

CONTRIBUTORS' BIONOTES

Contributors

Sambhaji Bhagat (as he is popularly known) or Sambhaji Bhiva Gitabai Bhagat is a musician, lokshahir, playwright, scriptwriter, poet, academician and activist. He has taught for 27 years as a secondary school teacher. He has been a part of several state government initiatives such as “reading cultures”, the Kala Utsav and the Department of Balbharati Textbook Production Corporation (of which he was an editorial team member in history for 4 years). He has received several awards such as the Nishtha International Award (2012) for his contribution to music, the MATA Sanman (2013) for the play *Adgal*, the Golden Lotus (Central Government award) for his music for the film *Court* (a 2014 film directed by Chaitanya Tamhane, which was also nominated for the Oscars). He was awarded the World Anthology of Literature Award for the film *We Are Not Your Monkeys* and he won an award for songwriting for the film *Nagarik*. Mr. Bhagat has received the Daya Pawar Pratishthan Award and the Tukaram Award for writing songs. He has received the Annabhau Sathe Award for contribution to Shahiri. He has received the Shiv Chhatrapati Pratishthan (Delhi) and the Vamandada Kardak Foundation’s Vadavara Award. Mr. Bhagat has written, researched and acted in movies like *Pitaputra aur Dharma Yuddha*, *Hamara Shahar*, *Ardha Satya*, *Tujhya Ayala Sarpanch Bhagirath*, *Vote and Note*. He plays a character role in the upcoming film *Funeral*. He has contributed to the domain of drama extensively. His play *Shivaji Underground Bhim Nagar Mohalla* won the Zee Award for which he created the concept, wrote the lyrics and composed the music. Bhagat wrote the lyrics and music of the play *Zalach Pahije*. He conceptualized the play *Statue of Liberty*, as well as, wrote the lyrics and composed the music. He was a writer, composer and singer for the play *Bombay 17*. As an active public performer and balladeer he has revived the Ambedkari Jalsa, since the last forty years. Bhagat has written and presented 125 street plays on activist themes. His published works include *Katlakhalcha Pani* (autobiography), *Tod Hi Chakori* (a collection of songs), *Ran Halgi* (a collection of essays). He regularly writes columns in newspapers such as *Mahanagar*, *Samrat* and *Pudhari*. He has presided over folk art and teacher’s literature conferences. He is routinely invited to lecture by

many reputed universities and institutes. His commitment to activism and leadership in progressive movements remains abiding.

Namrata Chaturvedi is Associate Professor, Department of English, SRM University Sikkim. Her areas of research interest include Sanskrit literature, comparative poetics, women's spiritual writings and mysticism. Her edited book has been published as *Memory, Metaphor and Mysticism in Kālidāsa's Abhijñānaśākuntalam* (London: Anthem Press, 2020). Her research papers have appeared in journals such as *International Journal of Asian Christianity*, *Yeats Journal of Korea*, *IUP Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, *Rupkatha Journal on Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities* and others. She is currently working on a book that seeks to contextualize the spiritual writings of women from north and north-eastern literary traditions in India. Her translation of an Indian Nepali novel into Hindi will reach the readers soon.

Viplov Dhone is Assistant Professor in B. K. Birla College, Kalyan, since 2014. He completed his Ph.D. from the Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai in 2019. His area of research is Marxism, Postmodernism and Ambedkarism. Earlier he has published a few research articles in, *Parivartancha Vatsaru*, *Economic and Political Weekly*, *Sambhashan* and *Indie Journal*.

Irfan Engineer is an activist committed to challenges related to social, political, legal and communal violence. He is the Director of Centre for study of Society and Secularism and Centre for Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution. Some of his books include *Surat Riots After the Demolition of Babri Masjid; Investigation and Analysis* (Pgs. 82+Vi, published by Centre for Study of Society and Secularism, Bombay, 1993), *Underdevelopment and Poverty: Political Economy of Migration - Study of Sugarcane harvesters in Western India* (Pgs. 96+Vi, published by Vikas Adhyayan Kendra, Bombay, 1997), *Immigrants in Bombay: A Fact Finding Report of Immigrants From Bangladeshi*, published by Centre for Study of Society and Secularism, Mumbai, 1995), *Students and Communalism* (published by Centre for Study of Society and Secularism, Mumbai, 1996) and *Water Management and Drought in Maharashtra* (published by Vikas Adhyayan Kendra, Mumbai, 1996).

