**Rakhee Kalita Moral \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Department of English & Guwahati, Assam

Center for Women’s Studies

Cotton University

[rakhee.moral@cottonuniversity.ac.in](mailto:rakhee.moral@cottonuniversity.ac.in)

[rakhee.kalita@gmail.com](mailto:rakhee.kalita@gmail.com)

**Education**

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| --- | --- |
| 2001 | PhD in American Literature (Studies in the American Origins of the Poetry of T.S. Eliot), Gauhati University |
| 1988 | Master’s in English, Gauhati University (Graduated with top position) |
| 1984 | BA (Hons), English Literature, Gauhati University (Cotton College) |

**Academic Appointments**

**2024 Dean, Faculty of Language, Literature, Linguistics, Cotton University**

**2024 Head, Department of English, Cotton University**

**2023 Professor of English, Cotton University**

**2022 Member, Research Council, Cotton University**

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| **2021** | **Head of Centre for Women’s Studies, Cotton University** |
| 2019-2020 | Project Expert in RUSA research initiative on “Memories, Cultures, Movements: Women’s Oral Histories of NE India”, in a collaborative study with the School of Women’s Studies, Jadavpur University |
| 2018-2022 | Principal Investigator for the Northeast India project, ‘Where Women Make Another Tribe’ under the Humanities Across Borders Program hosted by IIAS, Leiden, supported by the Andrew Mellon Foundation |
| 2016 | Visiting Faculty, Centre for Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi |
| 2013-2015 | Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Contemporary Studies at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi |
| 2010- 2022 | Associate Professor of English, Cotton University  1992-Amercian Studies Research Centre Grantee, Hyderabad |
| 1992-2012 | Lecturer and Senior Lecturer, Cotton University  **Administrative Positions:**  **2022: Member Executive Council, Cotton University**  **2022: Member Student Advisory Council**  **2022: Member, Task Force , NEP Implementation, CU**  **2020: Presiding Officer, Internal Committee, Cotton University**  **2009-2012: Professor in Charge, MC Baruah National Debates, Cotton University** |
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**BOOKS**

Single-authored

Forthcoming (2024) *Under the Shadow of the Red Sun: Women Rebels, Mobilities, and the Politics of Gender in India’s Northeast,* Routledge

2022. *Once Upon the Hills: Naga Women’s Everyday Practices and Voices (A Feminist Handbook),* Heritage Publishing House (Nagaland)

**Edited Volumes**

2024. *Northeast Indian Anglophone Literatures* (eds) Amit R. Baishya and Rakhee K Moral*,* Routledge

2011. *Gender and Society in Northeast India*. Cotton College Women’s Forum. Rakhee Moral and Abanti Baruah, editors. Bhabani Press, Guwahati

2005. *At the Frontier and Beyond: Literature and its Relations*. Rakhee Moral and Gautam Sarma, editors. Macmillan (India)

2001. *Cotton College Centenary Volume*, Cotton College Centenary Publications

**PUBLICATIONS**

Research Articles/Papers/ Book chapters

2024. “By the Word of the Gospel: Narrating Nation and Tribe in the Time of Peace in Nagaland” , in *Words in Use* ( eds) A Kawlra and M Mohmoudu, Amsterdam University Press (forthcoming)

2023 “ Insides/ Outsides: Northeast Indian Anglophone Literatures” *South Asian Review*

2023 “ Thinking Like a Tree”: On Reading Nature and Fiction through Northeast India”, GUINEIS Journal, Vol 30

2023 “Inside the Circean Web: Recasting the Female Goddess in Recent Myth Readings.” *Margins. A Journal of the Dept of English*, Gauhati University

2021. “Reimagining the Pastoral: Metaphors and Meanings of the Everyday in Assam and the Northeast” in *Materiality and Visuality in Northeast India. An Interdisciplinary Perspective* (eds) Tiplut Nongbri and Rashi Bhargava, Singapore: Springer

2021. “The Spectre of Death in Narratives of Disease and Plagues. Reflections in the time of the Pandemic “ *Anvesan* Vol 30, July 2021(2020-2021)

2021. “Walking with the Gods: Writing Land and Body in India’s Northeast.” *DUJES* Vol 29, June 2021

1. “Scripting the Freedom Song: ULFA and the Moment of Dissent in Assam” in *Rivista Studi Orientale*, University of Rome, New Supplement # 2, Vol 91
2. “Demobilised, Dispossessed, Disappeared…? In Search of ULFA’s Female ex-Combatants” in *Women, Conflict and (Dis)Empowerment in Northeast India and Nepa***l** (ed) Ashild Kolas. Zubaan Books

