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Hemjyoti Medhi

PhD (University of Delhi)

MPhil (University of Delhi), MA (University of Delhi)

Date of Joining: 15 June 2001

Mobile: 9435380629

Email: hjyoti@tezu.ernet.in / hemjyotimedhi@gmail.com

Research Areas:

Gender and Literature, Women's Movements, Vernacular Public Spheres, Oral History, Digital Humanities, Indian Literature in Translation

International Awards/ Fellowships

1	Charles Wallace Trust SOAS Visiting Fellowship	Three Months Visiting Fellowship	2014-15
2	Preserving Social Memory Grant	The Sephis Programme, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam, the Netherlands	2009-12

Publications:

Books/Monographs

Medhi, Hemjyoti. *Gendered Publics: Chandraprava Saikiani and the Mahila Samitis in Colonial Assam*. Oxford University Press. 2023.

<https://www.amazon.in/dp/019948290X>

Journal Articles

Medhi, Hemjyoti. "In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens": Weaving Matrilineal Yarns in Easterine Kire's *A Terrible Matriarchy* and Tilottoma Misra's *Ka Meikhar Ghar/High Wind*. *South Asian Review*. Published online: 27 Jul 2023 (Scopus)
<https://doi.org/10.1080/02759527.2023.2240989>

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02759527.2023.2240989?src=>

Saikia, Bonjyotshna and Hemjyoti Medhi (2022) " 'Pretty thing, is it not?—sweet miniature': Portrait Miniatures in Victorian Fiction". *Victorians: A Journal of Culture and Literature*, Number 141, Summer 2022: 24-36. Project Muse. The Ohio State University Press. ISSN 2475-6741, Print ISSN 2166-0107 (Scopus).

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/862275>

Kashyap, Damini and Hemjyoti Medhi (2021) "Between the *Peechil-kamra* and the *Dabusa*: Mapping Worldbuilding and Heterotopic Space on Board the Ibis in Amitav

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Ghosh's *Sea of Poppies*". *Southeast Asian Review of English (SARE)*, Vol. 58 Issue.1, July 2021, ISSN 0127-046X: 31-45. (Web of Science) DOI

<https://sare.um.edu.my/index.php/SARE/article/view/31096>

Medhi, Hemjyoti (2016) "Gender and Identity Politics: Arupa Patangia Kalita's *Felanee (The Story of Felanee)* and Rita Chowdhury's *Ei Samay Sei Samay (Times Now and Then)*". *Asiatic*. Vol 10 Issue.1, June 2016. ISSN 1985-3106: 225-235. (Web of Science). DOI

<https://journals.iium.edu.my/asiatic/index.php/ajell/article/view/773>

Medhi, Hemjyoti (2014) "Tribe, Caste, Nation, Gender: Chandraprabha Saikiani's Presidential Address to the First Assam Kachari Mahila Sanmilan (1930)". *Summerhill: Indian Institute of Advanced Studies Review Journal*: Vol XX. No.1. Summer 2014. ISSN 0972-1452: 33-41. (UGC CARE List I) DOI

<http://14.139.58.200/ojs/index.php/summerhill/article/view/380>

Medhi, Hemjyoti (2014). A 'Herculean Task': Women's Education and Christian Missionary Intervention in Assam. *Man and Society: A Journal of North-East Studies*, ICSSR, North East Centre Publication, Vol. 10. Pp. 77-91. (UGC CARE List I)

(ISSN 2229-4058).

Medhi, Hemjyoti (2013). "Assam Mahila Samiti: Documenting Early Women's Mobilization in Assam" *Shrotaswini*. Vol I. Pp. 41-46 (ISSN 2277-5277). (UGC CARE List 1)

Medhi, Hemjyoti (2012). "The Making of an Archive: Memory, Movement and the Mahila Samiti in Assam". *Global South* Vol. 8 No.1 Gender and Development Special Issue. Pp. 49-57.

Chapters in Books (List of Five)

Medhi, Hemjyoti. (2016) "Great Sensation in Guwahati': Mini's Marriage, Assam Mahila Samiti and the Sarda Act in late colonial Assam". *Communities of Women in Assam: Being and Doing and Thinking Together* Ed. Nandana Dutta. Routledge, Abingdon and New York. 2016. Pp. 17-41. (ISBN-13: 978-1-138-66759-4).

Medhi, Hemjyoti (2015). "Selected Writings of Chandraprabha Saikiani". *Chandraprabha Saikiani: A Bilingual Collection of Essays*. Ed. Madhurima Goswami. Olympia Prakashan on behalf of Tezpur University, Guwahati. Pp. 94-98. (ISBN: 978-81-931547-0-0).

