**Dr. Arshiya Sethi**

**Scholar, Commentator, Administrator, Consultant and**

**Activist in the Arts**

**Scholarship**

* Independent Scholar and Commentator of Arts and Culture.
* Education:

- Visiting Affiliate to the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus

(17th September, 2018 to 16th October, 2018)

-Post Doc Fulbright Fellow from India (2017-2018), University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus

-Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) degree (2013) for the thesis on “Religion, State and Nation: Assam’s Sattras and their Dance”, received from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.

- Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) degree (1985) - International Relations, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi

- Master of Arts in Political Science (1982), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi

-Bachelor of Arts ( Hons) in Political Science, Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University

* Written extensively, in leading magazines, websites, newspapers, journals and in books, on issues around the arts, and culture, especially on cultural politics, policies, patronage, personalities, new and old cultural landscapes, locations, and populations, sacred arts and the marginalized but culturally rich area of the North East, especially in the context of the dynamics of arts and the nation, including the Diaspora. Governance at the statist, corporate and media level in formulating cultural ideas, are some of her current concerns.
* Writes a featured column under the name of ‘Soch’ for the largest portal of Indian dance- Narthaki.
* Publications ( Forthcoming):

1. “Why Sattriya is compelled to live a double life”, (Routledge, Forthcoming; 2021”. This is based on my doctoral research.
2. "Falling through the Cracks: Why the Diverse Folk Arts have not been Valorised by the Indian Nation-Policy? Or Politics?" Chapter in a edited volume ( based on the international seminar on “Evolution of Tradition: Interrogating Transformations in Traditional Folk Performing Arts”), brought out by the Centre for Knowledge, Ideas and Development Studies, Kolkata ( 2021).
3. Chapter titled “What the Body Tells: Routes and Roots in the Transnational Migration to America of Indian Dance Pioneer Bhaskar Roy Chowdhury” in the Oxford University Press’ “Indian Dances: Transnational Routes” Edited by Anurima Bannerji and Prarthana Purkayastha ( Forthcoming, 2020- 2021)
4. Talks on for three stand alone book projects (three volumes based on my new work on “Pioneers of Indian Dance in America and The State of the Art today” )
5. Three scholarly articles to be included in future edited Anthologies/ Journals

* Publications in the Public domain:

1. A Monograph on “Controversies in the Arts: From Mumbai to Minneapolis” published in December 2020 by the Centre for Knowledge and Development Studies, Kolkata.
2. Co edited with Dr. Tani Sebro, “Dance Under the Shadow of the Nation” (2019), a collection of essays in the Dance Studies Association’s annual series Conversations Across the Field of Dance Studies.
3. “Changing Paradigms: India’s Early Aesthetic Nationalisms” Essay included in the anthology of essays “Dance Under the Shadow of the Nation” a collection of essays in the Dance Studies Association’s annual series Conversations Across the Field of Dance Studies ; Co-edited by Tani Sebro and Arshiya Sethi.
4. ‘Gina Lalli- Bharata Natyam and Kathak Dancer from USA- A Tribute’ in Nartanam (May 2019)
5. ‘Two Decades of Dance in Delhi’ in “Twenty Years of Growth, Change and Continuity” in the annual issue of *Attendance*, the Annual on Indian Dance, brought out by Ashish Mohan Khokhar. (February 2019)
6. ‘Negotiating Space for Dance within the Spectrum of Contemporary Performing Arts in a Globalised India: The Experiences of an Indian Arts Manager’ in *Dance Matters II*, edited by Nilanjana Gupta and Pallabi Chakravarty, Routledge,(February 2018).
7. ‘On Building a Virtual Cultural Equity: The ABU Television Dance Festival’ *Nartanam,* HyderabadVol. XVII, No.2 (2017).
8. ‘An Overlay of the Political: The Recognition of Sattriya’ in the special issue of *Seminar* on ‘The Multiple trajectories of the Indian Dance Tradition’ (December 2015).
9. ‘A Moment in History and Story of Three Dancers’ (and the National Inter-University Youth Festival of 1954) - Article in the July- September 2015 issue of the journal of dance- *Nartanam* HyderabadVol. XV, No.3 (2015).
10. ‘Rhizome Roots: The Indian Arts and the Indian Diaspora’ in S.K. Jain (ed.) The *Indian Diaspora in the Age of Globalisation;* Kalpaz Publications; (2012).
11. Tribune, Chandigarh, Oped the Arts, Friday 20th May, 2011, “The Cultural (dis)Connect”, an article that looks at the Zonal Cultural Centres and the need to align India’s cultural initiatives with the immense diversity of India. https://www.tribuneindia.com/2011/20110520/edit.htm#6
12. ‘Sufi Shrines: Sacred Landscapes; Artistic Crucibles' in Swapna Liddle & Annabel Lopez (ed.) *Delhi: A Living Heritage;*Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) and the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA); (2010).
13. ‘Sattriya: The Redefining of a Tradition’, in *Yaatra.* Guwahati: North Eastern Foundation. Vol.1 (1) (2007).
14. ‘The Nati of Assam’, in *Attendance*, 2003-04, Special issue on *The Male / Female Role: The Sacred and the Profane in Asian Performing Arts*, Shanta Serbjeet Singh (ed.) (2003)

