

PROFESSOR CHINMOY GUHA
Professor Emeritus



- Former Professor and former Head, Department of English;
- Former Chairperson, Ph.D. Programme in English, and DRS (SAP III, Phase III);
- Former Chairperson, Undergraduate Board of English Studies, University of Calcutta since 2008.

Email ID: chinmoy.guha@gmail.com

- Specialization: Modernism, Postmodernism, European Studies
- Interest in Renaissance Studies, Romanticism, Tagore studies

He won the Sahitya Akademi award for his collection of essays in Bengali in 2019; the Vidyasagar Puroshkar of Paschim Banga Bangla Academy in 2017. And the Bimala Churan Laha Gold Medal of the Asiatic Society in 2022.

The Government of France has conferred on him the rare honour of three Knighthoods: (1) the Knighthood of Academic Palms of the Ministry of Education (2010), one of the oldest civilian honours in the world initiated by Napoleon in 1808; and (2) the Knighthood of Arts and Letters of the Ministry of Culture, 2013. (3) The French President conferred on him the title of Knight of the National Order of Merit in 2019.

A former Vice-Chancellor of Rabindra Bharati University, he is three times awardee of the Charles Wallace Trust to British universities.

According to JMG Le Clézio, the 2008 Nobel laureate in literature, “His honour is so satisfying because it rewards the work of someone who builds bridges between cultures.” In the words of the historian Theodore Zeldin: “He demonstrates how literature does more than open the door into unfamiliar civilisations. His mastery of three different literatures gives him a unique capacity to produce original perspectives. He is a rare bird, with a range of interests and knowledge seldom found in academia or anywhere else.” For Frank Kermode, “Guha has gone deeper into the French origins of T.S. Eliot than any other commentator I have encountered.”

Teacher Fellow at Jadavpur University in 1994-95. Former Director of Embassy of France in New Delhi, and former Vice-Chancellor, Rabindra Bharati University, he has lectured at the universities of Paris-Sorbonne, Paris-Diderot, Oxford, Manchester, Warwick, Edinburgh, Worcester and Avignon; at the Journées internationales Romain Rolland in Vézelay, the Ecole Normale Supérieure, Lyon, Académie des Belles Lettres et des Sciences, La Rochelle, France, Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Mauritius; Institute of European Studies, Belgrade; Bar Cultural Festival and the Cultural Information Centre Budo Tomovic, Monrenegro and the Asiatic Society, Kolkata. He delivered the inaugural address and Plenary Session lectures at Confluences, the Salon du Livre in Mauritius in 2013 and 2014, and the keynote at the sesquicentenary Romain Rolland conference at the University of Paris-Sorbonne in June 2015. He has researched at the Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris in 2009 and 2014 on the Impact of France on the Bengali intellectuals of nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

He delivered, among others, the Convocation address at the School of Languages, Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture (2018), Vidyasagar Memorial Lecture at Paschim Banga Bangla Academy (2018), Maharshi Debendranath Tagore Memorial Lecture at Visva-Bharati University (2017), Jayantanuj Bandyopodhyay Memorial Lecture at Jadavpur University (2016), Dilip Kumar Roy Memorial Lecture at Aurobindo Institute of Culture and Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture (2015), Bipin Chandra Pal Memorial Lecture, Silchar (2015), Aswini Datta Memorial Conversation with Gopalkrishna Gandhi at Gandhian Studies Centre, University of Calcutta (2014), Birendra Chattopadhyay Memorial Lecture (2014), the keynote address at the DRS conference of Visva-Bharati (2019) and the Orientation Course of Jadavpur University (2017). He participated in the Jaipur Bookmark (2018, 2019), Mauritius Salon du Livre (2013, 2014), Dhaka Lit Fest (2016), Kolkata Literary Meet, Apeejay Literature Festival and Kolkata Literature Festival and Toledo, Deutscher Übersetzerfonds.

