

Brief Resume

Bokhtiar Ahmed

Current Positions:

Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh.

Personal Details:

Date of Birth: 16 March 1977.

Office: Room 127-D, Shirazi Bhaban, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi- 6205, Bangladesh.

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Mother's Name: Hazera Sultana

Father's Name: Sultan Ahmed

Permanent Address: Vill: Moddho Hnila Noyapara, Teknaf, Cox's Bazar-4761, Bangladesh.

Present Address: West 24/B, University of Rajshahi, Rajshahi-6205.

Key Qualifications:

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Title: 'Beyond Checkpoints: Identity, and Developmental Politics in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh'. From Centre for Asia Pacific Social Transformation Studies (CAPSTRANS) at the University of Wollongong (UoW), and Australian Catholic University (ACU).

Result: Awarded by the Australian Catholic University (ACU) in 2017

Master of Social Change and Development (MSCD) with Distinction

University of Wollongong (UoW), Australia.

Result: Awarded with a cumulative average of 81.66% in 2007

Master of Social Sciences (MSS)

University of Dhaka (DU)

Result: First Class 1st Position with a cumulative average of 64.40% in 2001

Bachelor of Social Sciences (BSS)

University of Dhaka (DU)

Result: Second Class 8th Position with a cumulative average of 54.33% in 2000

Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC)

Rajshahi Cadet College (RCC)

Result: 1st Division* with a cumulative average of 75.00% in 1995

Secondary School Certificate (HSC)

Rajshahi Cadet College (RCC)

Result: 1st Division* with a cumulative average of 79.20% in 1993

Career Summary:

Bokhtiar is an anthropologist trained across three universities in Bangladesh and Australia, with well pursued interest in social change and politics of marginalities. Since 2002, he has served remarkable academic roles in different capacities, both in home and abroad. His skills in teaching and social research are shaped by over seventeen years of critical engagement with linguistic anthropology and ethnographic theories. In recent years, Bokhtiar has experimented applied research models in a series of studies commissioned by different global organizations, which has earned him considerable acknowledgements. In 2016, UNDP Bangladesh filmed a documentary on one of his experimentations. Bokhtiar has written academic articles and chapters both in Bengali and English. In Bangladesh, he is also critically acclaimed for his research blogs, written as part of his efforts to infuse anthropological insights in public knowledge and policy discourse. In recent years, he has focused on applied collaborative research on issues ranging from climate change, market development, communication, refugee management and social movements.

Academic Career:

Bokhtiar has 20 years of teaching career with focus on linguistic and critical anthropology, ethnographic theories and research methods, and history, culture and society in South Asia. He also has pursued several experimentations in applied visual anthropology. Besides, he has routinely served academic roles and responsibilities in assessments, curriculum development, institutional quality assurance, and external peer reviewer for major public universities in Bangladesh. He has led department both as chair and as head of quality assurance unit. At present, he teaches courses on linguistic anthropology, critical anthropological theories, research methods, climate and agrarian change, and business anthropology. His major academic positions and roles in the past include:

Teaching Positions:

Institution	Position	Duration	Subjects Taught
University of Rajshahi	Professor	24/12/2018 to Present (3 years 3 months and 20 days)	Linguistic Anthropology Anthropological Theories Anthropology of Climate and Agrarian Change Anthropology of South Asia Urban Anthropology Visual Anthropology
University of Rajshahi	Associate Professor	08/07/2013 to 23/12/2018 (5 years 5 months and 16 days)	Contemporary Issues in Anthropology: South Asian Perspectives Critical Anthropological Theories Linguistic Anthropology Business Anthropology Anthropology South Asia Advanced Research Methods in Anthropology

			Theories in Anthropology
University of Rajshahi	Assistant Professor	16/02/2005 to 07/07/2013 (8 years 4 months 21 days)	Contemporary Issues in Anthropology: South Asian Perspectives Language, Culture and Communication World History and Civilization Ethnographies of South Asia Peasant Society and Culture
University of Rajshahi	Lecturer	31/12/2002 to 15/02/2005 (2 years 1 month 13 days)	People and Culture of the World Contemporary Issues in Anthropology: South Asian Perspectives Language, Culture and Communication World History and Civilization Ethnographies of South Asia Peasant Society and Culture
Lalmatia Mohila Mohabiddaloy	Lecturer	16/02/2002 to 30/12/2002 (10 months 17 days)	Introductory Anthropology Economic Anthropology Prehistory and Human Evolution Research Methods in Anthropology
University of Wollongong	Sessional Tutor (Faculty of Arts)	Autumn & Spring Semesters, 2011	Social Theory

Key Academic Roles:

2018-2021, Served as the Chair, Department of Anthropology, University of Rajshahi (For a tenure of 3 years between May 2018 and May 2021)

2017-18, Head of the Quality Assurance and Self-Assessment Unit of the Department of Anthropology, University of Rajshahi.

