

BIODATA OF THE VISITING PROFESSORS APPOINTED THUS FAR

Romila Thapar; (born 30 November 1931) is an Indian historian whose principal area of study is ancient India. Her keen interest in understanding how societies disintegrate or integrate and how relationships change over time, led her to history and historiography, and she went on a scholarship to School Of Oriental and African Studies. Working with the famous indologist Dr. A.L. Bhasham, she earned a PhD on the Mauryan era, in 1958.

An interesting aspect of Prof. Thapar's work spanning four decades is her ability to constantly expand the horizons of her concerns, but still produce a consistently high quality of research output, as Sanjay Subhramaniam, a Professor at Oxford comments. A teacher throughout her life, generations of historians underwent rigorous training at Delhi University and later for two fulfilling decades at Jawaharla Nehru University. One of the founder members of the JNU's famed Centre for Historical Studies, Prof. Thapar, along with a galaxy of historians was able to expand the quests and concerns of History and move it beyond the narrow confines of chronicling events.

In her own words, the tenure at JNU led her, "To think of new ways of projecting history, where our courses would reflect interdisciplinary methods of investigating the past. If at all I can take credit for anything, it is for those students who are now teaching history and conducting historical research themselves". Students vouch for it. It is like entering the tiger's den, says one. But if you are good, she is the greatest ally you could have, says another who did her Ph.D. under Thapar.

Professor Thapar's works range from *Asoka and the Decline of the Mauryas* (1961) to *The Aryan: Recasting Constructs* (2008). Professor Thapar has been a visiting professor at Cornell University, the University of Pennsylvania and the College de France in Paris. She was elected General President of the Indian History Congress in 1983, as well as Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy in 1999.

Professor Thapar is also an Honorary Fellow at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford and holds honorary doctorates from the University of Chicago, the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales in Paris, the University of Oxford and the University of Calcutta. In 2004 the US Library of Congress appointed her as the first holder of the Kluge Chair in Countries and Cultures of the South.

Madhav Gadgil: obtained M.Sc. in Zoology at Mumbai, and did his Ph.D. thesis on fish behaviour at Harvard University. He turned to modelling and did a thesis in mathematical ecology that won him the IBM Fellowship at Harvard Computing Center and became a citation classic. He has been a Lecturer on Biology at Harvard, a Distinguished Indo-American Lecturer at UC Berkeley and a Visiting Professor at Stanford. From 1973 to 2004 he was on the faculty of Indian Institute of Science, where he established the Center for Ecological Sciences. He was a member of the Science Advisory Council to Prime Minister of India from 1986-90, and Chaired the Science & Technology Advisory Panel of Global Environment Facility from 1998-2002.

His scientific interests focus on ecology and evolutionary biology, conservation biology, human ecology, natural resource management and ecological history, and he has published 225 scientific papers and written 6 books in English and 2 in Marathi. Madhav Gadgil has been largely responsible for introducing careful quantitative investigations in ecology and animal behaviour as well as viewing humans as an integral component of ecosystems of India. He founded the Centre for Ecological Sciences, which has developed strong traditions of working with other researchers, teachers, policy makers as well as NGO workers, farmers and other citizens throughout the country. This has led to innovative experiments of involving High School and College teachers and students in inventorying and monitoring of biodiversity.

Amit Bhaduri: after his degrees in Economics from the Universities of Calcutta and Cambridge received Ph.D. from Cambridge University. He was awarded Stevenson Prize for the best piece of research in that University in 1966. He was extended Honorary Life Fellowship of the Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum, in 1974. He was given the ICSSR Prize in recognition of original work in Economics in 1983. He was nominated to Honorary Life Professorship of Jawaharlal Nehru University in 1986.

He held teaching positions in the Presidency College, Kolkata; Pembroke College, Cambridge; Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi; Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum; Stanford University, USA; El Colegio de Mexico, USA; Universities of Vienna and Linz, Austria; University of Bologna, Italy; Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata; University of Bremen, Germany; University of Trondheim, Norway; Wissenschafts Kolleg zu Berlin; Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim; Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in Social Sciences; and Department of Political Economy, University of Pavia, Italy.

Prof. Bhaduri acted as Research Consultant to ILO, UNCTAD, UNDP, UNIDO, U.N., and Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific Economic Commission for the Middle East; Vienna Institute of Comparative Economic Studies; and Development Bank of South Africa.