Kamala Ganesh is former Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, University of Mumbai. Her fields of interest include Gender and Kinship, Women's history and Archiving for women, Culture and

Identity and Indian Diaspora Studies. She has been ICSSR Senior Research Fellow, Scholar in Residence at Shiv Nadar University and Fellow and Visiting Professor at Leiden and Muenster Universities. She is currently Prof. M.N. Srinivas Chair Professor for 2020–21 at the Institute of Social and Economic Change. Her book *'Boundary Walls: Caste and Women in a Tamil Community'* won the Silver medal of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai. The book co-edited by her *'Zero Point Bombay: In and Around Horniman Circle'* was listed by the Guardian in 2013 as among the 10 best books set in Mumbai. She has done field work in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Netherlands and Germany. She has been Convenor of the Research Committee on Migration and Diaspora Studies of the Indian Sociological Society, and also on its Managing Committee; Secretary of the Commission on Women of the International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences and Joint Secretary of the Indian Association of Women's Studies.

Rashmi Lee George is an Assistant Professor of English at St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai. Alongside teaching, she is currently the Director of Council for International Programs at St. Xavier's. Additionally, she is also the Coordinator of Special Courses: Environmental Studies and Giving Voice to Values, offered to students in their First Year. She was the Convenor of the St. Xavier's College Magazine for several years. Twice during her convenorship, the College Magazine received the Prof. M.V. Chandgadkar Trophy for the Best College Magazine. Her doctoral thesis was on an ecocritical approach to changing concerns in Indigenous Fiction of North America from 1990 onwards. Her interests include indigenous literatures from India and abroad, postcolonial writing, cultural studies, cinema and many others. She has published and made several international and national presentations and lectures on environment and literature, Native American writing. Her most recent publication is called "Pulverizing the Plague through Art and Literature."

Pradeep P. Gokhale was awarded Ph.D. for his work on "Fallacies discussed in Ancient Indian Logic" completed under the supervision of Prof. S. S. Barlingay. He taught for 31 years in the post-graduate Department of Philosophy of Savitribai Phule Pune University. Since January 2012 he has been Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Research Professor (Chair Professor) in Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath till 2018. His research areas are Classical Indian Philosophy and logic, Social Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Ambedkar studies and Contemporary Buddhism. He is the chief Editor of the three quarterly

journals: Indian Philosophical Quarterly, Paramarsha (Marathi) and Paramarsha (Hindi) published from the Department of Philosophy, SP Pune University. Some of the books he has authored are “*Inference and fallacies Discussed in Ancient Indian Logic*” (Satguru Publication), “*Lokāyata/Cārvāka: A Philosophical Inquiry*” (OUP), and “*Yogaūtra of Patañjali: A New Introduction to the Buddhist Roots of the Yoga System*” (Routledge). His edited works include “*The Philosophy of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar*” (IPQ Publication) and “*Classical Buddhism, Neo-Buddhism and the Question of Caste*” (Routledge). He is at present an Honorary Adjunct Professor in the Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Savitribai Phule Pune University.

Sonalee Gujar is NET qualified and has been teaching Marathi language and literature at UG and PG levels since 1996. At present she is actively involved as co-coordinator, co-editor and co-author in ‘My Marathi’ project (designing courses for teaching Marathi as a foreign language to non-natives) at Department of German, University of Mumbai in collaboration with Rajya Marathi Vikas Sanstha, Mumbai. She is experienced in teaching Communicative Marathi to non-natives at University level. Apart from teaching at Mumbai University, she has taught Communicative Marathi at Israel’s Tel-Aviv University, Tanjaore’s Tamil University, Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation. She is also trained in translation and takes up translation projects in Marathi, Hindi and English. She has authored a book ‘Bhasha : Samaj Ani Sanskriti’ based on Socio-Linguistics, which has been in the syllabus of Second Year B.A. at University of Mumbai. She has been delivering guidance lectures on ‘Language Games : An Effective Technique of Language Teaching’. She has created a language game ‘Marathi Shabd-Haushi’ based on the principles of number housie game and is well appreciated by many.

Mehru Jaffer is a Lucknow born author and journalist. She has taught Islam and gender related topics at the University of Vienna, Austria and at the Vienna American Webster University. She is the author of *The Book of Muhammad*, *The Book of Muinuddin Chishti* and *The Book of Nizamuddin Aulia*, all published by Penguin India. *Love and Life in Lucknow*, her fourth book is published by Niyogi while *A Shadow of the Past: A Short Biography of Lucknow* is published by Aleph Book Company. At present she is working on an anthology of Urdu poets writing in Lucknow in the 19th century, the golden age of literary activities in this part of India. She has contributed a chapter on *Religion in Bollywood Films* in *Fokus Bollywood: Das indische Kino in wissenschaftlichen Diskursen*, edited by Professor Claus Tieber, Lit

Verlag 2009. She has reported for the media from Europe, Southeast Asia and Central Asia, including television and the BBC.

