

## NIRANJAN SAHA

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"Tarpan"-“Sahalay”, Sripur School Road (opp. school), Habra,  
District- North 24 Parganas, Pin code 743263, West Bengal, India

### EDUCATION

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| 2014 | <p><b>PhD</b>, Department of the Study of Religions,<br/>School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS, University of London)<br/>Thesis title: Philosophy of Advaita Vedānta according to Madhusūdana<br/>Sarasvatī's <i>Gūḍhārthadīpikā</i><br/><b>Supervisor:</b> Initially Professor Angelika Malinar and later Dr Theodore<br/>Proferes</p> |
| 2006 | <p><b>Master of Philosophy</b> in Philosophy, Department of Philosophy,<br/>University of Madras, India<br/><b>Dissertation title:</b> The <i>Daśaślokī</i> of Śaṅkara- An Interpretative Exposition<br/><b>Supervisor:</b> Professor Godabarisha Mishra</p>  |
| 2004 | <p><b>Master of Arts</b> in Indian Philosophy, Department of Philosophy,<br/>University of Madras, India<br/><b>Dissertation title:</b> Theory and Practice in the Philosophy of Advaita--<br/>An Analytical Approach<br/><b>Supervisor:</b> Professor S. Panneerselvam</p>   |
| 2003 | <p><b>Certificate Course</b> in Sanskrit, Department of Sanskrit,<br/>University of Madras, India</p>   |
| 2001 | <p><b>Bachelor of Arts</b> with Philosophy (Honours) and History and Sanskrit<br/>(pass subjects), Barasat Govt. College (University of Calcutta), India</p>  |

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### SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS AND PRIZES OWNED

- September 2007-10 PhD Research Scholarship (Felix Scholarship), SOAS
- September 2006-08 Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR), New Delhi, and later relinquished to join SOAS
- September 2005-07 University Research Fellowship, Department of Philosophy, University of Madras, and later relinquished to accept JRF of ICPR
- December 2003 First prize of the University P. G. level Essay Competition held on 5th December 2003 in connection with the Platinum Jubilee celebration of the Department of Philosophy, University of Madras

### TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Classical Indian philosophical schools and allied subjects  
 Indian Ethics, Philosophy of *Bhagavadgītā*, Vedānta schools,  
 General Indology (based on Sanskrit source and modern  
 critical scholarship, also with a view to pursue interdisciplinary research and  
 teaching)

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

September 2013—December 2013

**Post Graduate level (M.A)**, University of Kalyani, West Bengal, India

**Courses taught** (partially) 1.01. Indian Ethics

3.01. Indian Philosophy of Language

September 2013—Present

**Under Graduate level (B.A. Hons and General)**, Narasinha Dutt College  
 (University of Calcutta), India

**Courses taught** (partially) I.I. History of Indian Philosophy (Hons  
 and General)

II.III. History of Western Philosophy  
 (Hons)

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III.VI. Philosophy of Language,  
Epistemology and Metaphysics  
(Western) (Hons)  
II.III. Ethics and Philosophy of  
Religion (General)  
III.IV. Social-Political Philosophy  
and Contemporary Indian  
Thought (General)

November 2013 **Scrutineer** of M. A. Semester II Examination in Philosophy, Kalyani University  
September 2014 **Examiner** of B. A. Part-II (General) Examination in Philosophy, University  
of Calcutta

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2007—present

### Doctoral Candidate, SOAS

- Gained familiarity with various traditional commentaries on the *Bhagavadgītā*
- Delved deep into the Advaita system of Vedānta philosophy, including the *Gūḍhārthadīpikā*, a commentary on the *Bhagavadgītā* by Madhusūdana Sarasvatī, a famous 16<sup>th</sup> century Advaita Vedāna philosopher
- Synthesized some of the latest research on Madhusūdana Sarasvatī

2004-07

### Graduate Research Student, Department of Philosophy, University of Madras

- M.Phil. project dealt with a topical text by Śaṅkarācārya called *Daśaślokī* and Madhusūdana Sarasvatī's commentary thereon called *Siddhānabindu*
- Researched and wrote two papers(e.g. The *Daśaślokī* of Śaṅkara, Madhusūdana Sarasvatī: A Bhakta and an Advaitin) analyzing *Daśaślokī* of Śaṅkarācārya and *Gūḍhārthadīpikā* and other devotional works of Madhusūdana Sarasvatī

