

Dr Nilima Chitgopekar

Designation

Associate Professor

Education

- B.A. History Honors, Miranda House, Delhi University, Delhi (1976-79)
- M.A. Ancient Indian History, Miranda House, Delhi University, Delhi (1980-82)
- PhD (History of Religions) Dept. of History, Delhi University(1992)
TOPIC For Ph. D – Evolution of Shivaism in Madhya Pradesh c. AD 550-1200

Professional Experience

Feb 1983 –Till present date:

Teaching BA History Honors at the Jesus & Mary College, University of Delhi.

Am teaching /or have taught the following papers.

1. History of Early India
2. A History of the U.S.A from 1776 -1945'
3. Transformations in History

4. History of Gender in Early India

5. Indian Art & Architecture

6. History & Archeology

1993 - 2008 Post-graduate teaching At the invitation of the Dept of History, Delhi University, taught a part of the compulsory paper '*The Development of Indian Religions*'.

The topics I covered were

The Evolution of the Vaishnava Pantheon

The Growth of Shivaism

The Emergence and Spread of Tantrism.

Fellowships

1. Delivered **Wahlstrom** Lectures at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Oxford University, May 2007, May 2005, Feb 2004.

2. May 2005-Recipient of the **Charles Wallace India Research Award** to facilitate research in Great Britain

3. Visiting Shivdasani fellow at the **Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Oxford University**, Great Britain, Hillary term, Jan 2004-March 2004

4. Represented South Asia as one of the 18 international scholars in a Summer Institute Program in a **USIS fellowship**

held at **Boston College** and **the Boston Law Institute** in July-August 1994.

Publications

BOOKS PUBLISHED:

- 1. Shakti: An Exploration of the Divine Feminine**, Dorling Kindersely, Penguin Random House, NOIDA, Dec 2021
- 2. Experiencing the Goddess; On the trail of the Yoginis** (co-authored) Aryan Books International, New Delhi, 2019.
- 3. The Reluctant Family Man-Shiva in Everyday Life**, February 2019 , Penguin-Random House.
- 4. Rudra: The Idea of Shiva**, Penguin, Oct 2007
- 5. The Book of Durga**, Viking by Penguin Books India, 2003
- 6. Invoking Goddesses: Gender Politics in Indian Religion**, (ed.,) Har-Anand Publications, New Delhi, 2002.
- 7. Encountering Sivaism. The Deity, the Milieu, the Entourage**, Munshiram Manoharlal, Delhi, June 1998.

Additional Professional Activities

Sahapedia-Interview for the module on Chaunsatha Yogini Cult, Dec 2017

Was part of the BBC London, production 'Divine Women' series - a documentary widely telecast in 2012.

Was part of the BBC London radio programme on 'Renunciation' broadcast in 2012.

On the panel of experts for the Khajuraho multimedia.

Organized and chaired the panel, **The Goddesses of the Hindu pantheon**, at The **International Festival of Sacred Arts, New Delhi, March 2011**

Three rounds of being the Chair of History Department, Jesus and Mary College 1987-1989 and 2002-2004 and 2014-2016.

Was a member of the Committee for the revision of the History Honors syllabus, Delhi University, 1996

Lectures / Conferences

Lectures/Conference Discussants/Webinars **1993-2021**

Co Chair at International Conference **Evolving Business Strategies in a Transforming Global Environment** Workplaces that work for women Jan 20-21, 2022

June 9th 2020, Ganga Jamuni , Speaker in Webinar, lecture delivered on '*In the Realm of Shiva*'.

May 31st University of Allahabad , *Speaker at Webinar , lecture delivered on 'Mahishasuramardini'*

May 10th 2020, Himalayan Institute of Cultural and Heritage Studies, Lecture delivered on a '*A Passage to Shiva*'

2020 Speaker at IGNCA, '*Parvati;The Goddess, The Mother, The Wife, in 'Women in Cultural Spaces,*

7th March 2020. Speaker at Jesus & Mary College at the Interfaith dialogue in collaboration with Interfaith Foundation India“Religion and Liberation : Forgiveness, Healing and Reconciliation in Hinduism”

19th of February, 2020. Speaker at **Lady Shri Ram College For Women**, From Source to Survey;Reading and Interpreting Primary Sources”

