

# Review of: "Social-Cultural Anthropology in the Oldest Department of Anthropology in India: Writing History or the Suppression of Records?"

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The article is a rejoinder to Professor Partha Chatterjee's lecture entitled, 'Science or Cultural Interpretation: Anthropology at the University of Calcutta, 1920-1970.' The author Professor Abhijit Guha has informed in the article that the summary of the lecture is available in the public domain at <https://twitter.com/CSSSCal>. The lecture abstract was posted on 10th May 2023 from the official twitter account of the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata signed by its Director.

At the very beginning Professor Abhijit Guha has written, "In the aforesaid lecture, Chatterjee, who was one of the major collaborators of Ranajit Guha and his subaltern school of history, depicted the works of the anthropologists of the University of Calcutta in a highly biased and partial manner". Professor Guha has defended his point that the department of Anthropology, Calcutta University never neglected one of its branches, the Social-cultural Anthropology in teaching and research. Although to my mind the title with the sentence, "Writing History or the Suppression of Records?" is a harsh one. However, in the article under review Professor Guha has given a detailed account of the history of development of the Department of Anthropology, the oldest department in India in a systematic manner and has written, with special focus on the Social cultural Anthropology, about the academic endeavors of some of the renowned anthropologists who has contributed to the development of the department. In 1918 Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay started courses in Anthropology as a branch of Ancient Indian History and Culture. A separate department of Anthropology in Calcutta University was formed in 1920. No doubt in the beginning of the department hardly there was any teacher in India who had formal training in Anthropology. It may be mentioned that Sir H. H. Risley, who was elected as President of the Royal Anthropological Institute, did not have a formal degree in Anthropology from Oxford University. At the very beginning in 1920, faculty was inducted from other disciplines. The stalwarts had worked hard to bring out the holistic concept of Anthropology, in which social Cultural Anthropology had a pivotal position together with Physical and Anthropology and Prehistoric Archaeology. Professor Guha has well defended his point about neglect of Social Cultural Anthropology in the history of development of the discipline as mentioned in the lecture of Professor Partha Chatterjee. Professor Guha is a pass out of the department of Anthropology, Calcutta University with specialization in Social Cultural Anthropology and has strived for the development of Anthropology throughout his academic career.

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