* Forthcoming Lectures/ Presentations:

1. Three day International Festival of Indian dance films. In collaboration with Kalpataru Arts. ( Was scheduled on 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of April, 2021. New dates to be announced)

* Papers presented/ Lectures delivered

1. 29th March 2021- “My Life in Dance,” a talk for ‘Nritya Prapanna’, Shinjan Nrityalaya’s Ministry of Culture supported Festival.
2. 20th March, 2021- Opening speaker at the Chandigarh Spring Litfest.
3. 17th March 2021- “Staging Sattriya Against the Background of Encounters and Accords”, a master session with Students of Ashoka University.
4. 13th March, 2021- “Danced Poems of Double Authorship”- Talk on poems written during the Covid period and danced by eminent dancers of the country, for Sannatkada Foundation and Lucknow Bioscope.
5. 15th February, 2021- Unmute: How to talk about Sexual Harassment in the Arts- An Open table discussion with Natyanova and Arts Forward, both Kolkata based organizations.
6. 30th January, 2021- Discussion on Dance films from India, with Amy Wilkinson, Executive Director of In/Motion Chicago International Dance Film Festival, as part of a special screening of Indian dance films ( crated by Dr. Arshiya Sethi, founder of India’s only Dance Film Festival, DanzLenz), to serve as an outreach initiative of the same festival.
7. 23rd January, 2021- Discussion with Amy Wilkinson, Executive Director of the In/Motion Chicago International Dance Film Festival, on Dance films from this year’s curation, as the Indian curtain raiser for the same festival.
8. 22nd January, 2021; Lecture for the students of Loyola College on “Bollywood dance reflecting the gendered nation”.
9. 17th November, 2020; Panel Discussion part of USIEF’s International Education Week
10. 15th November, 2020; “Speakeasy” with Prof. Kaustavi Sarkar of the College of Arts and Architecture, University of North Carolina, Charlotte
11. 11th November, 2020 “Problems Faced by the Arts Today”, for the Students of Shiv Nadar University, Uttar Pradesh.
12. “What is it that we need to manage in the Arts?; Talk given to the Management and Performing Arts Departments of the Mahagami ( Mahatma Gandhi Mission) University, Aurangabad, on 4th November, 2020
13. “My Journey in ‘Artivism’: Arts and Activism”; Talk given to the students of Shiv Nader University, Uttar Pradesh, on 30th October, 2020.
14. Organised a closed door workshop on 29th October, for forty Gurus- An awareness workshop Against Sexual Harassment (Gurus Against Sexual Harassment- GASH) – a first time ever initiative as an example of activism within the Arts community.
15. Part of a Panel organized by the New York Public library for the Arts, Lincoln Centre, New York, to mark ten years of the making of Nan Melville’s film- “ Nrityagram: For the Love of Dance”, which was screened on 28th October, 2020, as part of the scheduled programmes in the NYPLA calendar.
16. “Raas, Dandiya and Garba in Hindi Films”. Paper presented on 27th October, that was part of the International Webinar and Festival ( 27th -31st October, 2020) “The Circle of Energy: The Garba and Raas dances of Gujrat”, organized by Anjali Memorial Committee, Vadodra and Surmadhur, Gandhinagar, and supported by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, The International Organization of Folk Arts Festival and the Office of Alumni Affairs and Donor Relations of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Vadodra.
17. Participated in two sessions of the Rangayan Arts and Literature Festival in Guwahati ( 22nd to 24th October, 2020). Session i) moderated a panel discussion on Challenges faced by Digital Dance. Session ii) A presentation on the poems written by me during Covid times, poems that best known dancers of India danced to, leading to the term “Poems of Double Authorship” being used to describe them.
18. Initiated a five part series on “Arts and the Law: What they do not teach in Indian Art Schools”- i) “Abuse of power: Sexual Harassment and the Arts”, 13th October, 2020 ii) “ NDPS Act and Drug Use in the Arts”, 27th October; iii) “Copying, Copyright and Plagiarism in the Arts”, 10th November; iv) Understanding the Need for Contracts in the , especially the clauses of Force Majeure and Act of God”
19. “Baton baton mein”, a long running arts series in the form of a conversation in Hindi, on 2nd October 2020, on Instagram, with a personality in the field- a sort of ‘My life in the Arts,’ hosted by cultural critic and commentator Sunil Mishra.
20. Key note address in the panel on “Government’s Cultural Policies” organized by Mudra Academy of Performing Arts, on 26th September, 2020.
21. Participant in the panel organized to commemorate the 87th birthday of critic (Padmashri recipient) Dr. Utpal Bannerjee, on the theme of “Dance in contemporary India: New Myths and Symbols in Exceptional Times”.
22. A scholars talk on “Controversies in the Arts: From Mumbai to Minneapolis” organized on 9th September, 2020, by the Centre for Knowledge, Ideas and Development Studies, Kolkata.
23. “Responding to the Changing Dynamics of Performing Arts”; an online discussion with Kalpataru Arts, on 1st August 2020, viewed by over 1000 people.