6 Feb 2020 Speaker at The Attic, New Delhi, 'The Reluctant Family Man', a Book discussion, Feb 5th 2020.

Special Guest speaker at BA Programme Inter College Cultural Festival, Jesus & Mary College, Discussing new release 'The Reluctant Family Man' 28 Jan 2020

Speaker at International Summer School,Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti Bhavan, New Delhi, 'Hinduism: Assimilating Diversity' 4th July 2019

Lecture delivered at South Asian Religions Colloquium, **Harvard Divinity School, Harvard University**, 'Shiva in the 21st Century',

April 25th 2019 Chairperson, at India International Centre, New Delhi, International Conference Challenging Stereotypes in Early Buddhism.

Speaker at International Summer School, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti Bhavan, New Delhi, **Religious Plurality in Early India, 10th July, 2018**

Speaker at Gargi College, Delhi University, Golden Jubilee Seminar, '*Utterings and Mutterings : The Voice of Parvati in the Puranas*', Nov 2017

Studio 360, New Delhi. *Shiva The Reluctant Family Man*, New Delhi, July 8th, 2017

Speaker and Delegate at ASEAN Conference in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, Jakarta Indonesia, '*Building Synergies Through Digitalization*'. Jan 2017.

UGC Resource Person – Human Resource Development Centre Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Lecture "*Gender and the study of Goddesses in Early India*" Jan 2016

Presented lecture at Kean University, New Jersey, USA. '*Scriptural Texts as Historical Data*', English Department, May 2016.

Gave lecture/ Presentation at The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA . '*Shiva : The Reluctant Family Man*' June 2016

Taj, Vivanta, New Delhi, Conference on Ideas on India, *The Tussles & Scuttles of Shiva*, Dec 18th 2015

Taj Hotel, New Delhi, Conference, SITE- The Society of Incentive Travel Excellence, *Indian Gods: Plurality in Indian Religion*, Oct 2015

Studio 360, New Delhi. *Shiva The Reluctant Family Man*, New Delhi, July 8th, 2017

Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi, Panel Discussion, *Who Speaks for Religious Tradition? Authority and Censorship in the Study of Religion*. 24th Feb 2014

The Attic, New Delhi, *Durga and Mahisha - A tussle between a goddess and her suitor*. Jan 2014

India International Centre, New Delhi, *Digital Publishing*, at The Tejeshwar Singh Memorial Trust in association with the India International Centre in Seminar on Social Sciences and Humanities Publishing today : Crossroads or New Vistas ? March 23rd 2013.

Gave a lecture at The Ashoka University- **'Shiva: The Reluctant family Man'**, Nov 2013.

India International Centre, New Delhi, *Sculptural Antiquities: Conflict and Resolution in Early India*, in conference entitled, 'India: A Rainbow of Art and Culture' , Dec 2011

Lecture delivered to the Women's International Club, New Delhi, ***Shiva's Cohorts and Their Shenanigan: Prising History from Mythology***, Nov, 2010

Lecture delivered at Shivaji College, Delhi University in the LITOPIA, the literary festival of the English Dept, entitled, ***The Multiple roles of Parvati- Spouse, Mother, Warrior, Goddess***, Nov 2010.

Paper presented at the conference on Yogini – History, Polysemy, Ritual in NTNU, Trondheim, Norway, ***IN THE PRESENCE OF YOGINIS, ON THE ABSENCE OF CERTAINTY***, Sept –Oct, 2010.

Paper presented at the Conference, ***Letting the Texts Speak***, at Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs**, Embassy of India Budapest and Indian Council for Cultural Relations, entitled ***'Epigraphs as Texts: The Advent of Anomalous Goddesses in Madhya Pradesh***, Feb 3rd - 5th 2010.

Lecture delivered at the **ATTIC, New Delhi**, 'Looking at **Chaunsatha Yoginis: Beauty Power and Secrecy**,' September 19th 2009.

Lecture given at The Academic Staff College, **Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi**, '**The Aggrandizement of Shiva; History and Mythology**', 8th August 2009.

Paper presented at **Jamia Milia Islamia** New Delhi, at the **Global Congress on World Religions, Cultic Tensions: Dissonance And Resolution In The Shiva Pantheon** January 2009.