Medhi, Hemjyoti (2014). "Diversity and Questions of Alliance: A Case Study of the Assam Mahila Samiti, India and the Mahila Shanti Sena, Canada". *Gender And Diversity: India, Canada and Beyond*. Ed. Malashri Lal, Chandra Mohan, Enakshi Sharma, Devika Narula and Amrit Basra. Rawat Publishers, Jaipur. Pp 247-259. (ISBN: 978-81-316-0714-5).

Medhi, Hemjyoti (2014). "The Aideo and her others: Construction of Gender in Laxminath Bezbaroa's Select Writings". *Laxminath Bezbaroa: The Architect of Modern Assamese Literature: Issues of Nationalism and Beyond*. Ed. Madan M. Sarma and Debarshi Prasad Nath. Perfect Images. Pp 88-101. (ISBN: 978-81-922831-9-7).

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Medhi, H (2008). "Missionary Writing and Self-fashioning of Assamese Cultural Identity in Colonial India" in *Books Without Borders*. Edited by R. Fraser and M. Hammond Hampshire UK: Palgrave Macmillan. Pp 71-84. (ISBN-13:978-0-230-21033-2).

https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1057%2F9780230289130_5

Review Articles

Medhi, Hemjyoti. (2020) "Old anxieties of identity": A Review of *Assam: The Accord, The Discord* by Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty, Penguin, 2019. DOI <https://www.telegraphindia.com/culture/books/old-anxieties-of-identity/cid/1740881> . 31 Jan, 2020.

Projects: (Completed)

Title: Women and the making of the Public Sphere in Contemporary Assam: An Oral History Archive (2018-2021)

Funded by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, India.

Grant Amount: 10 Lakhs

Project Team: Project Director: Hemjyoti Medhi, Project Co-Director: Reetamoni Narzary, Research Assistant: Debakshi Bora

Outcome: An Oral History Archive

Title: "Memory, Movement and the Mahila Samiti in Assam, India"

Funded by The Sephis Programme, International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam and supported by Tezpur University, Assam, India (2009-12)

Grant Amount: 7.5 lakh

Outcome: 1. A Digital Archive of three Mahila Samiti housed at Tezpur University

2. A Radio Programme

3. An Exhibition and 4. A Short film (*Xeito Monot Assey/That, I Remember*)

Project Team: Co-ordinator: Hemjyoti Medhi, Advisor: Dr. Rimli Bhattacharya, University of Delhi, Team Members: P. A. Anbarasan (till January 2011), Reetamoni Narzary, Mridusmita Barua (April-Sept.2010), Puloma Pal (Jan-Mar, 2011). Consultant: Abhijit Bhattacharya, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. (For

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consultation in the digital archive by appointment contact hjyoti@tezu.ernet.in / hemjotimedhi@gmail.com).

Conferences/Invited Talks/Seminars/Workshops

International Invited Talks

Medhi, Hemjyoti. "From Oral to Digital: Perspectives from a Digital Archive Project on the Mahila Samitis in Assam". International Seminar on Digital Humanities and Digital Societies in the Contemporary World. University of Calcutta, Kolkata 18-19 January, 2018.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. "I alone am the rightful Panda for the Assamese at Kalighat Temple": Reading Advertisements, Pilgrim Connections and the Political Economy of Vernacular Print Cultures in the *Bijuli* (A Nineteenth Century Asamiya Periodical). The Book Unbound: Two Centuries of Indian Print. Jadavpur University and British library, London. Kolkata 14-15 July 2017. <https://www.bl.uk/early-indian-printed-books/videos/2cip-reading-advertisementsv>

Medhi, Hemjyoti. (read by the panel Chair Uma Chakravarti). "Where is the Archive? Women's Public Performances and the Collective of the Mahila Samiti in Colonial Assam, India". International Federation for Research in Women's History. Jinan, China, 27-29 August, 2015.

<https://womenshistorynetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/57IFRWHDec2014.pdf>

Medhi, Hemjyoti. 'Memory, Movement and the *Mahila Samiti* in Assam: Notes from a Digital Archive Project'. International Workshop on Digitisation and Archiving. Jadavpur University, Kolkata. 19-21 August, 2015.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. Chair. *South Asia City Scapes*: Research Workshop for Graduate Students. South Asia Institute. SOAS, University of London. 8 June, 2015.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. "The Weaving Co-operatives of the Mahila Samitis in late colonial Assam". SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London. 29 April, 2015.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. "Khadi and its Myriad Weaves: Mahila Samitis' *Sipini Bhoral* (Weavers' Stores) in late Colonial Assam". International Workshop on Colonial Northeast India. Universities of Delhi, Melbourne and Toronto. December 2014. IIC, New Delhi.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. "Politics of Diversity: the Assam Mahila Samiti and the Mahila Shanti Sena". International Conference on *Gender, Diversity & Cultural Pluralism: Canada & India*. University of Delhi, Delhi. 17-18 Jan. 2012.

