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## **Deciphering Surrealism and Its Impact on Global Cinema**

Sunayan Bhattacharjee Dr.

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# Dr. Sunayan Bhattacharjee

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A dedicated and experienced professional with a demonstrated history of working in academics, Dr. Sunayan Bhattacharjee has also dabbled in the writing and editing industry. Besides being proficient at conducting classes, workshops and seminars, he is substantially skilled in the arts of news writing, feature writing, editing, content development and syllabus development.

Sunayan completed his Ph.D. in Mass Communication from the *School of Liberal Studies* under *Pandit Deendayal Energy University* in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. He has a Master in Mass Communication degree with specialization in Journalism from the prestigious *Symbiosis Institute of Media & Communication* in Pune. A UGC-NET qualified scholar in Mass Communication and Journalism, for his Ph.D. thesis, Sunayan studied the surrealist works of renowned American filmmaker David Lynch, who was described by *The Guardian* as "the most important director of this era".

Sunayan has a cumulative experience of more than 12 years in the creative domain. He is currently an Associate Professor with the *Department of Liberal Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (DLHS)* under the Bengaluru Campus of *Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE)*. Just prior to his present stint, Sunayan was an Associate Professor and the Head of the *Department of Journalism and Communication* under *Adamas University* in Kolkata. Sunayan has also been an Assistant Professor and Course Leader with the *School of Contemporary Media* under *Pearl Academy* in Delhi. He has the distinction of having worked with leading organizations such as *Reuters News*, *The Times of India* and *Ramoji Film City*.

Sunayan is looking forward to challenging roles in the fields of academics, research, journalism, film appreciation and writing; where he can make optimal use of his skill set and assist in the growth of his chosen organizations.

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

• Digital Journalism • Mobile Journalism • Print Journalism • Broadcast Journalism • Film Studies • Development Communication • International Communication • Intercultural Communication • Journalistic Editing • Curriculum Development • Public Speaking • Content Development • Film Analysis • Political Analysis • Social and Cultural Commentary

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Bengaluru Campus

August 2022 — Present

Associate Professor

- Working with the *Department of Liberal Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (DLHS)*.
- Working as the Programme Coordinator for all the undergraduate programmes offered by the Department.
- Developing the curricula for the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in journalism, mass communication and media studies.
- Teaching Journalism, Media Laws and Ethics and Multimedia Journalism.

### Dept. of Journalism and Communication, School of Media and Communication, Adamas University, Kolkata

November 2019 — August 2022

Associate Professor and Head of the Department

- Worked as the Chief Sub-Editor of *#IdeaPlus*, the quarterly magazine of the university.
- Worked as a member of the university's *Academic Council*.
- Worked as a member of the university's *Internal Quality Assurance Cell*.
- Worked as a member of the university's *Board of Research*.
- Worked as the Criteria 1 and Criteria 6 Coordinator for the university.
- Taught Print Journalism, Digital Journalism, Film Studies, Development Communication, International Communication and Communication Research.
- Guided Ph.D. scholars in the larger area of media, communication and entertainment.
- Guided postgraduate and undergraduate students of media, communication and entertainment for their dissertations.

- Represented the university across different media platforms.
- Worked as the School Champion for implementing CANVAS Learning Management System at the university.
- Worked as the school lead of implementing the Outcome-Based Education (OBE) framework in the university.
- Developed the curriculum for the M.A. Programme in Journalism.
- Worked as the Coordinator of an *All Women Faculty Development Programme on Media, Communication and Entertainment Research* in March 2022.
- Worked as the project head for *#MediaNext 2020*, the annual media fest of the university, that saw the participation of more than 50 media stalwarts.
- Worked as the Secretary In-Charge of the *Adamas University Content Lab*.
- Worked as a member of the pilot team for launching online courses on behalf of the university.
- Worked as a member of the university's *Think Tank Group*.
- Worked as a member of the university's *University of the Future* project.
- Worked as a member of the university's *Online Education Business* project.
- Worked as a member of the university's *New Schools and Programmes* project.

**School of Contemporary Media,  
Pearl Academy, Delhi**

**May 2018 — November 2019**

Assistant Professor and Course Leader

- Taught Print Journalism, Digital Journalism, Film Studies, Development Communication, International Communication, Intercultural Communication, Public Relations, Advertising, Media Laws and Ethics and Communication Research.
- Led the curriculum development process for the post-graduate diploma programmes in media and communication and digital filmmaking.
- Was a part of the Content Team for *What's Next 2019* and *What's Next 2019 in Digital Entertainment*.
- Represented the institution at the *FICCI FRAMES 2019* in Mumbai.
- Coordinated student participations in different film festivals and media festivals.