Prof. Bhaduri has 5 books to his credit and has published in international journals of repute.

He has published more than 70 research articles and a number of scholarly volumes, such as *The Economic Structure of Backward Agriculture* (London and New York, Academic Press, 1983), *Macroeconomics: The Dynamics of Commodity Production* (London, Macmillan, 1986), *Unconventional Economic Essays* (Delhi, Oxford University Press, 1993), *The Intelligent Person's Guide to Liberalization* (Delhi, Penguin Books, 1996) (co-authored), *On the Border of Economic Theory and History* (Delhi, Oxford University Press, 1999)

Jeet Thayil: is much popular known as an Indian poet, novelist and musician. He completed his Masters in Fine Arts from Sarah Lawrence College New York.

Best known as a performance artist, songwriter and guitarist, Jeet is the proud author of four books: *These Errors Are Correct*, *English*, *Apocalypso* and *Gemini*. Jeet got world attention as his first novel *Narcopolis* published by Faber & Faber was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2012.

The novel travels through his own life experienced in Bombay during 1970's and 80's. The book narrates how opium had changed his thoughts and later about those people who too had the same experience. Set at the backdrops of Bombay, Jeet calls it as “the lost 20 years of my life”

Jeet is also the author of the libretto for opera *Babur in London* which had its world premiere at Switzerland in 2012, later in United Kingdom and India. Worked as a journalist in New York, Mumbai and Bangalore, Jeet is currently living in New Delhi.

In 2012 Jeet's “These Errors are Correct” was awarded the Sahitya Akademy Award for English. The same year he was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize for his novel *Narcopolis*. This year the novel received DSC Prize for South Asian Literature worth \$50,000.

Professor Santiago Lusard Girelli: He was born in Buenos Aires (Argentina), his work as a choir and orchestra conductor has taken place in the last recent years in Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela and Spain.

He started his studies in music and philosophy since he was very young; his profile has been developed by these two paths of study. He is a Choir and Orchestra conductor, performer, composer and scholar of theological philosophical traditions of the East and West.

In Bolivia he has worked as the main conductor of the Orchestra San José de Chiquitos, located in the Chiquitania, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, with which he has made national and international tours during 2007/08. He worked within the Venezuela's musical system (EL SISTEMA) during 2007/ 2008; invited as a conductor of the “Symphonic Orchestra Hombres Nuevos” during 2007/08, conductor in the “National Youth Orchestra of Peru”, the “Imperial Orchestra from Cuzco” (2008), and the “Banuev's Choir” during the Youth International Meeting in Rome (2000). In Buenos Aires he worked with several choirs, orchestral groups and musical projects as conductor and producer. He has recorded more than 25 CDs and conducted more than 15 musicals like *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Les Miserable* or *The Phantom of the Opera*.

He did several researches on baroque vocal music of Moxos and Chiquitania's archives in Latin-America, and he conducted brand-new musical pieces with his “Seville Chamber Choir” (Spain). He had attended to several coral conduction courses and workshops with renowned masters of different countries: José Carlos Carmona (Spain), Antonio Abreu (Venezuela), A. Alonso (France), Julio Domínguez (Spain) G. Céspedes (Colombia), N. Andrenacci (Argentina), W. Ptaff (Germany), and vocal performance with Mirella Frenni (Italy).

Currently, he is Sub-director in the “Seville Symphony Orchestra Hispalense” (Spain) and assistant conductor at the Seville University Choir. He is also conductor of the Seville Chamber Choir and Orchestra since March 2010. He is nowadays in charge of the presidency of the FESECO (Choir Federation of Seville).

He studied Theology and Philosophy in the Argentinian Catholic University and the Universidad del Salvador (Buenos Aires, Argentina), he also studied Oriental Philosophies, Yoga and Meditation in Argentina and India.

He studied Orchestra conduction in Buenos Aires at the UCA University and Choir Conduction in the Manuel Castillo Conservatory of Seville, Spain. Nowadays he is finishing the PhD in music at the University of Seville where he also teaches.

Atul Dodiya: Born in Mumbai in 1959, Atul Dodiya is one of the most sought after contemporary artists today, completed his Bachelor in Fine Arts from the Sir J. J. School of Arts in 1982 and was at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris, 1991-92.

