

URMIMALA SARKAR MUNSI

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Personal Information:

Name: Urmimala Sarkar Munsi

Date of Birth: 30-07-1959

Designation: Professor

Employee ID: 2521

Affiliation and Work Address: School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi - 110067.

Address: 115 Uttarakhand, Jawaharlal Nehru University (New Campus), New Delhi - 110067, India.

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Phone: +91 98300 08458.

Education:

Post Doctoral Research - “ Professional Women Dancers of India”, Calcutta University, (1999 - 2004) University Grants Commission.

Ph.D. - ICSSR Scholarship, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta University, 1995
Major field: Social Anthropology; Dissertation: “Social and cultural Context of Dance Among Tribes and Peasants of South West Uplands of West Bengal”

M.Sc. - Anthropology (Dissertation in Social Anthropology) Calcutta University, 1983
Specialization: Social Anthropology

B.Sc. - Calcutta University, 1979; Major: Anthropology

Dance Related Training and experience - Senior Diploma and Teachers’ Training from Uday Shankar India Culture Centre, Kolkata.

Dance and Movement Therapy Beginners’ Course (Module 1 and 2) - 2000 & 2001. British Council Kolkata

Employment/Affiliation:

- **2016 - present** - Professor, Theatre and Performance Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
- **2013 - 2016**- Associate Professor, Theatre and Performance Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.
- **2004 - 2013** - Visiting Faculty, Theatre and Performance Studies, School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India.
- **1999 - 2004** - Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Anthropology, Calcutta University, Kolkata, India
- **1992 - 2004** - Lecturer, Sociology, G.D. Birla Centre for Education, Kolkata, India

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- **1987 – 2004** – Senior Troupe Member, Faculty in Creative Dance and Senior Administrator at Uday Shankar India Culture Centre.

Practice: Choreography and Performance (Selected)

- 2022 – “*Aathero Bochhor* (Eigtheen Years)”, Choreography, Direction for 29th April – Birthday Celebrations of Kolkata Sanved, Kolkata.
- 2022 – “Our Contemporaries”, Performance Installations / Dance - Theatre Workshops / Lecture Demonstrations and Seminar. School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- 2018 – March 09, Choreography “So we sit here”, Jawaharlal Nehru university, New Delhi.
- 2017– March 13-26, Choreography “Mohakabyer Owpekkhay”–for Bangladesh ShilpaKala Academy, Dhaka, Jointly organized by Shadhona , Balngladesh and BangladeshShilpakala Academy, Dhaka
- 2015 – Choreography and direction “We...”.
- 2014 - 2015 - Solo Choreography and performance “Ambapali”- Poem of H.S. Shivaprakash, Performed in JNU (Delhi), Kolkata, Indonesia, Japan.
- 2012 - Antaryatra: Convention Centre, JNU as part of “Utsav”;
- 2012: “... And so I sit here”: SAA Performance;
- 2009: ISTR Conference: Performance of “P.S. D Urban”, at SAA
- 2009 - Re-staging of “Lotus Path”, Japan Foundation for guests from Japan.
- 2008 - Direction, choreography and Performance of Lotus Path, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- 2008 - Conceptualised, directed, and choreographed “Lotus Path” for 18 students (across departments) from JNU: Commissioned by “Osaka in the World” in an institutional partnership with JNU, and consisting of 9 shows spanning one month in Osaka Prefecture, Japan

Responsibilities In International / National Associations:

- **2020 – present** – Member, Editorial Board, Journal of South Asian Dance Intersections. (SADI)
- **2019 – Present** – Member, Editorial Board, Journal for Indian Anthropological Society (JIAS)
- **2018 – present** – International Council for Traditional Music - Liaison Officer for India
- **2017 November – present** - President, World Dance Alliance Asia Pacific.
 - 2012 – present - Member, Board of Directors, Kolkata Sanved, Kolkata.
- **2012 to present**-Member, Executive Board, World Dance Alliance , Global Executive

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- 2011- 2019 - Member, Panel of Adjudicators for ARTS PRESENTATION FOR INDIAN DANCE, Singapore Youth Festival, Ministry of Education, Singapore.
 - 1987 -2006 - Member, Board of Directors, Uday Shankar India Culture Centre, Kolkata, India.
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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS:

Books (Authored and edited)

In Print:

1. Sarkar Munsī, Urmimala. *Mapping Critical Dance Studies In India*, Springer Nature, USA & UK. In Print - In Print, 2023.