2017, Acted as the National Subject Expert of External Peer Review Team for the Self-Assessment of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Dhaka.

2012-2021, Acted as a member of Committee of Courses and Curriculum, Department of Anthropology, University of Rajshahi.

Current Research Projects:

a) Since March 2018, Bokhtiar is leading a longitudinal research project entitled, 'Anthropology of Climate and Agrarian Change: Exploring Macroeconomic Impacts through Micro-perspectives' which is funded by Bangladesh Climate Change Trust (BCCT) for two years. With an aim to develop anthropological knowledge base on climate change adaptation in relation to the agrarian sector/s of Bangladesh, the project encompasses three higher degree research (Mphil & PhD) along with a series of other research efforts. The project is jointly implemented by the Departments of Anthropology at University of Rajshahi and University of Dhaka.

b) Since 1998, Bokhtiar has been pursuing a longitudinal ethnographic research on the Rohingya refugees which has gained momentum with the events of influx in 2012, 2016, and 2017. At present, he is developing an anthropological account on Rohingya Identity, entitled as

'How to Look at a Rohingya: The Political Ontology of a 'Bare Life'', an earlier version of which was presented at conference at UC Berkeley in 2018. Researching Rohingya links to his broader research area, refugee and migratory movements and developmental politics on the margins of the nationstates, particularly the contested borders across the mountainous frontiers of Gangetic Delta. Bokhtiar is an active member of the Asian Borderland Research Network (ABRN) since 2010.

Recent Collaborative Applied Research:

Areas of Bokhtiar's recent experimentations with applied models of ethnographic research range from social communication, labour mobility and RMG industry, trade and market systems, social movements; climate, disaster and vulnerability, adaptive social protection, and gendered exclusions. Between the years 2014 and 2017, Bokhtiar has designed and led commissioned researches involving leading global institutions like the World Bank, UNDP, Save the Children, Swisscontact, BRAC and a few of the national institutions. Major among them are:

2022, Lead Researcher, 'Against the Pandemic: Shocks and Resilience among Char Producers and Entrepreneurs', Making Market Work for Padma, Jamuna, Tista and Brahmaputra Chars (M4C) Project, Swisscontact, Bangladesh.

2018, Lead Researcher, exploratory study on Child-Centred Climate Change Adaptation Model/Measures to Create Climate Smart Communities in Bangladesh, for Save the Children Bangladesh.

2018, Lead Researcher, 'Perception, Aspiration and Agency among Rohingya Refugees', BRAC, Bangladesh.

2018, Lead Researcher, 'Market System Change and Vulnerability Reduction: M4C's Contribution to the Chars', Making Market Work for Padma, Jamuna, Tista and Brahmaputra Chars (M4C) Project, Swisscontact, Bangladesh.

2017, Lead Researcher, 'Communication under Disaster Situations', BRAC, Bangladesh.

2016, Lead Researcher, 'Micronarrative on Climate Change and Adaptive Social Protection', for 'Climate Change Cluster', UNDP Bangladesh.

2015, Lead Researcher, 'Living No One Behind: Narratives from the Hijra Community in Bangladesh', for 'Innovation Fund' Project, UNDP Bangladesh.

2015, National Consultant, 'Public Narratives and Communication Strategy' for 'Youth Empowerment in Development' Project, UNDP Bangladesh.

2015, Key Resource Person, 'Micro-Narratives on Pro-poor Trade', UNDP Bangladesh & Department of Development Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

2015, Consultant, 'Study on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Curriculum', Save the Children International, Bangladesh.

2015, Consultant, 'Study on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) as Life Skills', Save the Children International, Bangladesh.

2014, Consultant, 'Child Engagement/Child Participation with urban Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Adaptation and Child Protection', Save the Children International.

2014, Consultant, 'Training Impact Evaluation: DRR Mainstreaming Training for SDC Partner NGOs, Bangladesh', Bangladesh Disaster Prepared Centre, Dhaka.

2014, Social Communication and Labour Mobility Consultant, Northern Areas Reduction-of-Poverty Initiatives (NARI) Project, Shushilan, MoLE, and WB, Bangladesh.