24. Three city ( Delhi, Aurangabad & Vadodra) tour of, and Interaction and discussion on “The Dancing Body Politic”, with Prof Robin Gee, Festival Director of the boutique Greensboro International Dance Film Festival, and Prof at the University of South Carolina, Greensboro, accompanied by the screening of a specially curated showcase from the Festival. 5th (Delhi), 6th ( Aurangabad) and 7th (Vadodra), March, 2020.
25. “Tightly Plaited: The relationship between Literature, Dance and Indian Dramaturgy”- Illustrated talk at Gauhati University, part of the Pragjyoti International Dance Festival, Department of English, Gauhati University, 31st January, 2020.
26. "Sattriya's Challenges in Enlarging Geographies"- An interactive Session  at the Kalakshetra Auditorium, 31st January, 2020.
27. “My Journey in ‘Artivism’- Art and Activism”, at the Shadangdev Samaroh, Mahagami Institute, Aurangabad on 20th January, 2020.
28. Illustrated talk titled “Cultural Graft(ing): An Early History of Indian Dance in USA”, as part of Natya Kala conference in Chennai; 27th December, 2019.
29. “Dance and the Nation”, illustrated talk for the ‘India ki Khoj’ programme at IIT Gandhinagar; 20th December, 2019.
30. Three city (Delhi, Hyderabad & Vadodra) tour of, and Interaction and discussion on “The Dancing Body Politic”,the In/Motion Chicago International Dance Film Festival, with Amy Wilkinson, Festival Director, accompanied by the screening of a specially curated showcase from the Festival. 15th December 2019 ( Hyderabad), 16th (Delhi) and 19th (Vadodra).
31. Paper on “Bridging the Gap(s): Shaataranga by Ananya Dance Theatre,” to be presented at the World Dance Alliance Conference at Cox’s Bazaar, Bangladesh, 22nd-25th November, 2019.
32. Talk at the dance Department of Swarthmore College on “Cultural Graft(ing): An Early History of Indian Dance in USA” on 10th October, 2019.
33. Talk on The National programme of dance on Doordarshan followed by Film screening on Indian dances and talk/discussion at the New York Public Library for the Arts (NYPLA), New York on 25th September, 2019.
34. Paper on “The Cow in Indian Art and the Politics of Food in India”, at the joint Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of Food & Society and the Agriculture, Food and Human Value Society, in Anchorage, Alaska ( USA) 26th- 29th June.
35. “Profiling the History of Indian Dance in the USA”- A two part series of pioneers of Indian dance in America and its state today. The talk looked at the grafting of Indian dance in the cultural landscape of the United States of America through multiple lenses of diaspora, cross-cultural citizenship, law, sexuality and migration studies. At India International Centre, New Delhi on 15th & 16th May, 2019. Chair: Ambassador Lalit Mansingh, Former Foreign Secretary, Government of India and former Ambassador to United States of America.
36. Leading a panel discussion the Body, in art and in philosophy, on the occasion of the launch of Dr. Alka Pande’s book “Body Sutra” on 25th April, 2019 at IIC.
37. Organized and moderated a Panel Discussion on 12th April, as a lead up to World dance Day, in collaboration with Kala Bharati Foundation ( Montreal) and India International Centre, on “The Role Dance and other Arts and Crafts in Whole Child Education”.
38. Interview with French Indian Artist Meite Deltiel at Art Alive Gallery on 6th April, 2019.
39. Moderated a public interaction on understanding the philosophy and creative process behind ‘Rangontartama’, a Bharatanatyam and Kathak based production inspired by Kashmir’s Shaivism, which bears close links and shared shastras with dance, on 4th April at India Habitat Centre.
40. Presented a talk on “India’s Cultural Policy: Real, Imagined or Created” as part of the nearly two decade long ‘Resonances’ series organised by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIEST, Shibpur, Howrah on 27th March, 2019.
41. Performance of “Dance of the Birds”, a collaborative performance between Rama Vaidyanathan- Dancer, with expert commentary by Dr. Arshiya Sethi, at ICCR, Kolkata. Presented by the Natyanova Performing Arts Centre, on 25th March, 2019.
42. Participant at the Seminar on “Rasa Purna” held at IIEST, Shibpur, Howrah on 25th March, 2019, in collaboration with Natyanova Performing Arts, where a paper was presented on ‘Rasa in everyday Communication’.
43. Paper presented on “Embodying Text and Textile in Dance: Analyzing the Creative works of Prerana Shrimali ( Kathak) and Bhabhanand Borbayan (Sattriya)” at the National Colloquium on “Transcendence in Dance: Techniques of Embodied Performance”, organized by the Forum on Contemporary Theory, along with the Anjali Memorial Committee, at Vadodra, on the occasion of Nritya Parva, 2019. (8th and 9th February, 2019).
44. Chaired and moderated a panel on ‘Performing Arts: Identity Politics’, at the International Symposium on Creativity and the Arts organized by India International Centre, CIMA Art gallery Kolkata and Ashoka University, Sonepat.( 6th February, 2019).
