

Prithiraj Borah

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CURRENT POSITION AND EXPERIENCE

May 2025 to present	Assistant Professor of Sociology, NALSAR University of Law
February 2023-May 2025	Assistant Professor of Sociology, Vellore Institute of Technology, VIT Vellore
October 2021-October 2022	Post-Doctorate Scholar of Sociology, IIT Bombay

COURSES TAUGHT

Sociology of Law,
Sociology
Sociology of Labour and Industry
Food, Culture and Society

EDUCATION

October 2021	PhD in Sociology from IIT Bombay
June 2015	MPhil in Sociology from Sikkim Central University
June 2013	Masters from IIT Guwahati
June 2011	Graduation from Cotton College, Gauhati University

AREAS OF INTEREST

Plantation histories
Trade union politics and Gender
Student movements in South Asia
Anthropology in Northeast India.

AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023** **Excellence in PhD (Best Thesis Award)** ‘Naik and Rastogi award in excellence in PhD research’ from IIT Bombay 2023.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

- Upcoming** Borah, Prithiraj & Rowena Robinson. (Accepted and upcoming 2026).
2026 ‘Adivasi students in Assam: Activism and representation inside/outside university politics’. In *Minorities on Campus: Discrimination, Equality and politics of Nationalism in Indian Higher Education* edited by Ashok Kumar Mocherla and Sariya Cheruvallil- Contractor. London: Oxford University Press.
- 2022** Borah, Prithiraj (2022) Tales from Assam’s tea gardens: When humour becomes resistance in everyday life-world of labourers”. In *Humour and the performance of power in South Asia: Anxiety, Laughter and Politics in unstable times* edited by Sasanka Perera and Dev Pathak. New Delhi: Routledge.
- 2021** Borah, Prithiraj (2021). “Colonial construction of the ‘lazy-native’ and formation of Assam’s tea industry”. In *Communities, Institutions and Histories of India’s Northeast* edited by Charisma Lepcha and Uttam Lal. London: Routledge.
- Borah, Prithiraj, and Rowena Robinson (2021). “Mai-baaps and Minis: Spatiality, Visuality and Materiality in Assam’s Tea gardens”. In *Materiality and Visuality in Northeast India-An interdisciplinary perspective* edited by Tiplut Nongbri and Rashi Bhargava. Singapore: Springer.
- 2016** Sarma, Angshuman, & Prithiraj Borah (2016). “The impact of informalisation and role of trade union on tea tribe workers in Assam”. In *Adivasis in India: Resources, Livelihoods and Institutions* edited by Kailash Sarap and Venkatanarayana Motkuri. New Delhi: Bloomsbury.

Journal Articles

- 2026** Borah, Prithiraj & Baruah, Juri. (2026). ‘Witches, lagari and activism: solidarity networks in tea plantations in Assam. *Journal of Gender Studies*. (Taylor and Francis) <https://doi.org/10.1080/09589236.2026.2621754>