Published:

1. Marg 75th year Special Volume - Readings on Dance - co-edited with Anita Cherian, Marg Publications, Mumbai, December 2022.
2. Sarkar Munsī, Urmimala. *Uday Shankar and his Transcultural Experimentations: Dancing Modernity*. Palgrave & Macmillan. USA & UK. 2022. ISBN: 978-3030932237.
3. Sarkar Munsī, Urmimala. *Alice Boner across Arts and Geographies - Shaping the Dance Art of Uday Shankar*, Alice Boner Dialogues Series: 3, Alice Boner Collections, Varanasi, Rietberg Museum, Zurich, Green Barbet, India. sole author, 2021. ISBN: 978-8194848820
4. Sarkar Munsī, Urmimala. *Complexities of the Folk / Classical Binary: Dance and Hierarchy in Contemporary India*. Vidyasagar University Publications, Midnapore. 2022.
5. Sarkar Munsī, Urmimala and Aishika Chakraborty (Co-eds). *The Moving Space: Women in Dance*, Primus Books, New Delhi, 2017. ISBN: 978-93-86552-50-1.
6. Sarkar Munsī, Urmimala. *Engendering Performance: Indian Women Performers in Search of an Identity*, co-authored with Bishnupriya Dutt, Sage Publications, New Delhi, London, 2010.
7. Sarkar Munsī, Urmimala. *Traversing Tradition: Celebrating Dance in India*, Co-edited with Dr. Stephanie Burridge, Routledge, New Delhi, UK, USA, 2010.

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8. Sarkar Munsî, Urmimala. *Dance: Transcending Borders*, Tulika Books, New Delhi, 2010.
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Journal articles and Book chapters

In Print:

1. "From the stage to the next stage – Transitioning from a learner to a teacher: Amala Shankar's journey" In *Dance On! Dancing through Life*, Eds. Stephanie Burridge and Charlotte Svendler Nielson, Routledge UK (In print, expected 2023).
2. "Dance as community knowledge: Traditional epistemology vs appropriative constructions of the 'folk'". (Chapter 3). In *Oxford Handbook on Indian Dance*, Eds. Anurima Banerji and Prathana Purakayastha. Oxford University Press, USA, UK, India. (In print, expected 2023)

Published:

1. "Crossroads", co-authored with Priya Srinivasan and Pallabi Chakravorty, in *Journal of South Asian Dance Intersections*, Vol 1, No. 1. Pp. 10 - 23.
<https://journals.charlotte.edu/sadi/article/view/1470>
2. Guest Editor with Prof. Aishika Chakraborty, Special Issue on The Dancing Body. *Journal of South Asian History and Culture*. 2022. 10 papers have been published online.
3. "Becoming a Body" in *South Asian History and Culture* Becoming a body, DOI: 10.1080/19472498.2022.2077804. 2022.
4. "Imagining the Nation: Uday Shankar's Kalpana". *The Routledge Companion to Dance in Asia and the Pacific*. Ed. By Stephanie Burridge. Routledge: New York. 2022. January 2022. Chapter 7.
[https://www.google.co.in/books/edition/The_Routledge_Companion_to_Dance_in_Asi/0ng5EAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Imag\(in\)ing+the+Nation+Stephanie+Burridge+Urm+mala&pg=PT89&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.co.in/books/edition/The_Routledge_Companion_to_Dance_in_Asi/0ng5EAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Imag(in)ing+the+Nation+Stephanie+Burridge+Urm+mala&pg=PT89&printsec=frontcover)
5. "The Absent Text: Choreographing 'Imagination'". *Ins and Outs of Indian Theatre: Proceedings of the Sahitya Akademi Seminar on Contemporary Indian Drama* ed. H. M. Shivaprakash, Sahitya Akademi: New Delhi, 2021. Pp. 173 - 183. ISBN : 9789390866076.
<https://www.ibpbooks.com/ins-and-outs-of-indian-theatre-anthology-of-essays-on-contemporary-indian-theatre/p/54259>
6. "Towards a Pedagogic Analysis of Dance and Movement Therapy", in *The Routledge Companion to Applied Performance*, (Volume Two - Brazil, West Africa, South and South East Asia, United Kingdom, and the Arab World). Eds. by Tim Prentki and