45. Presented a paper on Cultural Policy, “Falling Through the Cracks: Why the Diverse Folk Arts Have not been Valorised by the Indian State: Policy or Politics”, at the **International Seminar on** “Evolution of Tradition: Interrogating Transformations in Traditional Folk Performing Arts”, Kolkata, 10th & 11th January, 2019.
46. Moderated the three hour long Panel on the Guru Shishya Parampara at the Kathak Kendra, on 4th January 2019, as part of the Kalantran Festival on the subject of lineages in Jaipur Gharana of Kathak. Participants included Dr. Puru Dhadeech, Guru Ganesh Hiralal, Guru Sushmita Mishra, Guru Manjushree Chatterjee, Guru Nandini Singh, Jayant Kastuar, Guru Prerana Shrimali, Ravindra Mishra and Manjari Sinha.
47. Panelist at the Shanta Serbjeet Singh Memorial discussion series conducted by ‘Legends of India’ and curated by the former DG, ICCR, Shri Suresh Goel. Subject: “Cultural Pluralism and national Identity”, on 28th December, 2018 at India Habitat Centre. Other panelists included, Shri B.P. Singh, scholar and former Governor and Secretary Culture, Shi Tarun Vijay, Ambassador Surendra Kmar and Shri Suresh Goel.
48. Invited to participate in the first of the series of workshops relating to the Museum on the Prime Ministers of India, held at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library complex on 26th December, 2018.
49. Facilitated and moderated a three hour panel on “Dance for the Camera” for the Natya Ballet Centre event on 2nd December, 2018.
50. Interview with dancer Padmabhushan Mallika Sarabhai for the Natya Ballet Festival, on 2nd December 2018.
51. Launch on 1st December, in Delhi of the Art Ichol Journal, a special edition on ‘Natyam', guest edited by Dr. Arshiya Sethi, contributing the Editorial and concluding Article for it. Eminent scholars and practitioners ( Dr Bharat Gupt, Dr. Alka Pande, Prof.Rita Ganguly, Vidushis Lakshmi Vishwanathan and Shovana Narayan, and Navtej Johar and Sunil Mehra), have contributed to it.
52. Moderated a Panel on 1st December 2018, on the subject of “Oral Knowledge Traditions in the Digital Age” with Muzaffar Ali, Prof. Rita Ganguly and Madhubani artist Manisha Jha at Delhi during the India Craft Week.
53. Interview on 1st December with Astad Deboo, for the record of oral histories, part of Natya Ballet Centre’s Festival.
54. Presenting the inaugural showcase of Art for social justice- ‘Aavejak Avaaz’ across two cities- New Delhi and Guwahati, featuring international artistes- Ananya Dance Theatre from Minneapolis, USA, and Alma Salem Curator from Syria, presently located in Montreal, Canada.
55. Presented a paper on 18th November, 2019, titled “The Harmony Within: Sattriya’s Ability to Negotiate the Sacred and the Secular”, at Sattriya’s annual National Festival, Nritya Parva, 2019, organized by the Sattriya Kendra, in Guwahati.
56. A talk for the Study group Disha, on 16th November, based on my Post Doctoral work on the theme of Governance and the Making of the Cultural meme of food, titled “Eat Pray but no Love: Alimentary Politics in India Today”.
57. Illustrated talk on 31st October at India Habitat Centre, Delhi, on " Curatorial Mistakes and Mediated Corrections: The 'Scaffold’ Controversy of the Walker Arts Centre, Minneapolis".
58. Showcased on 23rd, October, “An Evening of Bharatanatyam: Dance of the Birds”- a thematic Bharatanatyam presentation, bringing together art and activism around environmental issues, while using the bird as metaphor. Dancer: SNA awardee Rama Vaidyanathan; expert commentary and interlocution: Dr Arshiya Sethi. Part of the Rangayan Festival of Art and Literature ( RALF), Guwahati.
59. Presented a paper titled “Eat Pray but no Love: Alimentary Politics in India Today” in a panel on *Agrarian Imaginaries in India: Land, Capital and Politics,* on Friday, October 12 at the South Asia Conference at Madison, Wisconsin ( USA) 11th -14th October 2017.
60. 10th October (Wednesday), 2018. Panelist at the Weisman Art Museum for Presentation and Panel Discussion scheduled as part of its “Many Visions; Many Versions” exhibition 7 pm-8.30 pm. Panelists: Dr. Pika Ghosh, Dr Anna Seastrand, Dr. Richa Nagar and Dr. Arshiya Sethi.
61. Conducted a four lecture ( 90 mins each) Course for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) of the University of Minnesota on “The Fascinating Reality of Indian Dance”.
62. Illustrated talk on ‘Encounter Politics and the Problematic of Performance and patronage in the National Recognition of the dances of the sattras of Assam’- ICGC Brown bag lecture series, 5th October, 2018.
63. Talk on "Varna: The Resonances of Colour in India", for the Fulbright Association of Minnesota, 1st October, 2018, at the Minnesota Centre for Art and Design.
64. Illustrated talk and discussion on ‘Dance, Music and Theatre in the Sattras, the Medieval Monasteries of Assam in India: A Quiet Resistance to the Dominant Forces of Inequity of the Times’ for Ananya Dance Theartre’s Shawngram Institute for Performance and Social Justice, St. Paul, on 30th September, 2018.
65. Public Lecture for the India Canada Friendship Circle in Ottowa on 9th September “Dance and Music in The Vaishnava Monasteries of Assam”
66. Lecture in Ottawa, Canada at the Department of Religion Studies, Carlton University on 6th September “Vaishnavism of Shankardeva in the 16th century” (for students and faculty of the Department of Religion, Carleton University Ottawa, Canada).