International Conferences (List of Five)

Medhi, Hemjyoti. Where are these voices coming from? Women's Memorywork and the Politics of Reading". International Conference of the International Oral History Association, Srishti Institute of Design, Bangalore, June 2016.

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Medhi, Hemjyoti: Paper Presented. “Archiving Women’s Lives: A few Questions on (Im)possibility of Belonging. Conference on *Writing Women’s Lives*. Bathspa University, Bath, UK, 24-25 April, 2015.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. Paper Presented. “Karachi Congress Darshan: Chandraprabha Saikiani’s Visit to the Karachi Congress and Questions of Travel and Ex/Inclusion”. Indian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies Annual Conference on *Space, Place, Travel, Displacement, Exile* 12-14 Feb. 2015. Bits Pilani, Goa Campus, Goa.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. Paper presented. “Reading Sources, Locating Translations: The Case of the Asamiya Novel *Abhijatri* and Other Writings”. XVI International Conference of Forum on Contemporary Theory and University of Mysore on *Translation, Comparatism and the Global South*. 15-18 Dec. 2013.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. Paper presented. “Memory, Movement and the Mahila Samiti in Assam: Women’s Archive or Archiving Women”. *International Conference on Women’s Memorywork: Gendered Dilemmas of Social Transformation*. University of Limerick, Ireland, August 24-26, 2010.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. Paper presented “Missionary Writing and self-fashioning of Assamese Cultural Nationalism in Colonial India.”. *International Conference on Colonial and Postcolonial Lives of the Book*, Institute of English Studies, University of London, London, UK, November 3-5, 2005.

National Invited Talk

“*Sari Nibarani Sabha: Dressing the new Aideo in Early Twentieth Century Assam*”.

Dept of Sociology 15 March 2022.

“*Poharir Mel! Early Women’s Associations in Colonial Assam*. IIT, Guwahati. 8 March 2022.

“From Feminism and Ecofeminism to Environmental Humanities: A Short Introduction” TLC, Tezpur University, 18 January 2022.

Swadhinta Andolonot Axomor Mahila. Panel Discussion. Doordarshan Assam. 20 September, 2021.

Youtube Link

<https://youtu.be/PhDY03OeHy4>

“Canon Formation in Asamiya Literature: The Case of Chandraprava Saikiani”. Teaching Learning Center, Tezpur University. 16 July, 2021.

Panel Discussion on Alternate Ways of Engagement of School students, teachers and parents in the wake of Covid-19 and beyond. TISS Mumbai. 10 April, 2020

National Webinar on Literature and Marginality (Online). Session Chair. Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev Viswavidyalaya, Nagaon, 8-9 July, 2021

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“Contesting Narratives: Rethinking the Idea of India’s North East (?)”. AtheNEum, 23 January, 2021

“Women and the Making of the Public Sphere in Contemporary Assam”. Lecture delivered in International Webinar on Ideas and Trends of Feminism, Gender Equality and Women’s Movement, Gargaon College. Sivagar, 7 August, 2020

Medhi, Hemjyoti. “Research Methodology: A Few Notes on Qualitative Research” Workshop on Research Methodology in Humanities and Social Sciences, Mahapurush Srimanta Sankardev Viswavidyalay, Nagaon, 10th July to 17th July, 2019

Medhi, Hemjyoti. National Seminar on Woman and Urbanity. CPEPA and Dept. of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University. 27-28 November, 2017.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. “Negotiating the Archival Labyrinth: The story of Dariki Dasi and a few Historiographical Questions”. National Seminar on Literary Representation of the Freedom Struggle in Assamese and Sindhi Languages, Dept. of Modern Indian Languages and Literary Studies, Gauhati University. 4-5 October, 2016.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. “Rereading the Borders of the Vernacular Literary Public Sphere: Chandrabhabha Saikiani’s Translation Works”. National Seminar on *Translation: History, Theory, Practice*. Sahitya Akademi and Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, 6-9 March 2014.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. “Issues in Contemporary Gender Studies: Beauty as the Beast”. Two Day Workshop on *Contemporary Gender Issues*, Equal Opportunity Cell, Tezpur University, 17-18 September, 2010.

