

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: Dr. Alefiya Tundawala.

Academic qualification: M.A. Ph.D. (Political Science).

Designation: Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Savitri Girls' College, University of Calcutta.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Savitri Girls' College, University of Calcutta, since 2 January 2007.

Guest faculty, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta, from August 2012 to July 2018.

Guest Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Rani Birla Girls' College, from September 2005 to December 2006.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

UGC Senior Research Fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta, 2006.

UGC Junior Research Fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta, 2004-05.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Cleared the State Level Eligibility Test (SLET) for Lectureship in January 2003.

Cleared the National Eligibility Test (NET) for Lectureship and Junior Research Fellowship in December 2002.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

University of Calcutta, Ph.D. in Political Science, thesis entitled The Muslim Search for Identity in Contemporary West Bengal, supervisor Professor Bonita Aleaz, August 2011.

University of Calcutta, M.A. in Political Science, 64.5%, scored 153 out of 200 marks in Socialist Thought and Practice (special paper), stood second in a batch of nearly 220 students, 2000.

University of Calcutta (Loreto College), B.A. (Political Science Honours), 53.8%, 1998.

West Bengal Higher Secondary Council (Loreto House), Higher Secondary, 70.2%, 1995.

Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (Loreto Day School), Secondary, 72.4%, 1993.

AWARDS

I received the West Bengal State NSS Award for Best Programme Officer in July 2018.

I received the Qaumi Ekta Award for Education 2014 from the All India Qaumi Ekta Manch.

I received the Best NSs Programme Officer's Award for the session 2012-13 from the University of Calcutta.

I was awarded the UGC JRF from January 2004 to work on my Ph.D. project. It was upgraded to SRF in 2006. I quit the fellowship in 2007 and took up teaching on a full-time basis.

I was awarded the Role Model Award for the Disabled 2003-04 by the Department of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare, Government of West Bengal.

MEMBERSHIP OF ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS

I am a life time member of the West Bengal Political Science Association and have presented papers entitled 'The Secularism Embroglio: Is There a Way Out?' and 'Indian Muslim Nationalism: Exploring Notions of Unity and Difference' at conferences organized by it.

I am also a member of Suchintan.

ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

NSS (National Service Scheme) Programme Officer from July 2011 till date..

Member of various college committees and cells including IQAC (Internal Quality Assurance Cell), ICC (Internal Complaints Committee), Debate Committee, Anti-Ragging Cell, Seminar and Research Committee, Library Committee, and so on.

PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Joint Convener of the UGC sponsored state level seminar on 'Towards an Inclusive Society: Understanding the Role of Education and Citizenship in the Indian Context' organized by the Departments of Education and Political Science on 23 February 2011.

Coordinator of the UGC sponsored national seminar on 'In Pursuit of Justice: Asserting the Human Right to Food in India' organized by the college under the UGC's Human Rights Education Programme on 17-18 January 2012.

Convener of the UGC sponsored state level seminar on The Rules and Regulations for the Prevention of Ragging and Students' Awareness organized by the Anti Ragging Cell of Savitri Girls' College on 13 May 2015.

Participated in the 89th Orientation Programme conducted by the Academic Staff College, University of Calcutta, from 11 June 2011 to 9 July 2011, in the Orientation Programme for NSS programme officers conducted by TORC, Narendrapur, from 12 to 17 September 2011, in the 39th Refresher Course in Political Science conducted by the Academic Staff College, Jawaharlal Nehru University, from 2 to 27 April 2012, in the Refresher Course in Social Sciences conducted by the Human Resource Development Centre, Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, from 3 to 22 July 2017, and in the Refresher Course in Social Sciences (Inter-disciplinary) (Online), organized by the UGC- Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre, Goa University, from 19 November to 2 December 2025.

Presented a paper entitled 'Memories of Gujarat 2002: Community Newspapers Articulating the Agonies of a Tragic Governance Failure' at the three days international conference on 'Good Governance in a Globalizing World' organized by the Institute of Objective Studies, Kolkata Chapter, on 18-20 November 2012.