67. Participant on Panel on “Indian Classical arts as part of the world cultural community” in the session on “Indian Classical Dance Transnationally ( participants are Dr. Arshiya Sethi, Bharatanatyam dancer Rama Vaidyanathan and Ambassador ( Retd) and former DG ICCR, Amarendra Khatua), part of ‘Looking Back to Move Forward: Continuity and Change in Classical Dance’, the triptych of Seminar, performance and exhibition organized by Manasa-Art Without Frontiers, in collaboration with India International Centre and Alliance Francaise.
68. Presented a paper titled “Black & White’: ‘Artivism’ (from Art and Activism), against Triple talaq and other issues of Muslim Personal Law through Dance”, at the Dance Studies Association Conference, on the theme of “Contra: Dance & Conflict” at the University of Malta in Valletta, Malta, 5-8 July 2018.
69. Conducted a four lecture ( 90 mins each) Course for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) of the University of Minnesota on “The Fascinating Story of Indian Dance” in June, 2018 ( 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th).
70. Panel Discussion on the topic of " Spirituality and Secularism in Indian Arts" on Friday, 11 May, 2018 in Gulmohar Hall Habitat from 7:00-8:30pm. Panelists: Dr. Karan Singh ( Keynote speaker), Vidushi Sonal Mansingh, Dr. Naman Ahuja and Dr. Arshiya Sethi.
71. Panel Discussion on the topic of " Cultural Governance" on Friday, 13th April 2018 in Gulmohar Hall Habitat from 7:00-8:30pm. Panelists: Dr. Purushottam Aggarwal, Mr. Suresh Goel and Dr. Arshiya Sethi.
72. 21st April, presented an edition of DanzLenz, at the Natya Ballet Centre, Delhi, as part of a promenade performance evening called the INSIDE/OUTSIDE Performance Evening, to mark the occasion of World Dance day.
73. March 11th 2018: Panel Discussion on “Dance, Self, Community: Why Do you Dance?” an event examining the impact of dance and dance performance on individuals and society through an interactive talk on dance and community, at The Cowles Centre, Minneapolis.
74. 8th February, 2018: “It’s there in Black and White: Triple Talaq and other Issues In Dance” in the Dance and Social Justice Class at the Barbara Barker Centre for Dance, Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota.
75. 30th January, 2018: “Politics, Performance and Patronage: The Problematic in the National Recognition of the Dance of Assam’s Sattras”, University of Austin Texas. ( A Fulbright Outreach Lecture).
76. 26th January, 2018:“The Impact of State Governance on the Arts: Lessons from India”at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Texas. (A Fulbright Outreach Lecture).
77. 24th January, 2018: “Why we need to Project our Heritage in Modern Times: Looking at an Example of Language Heritage in India” - talk for the Class- ‘Spanish 1373’, for students who are heritage speakers of Spanish, at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Texas. ( A Fulbright Outreach Lecture).
78. 17th January, 2018- Talk- “Politics, Performance and Patronage: The Problematic in the National Recognition of the Dance of Assam’s Sattras” at the Department of World Arts & Dance, University of California, Los Angeles.
79. 16th January, 2018 – Screening of Indian Dance films and discussion at World Arts & Dance, University of California, Los Angeles.
80. 30th November, 2017: Illustrated talk as part of the ‘Thursdays at IAS’ series, for the Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis. “Politics, Performance and Patronage: The Problematic in the National Recognition of the Dance of Assam’s Sattras”.
81. 21st November, 2017: Barbra Barker Centre, Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, CLA, University of Minnesota at Minneapolis “Body and Belief in Sattriya: Content and Context in this Recently Recognised National Dance from Assam”.
82. 15th November, 2017: “Eat, Pray but no Love: Food and Politics in India Today” for the Interdisciplinary Centre for the Study of Global Change, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities Campus.
83. 27th October, 2017: “It is there in Black and White: Triple Talaq and Other issues in Dance”, as part of the panel on "Interfacing through Cultural Performances: Identity, Diaspora and Activism," which I also moderated, at the South Asia Conference at Madison, Wisconsin. ( 26th- 28th October 2017).
84. 26th October, 2017 :“The Sudden and Unexpected Recognition of Sattriya: More a Political Decision rather than a Recognition of its Artistic Merit”, paper presented at the North East Pre Conference, South Asia Conference, Madison, Wisconsin. ( 26th- 28th October 2017).
85. 20th October, 2017 :“Dancing the Nation: The First Inter- University Youth Festival, 1954 and the Changing Profile of Indian Artistes”  as part of the CORD- SDHS Conference at Ohio State University, Columbus Ohio.( 19th -22nd October, 2017).
86. 3rd October, 2017: 4 - 5 pm Walter Library- “Dancing What’s there in Black & White: Triple Talaq and other issues impacting Indian Muslim Women”; A Woman’s Centre Event, University of Minnesota.