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- Ananda Breed. Routledge: London and New York. LCCN 2020022722 (print); ISBN 9780367542634 (v. 1 ; paperback); ISBN 9780815359654 May 2021. pp. 198 - 208
<https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003088042-24/towards-pedagogic-analysis-dance-movement-therapy-urmimala-sarkar-munsi>
7. “Revisiting “Being Ram”: Playing God in Changing Times”, in *Performing the Ramayana Tradition : Enactments, Interpretations, and Arguments*. Eds. Paula Richman and Rustom Bharucha. Oxford University Press: New York. 2020. LCCN 2020043366 (print); ISBN 9780197552506 (hardback); ISBN 9780197552513 (paperback).
Sole Author May 2020. pp. 281 - 297.
<https://oxford.universitypressscholarship.com/view/10.1093/oso/9780197552506.001.001/oso-9780197552506-chapter-14>
 8. Sarkar Munsi, Urmimala. “Asserting Freedom-Building Resistance in Student Communities Through Consumption Strategies”, in *Food & Power - Expressions of Food Politics in South Asia*, Ed. Kanchan Mukhopadhyay. Sage: London, ISBN. 989-935388-376-8. pp. 168 - 180, June, 2020.
 9. Sarkar Munsi, Urmimala, “DANS VE DUYGUSAL ETKİ: HİNDİSTAN’DA ŞİDDET YAŞAMIŞ YETİŞKİN GENÇLERİN RUHLARIYLA BEDENLERİNİ YENİDEN İLİŞKİLENDİRMEİ (Translation/ Çeviren: Öykü Tümer), in *Kültür ve Siyasette Feminist Yaklaşımlar*, Volume/ Sayı 36 (Year/ Ekim 2018)
<http://www.feministvaklasimler.org/ozet/?postid=3248> . 2018.
 10. Sarkar Munsi, Urmimala, “Locating Draupadi in the Poetics and Politics of Contemporary India” - Translation in Korean, in *The Journal of Society for Dance Documentation and History*, Volume 3. Number 52.
<https://doi.org/10.26861/sddh.2019.52.9>.
 11. “Locating Draupadi in the Poetics and Politics of Performance in Contemporary India” in *Indent: The Body and the Performative* , Issue 1. NOVEMBER 19, 2018.
 12. Sarkar Munsi, Urmimala, Guest Editor - EASTERN QUARTERLY - Volume 12, Issues I and II, Spring & Monsoon, ISSN 0975-4962. 2018.
 13. “Nritya o Manb Shamaj”, in *Samaj-ruchir tanaporen- ey kala-samskriti* (Performing Arts in the Process of Changing Times), The Kalyan Memorial Lectures 5 - 7, 2015 - 2017. Thema: 2018. ISBN 978-93-81703-68-7.
 14. “Processing Vulnerability, Trauma and Recovery for Women Victims: Rehabilitation Through Tools from Performance”. In *Gendered Citizenship: Manifestation and Performance*, Ed J. Reinelt, B. Dutt, S. Sahai, Orient Blackswan Private Limited, Delhi. 2018. ISBN: 978-9352871971.