Moving considerably beyond a narrative style of depiction, Atul Dodiya is able to explore the social milieu he accosts from, with unaffected humour and even mimicry. The pressures of a growing globalised economy, the cultural imperialism of television, the rise of fundamentalist forces, the challenges of surviving and living as a couple in this constant state of flux all combine to form a palimpsest of satirical images on Dodiya’s canvases. He negotiates between the autobiographical and the national domains in his work. He often employs eclectic visual languages and imageries to make critical comments on changing India.

Dodiya combines images from Bollywood, popular cultural material like calendars and posters, studio photographs, newspapers, and from the works of a range of Indian and international artists. In his past works, he has used images from the works of modernist artists like Tyeb Mehta and even Bhupen Khakhar and Sudhir Patwardhan. Dodiya is quotes various artists while reflecting on the act of painting itself – his take on today’s art practice.

While staging the histories, mythologies, the city, the body within the localised experiences and contexts, he uses mediatic images and frames but in a subversive manner. Dodiya has never allowed himself to be restricted by a particular stylistic choice or medium. He has continuously addressed new methods and spaces, art practices and discourses.

Through his paintings and assemblages, Atul Dodiya engages with both political and art history in a way that entwines global /public memory and local/personal experience. In a recent series of paintings, Dodiya appropriates the images and styles of famous artworks. By doing this he pays homage to his influences, but also ‘borrows’ their identities through a kind of painting role-play: copying becomes a form of ‘channelling’ or re-enactment, weaving the master’s identities and ideas to Dodiya’s own, and vice versa. Atul Dodiya lives and works in Mumbai.

Shubha Mudgal: Born in 1959 into a musically dedicated family, Shubha Mudgal has been trained by some of the finest musicians and musicologists in India. Trained initially as a *khayal* singer by Pandit Ram Ashreya Jha in Allahabad, Shubha later moved to Delhi where she received the guidance of *gurus* such as Pt. Vinay Chandra Muadgalya, and Pt. Vasant Thakar. She went on to learn stylistic techniques from well-known rnaestros Pt. Jitendra Abhisheki and the legendary Pt. Kumar Gandharva. She also received training in *thumri* from the late Smt. Naina Devi, and is one of the most versatile and popular concert artists among the younger generation of Hindustani musicians.

Shubha Mudgal started performing as a Hindustani Classical Singer in the 80's, and gained a certain reputation as a talented singer. In the 90's, she started experimenting with other forms of music, including pop and fusion varieties.

In addition to being a popular concert artist, Shubha has also won recognition as a composer. Her repertoire of medieval *bhakti* (devotional) poetry has received great appreciation from music lovers in India and abroad. She has also been working with filmmakers and her recent performance in Mira Nair's new film--*Kama Sutra, A Tale of Love*--has been widely acclaimed.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including:

Best Music Direction in a non-feature film for her music in the documentary "Amrit Beej" by Meera Dewan, at the National Film Festival of India, 1996.

Aadharshila Award 1996.

Kalashri Award from Raja Ram Mohan Roy Education Foundation 1997.

Surmani from Sur Singar Samsad 1982.

Shubha has performed extensively in several music festivals in and outside India.

Lord Meghnad Desai: A renowned development economist born and educated in India, Lord Meghnad Desai is currently [Emeritus] Professor at the London School of Economics and director of the Center for the Study of Global Governance. Lord Desai's extensive work in the social sciences, his passionate commitment to the freedom and wellbeing of individuals, and optimism about human progress and globalisation [is well acclaimed].

Professor Lord Desai served as Lecturer of Economics at the London School of Economics since 1965 and its Professor from 1983 to 2003. He started his professional career in the Department of Agricultural Economics, University of California, in 1963. He established the Centre for the study of Global Governance in 1992. He has been a Non-Executive Independent Director of Elara Securities (India) Private Limited since December 21, 2011. He serves as Non-Executive Director of The Indian Film Company Limited. He serves as Director of Osian's-Connoisseurs of Art Private Limited. He has been a Member of Advisory Board of IDEAglobal, Ltd. since 2006. He has also published a book on the Bollywood film industry. He was created Lord Desai of St Clement Danes in 1991 and was awarded PADMABHUSHAN in 2007, Pravasi

Bharatiya Puraskar (Distinguished Overseas Indian Award) in January 2004 and Bharat Gaurav by the Indian Merchants Chambers in 2002. He was made an Honorary Fellow of the London School of Economics in July 2005. Professor Lord Desai studied at the University of Bombay, and PhD at the University of Pennsylvania.

