

- Sep 08: Technological advances and Model systems
 - Sep 10: Approaches to correlate microbiome and physiology
 - Sep 14: Data acquisition and analysis
 - Sep 17: How is biology deciphered and what is next
11. Dr. Palok Aich has delivered a talk on “Influence of COVID on future learning and teaching: Will it be furloughed or a novel exigency? National Webinar series on Future of Institutional Education, Economy and Society in the Post-Covid Era, May 20, 2020. Jointly organized by IQAC, Gokhale Memorial Girls’ College, Kolkata and Vijaygarh Jyotish Ray College, Kolkata, WB, India.
 12. Dr. M. Saleem has delivered an invited talk on “Mechanics of Cells and Tissues: Membranes, Cell and Tissue Mechanics and Biophysics” at the Complex Fluids 2020, an international online symposium jointly organized by IIT Bombay and Indian Rheological Society, held on 10-12th Dec, 2020. (<https://complexfluids.isr.org.in/schedule/>)
 13. Dr. R. Srinivasan has delivered an invited talk in a SYN-POSIUM - a virtual mini-symposium on Synthetic Biology, IISER Trivandrum, 21 - 22 November, 2020.
 14. Dr. R. Srinivasan has delivered a Guest Lecture Series - Amity Institute of Biotechnology, Amity University, Kolkata, 5th November, 2020.
 15. Dr. S. Ghosh has delivered a talk in a Webinar on Effective Scientific and Technological Approach in combating COVID-19 Across the world, Hiralal Mazumdar Memorial College for Women, West Bengal, India, 25th June 2020.

Sponsored Projects:

1. **Dr. Asima Bhattacharyya: SERB POWER GRANT** - Identification of extracellular vesicle (EV) protein biomarkers released by gastric epithelial cancer cells and decoding the functional significance of EV proteins in macrophage polarization. Recommended by SERB, India, under the scheme of SERB POWER GRANT to “emerging and eminent women researchers for individual-centric and competitive mode of research funding” (*fund not released yet*).

2. **Dr. Chandan Goswami:** Title of the project: “Modified polysaccharide based hydrogels for cost-effective bone tissue engineering”, Duration: 2019-2022 Grant number: ICMR: ITR/AD-HOC/16/2019-20 DT 26.8.19.
3. **Dr. Debasmita P. Alone:** Project title - Proteostasis impairment in the progression of Pseudoexfoliation Syndrome and Glaucoma (PI), SERB, 75.68 Lakhs, 2019-2022.
4. **Dr. Manjusha Dixit:** Project title - CRISPR-RNA-Cas9 System: Syntheses and Biochemical Evaluations of Nucleobase Modified tropolonyl-Ribose Nucleoside in CRISPR-RNA”. DBT, 83.87 lakh, 03/01/2019 to 02/01/2022.
5. **Dr. Rudresh Acharya:** Project title - Mechanistic insights into functioning of polysaccharide lyases (PLs) belonging to class 5 (PL 5) from pathogenic bacteria such as *Ralstonia pickettii*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*: Funded by DBT.
6. **Dr. M Saleem:**
 - DBT-Wellcome Trust Intermediate Fellowship, a research grant to start from Sep, 01, 2021 for the duration of 5 years.
 - Grant Title: “Role of host membrane modulation by mycobacterial membrane vesicles in evading phagosome maturation”. Sponsor: DBT-Wellcome Trust India Alliance.

Conferences & Seminars organized by the SBS Faculty Members:

1. **Dr. Palok Aich** has organized a virtual conference on Infectious disease, microbiome and public health in the current scenario during August 10-11, 2020.
Day 1 (Aug 10, 2020)-<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-Kv6tHxkQ4&t=583s>
Day 2 (Aug 11, 2020)-https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1_wSc8KCwU&t=93s
2. **Dr. Aniruddha Datta Roy** has organized an online international workshop on “Molecular phylogenetics”, in August 2020.
3. **Dr. Aniruddha Datta Roy** has played a lead role in organization of an online international workshop titled “Applications of molecular phylogenetics”, in October 2020.

SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Postcolonialism, Speculative Fiction, Indian Literature, Popular Culture