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15. “Buy One Get One Free: The Dance-Body Package for the Indian Film / Television Industry”, in book titled *Performance-Feminism-Affect-Activism in Neoliberal Times*, Edited by Elin Diamond, Candice Amich and Denise Varney (Feminist Research Group, IFTR publication), Palgrave, UK. 2017. ISBN: 978-1137598097.
16. “Performance sites/sights: Framing the women dancers”, *Moving Space: Women in Dance*, Urmimala Sarkar Munsî and Aishika Chakraborty (eds.), Primus Books, New Delhi. 2017. ISBN: ISBN: 978-93-86552-50-1.
17. “Processing Vulnerability, Trauma and Recovery for Women Victims: Rehabilitation Through Tools from Performance”. In *Gendered Citizenship: Manifestation and Performance*, Eds. J. Reinelt, B. Dutt, S. Sahai, Springer, Canada and USA. 2017. ISBN: 978-3319590929.
18. “Practice-informed Pedagogies of Cultural Unlearning” in *International Performance Pedagogies: Towards an Unconditional Discipline*, Eds. Sruti Bala, Milija Gluhovic, Hanna Korsberg and Kati Rottger, Palgrave and MacMillan, UK. 2017. ISBN: 978-3319539423.
19. “Dance and Affect: Re-connecting Bodies of Young Adult Survivors of Violence in India” in *Dance Access and Inclusion: Perspectives on Dance, Young People and Change*, Eds. Stephanie Burrîdige and Charlotte Svendler Nielson. Routledge, India, UK, USA. 2017. ISBN: ISBN 9781138674080.
20. “Mediations around an Alternative Concept of “Work:” Re-imagining the Bodies of Survivors of Trafficking”. *Lateral*, 5.2, 2016, <http://csalateral.org/wp/?p=896>. ISSN 2469-4053.
21. Sarkar Munsî, Urmimala, Janelle Reinelt, & María Estrada-Fuentes, “Challenges of Praxis: ARM of Care and Kolkata Sanved”, *Lateral*, 5.2. 2016. <http://csalateral.org/wp/?p=969>. ISSN 2469-4053.
22. “Precarious Citizenship: Performative Presence Versus Social Absence of Nachni”, *Samyukta - A Journal of Gender & Culture*, Published Women’s Initiatives, with support from the University Grants Commission, Vol. XVI No. 2 July 2016. Pp 157 177. ISSN No. 2393 8013.
23. “Draupadi’s Travels and Travails”, *Economic and Political Weekly*, December 10, 2016 vol 12 no. 50. ISSN 2349 8816.

Online Encyclopedia / Resource Entry

1. Sarkar Munsî, Urmimala. “Uday Shankar” in Routledge Encyclopaedia of Modernism (Online). www.rem.routledge.com. Site prepared: 2014; Live in: 2016. DOI. 10.4324/9781135000356-REM81-1.

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2. Sarkar Munsī, Urmimala. “Boner and Shankar: A Cross-cultural Creative Dialogue Through Art and Dance” in Sahapedia, 2018. <https://www.sahapedia.org/boner-and-shankar-cross-cultural-creative-dialogue-through-art-and-dance>

Media Article

1. Newspaper article: “Amala Shankar Leaves Us With a Promise to Dance on Beyond the Seven Seas”, *The Wire* (The Arts Section). 24 July 2020.