2014, Consultant, 'Pretesting IEC Materials on Positive Parenting Education', Save the Children and Expressions Ltd., Bangladesh.

2014, Consultant, 'Pretesting IEC Package on Maternal and Neonatal Health (in Bengali and Indigenous Languages)', Communication for Development Program, UNICEF, Bangladesh.

2013, Consultant, 'Pretesting IEC Materials on 'Promoting Source Segregation of Recyclables at Household Level', Value for Waste Project, Swisscontact, Bangladesh.

2013, Consultant, 'Assessing Impacts of IEC Materials on Vitamin A Fortified Edible Oil', UNICEF Bangladesh & Expressions Ltd.

2013, Consultant, 'Pretesting TVC on Childhood and MDR Tuberculosis', Expressions Ltd., Dhaka.

2012, Consultant, 'Mid-phase Evaluation of Area Development Program (ADP), Sariakandi, Bogra', World Vision Bangladesh.

2006, Consultant, 'Strategy Development for Bridging Mother Language and National Language in ARP Schools in Northern Bangladesh', Action Research on Literacy and Curriculum Development for the Oraon Community of Northwest Bangladesh, ASHRAI, Rajshahi.

Research Papers:

2018, 'How to Look at a Rohingya: The Political Ontology of a 'Bare Life'', Presented at Faculty Workshop on Research, Writing and Publishing, Institute of South Asian Studies, UC Berkeley, USA. Sponsored by the Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies and the American Institute for Bangladesh Studies, April 2018.

2017, 'Climate Change and Adaptive Social Protection: Some Narrative Insights', presented at the International Conference on 'Climate Change and Anthropology', Department of Anthropology at the University of Dhaka.

2016, 'The Making and Unmaking of State Border: Reflections from a Bordering Village in Rajshahi', presented at the International Conference, 'Critical Engagement Anthropological Landscape in Bangladesh', Department of Anthropology at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

2010, 'The Jigsaw Puzzle of Mi-Zo-Ram: Identity, Disjuncture and Power on a Bangladesh Borderland', presented at the 2nd Asianⁱ Borderland Research Network (ABRN) conference, 'Asian Borderlands: Enclosure, Interaction and Transformation', 5-7 November 2010, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

2005, 'Living the Looms: an ethno-journalistic study on poor weavers of northern Bangladesh', under the project "Poverty Alleviation: Locating and Promoting Community Level Creative Initiatives", Research Initiatives Bangladesh (RIB), Dhaka. (In Bengali)

2004, 'Visual Reality and Televised Subaltern', Seminar Paper Presented in an International seminar entitled as "Anthropology in the 21st Century" organized by Dept. of Anthropology, University of Chittagong. 25-27 January 2004. Chittagong. (In Bengali)

2001, 'Intrusion of the Rohingya Refugees and Environmental Depletion: An Ethno-ecological Account on Community Migration', Submitted as fulfilment of the Course # Anthro- 408, Advance Research Monograph, for MSS Final Year at the Department of Anthropology, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

List of Major Publications:

2022, *Bidyatonik Sofornama*, (a book with collected academic essays written in Bangla), Magic Lanthan Publication, Rajshahi.

2022, '*Against the Pandemic: Shocks and Resilience among Char Producers and Entrepreneurs*', Making Market Work for Padma, Jamuna, Tista and Brahmaputra Chars (M4C) Project, Swisscontact, Bangladesh. <https://www.swisscontact.org/en/news/m4c-publish-against-the-pandemic-shocks-and-resilience-among-char-producers-and-entrepreneurs>.

2018, 'FDMN Aspirations, Perception and Influence Agents', Advocacy on Social Change (ASC) Programme, BRAC.

2017, 'The Pedagogy of Progress: Developmental Politics in the Chittagong Hill tracts', in Nasir Uddin (ed.), *Life in Peace and Conflict: Indigeneity and State in in the Chittagong Hill Tracts*, Black Swan, New Delhi.

2017, 'Living No One Behind: Hijra Lives in Bangladesh' (A Visual Ethnography on Third Gender Lifeways), UNDP Bangladesh.

2016 (Co-Authored), *Bangladesher Khudra Nrigoshtir Bhasha O Shangskriti* (Language and Culture of Small Ethnic Groups in Bangladesh), A text for Class IX & X, National Curriculum and Text Book Board, Dhaka.