- 2025** Borah, Prithiraj (2025) ‘The Great Indian Family: An analysis of religious othering through food identity.’ Vol, 50 (2), Anthropology and Humanism (Willy). <https://doi.org/10.1111/anhu.70059>.
- S. Akshaya, S. Prabakar and Prithiraj, Borah (2025) ‘Contextualising the family dynamics in step parent-step child relationship: a comprehensive scoping review. Vol, 5 SN Social Sciences (Springer Nature). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s43545-025-01226-2>.
- Borah, Prithiraj (2025). “Plantation worlds by Maan Baruah (Book Review)” *Asian Ethnicity*, 1-3.
- Borah,P.(2025).CASTE: A Global Story: by Suraj Milind Yengde, London, C.Hurst & Co. Publishers Ltd, 2025, 360 pp ISBN 9781805262893 Asian Ethnicity, 1-3 <http://doi.org/10.1080/14631369.2025.2572824>
- Borah, Prithiraj (2025). “Albert Einstein, Swastika and Visuality: A study of exclusion within a university of Assam.” *Research in the Social Scientific study of Religion* (Special issue on Sociology of Religion or Belief in South Asia Vol. 43)
- 2024** Borah, Prithiraj (2024). “Rise of Populism and Right-wing politics in Assam.” In Encyclopaedia of New Populism and Responses in the 21st Century. London: Springer.
- 2023** Kalita, Pooja & Borah, Prithiraj (2023). “The Baghjan Tragedy: Gender and Public spaces in the time of a disaster and a pandemic”. (Journal Article) *Zubaan Publication*.
- 2022** Borah, Prithiraj & Rowena Robinson (2022). “Adivasi Mahasabhas: Locating gender in the adivasi movements in Assam”. (Special Article) *Economic and Political Weekly Vol. 57* (49) pp 32-38.
- 2021** Borah, Prithiraj (2021). “Insanity and colonial knowledge: A study of ‘tea-coolies’ in Tezpur Lunatic Asylum, 1879-96.” (Commentary) *Economic and Political Weekly Vol. 56*(73) pp 11-15.

Others (Blog/Op-ed): Public Sociology

- 2026** Borah, Prithiraj 2026. Anjel Chakma’s death and double erasure of racism in India <https://scroll.in/article/1089711/anjel-chakmas-death-and-the-double-erasure-of-racism-in-india>.

Borah, Prithiraj 2026. Food, Smell, and Discrimination: When a Microwave becomes a battleground, <https://www.roundtableindia.co.in/food-smell-and-discrimination-when-a-microwave-becomes-a-battleground/#respond>.

2025

Borah, Prithiraj, 2025. Zubeen Garg's greatest contribution: Asking profound questions rather than offering easy answers
<https://scroll.in/article/1086949/zubeen-gargs-greatest-contribution-asking-profound-questions-rather-than-offering-easy-answers>

Borah, Prithiraj, 2025. Zubeen Garg: The organic intellectual and the night that defined true artistry <https://raiot.in/zubeen-garg-the-organic-intellectual-and-the-night-that-defined-true-artistry/>

2020

Borah, Prithiraj. 2020. "Never expected such an incident": Locals displaced and distraught as Baghjan oil well burns. Published on 11th June 2020 in the Eleventh Column. <https://www.eleventhcolumn.com/2020/06/11/never-expected-such-an-incident-locals-displaced-distraught-as-baghjan-oil-well-burns/>.

2019

Borah, Rintu and Borah, Prithiraj. 2019. *Miyah Poetry in the Time of Nationalism*. Published on 14th July 2019 in the Wire. <https://thewire.in/rights/debate-miyah-poetry-xenophobia-assam>.

Kalita, Pooja and Borah, Prithiraj. 2019. *Patriarchal worlds of contemporary Assamese nationalism*. Published on 13th September 2019 in the Raiot. <https://www.raiot.in/author/poojaprithi/>

Borah, Prithiraj and kalita, Pooja. 2019. Death and Despair: Reflecting on Assam's Tea gardens and its workers. Published on 9th September 2019 in the Indian Cultural Forum. <https://indianculturalforum.in/2019/09/09/death-and-despair-reflecting-on-assams-tea-gardens-and-its-workers/>

Kalita, Pooja and Borah, Prithiraj. 2019. Thinking like feminists: Nationalism in contemporary Assam. Published on 11th September 2019 in the Indian Cultural Forum. <https://indianculturalforum.in/2019/09/11/thinking-like-feminists-nationalism-in-contemporary-assam/>

Research Projects

- 2021-22** The Zubaan-Sasakawa Peace Foundation Grants for Young Researchers from the Northeast 2021-22 (Completed). Project titled: **The Baghjan Tragedy: Gender and Public spaces in the time of a disaster and a pandemic.**
India Foundation for the Arts (IFA) Project 560 2023-24 (Completed):
- 2023-24** Project Title: **Food, Belongingness and neighbourhood: The ‘Ethnic’ Northeastern food preparation in Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru.**