**edInbox**

**September 2017 — September**

**2018**

Assistant Editor

- Led a team of reporters spread across different cities in India.
- Managed all the aspects of the online educational news portal including the Content Management System.
- Managed the social media handles for the news portal including *Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter* and *Instagram*.

**Ramoji Krian Universe,  
Hyderabad**

**March 2017 — October 2017**

Assistant Professor and Head of the Department – Centre for Print & Cyber Journalism Skills

- Led the process of curriculum development for the institute.
- Spearheaded the process of content development for the institute's official website.
- Conducted the Guwahati and Silchar editions of *RKU Voyage*, the flagship national event of the institute.

**School of Liberal Studies, Pandit  
Deendayal Energy University,  
Gandhinagar, Gujarat**

**July 2016 — March 2017**

Guest Faculty Member

- Taught Film Studies and Communication Theories.

**The Cinemaholic**

**July 2016 — July 2017**

Associate Editor

- Edited articles from authors stationed all across the globe.
- Wrote reviews, analysis and lists on various aspects of cinema.

**Tripura University, Agartala,  
Tripura**

**October 2013 — June 2015**

Guest Teacher

- Taught Print Journalism, Broadcast Journalism, Digital Journalism, Development Communication, Media Laws and Ethics and Film Studies.

**Thomson Reuters, Bengaluru**

**August 2011 — November 2012**

Correspondent

- Covered the oil, gas, metals and energy companies for the North American markets.
- Wrote analytical stories on company developments for the North American markets.
- Prepared story briefs on company developments for the North American markets.

**The Times of India, Chennai**

**September 2010 — August 2011**

Journalist

- Was part of the launching team for the editions from Coimbatore and Madurai in 2011.
- Was responsible for editing Page 2 and Page 3 of the upcountry, city and late-city versions for the above

mentioned editions.

## EDUCATION

### Ph.D. July 2016 — March 2020

School of Liberal Studies, Pandit Deendayal Energy University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- The title of my research study was 'A Critical Analysis of David Lynch's Surrealist Movies'.

### MMC (Journalism Specialization) July 2008 — April 2010

Symbiosis Institute of Media & Communication, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune

- Obtained the MMC degree with 68.82 per cent marks.
- Was a part of the launching team of *SIMC Wire*, one of India's first student-run news portals.
- Was a part of the launching team of *Bangkwang Times*, one of India's first student-run newspapers.

### M.A. (Political Science) September 2021 — Present

Aligarh Muslim University

- Currently pursuing this programme.

### B.Sc. with Physics (Honours) August 2004 — June 2007

Gauhati University, Guwahati

- Obtained the B.Sc. degree with First Class-Distinction.

### Higher Secondary (XII) in Science August 2002 — May 2004

Lumding College, Lumding, Assam

- Passed the Higher Secondary Examination with First Division.

### High School Leaving Certificate (X) April 1991 — July 2002

Pranabananda Vidyamandir, Lumding, Assam

- Passed the High School Leaving Certificate Examination with Star Marks.

## QUALIFICATIONS

- Cleared the UGC NET in Mass Communication and Journalism.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- Participated in a 10-day-long staff exchange faculty development programme to *Bath Spa University* in the United Kingdom, which was funded by the *Erasmus + Programme* of the *European Union*.
- Received the *Research Excellence Award* during *Adamas Dialogue 2021*, the Annual Employee Convention of *Adamas University*, Kolkata.
- Received the *Teaching Excellence Award* during *Adamas Dialogue 2020*, the Annual Employee Convention of *Adamas University*, Kolkata.
- Best Paper Award, 5<sup>th</sup> *International Conference on Information, Communication and Artificial Networks (ICAN5)*.
- Best Paper Award, 4<sup>th</sup> *International Conference on Information, Communication and Artificial Networks (ICAN4)*.
- Best Paper Award, *International Conference on Media, Communication & Design - 2021 (ICMCD-2021)*.
- Best Paper Award, 3<sup>rd</sup> *International Conference on Information, Communication and Artificial Networks (ICAN3)*.
- Best Paper Award, 3<sup>rd</sup> *All India Media Educators' Conference – 2018 (AIMEC-2018)*.