National Conferences (List of Five)

Medhi, Hemjyoti and Reetamoni Narzary. “Reimagining Women’s Collectives, Witnessing the Archive: Field Notes from an Oral History Project”. “Women’s Studies, Women’s Movements: Challenges and Resilience”. National Conference of the Indian Association for Women’s Studies. Thiruvananthapuram. 7-10 September, 2023.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. Paper Presented. “*Seito Monot Assey* (That, I Remember)”. XIV National Conference of Women’s Studies on *Equality, Pluralism and the State: Perspectives from the Women’s Movement*. IAWS and WSD, Gauhati University. 4-7 Feb. 2014.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. Paper presented “Reading Gender in the Mahila Samiti Papers in Assam.” National Seminar on *Contemporary Women’s Writing from the North East: Issues of Gender and Nationalism*, Sahitya Akademi and Dept of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University, 20th -21st April 2011.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. Paper Presented “The Making of the *Aaideo*: Construction of Gender in Colonial Assam”. Workshop on *Research Methodology in Women’s Studies*:

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Perspectives on Northeast India. Women's Studies Centre, Tezpur University, 6-7 April, 2010.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. "Gandhi and Women's Political Mobilization in Colonial India: A Contemporary Perspective". Workshop on *Gandhian Ideology: A Contemporary Perspective*. Equal Opportunity Cell, Tezpur University, 29th August, 2009.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. Paper Presented "Chandraprabha Saikiani and the Women's Question in Colonial Assam: The Nationalist Formulation Revisited" *National Conference on Women and the Narrative of the Nation*, Daulat ram College, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India. November 20-22, 2007.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. Paper Presented "The Fine Print in the Construction of Gender in Colonial Assam". *National Seminar on Theory in the Indian Context: Generating New Dynamics*. Tezpur University, April 27-28, 2006.

Institutional Responsibilities

Head, Department of Foreign Languages, Tezpur University, 10 July 2023 onwards

Department Coordinator. *Alumni Reconnect Programme. Career Choices: Get Candid with Parash* delivered by Parashmoni Dewri 20th April, 2021.

Head-in-charge, Department of Assamese. July 2019 - February 2020.

Coordinator Internal Complaints Committee Orientation Programme for Departmental Students 2015-Cont.

Associate Editor. *Tezpur University Silver Jubilee Souvenir*. January, 2019.

Editor. *Tezpur University Newsletter* Vol. 9. Issue. 1. May, 2016.

<http://www.tezu.ernet.in/Newsletter/tunewslettermay16.pdf>

Coordinator. National Seminar on Colonial and Alternative Modernities: With Special Reference to Assam/Northeast India A UGC DRS SAP Workshop, Dept. of EFL, Tezpur University 28th February, 2015. Key Note on *Nature and Labour: Another View of the 19th century Modernisation Project in Assam* by Arupjyoti Saikia, IIT Guwahati.

Editor. *Tezpur University Newsletter* Vol. 8. Issue. 1. July, 2014.

<http://www.tezu.ernet.in/Newsletter/tunewsletterjuly14.pdf>

Working Committee Member, Women's Studies Centre, Tezpur University, 2009-12

NET Departmental Coaching Coordinator 2005

External Reviewer:

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Oxford University Press
The British Library

Consultancy/Research Impact/Social Outreach:

Resource Person, A Talk on Gender Sensitive Behaviour, Shashtra Seema Ball (SSB, Tezpur) on 23rd September, 2023.

Resource Person. Preparation of Position Paper on Gender Education for the development of State Curricular Framework in the light of NEP-2020. 4-6 April, 2022. SCERT (State Council of Educational Research and Training) Guwahati.

Panelist on *Swadhinata Andolanot Asomor Mahila [Women Freedom Fighters of Assam]* Doordarshan Assam, Aired on September 20, 2021.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PhDY03OeHy4>

Panelist on a Programme on the *Life and Achievement of Chandraprava Saikiani*, on Samvad Chalantika, All India Radio. Aired on 29th August, 2021 7.45 pm. *Celebration of 75 Years of India's Independence*. https://youtu.be/M5aY_G7oq1s

Medhi, Hemjyoti and Puloma Pal. “*Xeito Monot Assey: That, I Remember*” (A short film compilation from the MMMS digital archive) 2012.

Medhi, Hemjyoti and Puloma Pal: Radio Programme for All India Radio Guwahati aired on 16 March 2011, 6 pm. *Satirthor Dristit Chandraprabha Saikiani: Kisu Snapshot*. (Chandraprava Saikiani in the eyes of her Comrades: A few Snapshots).

Medhi, Hemjyoti. Curator with Rimli Bhattacharya. Exhibition titled “Weaving the Many Histories of the Mahila Samitis in Assam”. 24-25 April, 2011.

Medhi, Hemjyoti. Coordinator: Exhibition, Dissemination Meet and Handing over of DVDs of Scanned Material to Three Samitis. 24 April 2011.

Invited talks on Gender Sensitization at Shashtra Seema Ball (SSB, Tezpur),

Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (Tezpur Chapter), 2006.

Life Membership

Indian Association for Women Studies (IAWS)
Forum on Contemporary Theory (FCT)

Indian Association for Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (IACLALS)
Executive Member (Life membership, Tezpur District Mahila Samiti, TDMS)