2016. “Frames of Peace? Counterinsurgency and the Politics of Gender in Post-conflict Assam” in Fixity and Fluidity. History, Politics and Culture of Northeast India (eds) Dzuvichu et al. JNU, New Delhi

1. *“Rumour, Rhetoric, Rebellion: Negotiating the Archive and the Witness in Assam.”* NMML Monograph. *Perspectives in Indian Development Series*. ([link](http://www.nehrumemorial.nic.in/images/pdf/occasional/31_Rakhee_kalita.pdf))
2. “The Woman Rebel and the State: Making War, Making Peace in Assam”. *Economic and Political Weekly*. Review of Women’s Studies. Special Issue. Vol 49, Nos. 43&44,
3. “Living and Partly Living”: The Politics of Freedom and the Women of ULFA’, *Nehru Memorial Museum and Library. Occasional Paper: History and Society****.*** New Series #31
4. “Beyond Borders and Between the Hills: Voices and Visions from Karbi Anglong, or Whose Hills are These Anyway?” in *Emerging Literatures from Northeast India: The Dynamics of Culture, Society and Identity* (ed) Margaret Zama. IIAS- Sage Publications
5. “Of Ends and Beginnings: War, Peace and the Interregnum”, *Seminar# 640,* December (*Assam: The Unstable Peace*), New Delhi.
6. “Locating Identities and Otherness: Conflict, Representation and the Politics of Belonging in Northeast India”, *Negotiations*. Journal of the Department of English, Cotton College. Guwahati.

2010. “Assamese Modernity, Social History and The New Woman, Acts of Transgression in Colonial Writing”,

2010. “A Game of Chess” (translation) in *Splendour in the Grass.* ed. Hiren Gohain. New Delhi, Sahitya Akademi

1. “Gender, Power, Insurgencies: Women in Conflict”, *Concerns and Voices****.*** A Journal ofCotton College Women’s Forum. Guwahati
2. “Writing Terror: Men of Rebellion and Contemporary Assamese Literature*”* in *Breaking the Impasse in Northeast India* (ed)Sanjib Baruah. Center for Policy Research. New Delhi: Oxford University Press.

2008*. “Readings from No Man’s Land: Anurag Mahanta’s* Owlingor Jui*, Biblio”* (ed) Rukmini Bhaya Nair. Vol XII. No 5&6 June

2007*.* “A Poetics of Place: Pamuk’s *Istanbul*, Modernity and the Imaginary of the City”*,* *Journal of the* *Department of English*, Gauhati University(ed) Nandana Dutta. Vol.6

2005*. “*Eliot, Exile and the Idea of Tradition” *in* *At the Frontier and Beyond. Literature* *and its Relations**(eds*) Gautam Sarma and Rakhee K Moral. Macmillan India

2004. “Filling the Gaps: Narrative Memory and Amitav Ghosh’s Art of Telling” *in Reflections on Literature*, *Criticism and Theory* (eds)K.C.Baral, Venkat Rao and Sura P.Rath. New Delhi: Pencraft International

2003. “*Slip, Sliding Away”: The Postcolonial Transformation of the Assamese and the Politics of Identity in the Northeast in* *Identities: Local and Global. (*eds) P.C.Kar and K.C.Baral. Forum on Contemporary Theory. MS University,Baroda. Pencraft International

2003. “In Time of The Breaking of Nations”: *The Glass Palace as Postcolonial Narrative by Amitav Ghosh. Critical Perspectives(ed)* Brinda Bose. Pencraft International*.*

2002. ‘Creative Signs in Ibsen’s Last Plays: The Problem of the Artist and his Aesthetic’*,* *Negotiations. Journal of the Dept of English, Cotton College*. 2002

2001*. “‘*The Education of T.S.Eliot: The Boston Years”, *Cotton College Research Journal*.Vol I.