## RESEARCH

### Published Papers in Journals:

- 'Whither OTT Platforms: Tracking the Future Trajectory of Entertainment with Special Reference to India', *Liberal Studies Journal*; Author, August 2022.
- 'A Critical Analysis of Indian Social Media Dynamics', *Vidyabharati International Interdisciplinary Research Journal*; Author, pp.811-817, October 2021.
- "Vertigo" (1958) and Feminism: Dissecting the Hitchcockian Classic Using the Feminist Film Theory', *PalArch's Journal of Archaeology of Egypt/ Egyptology*; Author, pp.13677-13685, November 2020.
- "Lost Highway" (1997): A Bizarre Juxtaposition of Realism and Surrealism', *International Journal of Advance and Innovative Research*; Author, pp. 15-20, June 2019.
- "Mulholland Drive" (2001): A Case Study of the Primacy of Dreams over Reality', *International Journal of Advance and Innovative Research*; Author, pp. 61-67, June 2019.
- "Blue Velvet" (1986): A Dark Trip down the Slippery Isles of Voyeurism and Human Sexuality', *International Journal of Communication and Media Studies*; Author, pp. 155-163, June 2019.
- 'A Critical Analysis of David Lynch's 'Eraserhead' (1977): Whose Dream is it After All?', *Research Review International Journal of Multidisciplinary*; Author, pp. 486-490, May 2019.
- "Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me" (1992): A Surreal Saga of Fear and Exploitation', *International Journal of*

*Research and Analytical Reviews*; Author, pp. 615-619, May 2019.

- 'Inland Empire' (2006): A Temporal Experiment with Spirituality', *Research Review International Journal of Multidisciplinary*; Author, pp. 1015-1020, May 2019.
- 'Female Objectification in Four Major Pan-Indian English Language Newspapers', *International Journal of Research and Analytical Reviews*; Author, pp. 466-469, May 2019.

#### **Published Books:**

- 'Gasping for Breath A Man-Made Tragedy', Co-Editorship, *Manak Publications*, 978-93-91897-02-4, pp. 270, November 2021.
- 'David Lynch and Surrealism', Authorship, *University Book House (P) Ltd.*, 978-93-90672-08-0, pp. 162, March 2021.
- 'Rise of the Digital Human: Perspectives on Digital Communication in India Today', Co-Editorship, *Manak Publications*, 978-81-9430-351-0, pp. 608, September 2019.

#### **Published Book Chapters:**

- 'Digital Media and Social Sensitization: Whither LGBTQIA+ Community', *Media and Digital Technology*, Editor: Prof. Upendra Padhi, *Institute of Media Studies, Utkal University Bhubaneswar*, 978-93-5566-938-4, pp. 65-69, August 2022.
- 'Feminist Underpinning in Srijit Mukherji's 'Baishe Srabon' (2011): A Detailed Case Study', *Media, Society and Development*, Editors: Dr. Jayant Kumar Panda and Dr. Ram Awtar Yadav, *Lakecity Publishing*, 978-93-5628-587-3, pp. 307-314, July 2022.
- 'Feminist Messages in Guru Dutt's Film: A Case Study of 'Pyaasa' (1957)', *Cinema and OTT Wave*, Editors: Dr. Susmita Bala, Dr. Manmeet Kaur and Pramod Pandey, *Kanishka Publishers, Distributors*, 978-93-91450-40-3, pp. 13-22, June 2022.
- 'Designing an Ideal Module on Journalistic Ethics: An Attempt at Restructuring Journalism Education', *Future of Media Education*, Editor: Prof. Upendra Padhi, *Institute of Media Studies, Utkal University Bhubaneswar*, 978-93-5578-195-6, pp. 253-270, April 2022.
- 'Deconstructing the Need for Indian Young Souls to Academically Appreciate and Celebrate the Country's Unique Diversity Quotient', *Bharat at 75*, Editors: Dr. Monica Bansal and Sakshi, *Bharti Publications*, 978-93-91681-37-1, pp. 40-47, April 2022.
- 'Covid-19 and Impact on Higher Education', *Gasping for Breath A Man-Made Tragedy*, Editors: Sunayan Bhattacharjee and Ujjwal K Chowdhury, *Manak Publications*, 978-93-91897-02-4, pp. 199-210, November 2021.
- "'Vertigo' (1958) and Feminism: Dissecting the Hitchcockian Classic Using the Feminist Film Theory', *Communication for Social Change*, Editor: Prof. Upendra Padhi, *Institute of Media Studies, Utkal University Bhubaneswar*, 978-93-5437-280-3, pp. 73-77, July 2021.
- 'A Case Study of the Primacy of Dreams over Reality', *Impact of Media on Culture & Society*, Editors: Dr. Usha Sawhney, Prof. Sanjeev Bhanawat and Kalyan Singh Kothari, *University Book House (P) Ltd.*, 978-81-947421-7-3, pp. 174-179, March 2021.
- "Goynar Baksho' (2013): A Detailed Case Study of Women Emancipation through Cinema', *Gender Discourse and Youth in Media*, Editor: Dr. Susmita Bala, *Kanishka Publishers, Distributors*, 978-93-89484-49-6, pp. 284-289, June 2020.
- "'Blade Runner' (1982) and Cyberpunk: A Critical Analysis', *Communication 4.0: Communication in a Digital Age*, Book Chapter, Editor: Prof. Upendra Padhi, *Institute of Media Studies, Utkal University Bhubaneswar*, 978-93-5391-046-4, pp. 405-410, November 2019.
- 'David Lynch and Postmodernism in His Hollywood Trilogy: A Critical Study', *Rise of the Digital Human: Perspectives on Digital Communication in India Today*, Editors: Sunayan Bhattacharjee, Dr. Tanushri Mukherjee and Prof. Ujjwal K Chowdhury, *Manak Publications*, 978-81-9430-351-0, pp. 414-420, September 2019.