His works include: *Where the Dreams Cross: T S Eliot and French Poetry* (2000, Macmillan, 2011; Primus Books, 2019); *The Tower and the Sea: Romain Rolland-Kalidas Nag Correspondence 1922-1938* (1996, Sahitya Akademi, 2010); *Remembering Sartre* (Co-edited, 2007); *Time Space Text: Mapping Cultural Paradigms* (Co-edited, 2008); *Stage and Screen: Representations and Self-Discoveries* (Co-edited, 2017), *Connecting Texts: Literature, Theatre and Cinema* (Co-edited, 2016), *La Rochefoucauld's Maxims* (1990); *Robin Wood's The Apu Trilogy*; *André Gide's Strait is the Gate* (Sahitya Akademi, 1996); *Flaubert's Dictionary of Stupidity* (2000); *Victor Hugo: A Biography* (2003); *Between the Centre and the Absence* (2003); *Chilekothar Unmadini* (2007); *Garho Sankher*

Khonje (2011); *Anya Jalbatash, Anya Dheu: A Collection of Twentieth Century French Poetry* (2010); *Aina Bhangte Bhangte: Conversations with R. K. Dasgupta, Tapan Raychaudhuri, Badal Sircar, Mrinal Sen, Sankha Ghosh, Mahasweta Devi and others* (2011, 2019), *Surer Bandhone: Rabindranather Sange* (2016), and two collections of essays on world literature: *Ghumer Darja Thele* (2016), and *Hey Ananta Nakkhatrabithi* (2018). His most recent work is *Bridging East and West: Rabindranath Tagore and Romain Rolland Correspondence 1919-1940*, Oxford University Press (2018).

He has edited the works of Father Detienne (2012), Arun Mitra's essays and translations (2012-2014), co-edited *Breaking the Silence* (2011) and *Tagore at Home in the World* (Sage Publications, 2013), and translated *My Chaplin* by Mrinal Sen (2015). He has also co-edited *Bibidha Prabandha* (2016) by R. K. Dasgupta and *On the Sea-shore of Humanity*, the sesquicentennial volume of University of Calcutta (2012). He has anchored seven documentaries of the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore on Krittibas's *The Ramayana*, Kaliprasanna Sinha and Peary Chand Mitra, Tagore's *Letters*, Bibhutibhushan Mukhopadhyay, Buddhadev Bose and Arun Mitra; and documentaries of National Film Development Corporation on Mrinal Sen and Kalidas Nag.

His research papers in English, French and German were published in international journals and books including: *Cahiers de Brèves*, 2003; *Europe*, 2007; *Kritisches Lexikon der fremdsprachigen Gegenwarts-literatur: Indische Literatur der Gegenwart*, Germany; 2007; "En quête d'un nouvel espace" in *Cahiers de la Société Internationale des Littératures de l'Ere Coloniale*, France; "La Guirlande des beaux Accords", *Romain Rolland: une oeuvre de Paix*, Publications de la Sorbonne, Paris, June 2010; *Romain Rolland et l'Inde: un échange fructueux*, Editions Universitaires Dijon, 2016.

Awards:

- Sahitya Akademi in Bengali, 2019;
- Vidyasagar Puroshkar, Paschim Banga Bangla Academy, 2017.
- Knight of the National Order of Merit, France, 2019;
- Knight of Palmes académiques, Ministry of National Education, Government of France, 2010.
- Knight of Arts and Letters, Ministry of Culture, Government of France, 2013.
- Charles Wallace India Trust Fellowships to Cambridge in 1992, Oxford in 1995, and Oxford, Manchester and Warwick University in 2001.
- Lila Ray Award for Translation, Paschim Banga Bangla Academy, 2008;

- Derozio Bicentenary Award, 2010.
- Arun Kumar Chanda Memorial Award, Silchar, 2015.
- Sailajananda Koilakuthi Puroshkar, 2022.
- The Asiatic Society Bimala Churan Laha Gold Medal, 2022.

Member of the Jury (present and past):

International jury of Romain Rolland Award, Institut français de l'Inde, since 2018. Sahitya Akademi Award. Saraswati Samman.