87. Conducted a four session ( 90 mins each) course on “Dilli/ Delhi- India’s Capital City: Exploring its Stories, Sites, Sights and Scenes” for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) of the University of Minnesota ( 21st & 28th Sept & 5th & 12th October, 2017).
88. On popular demand, repeated the four session ( 90 mins each) course on “People, Palaces, and Cultures:A Peek at the Cultural Diversity of India” for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) of the University of Minnesota (22nd & 29th September and 6th & 13th October, 2017.)
89. Conducted a four session ( 90 mins each) course on “People, Palaces, and Cultures:A Peek at the Cultural Diversity of India” for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) of the University of Minnesota ( 5th, 12th 19th & 26th June ).
90. “It Is There In Black And White: Triple Talaq and Other Issues In Dance”, paper presented at Hunter College, City University of New York’s South Asia Seminar “ Stages in Transition: South Asia and the Diaspora”, New York, on 29th April 2017.
91. January 31st, 2017:  “Dancing the Nation: The First Inter-University Youth Festival, 1954 and the Changing Profile of Indian Artistes” at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi.
92. “Chutney Music: A Doubly Distilled Diaspora Art”, keynote address for the Conference organized by the Centre for Diaspora Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala, 4th November, 2016.
93. “Shrinking Locally, Validated Internationally: The Peculiar Case of the Dance of the Vaishnav Monks of Assam”, paper presented at the World Dance Alliance (WDA) conference in Seoul, Korea, 21st to 24th July, 2016.
94. “Staging the Vrindavani Vastra” – Lead the Q&A session at the British Museum, London with Dr. Bhabananda Barbayan, Monk from the Uttar Kamalabari monastery, Majuli Island and choreographer of the dance performance based on the medieval textile, the Vrindavani Vastra, and Anwesa Mahanta, Sattriya dancer and independent scholar. Part of British Museum’s Conference ‘Assam: Textile, Transmission and the Performance of Dance”; 8th- 9th, July 2016 (This will be transcribed and included in the Publication produced by the British Museum).
95. “The Body in Sattriya”-paper presented at the **‘**The Body Rediscovered in Modern Indian Art- A One Day Multi Disciplinary Seminar’organized by Prof. Harsha Dehejia, Adjunct Research Professor, College of Humanities, Carleton University, Canada at India International Centre, New Delhi; 6th February, 2016.
96. “Creativity in Sattriya” <http://www.sankaradeva.com/blogs/187>; Blog of Dr Sanjib Bokakoti; March 27, 2016.
97. “Taal and Percussion in the Sattriya Tradition” – A Music Appreciation Programme (MAP) series lecture at India International Centre- 20th May, 2015.
98. “Technology, Training, Field work, Funding: Creating an Arts Archive for a City” Lecture at Jadavpur University, Kolkata -14th December, 2014.
99. “Dance and the Nation”, paper presented as part of the ‘International Seminar on Philosophy of Culture’, organized by the Department of Cultural Studies, Tezpur University and the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, 1st April, 2014.
100. “Dance and The Nation: An Illustrated Talk”, India Cultural Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 28th January, 2012.
101. “The Many Opportunities of Lifelong Engagement with Dance”- Sutra Foundation, Malaysia, 27th January, 2012 .
102. “The Theory of Cultural Rights and Different Approaches to Preserving and Archiving Assam’s Vaishnavite Culture”, paper presented at the National Seminar on Shankardeva, organized by the Asom Sattra Mahasabha, Delhi, 16th October, 2011.
103. “Sattriya’s Journey from Sattra to Stage”- Lecture given at the Attic as part of the Sacred Arts Festival, Delhi, 18th February, 2011.
104. “Performance and Perception: Social Class Issues in a Theatre Experiment”- paper presented at the 31st All India Sociological Conference, Jammu University- 25th -27th October, 2005.
105. “Sattriya: A Dance of Resistance” presented at the Congress on research in Dance at Taipei, Taiwan, August, 2004.
106. “Sattriya: The Classical Dance of Assam” at the New York Public Library of the Arts, New York, 3rd April, 2004.
107. “Masks and Myths in Indian Performing Arts” at Pace University, New York, March, 26th, 2004.
108. “Negotiating an Agenda for Contemporary Performing Arts-Locating coordinates in India” at the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, February, 2004.
109. A series of talks on aspects of Indian culture and performance during first Fulbright tenure at Barnard College, New York, Wesleyan University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Chicago and the Carnegie Mellon University, 2003-2004.
110. Article based on the Talk “Challenges Before Sattriya Today”, 2003 <http://www.janasadharan.com/yat/31.html>.
111. “Sacred to Secular: The Sattriya Dance of Assam” at the Seminar on The Philosophy of Indian Dramatic Arts and Value Education organised by the Indian Council of Philosophical Research and the International Forum for India’s Heritage, Delhi, 6th April, 2002.
112. “Sattriya: The Challenges Ahead”, 6th Ambikagiri Memorial Lecture, at Guwahati, 3rd January, 2002.