2015, 'Gum-Khun-Atongko: Shason Pronali O Hottar Kothokota' (Secret Killing-Murder-Terror: Governance and the Discourse of Murder) in Adhikary, Badhan (ed.) *Bangladesh Poristhiti: Shashon Pronali O Hottar Kothokota*, Kathpencil Prokashoni, Dhaka. (In Bengali)

2014, 'Bhasha, Songhkriti O Manob Shotta: Ekti Nriboigganik Alapcharita' (Language, Culture and Human Entity: An Anthropological Discourse), in Afzal Khan (ed.), *Vinnochokh: Bhasha Shongkha*, Vinnochokh, Dhaka. (In Bengali)

2012, 'Margin, Minorities, and a Political Economy of Displacement: The Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh', in R Ganguly-Scrase & K Lahiri Dutt (eds.), *Rethinking Displacement: Asia Pacific Perspective*, Ashgate, London. Pp. 173-194.

2007, 'The Semiosis of the Feminine in Bangla Language', Chapter 4 in C. Sarmiento (ed.), *Eastwards/Westwards: Which Direction for Gender Studies in the 21st Century?*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle, UK. Pp. 93-108. (With Raasheed Mahmood)

2006, 'Bhasha, Shongskriti O Jatishotta Proshne Amader Jatirashtro' (The Nation-state of Bangladesh: Questions of Language, Culture and Ethnicity), Seminar Paper presented in a national seminar entitled as "Ekushe Vasha Seminar" jointly organized by two indigenous Youth Movement, 'Maoroom' and 'Jumma', Maoroom, vol-17, March 2006, Dhaka, Pp. 07-26. (In Bengali)

2005, 'Edward Said O Poshchimer Prachcho Dorshon' (Edward Said: Watching the Watcher), in Benjin Khan (ed.), *Edward Said: Abishsho Bibeker Konthoshshor*, Chihno Publsihers, Dhaka, Pp. 174-203. (In Bengali)

2004, 'Shankot O Shastrio Adikolpolpo: Shastrobider Dai-Dayitto' (Crisis and Disciplinary Paradigms: on Responsibilities of Academics), *The Dhaka University Studies*, Vol 23, Issue-2. 2004. Dhaka, Bangladesh, Pp. 72-103. (In Bengali)

Supervised Student Researches: (2013-2017)

- ✓ Society and Cinema: An Anthropological History of Bangladeshi Film (1955-2015). PhD Research by Kazi Mamun Haidar.
- ✓ Information, Power and Local Governance in Bangladesh: Comparative Ethnographies. MSS Monographs by Tamanna Akter Rini, Shormica Sharmin, & Banaratna Tanchangya.
- ✓ Between Panics of Past and Fears of Future: Memories and Narratives from Two Minority Village in Bangladesh. BSS Monographs by Moumita Mondal & Proma Lakshmi Bachar.
- ✓ Classroom Graffiti: An Anthropological Exploration of Classroom Interaction. BSS Monograph by Moumita Mondal.
- ✓ Gendered Socialization through School Texts: An Anthropological Scrutiny. BSS Monograph by Mansura Akhter.
- ✓ Sexual Harassment in Marital Relations: Personal Accounts on Marriage and Sexuality. MSS Monograph by Sumiya Yesmin.
- ✓ Narratives from the Border: An Ethnography of a Bordering Village of Northern Bangladesh. MSS Monograph by Mojahar Rahman Shah.
- ✓ Food Foraging: Everyday Struggle of Food Securing in a Northern Village. MSS Monograph by Mashiur Rahman.
- ✓ Constructing Past through Present: Spectators' Narratives from the Museums. BSS Monograph by Shormica Sharmin.
- ✓ Electricity Comes to Barshapur: An Anthropological Study of Developmental Desire in a Marginal Society. BSS Monograph by Tithi Dev.
- ✓ Political Islam in Bangladesh: An Ethnographic Viewing of Two Tarek Masud Films. BSS Monograph by Anik Islam.

Ethnographic Films:

Shokal Belar Pakhi (The Morning Birds), 2002, A documentary on Working Children in Bangladesh.

Prantojono Kotha (Tells of the Subalterns), 2014, A Documentary on the Indigenous people and other Marginalized Groups in the Northern Bangladesh.

The Power of Story Telling, A documentary on Youth Empowerment through Social Activism, Democratic Governance Cluster, United Nations Development Program, Bangladesh.

Language Skills:

Bengali: Native speaker and Writer

Chittagonian Dialect of Bengali: Native speaker

English: Fluent writing, reading, speaking and listening.

Hindi/Urdu: Fluent speaking and listening.

Chakma, Tonchangya, Bawm, Pangkhua: Pidgin level competencies.

References:

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Signed