Research Projects (Selected)

1. 2021 -Sabbatical year (January - December).
Funding: Self-funded
Book Project - “All That is Dance: Mapping Critical Dance Studies in India”,
Fieldwork with dance academics and performers. Book contract with Springer (Nature).
In Press- expected in 2023.
2. 2018 - 2019 - One of the co-investigator for the Project on “Democracy”; A joint project by Trinity College Dublin, CHCI Mellon Global Humanities Institute and JNU. PI: Prof. Sucheta Mahajan (Centre for Historical Studies, JNU).
<https://crisesofdemocracy.home.blog/documentary/> .
3. 2017 - 2019 - Co-investigator in “Cultures of the Left: Performance and Manifestations” (JNU and Warwick University Project funded by British Academy).
PI. Bishnupriya Dutt, Ameet Parameshwaran, Silvija Jestrovic.
4. 2017 - Project on Modern Dance and Intercultural negotiations, as a part of UPE-II (2017 April - August). Received Fieldwork Grant Rs. One lac and fifty thousand (Rs. 150000/- only). Book on Uday Shankar published in 2022.

Awards/Honors/Fellowships

1. 2020 (May - June) Erasmus Mundus Visiting Scholarship for online teaching of International Masters Degree Program “Choreomundus”.
Host university: Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway (Held Online).
2. Urmimala Sarkar Munsī 2017 (Nov - Dec) - Visiting Faculty at Beijing Dance Academy. China.
3. Urmimala Sarkar Munsī - 2017 (1 May - 31 May) - Culture and Theatre, and Theatre Wissenschaft - Month long Fellowship at the Department of Media University of Cologne, Germany.

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4. Honorary Visiting Mentorship at Kolkata Sanved and Tata Institute of Social Sciences - for Dance and Movement Therapy UG diploma (2014 - 2022) and PG diploma (2022).
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YouTube and other links to Performances and Talks:

1. August 2022. Book Talk organized by JNUTA, "Uday Shankar and his Transcultural Experimentations: Dancing Modernity",
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2AL5kS64eo&t=53s> and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QT8FUwCBsb8>
2. February, 2022. Understanding Ethics in Ethnographic Practice | BCAF Organisation.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7djTayrnOVE>
3. June, 2021. Talk by Dr. Urmimala Sarkar Muni on "Gender Difference/Inequality- Consent- Sexual Harassment" at Chandrakona Vidyasagar womens College.
4. May, 2021. "For a new dawn" Tagore's Anniversary performance by Urmimala Sarkar Muni and Debanjali Biswas. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1uspvoxjrQ4>
5. October, 2020. Frontiers of History: Amala Shankar, and
<https://iicdelhi.in/programmes/frontiers-history-90>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaOyvlL9xEY&t=77s>
6. July, 2020. "Dance: Fluidity, Formality, Commodity" - Symposium by Kolkata Centre for Creativity. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1FJ0sl-8dI>
7. May 2020. Bridge the Gap Initiative - Kaustavi Sarkar and Urmimala Sarkar, By Nriya Nadam Initiative.
8. February, 2020. Seminar on ' Baul Tradition- An Eternal Journey towards Mysticism' organised by Centre for Cultural Studies and Development and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-NSXMYbFWnc>
9. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQkelxMVnZQ&t=998sT>
10. December, 2019. Posted on July, 2022. "Transatlantic Crises of Democracies" - Panel Discussion Urmimala Sarkar Nebosja Blanusa. University of Sao Paolo, Brazil.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XVj5JtXL1qI>
11. March, 2018. Dance performance: So I Sit Here An Afterthought... at School of Arts and Aesthetics, JNU, for symposium DE-TEXT organized by SAA, JNU. Participants:

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Meghna, Deepshikha, Amita, Ruchika, Shatabisha, and Urmimala. Music: Ankush, Choreography: Urmimala. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZeMn22ZQAC4&t=361s>

12. February, 2017. Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies, Talk 3, Talk on “Nachni women: Performing Identity”. Talk Series: Narratives of Contemporary India <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IicS79kBNJg&t=66s>

13. November, 2016. “Form | Identity | Dissent”, the conference at the IGNITE! Festival of Contemporary Dance 2016. Read more at <http://ignitedancefestival.com/conference>. Talks by Soumyabrata Choudhury, Brahma Prakash, Meghna Bhardwaj. Curated by Urmimala Sarkar. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=etctk9cm-G4&t=13s>