Dr. Amarjeet Nayak, Reader-F

Gender Studies, Autobiography and Dalit Studies: My co-authored paper “Speaking and Speaking Differently: Language as Resistance, Liberation and Celebration in Dalit Women’s Autobiographical Narratives” has been published in *Contemporary Voice of Dalit* (SAGE), a leading journal in the field of Dalit studies. It explores how Dalit women use specific linguistic expressions as a symbolic way of claiming their distinct identity which in consequence results in an act of resistance against the dominant linguistic culture. This paper undertakes a close reading of Dalit women’s autobiographical narratives to underline the folly of generalizing Dalit women as helpless exploited beings and to explore other important aspects of their lives. It is the intent of this paper to explore how Dalit women use specific linguistic expressions as a symbolic way of claiming their distinct identity which in consequence results in an act of resistance against the dominant linguistic culture of Brahminical inheritance. Gopal Guru states that Dalit women ‘talk differently’ (Guru, 2016, p. 2548), because their talking differently functions as a potential act of resistance against both casteism and patriarchy along with signifying a mark of distinct identity of their own. Furthermore, the paper locates different passive strategies used by Dalit women to resist the oppressor in their everyday life, because, in many conditions, an open resistance is found to be counterproductive for them. Finally, the paper investigates Dalit women’s strategies to carve a space for enjoyment and avenues of entertainment amid the pain and suffering, mostly in their work space. It is instructive to see how the work field, which is generally seen to be a place of pain and hard labour, is often used by Dalit women as a place of freedom and enjoyment. (“Speaking and Speaking Differently: Language as Resistance, Liberation and Celebration in Dalit Women’s Autobiographical Narratives”. *Contemporary Voice of Dalit*, Vol. 12, Issue 2, 2020. pp. 138-148. SAGE Publications. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2455328X20924882>)

Folklore and Film Studies: My single-authored paper “Folklores in Words and Images: A Study of Folktales

from North-East India and their Cinematic Adaptation” to be published by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi will be a handy contribution to the fields of popular culture and north-east Indian literature. Through a study of select folktales from the richly textured story telling tapestry of North-East India, and their re-imagination in other popular media such as cinema, the contention of this paper would be not only to underline the importance of orality in story-telling, but also to see how folklores can be seen to play a pre-eminent role in highlighting pertinent issues that matter to the general populace of the region. While highlighting the traditional ways of life, as folklores often do, they also help in forging a non-rigid identity formation, especially in gendered terms, which is traditional yet non-stereotypical. They sometimes go against certain mainstream societal notions without coming across as unnecessarily confrontational. At other times, they tend to be reformist while talking about certain prevalent social evils, but they do so in a subtle manner without being preachy or propagandist. To discuss the above-mentioned issues, this paper makes an attempt at close-reading certain folktales from the North-East region, primarily from Assam, collected in Lakshminath Bezbaruah’s *Burhi Aair Sadhu* (1911), which has been translated into English as *Old Mother’s Wise Tales* (2017) by Nripen Dutta Baruah. It especially looks at four stories - “An Uncle’s Story”, “Tejimola”, “Champabati” and “Elephant-Fruit Princess”, found in this collection. The selection of these stories is necessitated not just because of the fascinating folklores on which they are based, but also because of the fact that the critically acclaimed 2015 Assamese film *Kothanadi (River of Fables)* draws inspiration from these folktales to tell a fascinating story of its own. Just as folklores have historically played their part in quenching the thirst of human beings’ need to listen to the tales of their own as well as their ancestors’ in an easily relatable way, cinema has in recent times played a similar role for the general populace, especially in a region such as India, and the North-East in particular, where there is a long and rich tradition of listening to stories rather than reading ‘written’ texts. Thus, bringing together folklores and cinema is a natural thing to do, as both are very much in the domain of popular (and not elitist) culture. The paper also looks at certain interesting

March 2021, Conducted Women's day donation programme. On the occasion of Women's day, we distributed umbrellas to all the female helping staff and security guards, to show our gratitude towards them. We chose umbrellas as they would be useful during the summer which was extremely hot this year. Zaariya volunteers and NISER members contributed generously to the cause, and helped make the event a success.

Conducted Panel Discussion in light of International Women's Day. This panel discussion focused on exchanging views on the growth of participation of women in the field of academia and the difficulties women face in order to achieve something in their professional lives. We invited some of the faculties of NISER and a few senior PhDs to discuss the topic and share their experiences with the members of our institute.

Mathematics Club

October 2020, Mathematics Club, NISER conducted an alumni talk and interaction, by Sagar Shrivastava (Batch 11, SMS, NISER), [Ph.D. at TIFR, Mumbai] on "Origami - The Art/Math's of Paper folding".

November 2020, Conducted an alumni talk and interaction by Priyanga Ganesan (Batch 12, SMS, NISER), [Ph.D. in Mathematics at Texas A&M University (TAMU), College Station, USA] on "Introduction to quantum graphs"

January 2021, Conducted an alumni talk and interaction by Rajula Srivastava (Batch 12, SMS, NISER), Ph.D. in Mathematics at University of Wisconsin- Madison on "The Polynomial Method"

Sports club

February 2021, Sports club, NISER conducted an Inter batch cricket tournament. This event happens generally once in a semester. Teams from each int. MSc batch, departmental PhDs and a staff team participate and compete with each other.

Conducted an Intra NISER volleyball tournament. The tournament was Auction based. A call for players and managers were taken. After the successful completion of the auction 4 teams were formed and 49 players participated in the auction.

March 2021, Conducted an Inter batch badminton tournament. The team from Int. MSc, PhDs and Staff participated in the tournament to compete with each other.

Intra NISER kabaddi tournament. The tournament was conducted on Auction Basis. A call for players and managers were taken. After the successful completion of the auction 4 teams were formed. 47 players participated in auction.