* **Workshops & other Scholarship Opportunities**
* Conducted a workshop on “Decoding Abhinaya in Indian Dance” for the Odissi dance students of the Krishnaveni School of dance at Irving Texas in February 2017.
* Conducted a workshop on Decoding Abhinaya in Indian dance for the dancers of the Austin Dance School of Anu Nayampally at Austin, Texas in February 2017
* Conducted two workshops on **Cultural Sensitivities** for the University of Minnesota’s Cultural Corps Division ( October 2017 & February 2018)
* Conducted a workshop on Decoding Abhinaya in Indian dance for the dancers of the Kathak Rhythms Dance School in Plano, Texas in February 2017
* C**ontributor of 75 modules to the Post Graduate degree course on dance** that will be available on the University Grants Commission’s e-portal, ‘E-Pathshala’.
* Conducted **workshops on “Rasa”, “Rasaswadan” and “The Philosophy and Practice of Abhinaya, the Expressional Aspect of Dance”** at national institutions in India such as NSD (National School of Drama- 2015, 1997 & 1995), & dance centers and Universities abroad- Austin, Tx, USA (Austin Dance India, 2018); Irvine, Tx, USA (Nataraj Odissi Kalamandir, 2018); Silver Springs, Md, USA ( Sutradhar Institute of Dance and Related Arts- 2017); Plano, TX, USA ( Kathak Rhythms, 2017); Montreal, Canada (Kala Bharati Foundation,1998); London, UK ( a. Akademi of Indian Dance and Music, 1992; b. Middlesex University, 1992).
* **Fellowships, Prizes, Awards & Scholarships**
* City of Dallas Honour for multifaceted contribution to the arts- August 2017
* Twice a recipient of the **Fulbright Fellowship, in different disciplines. (**First Fellowship in 2003 as an Arts Fellow, attached to the Lincoln Centre, New York, and second Fellowship as a Fulbright Post Doctoral Fellow in 2016 at University of Minnesota at Minneapolis).
* Distinguished Alumna Award- Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University
* Rector’s prize, Delhi University,1977
* Delhi University Entrance Exam Scholarship