**Book Reviews**

Sanjib Baruah, *In The Name of the Nation*. Seminar. Vol 730: June 2020, pp75-78

[www.india-seminar.com](http://www.india-seminar.com/)

Tilottoma Misra, *Ramnabami Natak* in *South* *Asian History and Culture.* Vol 1 #1: 2010, pp165-189

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rsac20/1/1?nav=tocList>

Anurag Mahanta, *Owlingor Jui.* Readings from No Man’s Land. Biblio. Vol 6&7: May 2008

Orhan Pamuk, *Istanbul*. A Poetics of Place. Istanbul, Modernity and the Imaginary of the City. Journal of the Dept of English, Gauhati University. Vol 6, 2007

**Lectures/Invited Talks/ Seminars**

**June 2024.** Dr Subbhalakshmi Nath Memorial Talk . *Cultural Studies: Approaches to Contemporary Literature in Higher Education.* S.B.Deorah College , Guwahati

**May 2024.** “Women Writing the Environment: Forest and Nature Texts in Contemporary Literature” Patkai Christian College Seminar, Department of English, ( Nagaland )

May 2024. *Gender Roundtable* on Male Engagement for Gender Equality. CWS, MAVA and NEN, Cotton University, Guwahati

March 2024. **Sahitya Akademi National Festival of Letters**. New Delhi Panelist on NE India Literatures: Writing as Tools of Expression.

March 2024. Panelist in International Conference on *Gender and Higher Education in NE India*. IITG, Monash University and NEIPA. IIT Guwahati

Sept 2023. Lecture in FDP on *Narratives of Culture*. Royal Global University.

May 2023, International Conf on Blue Humanities, Amrita University, Plenary talk, *Lingering in the Chambers of the Sea: Literature and the Nonhuman*

March 2023, Handique Girls’ College , *Gender, Environment and Empowerment*

March 2023, DCB Girls College Women’s Day Lecture, *Writing for the Planet: Feminist Science, Women and Environment. International Women’s Day Special Lecture*

Feb 2023, HRDC, FDP , Gauhati University, Dept of Assamese, “Translation Theory Today”

Jan 2023 NIEPA Conclave, *Feminist practices and Pedagogies in NE India* , New Delhi

October 2022, “Looking for Equal Spaces; Gender and Women in NE India” Invited Special talk, Hansraj College New Delhi

April 2022, Keynote Speech. ICSSR National Seminar on Gender Equality , Morigaon College DC, Gauhati University, Dept of English, *NE Literatures: Do we have a Canon?*

March 22, Lecture HRDC Gauhati University on *Women and Gender Sensitisation*.” Where Did the Women Go? Gender and Conflict in NE India”

February 2022. Lecture HRDC, *Language , literature and Culture* . “NE Literatures and Culture: Do We Have a Canon?”

July 2021. “Mind the Gap: The Politics of Gender, Precarity and the Pandemic” HSS (**Webinar**) , Royal Global University https://www.facebook.com/RGUPolSci/videos/3134735640096061

June 2021. History and Literature Symposium of Sahitya Akademi, June 21, 2021 (webinar) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usuEu4Qta94>

May 2021, Valedictory Speech in the National Webinar on *Violence Against Women*, Kohima College, Nagaland, 19-20 May 2021

February 2021, FIP lecture on Gender and Development in India’s Northeast, organized by JNU, 24 February 2021

Jan 2021, Women’s writings in India’s Northeast, Refresher course in Literature and Languages, Dibrugarh University , 2 Jan 2021

Sept 2020, “History, Gender and Nation “ Refresher Programme of History , Gauhati University

September 2020 “ Gendered Spaces: Writing Land and Women” National Seminar Lecture at Tinsukia College, Assam ( **Webinar**)

August 2020. “ Pandemics, Plagues and Literature”. Keynote Speech at International Webinar at DK College, Mirza, India. (**Webinar**)

July 2020. Convened and coordinated an International webinar series on “Gendered Sites, Everyday Lives” with a four-part lecture symposium on gender in the time of the pandemic.( **Webinar**)

June 2020.“Speaking from the Hills: Feminist Spaces and Oralities in NE India” at a National Webinar on Deterritorialising Spaces at St Teresa’s College, Ernakulum, India (**Webinar)**

July 2019. “ Guns and the Gospel: Mediating life and Liberty in the Naga Hills” Paper presented at the panel on *Unlocking the Wor(l)d : Sounds and Symbols as Decolonising Methodologies* ICAS 11 Conference , University of Leiden

June 2019. Annual SWS lecture at Jadavpur University on “Feminists, Deviants, Historians: Writing Beyond Violence in NE India” at the School for Women’s Studies, Jadavpur University

Sept 2018. Saifuddin Kichlew Chair Lecture. *“Negotiating Peace in India’s Northeast: Women as Writers, Women as Warriors”* at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Jan 2018. Keynote Lecture, “The Visual and the Visceral: Recasting NE from Within and Without”at the National Seminar on at Satyavati College, University of Delhi

Jan 2018. Keynote address on “Poetry for Peace, Poetry for Brotherhood*”* at the Grand Guwahati Poetry festival at the Vivekananda Kendra, Guwahati

Sept 2017. Lecture “Conflict and Literature in Northeast India” at Satyavati College, Delhi University, hosted by the Northeast India Society, Satyavati College.