#### **Papers Presented in Conferences and Seminars:**

- Presented a Paper entitled 'Global Pandemic and the Surge of OTT-Based Entertainment: A Case Study of Bengali OTT Platform *Hoichor*' during the online Cross Cultural Communication Conference 2022, hosted by the *Faculty of Communication Arts, Chulalongkorn University*, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Presented a Paper entitled 'Evaluating Stereotypes about the LGBTQIA+ Community in Mainstream Indian Media' during the 2022 IAMCR Conference.
- Presented a Paper entitled 'Feminist Messages in Guru Dutt's 'Kaagaz Ke Phool' (1959): A Thematic and Diegetic Case Study' during online ICAN5.
- Presented a Paper entitled 'The 1905-Partition of Bengal and the Nationalist Press: Analyzing the Coverages by Indian English Language Newspapers Published from Then Calcutta' during the *ICHR-Sponsored National Seminar on Indian Media & the Freedom Movement to Commemorate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'*, organized jointly by *Indian Institute of Mass Communication* and *Indian Council of Historical Research New Delhi*.
- Presented a Paper entitled 'Male Gaze in Satyajit Ray's 'Nayak' (1966): Deconstructing the Ingrained Heteronormativity' during the *Fourth (Virtual) International Gender Conference (IGC) - 2022*.
- Presented a Paper entitled "'Blade Runner 2049': A Case Study of Avant Garde Storytelling' during the *Global Communication Education Conclave-2021*.
- Presented a Paper entitled 'Designing an Ideal Module on Journalistic Ethics: An Attempt at Restructuring Journalism Education' during the *5<sup>th</sup> National Media Conclave-2021*.
- Presented a Paper entitled 'The Convergence of Science and Philosophy in Stanley Kubrick's '2001: A Space Odyssey' (1968): An Analytical Case Study' during the *28<sup>th</sup> Annual AMIC Conference on Science Communication: Managing the Now and the Future*.

- Presented a Paper entitled 'Feminist Messages in Guru Dutt's 'Pyaasa' (1957): A Distinctive Case Study' during online ICAN4.
- Presented a Paper entitled 'Feminist Underpinning in Srijit Mukherji's 'Baishe Srabon' (2011): A Detailed Case Study' during online ICMCD-2021.
- Presented a Paper entitled 'Media Literacy and Cinema: Identifying the Effective Learning Components for a Comprehensive Course on Cinema at the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Levels' during the *International Web-Convention on Hundred Years of Media Education (Decoding the South Asian Mystique)*.
- Presented a Paper entitled 'Vertigo' (1958) and Feminism: Dissecting the Hitchcockian Classic Using the Feminist Film Theory' during the *4<sup>th</sup> National Media Conclave-2020*.
- Presented a Paper entitled 'Goynar Baksho' (2013): A Detailed Case Study of Women Emancipation through Cinema' during online ICAN3.
- Presented a Paper entitled 'Inculcating Human Values among School Students Using Cinema' during the *2<sup>nd</sup> Global Summit on Education* held in Kolkata.
- Presented a Paper entitled 'Blade Runner' (1982) and Cyberpunk: A Critical Analysis' during the *3<sup>rd</sup> National Media Conclave-2019* held in Bhubaneswar.
- Presented a Paper entitled 'David Lynch and Postmodernism in His Hollywood Trilogy: A Critical Study' during the *4<sup>th</sup> All India Media Conference – 2019* in Udaipur.
- Presented a Paper entitled 'Mulholland Dr. (2001): A Case Study of the Primacy of Dreams over Reality' during the *3<sup>rd</sup> All India Media Educators' Conference – 2018* in Jaipur.
- Presented a paper entitled 'Female Objectification In Major Indian English Newspapers' in a national conference on 'Media and Women: Different Emerging Perspectives in the Way of Development' organized by the *Department of Mass Communication & Journalism*, Assam University, Silchar in 2013.