Talk delivered at the **ATTIC, New Delhi**, on the recently published book, ***Rudra: The Idea of Shiva***, August 26th 2008.

Lecture delivered at the **Sociology Dept of JNU**, '***Tracking Gender: A Reading from the World of Indian Goddesses***', April 2008.

Lecture delivered at The Centre for Professional development in Higher Education (UGC-ASC) **University of Delhi**, '**Memories of Resistance: Readings from Mythology and History**'. February 2008.

Delivered WAHLSTROM Lecture at **The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Oxford University**, May 31st 2007, ***The Power of Divine Beauty ; The Saundarya Lahari***.

Kean University, New Jersey, USA, World Literature Seminar, April, 2007, *'With Malice Toward None and Charity to all: Shiva The Compassionate One'*.

Kean University, New Jersey, USA, April 2007, *Goddesses in a Gang -The Chaunsatha Yoginis.*

Lecture at Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University, *'The Development of Theism in Early India'* March 7th 2007

Gargi College, Delhi University, *'Tantrism; Attempting a Definition, Seeking a Paradigm'* February 21st 2007

Kamala Nehru College, Delhi University, *'Perceptions of the Past: Polemics in Indian Historiography'* August 11th 2006.

The Attic', New Delhi, *Shiva; The Creation of a Deity*, April 19th 2006.

Lecture delivered at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, *Shiva: The Making of a Deity*, February, 2006.

Lecture Delivered at The International Traineeship Programme, AIESEC, Faridabad, India, "Conflict and Resolution: Some Episodes from the Lives of Hindu Gods and Goddesses' Dec 2005.

Paper presented in the Second International Conference on Religions and Cultures in the Indic Civilization, **The Devotion to and Puissance of Beauty; A Study of the Saundarya Lahari**, Dec 2005

Lecture delivered to the America Women's Association, New Delhi, **'Shiva: The Reluctant Family Man'**, Sept 2005

Lecture delivered to AIESEC International Conference Team in Agra, India, **'Crowds in Heaven: Survival of the Fittest Among Hindu Gods and Goddesses'**. (August 2005)

Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Oxford University, **'Dexterous Deity, Diffident Devotee: A Reading from the Sivanandalahari** , (May 2005)

University of Wales (Lampeter), UK , The Characters of Valmiki's Ramayana as Role Models, (March 2004.

Devised Lineages and Pliant Biographies: A Study of Shiva and his Retinue", February, 18th, 2004.

Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Oxford University, Great Britain, 'Shiva A General Survey of the History and Evolution of a Deity,' February 11, 2004.

Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, Oxford University “The Abundance and Vicissitudes of Multiplicity: The Case of ‘Chaunsatha’ Yoginis of Bheraghat”, March 3rd 2004.

University of Wales (Lampeter), UK ‘Valmiki’s Ramayana’, Feb 2004.

University of Wales, (Lampeter) UK, The Shvetashvatara Upanishad, Feb 2004.

Presentation on *‘An Overview of Hinduism with Special Attention to Shiva & Parvati’* made to the Claus M. Halle Institute for Global Learning, Halle Faculty (Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia) Study trip to India (Jan 2004).

India Habitat Centre , New Delhi, Speaker at the panel discussion on the book, **Tracking Gender Equity under Economic Reforms: Continuity and Change in South Asia**, December 1, 2003.

Paper presented at the international Conference on Religions in the Indic Civilization, India International Centre, New Delhi. *‘Sculpture and Scripture- Negotiating a Co - Existence? A Study of the Ekasiti Yoginis of Bheraghat and the Lalita Sahasranama,’* December 18-21, 2003.

Panelist for the episode on **Career Choices** (a live show on National Television). April 2, 2003.

International Conference entitled- 'Shaktika on the Ascent; Reframing Gender in the Context of Culture of India', organized by The Indira Gandhi Centre for Arts and the Utkal University at Bhubhaneswar, Orissa. ***Scripture and Sculpture: Negotiating a Co-Existence?*** (March 20-23, 2003)

Miranda House College, Delhi University: ***Cultural Dissonance and Resolution in the Celestial Realm- A Visual Display*** (Dec 2002).