Apr 2017. “Writing the Northeast: Poetics and Politics,” invited lecture at Cotton University, organized by the Department of English, Cotton University

Oct 2016. Led the Panel on *Northeast Perspectives: Insider or Outsider* at River Talks, Royal Global University

July 2016. “Scripting the Freedom Song: ULFA and the Moment of Dissent in Assam (1980s – 2000s)” at the International conference of the European Association of South Asian Studies (EASAS), at University of Warsaw. Poland.

Feb 2016. “Demobilised, Dispossessed…Disappeared? In Search of the Women Rebels of ULFA”, *Multitude and Democracy, International Conference by OKDISCD and PRIO, Norway* at Guwahati.

*Dec 2015.* Peacemakers, Elite drivers, Civil Society in Dialogues Across Faultlines of Territory and Peoples: Bridging State, Ethnicity and Nation in Northeast. SAFHR and Heinrich Boll Stiftung organized workshop, New Delhi

*Feb 2015. “*Self and the Nation: Women, War and Peace”in Seminar on Narratives of Contemporaneity in India, LITMUS 2015, Lady Sri Ram College, New Delhi

Feb 2015. Speaker at Women and Peacebuilding: A Policy Dialogue in WISCOMP/ PRIO Roundtable in the session on Armed Conflict and Women: The Protection- Participation Conundrum

Feb 2015. “Contested Narratives: Rumour, Rhetoric and Rebellion in Assam”in International Conference on Reimagining India’s Northeast: Networks, Narratives and Negotiations at Centre for Northeast Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Milia Islamia University, New Delhi

Oct 2014. “What Price Freedom? The Return of ULFA’s Woman Combatants, Reintegration and Transitional Justice,” Centre for the Study of Law and Governance, JNU, New Delhi.

Sept 2014. “The Woman Rebel and the State: From Combat to Community” Internal Security Center, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), New Delhi July 2014.

Sept 2014. “Rumour, Rhetoric Rebellion: Negotiating the Archive in Assam” International Conference on The Long Indian Century: Historical Transitions and Social Transformations. NMML, Teen Murti (in collaboration with Yale University and IIAS, Shimla)

Apr 2014. “Encountering the State: The Woman Rebel and Peace Politics in Assam.” Seminar at the Center for Women’s Studies, School of Social Sciences, JNU

Feb 2014. “Northeast.” Closing the Gap: Academia, Activism and Women in India’s Northeast” Plenary Speaker at All India Women’s Studies Conference, Guwahati

Feb 2014. Panelist at Cultures of Peace: Zubaan and AIWS Conference, Cotton College State University, Guwahati.

Oct 2013. “Women, Insurgency and the Making of Rebels: Between Silence and Truths” Seminar at Center for Northeast Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Milia Islamia University, New Delhi (Not published)

Sept 2013. “Narratives of Resistance, Narratives of Reconciliation: Discoursing Conflict in India’s Northeast” at the one-day workshop I organized at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library on Writing the Northeast: The Poetics and Politics of Representation, New Delhi

Aug 2013. “Writing in the Time of Conflict: Beyond Anger and Fear in India’s Northeast.” ICHR Lecture Series New Delhi, Indian Council of Historical Research

July 2013. Talk on “Literatures from the Northeast: Conflict and After” hosted by English Literary Association, St Stephen’s College, Delhi University

July 2013. “The Rage of Caliban: Ethnic Identity, the Other and the Rhetoric of Anger in NE India” for International Conference on Negotiating Ethnicity; Politics and Display of Cultural Identity in NE India. Vienna University (Paper accepted)

Jan 2013. “Gender, Conflict and Displacement in India’s Northeast.” Plenary speaker at the conference of International Association for Studies in Forced Migration (IASFM), Kolkata

Nov 2012. “Spaces of Freedom: Representation of Women in Conflict in Assam” Resource person at National conference on Contemporary NE India: Issues, Challenges and Prospects. Manipur University, Imphal

March 2012. “Frames of Peace? Counterinsurgency and the Politics of Gender in Post conflict Assam” Resource person for National workshop on Fixity and Fluidity: History, Politics and Culture of Northeast India. Northeast India Studies Program. JNU, New Delhi.