## PROJECTS

- Did two projects with *upGrad* as a Subject Matter Expert (SME).
- Conducted online guest lectures with *ISCA - International School of Creative Arts* in Bengaluru.
- Conducted special guest lectures with *Jain (Deemed-to-be University)* in Bengaluru.
- Conducted special guest lectures with the *School of Liberal Studies* under *Pandit Deendayal Energy University* in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Freelanced as a Content Writer with *Godot Media* in Bengaluru.
- Worked as a Research Assistant on an *Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)*-funded project entitled 'Media Exposure of Corruption in Andhra Pradesh during 1999-2008 : A Tracer Study of Uses and Gratification Theory' under the Principal Investigator Prof. C.S.H.N. Murthy at *Tezpur University* in Tezpur, Assam, India.
- Worked as a Project Manager with *Newgen Imaging Systems Pvt. Ltd.* in Chennai.
- Worked as a Brand and Content Development Executive with *New Global Indian Magazine*.
- Interned with *Indo-Asian News Service (IANS)* in Delhi.
- Interned with *The Times of India* in Guwahati.
- Interned with *Gharoa* in Lumding, Assam, India.

## ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- Moderated two sessions of the *Global Communication Education Conclave*, held on December 23, 2021 and January 28, 2022.
- Moderated the Plenary Session - II during the *5<sup>th</sup> National Media Conclave-2021* held online.
- Nominated as an Editorial Board Member for the *6<sup>th</sup> National Media Conclave-2022*.
- Nominated as an Editorial Board Member for the *5<sup>th</sup> National Media Conclave-2021* held online.
- Selected as a Working Committee Member of the *Global Media Education Council*.
- Nominated as an Editorial Board Member for the *4<sup>th</sup> All India Media Conference – 2019* held in Udaipur.
- Co-Chaired a Technical Session entitled 'Digital Human Interventions in C4D, Agricultural Practices & Innovations and Health' during the *3<sup>rd</sup> National Media Conclave-2019* held in Bhubaneswar.
- Completed a Seven-Day-Long Faculty Development Programme on 'Recent Tools and Techniques for Quality Research', organized by the *Department of Computer Science, Bansthal Vidyapith*.
- Completed a Three-Day-Long Faculty Development Programme on 'Development Journalism', organized by *Press Club*, Kolkata in collaboration with UNICEF, West Bengal Office.
- Completed a Seven-Day-Long Faculty Development Programme on 'Application of Methodologies in Media, Communication and Entertainment Research', organized by the *School of Media and Communication* under *Adamas University*.
- Completed a Coursera course on 'Feminism and Social Justice' offered by the *University of California Santa Cruz*.
- Completed a Coursera course on 'Communication in the 21st Century Workplace' offered by the *University of California Irvine*.
- Completed a Coursera course on 'Digital Transformation' offered by the *University of Virginia* and *Boston Consulting Group*.
- Completed a Coursera course on 'Digital Footprint' offered by *The University of Edinburgh*.
- Completed a Coursera course on 'Introduction to Personal Branding' offered by the *University of Virginia*.
- Attended a one-day-long Workshop on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Awareness organized by NIELIT Agartala Centre sponsored by *Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY)*, Government of India held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December, 2013.
- Attended a Sensitization Programme on 'Stigma, Discrimination and Mainstreaming on HIV/ AIDS: Role of Media', organized by *Tripura State Aids Control Society* in collaboration with ICA Department, Government of

*Tripura and the Agartala Press Club* on January 20, 2014.

- Did a case study on the 'Cotton Farmer's Suicide Issue' in the city of Yavatmal in Vidarbha, Maharashtra in 2010.
- Made 'Budhwar Peth' – a documentary on the sex workers in Pune in 2009.
- Made 'Katraj Snake Park' – a documentary on the Katraj-based Snake Park in Pune in 2009.

#### LANGUAGES KNOWN

- English.
- Bengali.
- Hindi.
- Assamese.

#### MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, *International Association for Media and Communication Research*
- Life Member, *Association of Development Communication*
- Life Member, *Public Relations Society of India*, Kolkata Chapter

#### REFERENCES

Prof. Ujjwal K Chowdhury, Advisor and Professor, *Daffodil International University*, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
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Phone: +91-6292190216

Varunan Balasubramaniam, Chief Executive, *Annapurna College of Film and Media*, Hyderabad, India  
Email: [humansculptor20@gmail.com](mailto:humansculptor20@gmail.com)  
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