Saumitra Joshi is a first year B.A. student at the Department of German, University of Mumbai. He is a polyglot and speaks Marathi, German, French, Russian and Sanskrit. Along with teaching German for 2 years, he also translates books and poems. He is an avid writer and a poet. He plays the violin and has a penchant for languages, culture and philosophy.

Divya Jyoti is a third year doctoral candidate at the Centre for Political studies, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Her research builds upon the corpus of medieval century mystic Sant Kabir. The research attempts to look at Kabir as a modern rational individual who tried to dismantle the existing binaries of caste and religion. In the process the research also studies the modern day sects around Kabir that have developed elaborate rituals and practices of 'bhakti' and simultaneously looking at their interaction with the state. Further it tries to bring forth the social and political ideas originating through Kabir and Kabir Panths, thereby offering myriad ways to tap into the past and present of South Asia. Divya has completed her Bachelors (Honors) in Political science from Delhi University and Masters in Political Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University. Divya has worked with the National Institute for Education Planning and Administration, where she gained experience on policy making and implementation, particularly in the field of primary and secondary education.

T.M.Krishna (as he is popularly known) or Thodur Madabusi Krishna is a vocalist in the Karnatik tradition. Eluding standard analysis in his rendition of music and original in his interpretation of it, Krishna is at once strong and subtle, manifestly traditional and stunningly innovative. As a public intellectual, Krishna speaks and writes about issues affecting the human condition and about matters cultural. Krishna has started and is involved in many organizations whose work is spread across the whole spectrum of music and culture. As a writer Krishna has co-authored *Voices Within: Carnatic Music – Passing on an Inheritance*, a book dedicated to the greats of Karnatik music. His path-breaking book *A Southern Music – The Karnatik Story*, published by Harper Collins in 2013 was a first-of-its-kind philosophical, aesthetic and socio-political exploration of Karnatik Music. For this, he was awarded the 2014 Tata Literature Award for Best First Book in the non-fiction category. In his *Reshaping Art* (Aleph 2018) Krishna

engages with the critical transformative potential of art. His book *Sebastian and Sons* published by Context in 2020 traces the history of the mrdangam-maker and the mrdangam over the past century. It received the Tata Lit Live Award for the Best Non-Fiction book for the year 2020. His new book *The Spirit of Inquiry: Notes on Dissent* (Penguin) engages with themes of art, nation and secularism. He has been part of inspiring collaborations, such as the Chennai Poromboke Paadal with environmentalist Nityanand Jayaraman, performances with the Jogappas (transgender musicians), co-conceptualising and performing Karnatik Kattaikuttu, an unusual aesthetic conversation between art forms and communities that belong to two ends of the social spectrum, and his musico-poetic partnership with India's leading contemporary Tamil writer Perumal Murugan, is unprecedented. In 2016, Krishna received the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award in recognition of 'his forceful commitment as artist and advocate to art's power to heal India's deep social divisions'. In 2017 he received the Indira Gandhi National Integration Award for his services in promoting and preserving national integration in the country.

Mangesh Kulkarni is Professor & Head, Department of Political Science, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune. He has also done teaching stints at universities in Malawi, Germany and Austria. He has been a recipient of grants and fellowships awarded by the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, the Rockefeller Archive Center, the European Commission, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, and the Indian Institute of Advanced Study. His publications include *A Terrorist of the Spirit* (HarperCollins, 1992)– an English translation of the Marathi poems of V. A. Dahake– and the following edited volumes: *Politics in Maharashtra* (Himalaya, 1995), *India in World Affairs* (Himalaya, 1999), *Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Political Theory* (Sage, 2011), and *Global Masculinities* (Routledge, 2019). He has been in the editorial team of journals like *New Quest* (Mumbai), *Men & Masculinities* (New York), *Shodharthy* (Delhi) and the *Indian Philosophical Quarterly* (Pune). He is a founder-member of the Forum to Engage Men (India) and was its National Joint Convenor during 2019–2021.