2002-04

### Graduate Student, Department of Philosophy, University of Madras

- Master's dissertation analyzed both theoretical and practical aspect of Advaita Vedānta in general

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Papers in Peer-reviewed Journals

- Niranjan Saha (2014) ‘Advaita Vedānta: The Post-Śaṅkara Sub-schools and Madhusūdana Sarasvatī,’ *Journal of Sacred Scriptures*, 8 (2), ISSN 0974-0090, pp. 181-208
- Niranjan Saha (forthcoming) ‘Vedāntic Commentaries on the *Bhagavadgītā* as a Component of *Smṛti-Prasthāna*’, *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai*

### Papers in Conference Proceedings

- Niranjan Saha (2012) ‘Nature of ‘That’ (*tat*) in ‘‘That Thou Art’’ in the *Gītāgūḍhārthadīpikā* of Madhusūdana Sarasvatī’, in Girish Nath Jha et al. (eds.), *Modern Perspectives on Vedanta: Proceedings of the 20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Vedanta*, New Delhi: D. K. Printworld Pvt. Ltd., ISBN 812460639-0, pp. 393-405,

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Madhusūdana’s Introduction (*upodghāta*) to the *Gūḍhārthadīpikā* as Summary of the *Bhagavadgītā*. For submission to the *Journal of Hindu Studies*
- The *Gūḍhārthadīpikā* of Madhusūdana and the Commentarial Tradition of the *Bhagavadgītā*. For submission to the *Journal of Indian Philosophy*
- Madhusūdana Sarasvatī and His Works: A Blending of Hagiographical and Textual Evidence. For submission to the *Religions of South Asia*.
- Is Devotion (*bhakti*) Incompatible with Advaita Vedānta Philosophy?: An Enquiry into the Philosophy of the Post-Śaṅkara Advaitin Madhusūdana Sarasvatī. For submission to the *Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research*.

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### **COURSES AND WORKSHOPS ATTENDED**

- 2003 March-April                      Spoken Sanskrit course sponsored by University Grants Commission  
(Department of Sanskrit, University of Madras)
- 2005, May 17-27                      Workshop on Textual Tradition in Advaita Vedānta  
(Adi Sankara Nilayam, M. G. University, Kerala)

### **PAPERS PRESENTED**

- Niranjan Saha (2006, December 15-20) *Madhusūdana Sarasvatī: A Bhakta and an Advaitin*. Paper presented in the Interim World Philosophy Congress and the 81<sup>st</sup> session of the Indian Philosophical Congress (Delhi University, New Delhi)
- Niranjan Saha (2011, December 28-31) 'Nature of 'tat' (that) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> group of six chapters in the *Gītāgūdhārthadīpikā* of Madhusūdana Sarasvatī. Read in absentia in the 20<sup>th</sup> International Vedanta Congress (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

### **MEMBERSHIP**

- 2008                                      Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland

### **LANGUAGES**

- Good skills in Bengali and English (oral and written)  
Intermediate skills in Sanskrit and Hindi (oral and written)

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## REFERENCES

- Dr. Theodore Proferes (PhD thesis supervisor), Senior Lecturer in Ancient Indian Religions, Department of the Study of Religions, SOAS, University of London, Thornough Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG, [tp17@soas.ac.uk](mailto:tp17@soas.ac.uk), Fax +44 (0) 2078984699, Telephone +44 (0) 2076372388, Room no. 378, Main Building.
- Dr. Godabarish Mishra (M. Phil. thesis supervisor), Professor and Head, Department of Philosophy, University of Madras, Centenary Building, Chepauk, Chennai, 600005, [mishra.godabarisha@gmail.com](mailto:mishra.godabarisha@gmail.com), Fax +91(44) 25360749, Telephone +91 (44) 25399693
- Prabal Kumar Sen (well-acquainted with my research activities and constant source of guidance on my study and research), Professor (Retd.), Department of Philosophy, University of Calcutta (“SRABANI”, Flat no. 101, 67A, B, B. Chatterjee Road, Kolkata 700042, [pksen.cu@gmail.com](mailto:pksen.cu@gmail.com), Telephone +91 (33) 24424616)

(Niranjan Saha)

*Niranjan Saha*, 21 November 2014

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