuts and Fade-outs – Indian Cinema – Tracking Change*, Rupa & Co, Delhi, June 2014
- *Suchitra Sen – The Legend and the Enigma* - Harper Collins, New Delhi, 2015
- *Filming Reality -The Independent Documentary Movement in India* – Sage, Delhi 2015
- Short stories by Sirsendu Mukhopadhyay translated from Bengali to English Sahitya Academy, Delhi. 2016
- *The Cinema of Bimal Roy – An “Outsider” Within* – Sage, Delhi published in 2017
- *Woman at the Window – Rabindranath Tagore Through the Eyes of Satyajit Ray* – Harper Collins-India, published in 2017
- *The Female Gaze, Women in Media*, Vitasta Books, Delhi, 2021
- *Satyajit Ray-Frame to Frame*, Vistasta Books, Delhi, 2022
- *Backlash – HerStories*, Notion Books, India, 2022
- *Through the Lens, Brightly – Women Directors on Working Women* –Primus Books, Delhi, 2023
- *Amitabh Bachchan As The Other*, Vitasta Books, Delhi, March 19 2024

Recent papers in compiled publications:

- *The Buddhadeb Dasgupta Trilogy – Running Away in Red on Silver – The Impact of Naxalism in Indian Cinema*, (Ed) Prof. Pradip Basu, Setu Publications, Kolkata, 2012;
- *The Influence of Tagore in Indian Film Music*, in *Tagore - At Home In the World*, (Ed.) Sanjukta Dasgupta and Chinmoy Guha, Sage Publications, Delhi, December 2012;
- *A Reading of Ritwik Ghatak's Meghe Dhaka Tara through J.S. Mill's Subjection of Women*. The anthology is co-edited by Prof. Sarbojit Biswas, Associate Professor, Department of English, Barjoria College & Guest Faculty, Department of English, Burdwan University and Saptarshi Mullick, Research Scholar, Calcutta University
- *Evolution in the Representation of Female Sexuality in Hindi Cinema 1991-2010* in *Handbook on Indian Cinema*, edited by Moti Gokulsing and Wimal Dissanayake Routledge, UK.
- *Lesbian and Gay Relationships in Indian Cinema* –published in FAMILIES, the Journal of the Department of English, Calcutta University.
- *Writing a Film Review* – Chapter in *Images of Life – Creative and other Forms of Writing*, The Book World, Kolkata, 2014.
- *Candy Floss-* in *She, Short Stories by Contemporary Indian Women Writers*, (Ed by Sanjukta Dasgupta and Vanita, Sahitya Academy, 2021.
- Many More.....

As freelance journalist writing professionally since 1980-81, the author has interviews significant personalities in different fields as follows and this is not an exhaustive list.

Mrinal Sen, Shyam Benegal, Buddhadeb Dasgupta, Goutam Ghose, Govind Nihalani, Aparna Sen, Om Puri, Deeptii Naval, Sharmila Tagore, Naseeruddin Shah, Amitabh Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai, Madhuri Dixit, Shashikala, Dalip Tahil, Priya Tendulkar, Alyque Padamsee, G. Aravindan, Adoor Gopalakrishnan, Girish Kasaravalli, Sharmila Tagore, Shaji Karun, Sukumaran, Prabhudeva, R.A. Rahman, Birju Maharaj, Tripti Mitra, Saonli Mitra, Sohini Dasgupta, Sudeepa Chakraborty, Usha Ganguly, Yash Chopra, Ketan Mehta, Irrfan Khan, Atul Kulkarni, Nabeyendu Chatterjee, Satarupa Sanyal, Sai Paranjpye, Aruna Raje Patil, Hariprasad Chaurasia, Bickram



Ghose, Srijit Mukherjee, Koushik Ganguly, Atanu Ghosh, Rituparna Sengupta, Tapas Pal, Prosenjeet, Jeet, Anjan Das, Prabhat Roy, Haranath Chakraborty, Hema Malini, and many others.

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Friday, April 26, 2024