He is a recipient of several Honorary Degrees from universities such as Kingston, Middlesex, East London, London Guildhall and Monash University, Australia.

ORIJJIT SEN: Orijit Sen is a graphic artist and designer based in New Delhi, India. He trained at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad.

He has helped conceptualise, design and execute several exhibition and museum design projects, including the India Pavilion at the World Expo 2005 in Aichi, Japan and the Virasat-e-Khalsa Museum in Anandpur Sahib, Punjab.

Orijit also works with graphic narrative forms. His pioneering graphic novel 'The River of Stories' was published in 1994. He is one of the founders of the Pao Collective – a group of comics artists and graphic novelists in Delhi, and has collaborated on the award-winning 'Pao Anthology of Comics' published by Penguin Books. His graphic prints have been exhibited and published in India, Japan, China, USA, Switzerland and elsewhere.

In 1990, he co-founded People Tree, a centre for design, crafts and sustainable living, which has grown to become a celebrated and unique cultural space in Delhi. He heads People Tree's in-house design studio.

SUDHIR KAKAR (born 1938 in Nainital, Uttarakhand, India) is a psychoanalyst, novelist, and a scholar in the fields of cultural psychology and the psychology of religion who lives in Goa, India.

Kakar took his Bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Gujarat University, his Master's degree (Diplom-Kaufmann) in business economics from Mannheim in Germany and his doctorate in economics from Vienna before beginning his training in psychoanalysis at the Sigmund-Freud Institute in Frankfurt, Germany in 1971. Between 1966 and 1971, Sudhir Kakar was a Lecturer in General Education at Harvard University, Research Associate at Harvard Business School and Professor of Organizational Behaviour at Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He has also worked at Harvard, Princeton, The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi,

Sudhir Kakar's many honors include the Kardiner Award of Columbia University, Boyer Prize for Psychological Anthropology of the American Anthropological Association, Germany's Goethe Medal, Rockefeller Residency, McArthur Fellowship, and the Distinguished Service Award of Indo-American Psychiatric Association. He is a member of the International Psychoanalytic Association, New York Academy of Sciences, and Academie Universelle des Cultures, France. As 'the psychoanalyst of civilizations', the French weekly *Le Nouvel Observateur* listed Kakar as one of the world's 25 major thinkers while the leading German weekly *Die Zeit* has profiled him as one of the 21

thinkers for the 21st century. His most recent award is the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany, the country's highest civilian honor.

A portion of Sudhir Kakar's work involves the relationship between psychoanalysis and mysticism. His analyses of personages include that of Swami Vivekananda in *The Inner World* (1978 (now in its 16th printing since its first publication). Sudhir Kakar has seventeen books of non-fiction and four of fiction to his credit.

ASHOKA CHANDRA: (born June 1942) is Chairman, of the Research Council, National Institute for Science, Technology, and Development Studies, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, Government of India. Currently, among other positions he is also the Chairman of the Academic Advisory Council, Goa Institute of Management. Professor since 1972, Ashok Chandra has his early training in Solid State Physics culminating in Ph.D. in Solid State Physics from Cornell University, USA. Prof Chandra past positions include; Special Secretary (Education), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India (June 1999 – June 2002); Director, Institute of Applied Manpower Research, Planning Commission, Govt. of India (in the rank of Secretary, Government of India; July 1990 – February 2000) and Chair Professor, Govt of India Chair in Knowledge Economy.

His professional experience is in the areas of Education, Technical Education, Management Education, Human Resource Development and Planning, Manpower Planning, Labour Market Analysis

Professor Chandra has Long, high level and diversified experience in Educational & Training Policy Making, Human Resource Planning, Development, and Management Educaiton. He has wide His international include international consultancy for ADB, ASEAN, OFCT (London), Governments of Bhutan and Maldives, ILO, UNSCAP. He has over a 100 publications (including several books and book-chapters in books) in a variety of fields including Solid State Physics, Micro-wave propagation, Manpower Planning, Employment, Training and Labour Market Analysis, Informal sector training, Policy Formulation, Quality Assurance, Entrepreneurship Development, Technology Transfer, Industrial Development and Human Resource Development.

- - - -