Lady Shriram College, Delhi University: ***'Gender; Some Gleanings from Ancient India'*** (Nov 2002)

Sri Venkateswara College, Delhi University, New Delhi: ***'Conforming Deities: Affirming Deities: A Visual Display of Cultic Conflict'*** (Nov. 2001) Kean University, New Jersey, USA, - March 1999, The International Speaker for the Women's Month. ***The Goddess as Wife, the Goddess as Mother: A Study of Parvati and Gender Politics.***

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A., April 1999-Delivered a lecture at the Dept of Comparative Religion working in collaboration with the Dept. of History. Topic- ***Cult and Conflict in Early Medieval India.***

Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A.-April 1999. Topic-'***Goddess as Wife, Goddess as Mother: A study of Parvati and Gender Politics***'.

Lady Shriram College, New Delhi, '***The Construction of Indian Sexuality***'. Nov 1998

India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, '***Encountering Shivaism***', Aug. 1998.

St. Stephens College, Delhi University-'***Re-reading the Devi in the Puranas***', Dec. 1994.

Vidya Jyoti Institute of Religious Studies- '***Goddesses in the Indian Tradition***', Jan 1993.

Articles

*Sculpture and Scripture: Negotiating a Co-Existence, in Stella Dupuis, ed., ***Experiencing the Goddess On the Trail of the Yoginis***,
Aryan Books International, New Delhi, 2019*

The Lotus : Ubiquity and Ambiguity in the Indian Subcontinent, The JMC Review : An Interdisciplinary Social Science Journal of Criticism, Practice & Theory, vol ii, IISN -2456-9550, 2018.

'Yoginis in Madhya Pradesh :an epigraphic study,' in Istvan Keul, (ed) **Yogini In South Asia:Interdisciplinary Approaches**, Routledge, Oxon, 2013. ISBN 978-0-415-62522-7

The Saiva Pantheon in Indonesia, in Himanshu Prabha Ray, **Sacred Landscapes in Asia; Shared Traditions, Multiple Histories**, IIC & Manohar, 2007

Review Report in India International Centre Diary (Nov –Dec 2007) of lecture on ‘The Shaiva Age An Explanation of the Rise and Dominance of Tantric Shaivism in the Early medieval Period’.

Entries in **The Encyclopedia of Love in World Religions**. ‘Motherhood in Hinduism’ ‘Fatherhood in Hinduism’ ‘Beauty in Hinduism’, ed Yudit Greenberg ABC –CLIO, California USA, 2007.ISBN 978-1-85 109-980-1

Some Aspects of Sivaism in Madhya Pradesh, c. AD 550-1300,” **Proceedings of the Indian History Congress**, 52nd Session, New Delhi, 1991-92.pp.121-128.

Women in India; A Brief Historical Survey by Tripta Desai (A Review), **Social Science Probings**, vol.9,nos.1-4,Mar-Dec 1992.

'Episodes of Cultic Tension in the Puranas', **Historical Diversities**, vol.3, 1993.

'A Response to Professor Dharampal's Bharatiya, Chitta, Manas and Kala,' **Hindu-Christian Studies Bulletin**, vol.8, 1995, pp13-16.

'Theatrical Possession' **Biblio**: A book review of Sarah Caldwell's *Oh Terrifying Mother*, May-June 2000.

'Japanese Scholarship on India'. **Social Scientist**, (Review Article). Vol.28, nos 7-8, July – Aug 2000.

Indian Demonology: The Inverted Pantheon, by N.N. Bhattacharyya. Vol.17, 2, n.s. (2001).

A Book Review Article in **Studies in History**.

Is the Goddess a Feminist, Alf Hildebeitel & Kathleen M.Erndl (ed) In Asian Journal Of Social Science, June 2003.

A Book Review article in **Asian Journal of Social Science**, March 2004. Gendering the Spirit, Durre S. Ahmed (ed) – **Biblio**.

Professional Memberships

India International Centre, New Delhi
India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
The Poetry Society of India, New Delhi

Languages

English and Hindi.

Extra- Curricular Activities

Have published more than 25 poems in various reputed journals, chronicles and anthologies. Have also participated in poetry readings both in India and in the USA. I take a keen interest in Western Music and have been the convener of the Western Music Society, Jesus & Mary College, for several years.