June 2012. Resource person at National Seminar. NE India in Transition: Understanding Patterns of Change and Transformation Since 1985. North Guwahati College.

Jan 2012. “The Politics of Gender and Notions of Freedom: The Case of ULFA”. International Conference. Changing Patriarchies and Gendered Constructs: Gender History in NE India. Assam University, Silchar, MAKIAS, Kolkata.

Dec 2011. “Living and Partly Living: Notions of Freedom, the Politics of Violence and the Women of ULFA”. Invited to speak at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti, New Delhi

Mar 2009. “Beyond Borders and Between the Hills: Recovering Voices and Visions from Karbi Anglong” Resource person at National Seminar. Emerging Literatures from Northeast India: The Dynamics of Culture, Society, and Identity. Mizoram University-IIAS, Shimla. Aizawl (Published as book chapter. Sage 2013)

Sept 2009. “Locating Identities in Defamiliarised Spaces: Conflict, Representation and the Politics of Belonging in Northeast India” International Conference. Multiculturalism, Conflict and Belonging. Interdisciplinary-Net. Mansfield College, Oxford University (Published in Conference proceedings)

Jan 2005. “Bakhtin and Outsideness: In Search of Mr. Naipaul or Reading “Magic Seeds”” National Seminar. Mikhail Bakhtin and the Aesthetics of Transgression. Gauhati University

Aug 2004. “Towards a New Internationalist Saidean Theory” International Conference. Rereading Edward Said. Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Dec 2003. “Slip Sliding Away” Social Transition and the Politics of Identity in NE India” International Seminar titled Constructing Identities: Local and Global. Forum on Contemporary Theory. MS University Baroda.

**Assignments and Awards**

2020 **WISCOMP Saahas Prerna Award 2020** for championing Gender Justice in a Higher Education Campus ( Cotton University) in India

2018 **Principal Investigator**. **Humanities across Borders Program**( IIAS, Leiden University, Netherlands)

2015 **Consultant with the Making Women Count for Peace** Project. Gender, Conflict and Empowerment in South Asia of the Calcutta Research Group and Peace Research Institute Oslo, Norway

2002 **Rotary International Group Study Exchange** (GSE) Fellow representing District 3240( Northeast India) to visit Lycees and universities as a faculty of English in Northern Italy

1993 **Awarded Teacher Study Grant** of the erstwhile American Studies Research Centre (**ASRC) at Hyderabad** for **Doctoral Research in American Studies**

**Research Engagement**:

PhD guidance and research advisor to doctoral scholars at several universities in the region including Cotton University. 5 scholars awarded PhD under my supervision and 8 scholars currently pursuing PhD programs. PhD examiner for JNU, DU, NEHU, IITG, GU , TISS and DBU.

**Courses taught :**

**UNDERGRADUATE**

Modernist literature and Arts

American culture and society ( 1930-1960)

Critical Theory

Feminist Writings, Native American Studies, Colonial History of America

**POSTGRADUATE**

Modernist Literatures: Eliot and after

Postmodernism/ Feminist Movements/ Chicana literature

Postcolonial theory

Northeast Indian literature and Culture

American Literatures: Native writings and identity

World Literatures

Cultural Studies, American Multiculturalism, Environmental and Literary Studies

**Professional Affiliations/ Collaborations**

Humanities Across Borders Program, IIAS, Leiden University

School of Women’s Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

Women’s Regional Network, India

Calcutta Research Group (MCRG), Kolkata

Omeo Kumar Das Institute for Social Change and Development, Guwahati

Women in Security, Conflict and the Management of Peace (WISCOMP), New Delhi

Center for the Study of Law and Governance, JNU, New Delhi

North East India Studies Program, SSS, JNU, New Delhi

Peace Research Institute, Oslo, Norway

European Association for South Asian Studies, (EASAS) Bonn

Centre for School of Study of Social Systems, (C-SSS) JNU

Indian Association of Women’s Studies (IAWS), New Delhi

TISS, Guwahati

North East Network (NEN) Women’s Advocacy and Rights’ Group in Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, INDIA. ( Board Member)

**Languages known**

Assamese, Bengali, English, Hindi, and working knowledge of Italian