Conferences/Seminars/Invited Lectures/Workshops

- 2022 National conference on Rethinking “Folklore, Folklife and Cultural Memory” organised by Centre for North East studies and Policy research, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi held on 21st-25th January 2022 paper titled “The tree of suffering: Cultural memory of struggle and resistance.”
- 2021 Annual Graduate Conference 2021, organised by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Delhi held on 14-15 January 2021 paper titled “Straddling between ‘Alterity(s)’: The floods and the labour of ‘other’ women in Guwahati city”.
- 2020 International Conference on Culture based education and research with the theme “Mapping the role of culture based education in times of pandemic: Implications on the local, national and Global Landscape” organised by National Commission for Culture and the arts Philippine culture education program held on 20-22 November 2020, paper titled “She is still plucking: The culture of ‘Assam’ tea during a pandemic”.
- 2019 National Conference on “River of the people, River against the people: Conceptualising livelihood, identity and society of Assam” organised by Centre for North East studies and Policy research, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi held on 23rd – 24th September 2019, paper titled “On ‘other’ side of a river: Women narrating the river, floods, development and belongingness”.
- International conference on “Materiality and Visuality in North East India” organized by the Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Millia Islamia held on 28th February- 1st March 2019 paper titled “Mai-Baaps and Minis: Spatiality, Materiality and Resistance in Assam’s tea gardens”.
- International conference on “Racial Orders, Racial Borders” organized by University of Amsterdam Department of Media Studies held on October 17th-

18th 2019 paper titled “Tea plantations as racial space: Understanding the ‘other’ in Assam”.

International conference on “Humour and performance of power in South Asia: Anxiety, Laughter and Politics in Unstable Times” organized by International center for Ethnic studies and Sociology department of South Asian University held on 27th -28th June, paper titled “Tales from Assam’s Tea Garden’s: Humour/Resistance in everyday life-world of a labourer”.

2018 International conference on “Locating Northeast India: Human Mobility, Resource Flows and Spatial Linkages” organized by the Department of Sociology, Tezpur University on 8th and 9th January 2018 paper titled “Resistance politics of the plantation labourers through archival documents”.

Sixteenth Annual Conference of the Indian Association For Social Sciences and Health in collaboration with Centre for the study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University theme “Health, Well-being and Regional Development: Emerging issues and challenges” held on December 10-12, 2018 paper titled “Insanity and colonial knowledge: A study about the tea ‘coolies’ in the tezpur lunatic asylum 1879-1896”.

UGC sponsored national Seminar on “Revisiting Colonial Assam” organized by the Department of History, Dibrugarh University on 29-30 March 2018, paper titled “Interrogating workers mobilization and Resistance politics inside the tea plantation in Colonial Assam”.

Workshop on ‘Understanding Dr. Ambedkar’s theory and Practice’ held on 21st to 25th January jointly organized by Department of History and Ancient Indian Culture, Tarabai Shinde Women’s studies Centre, Department of English and Mahatma Phule and Dr. Babasahed Ambedkar Thought and Research Centre.

2017 International conference on Commemorating the Ending of Indentureship from 27-29th September 2017 in Mauritius University, paper titled “Indentured Trade in Assam: What comes to be described as “coolies” in colonial Assam”.

2016 International Conference on North-East India on the theme, “Reframing India’s North-East: People, Power and Perspectives” by Sikkim University held on 24-26 November 2016, paper titled “Colonial construction of lazy natives and Formation of Assam’s Tea Industry”.

National level Graduate Research Meet 2016, organized by Department of Humanities and Social Sciences Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati paper titled “Placing tea plantation workers of Assam within the scholarship of “working body” and “disciplined body”.

2015 National Seminar on “Labour Market and Issues of Adivasis in India”, National Institute of Rural Development, Paper titled: “Impact of informalisation and role of trade unions on the tea tribe workers in Assam”, organized by National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj on 22-23rd January, 2015 at Hyderabad.