Madhavi Narsalay is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Sanskrit, University of Mumbai. Her specialization is in Veda, Vedant, Puranas and Dharmashastra. She has two books and one Seminar proceeding to her credit. Her articles have been featured in Oxford Journal for Hindu Studies and Monash University Press, Australia. She has been awarded the Performance based incentive award of the University of Mumbai in 2009 and the Samudramanathan Award

for her contribution in propagating Sanskrit Studies. She works as a consultant to many production houses like STAR PLUS, DISNEY HOTSTAR, Cineyug, Friday Filmworks. She works as a book-reviewer on matters of religion for the "Audible" an outfit of Amazon.

Elroy Pinto is a filmmaker and researcher. He completed his Masters in Global Cinemas and the transcultural at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. He has taught cinema at Wilson College, Mumbai and curated a programme of film at TARQ, art gallery. Previously he assisted the filmmaker Kumar Shahani and studied Indian classical music from Neela Bhagwat. He has co-created with Neela Bhagwat a lecture demonstration programme titled 'Glimpses of Naurasapur' that explores the intersectionality of artistic creations from the 'Adil Shahi kingdom in the early modern. His award winning debut film *Kaifiyat* (2019) is based on the musician Ustad Nizamuddin Khan and explores the socio-religious context of Deccani aesthetics. His writing has appeared in ON Stage, Project Myopia and Public Parking.

Ramu Ramanathan is a playwright and director. He has scripted plays such as *Cotton 56*, *Polyester 84*; *Comrade Kumbhakarna*; and *Mahadevbhai*. Eight of his plays have been anthologised in the book *3, Sakina Manzil And Other Plays* (Orient Blackswan/EFLU). He is also the author of the poetry collection *My Encounters with a Peacock and To Sit on a Stone and other Shorts* (Red River), and co-editor of *Babri Masjid, 25 Years On...* (Kalpaz). Ramanathan writes on theatre and culture in newspapers and periodicals. He has been associated with the printing industry for three decades as a journalist. He is the editor of *PrintWeek* and *WhatPackaging?* magazines.

Abhiruchi Ranjan is an Assistant Professor in the department of Political Science, Kristu Jayanti College, Bengaluru. Her research work focuses on issues pertaining to caste, religion, democracy and gender. Abhiruchi Ranjan has completed her MA, MPhil and PhD from the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Her PhD thesis is titled 'Caste, Democracy and Social Change: A Study of Ravidassias of Punjab.'

Putul Sathe is Associate Professor of English and Head at the Research Centre for Women's Studies, S.N.D.T. Women's University. Her areas of interest include Gender Studies, Women's Writing in Global South, Indian Literature and literature in translation and her current research area is Dalit Masculinities.

Shalini Shah is Professor at the Department of History at Delhi University, where she has been teaching since October 2009. After graduating from St. Stephen's, she completed her M.A. and Ph.D. from Delhi University. She taught at Indraprastha college from 1988 to 2009. Her most significant research contributions have been in the area of gender and social history, wherein she has focused on the social relations between the sexes, highlighting both the institution of patriarchy as well as the subversion of this institution which women have been able to achieve in a variety of ways. The primary sources which she has studied extensively have been the epics as is evident in her book *The Making of Womanhood: Gender Relations in The Mahabharata* (1995, Revised edition, 2012). She has also researched the classical Sanskrit texts across different genres from the early medieval period (*Love, Eroticism and Female Sexuality in Classical Sanskrit Literature*, 2009). At present, she intends to focus her research on cultural history, particularly dealing with the representation of emotions in the ancient textual traditions.

Sachchidanand Singh is teaching philosophy in Mithilbai College, Vile Parle and working as a visiting faculty in NMIMS, Mumbai. He is pursuing his PhD from University of Mumbai. The topic of his research is "Philosophy of Social Science: Methodological Debate". His area of research interests includes philosophy of social science and philosophy of religion. He has been awarded Junior Research Fellowship by UGC. He has presented several research papers at national and international conferences.

Kamala Srinivas is Assistant Professor at the Department of Philosophy at the SIES College of Arts, Science and Commerce (Autonomous), Mumbai, since the past 17 years. Her Ph.D. Thesis is on "Environmental Concerns of Rabindranath Tagore and Kwasi Wiredu: A cross-cultural Philosophical Analysis". She is a recipient of an award at the AVISHKAR University Research Convention 2015-2016. She has published several research articles in reputed journals and chapters in books. She has delivered the Papiya Ghosh Memorial Lecture on 'Human Interaction and Identity: An Indian Perspective on Ecology of Place', during the 94th Indian Philosophical Congress, held at North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya, 9th-11th March, 2020. She has participated and presented varieties of paper in many national and international seminars and conferences. Her paper on Cultural Relativism: An Indo-African perspective in communication, got selected in the XXIII World Congress of Philosophy, Athens.