Presented a paper entitled 'Engaging with Difference: The Sectarian Agenda of Private Madrasas in West Bengal' during a two-days international seminar on 'Social Stratification and Political Transformation' organized by the Department of Political Science, Bankura University, in collaboration with Indian Council for Social Science Research, New Delhi, from 10 to 11 November 2016.

Delivered a presentation entitled 'Representation of the Secular-Communal Binary in West Bengal's Muslim Print Media' during the two-days national seminar on 'Towards Equality, Justice and Fraternity in Contemporary India: Creating a Better Tomorrow through Law', organized by the Institute of Objective Studies in collaboration with the Department of English, Aliah University, from 22 to 23 April 2017.

Presented a paper entitled 'The RTE Act 2009: Impact of the Conflict between Autonomy and Integration on Madrasas in India' at the three-days international conference on 'Towards Equality, Justice and Fraternity in Contemporary India: Creating a Better Tomorrow' organized by the Institute of Objective Studies at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi, from 16 to 18 February 2018.

Presented a paper entitled 'Unveiling Narratives of Empowerment: Islam and Modernity among Dawoodi Bohra Muslim Women' at the two-days international conference on 'Gender Equality

through Gender Mainstreaming' organized by Presidency University, Bengaluru, in collaboration with United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan on 6 - 7 September 2018.

Presented a paper entitled 'Negotiating Boundaries: Muslim Institutions as Arenas of Identity Construction in Contemporary West Bengal' at the three-days international conference on 'Contemporary Caste, Gender and Minority Questions in West Bengal and Bangladesh: Some Explorations' organized by the Department of Sociology, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata, from 31st October to 2nd November 2019.

Visiting Lecturer at Al Jamea Tus Saifiyah (Surat)- the prime Fatemi university for advanced contemporary Islamic learning- from 30 January to 1 February 2012.

Delivered guest lectures at the Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts, Symbiosis International University, Pune, and at various colleges in Kolkata.

GENERAL INTERESTS

Teaching: Political theory, political thought, Indian government and politics.

Research: Community and identity studies, society-state interface, human rights and related issues, gender and politics, Indian and Muslim political thought.

PUBLICATIONS

'Multiple Representations of Muslim Hood in West Bengal: Identity Construction through Literature', South Asia Research, Volume 32, No. 2, July 2012. Pp. 139-63. ISSN: 0262-7280.

Towards an Inclusive Society: Understanding the Role of Education and Citizenship in the Indian Context, joint editor with Nabanita Sen and Arjun Sengupta, Rachaita: Kolkata, 2013. ISBN: 978-93-82549-14-7.

In Pursuit of Justice: Asserting the Human Right to Food in India, joint editor with Nabanita Sen and Swati Mandal Adhikari, Rachaita: Kolkata, 2013. ISBN: 978-93-82549-18-5.

Where Dreams Become Nightmares: Exploring the Phenomenon of Ragging in Educational Institutions, joint editor with Amrita Dutta and Dipanwita Maji, Aruna Prakashan: Kolkata, 2015. ISBN: 978-93-80755-65-6.

'Eating from the Bohra Thaal: How Commensality for some could mean Alienation to others', Himal Southasian, 23 February 2022. Available online at <https://www.himalmag.com/eating-from-the-bohra-thaal-ways-of-eating-2022/>

Chapter entitled 'The Secular and Communal Binary in Muslim Press in Bengal' in Equality, Justice and Fraternity in Contemporary India, M.Z.M. Nomani ed., Institute of Objective Studies: Delhi, 2022. ISBN: 978-93-91659-332. pp. 187-204.

Chapter entitled 'Madrasas in India: Autonomy or Integration' in Towards Creating a Just and Equitable Future in India, Mirza Asmer Beg ed., Institute of Objective Studies: Delhi, 2023. ISBN: 978-93-91659-30-1. pp. 47-64.

Chapter entitled 'Our Voices, Our Agency: Strides of Modernity in the Vignettes of some Bohra Muslim Women' in Distich: Herstory after India 75 at the Fulcrum of NEP 2020, Sumana Dey and Alefiya Tundawala eds., Rohini Nandan: Kolkata, 2024. ISBN: 978-81-19574-34-6.