**Public Commentary**

* Served as **Dance Critic for the Times of India**, Delhi for five years, starting 1987, and has subsequently to several national publications over the following years.
* Presently writes a column on Personalities in the arts, for the iconic fortnightly magazine **‘Tehelka’**
* Presently writing a monthly column called “Soch”, in **‘Narthaki’** on issues around the arts
* For almost four decades she has been active on the national broadcasting agencies

(All **India Radio aka AIR, and Television aka Doordarshan**), working on creating cultural programmes, curating from archives and being part of committees looking at the future of these mediums and at their role with respect to arts and culture. (The Radio feature made for **AIR**, on the dance form of Bharatnatyam, almost forty years ago, was shortlisted for the Asian Broadcasting Union award.)

* **Doordarshan** – interlocutor for the National Programme for Dance and Music, for thirty five years.
* Contributed to the effort, and joined the committees that looked at the preservation and archiving of the immense digital material in the possession of Doordarshan and AIR.
* Part of the Union Government’s **Ministry of Culture’s expert panel for the grant of Junior and Senior Fellowships in the New Areas of the Arts- 2010-2012**.
* Been part of discussions and **Round tables for the Ministry of Human Resource Development via National Council for Education Research and Training (NCERT) and the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to develop educational content.**
* Member of **several high level expert committees of the government** - the Committee on the review of the Zonal Cultural Centers ( Ministry of Culture), Doordarshan’s Committee for the Evaluation of the Possibilities and Potential of its Archives, Doordarshan’s selection Committees for up gradation of Artistes for purposes of recordings etc.

**Administrative Leadership**

* An **institution builder,** with the distinction of having built tangible and intangible cultural equities. The pioneering work done at the India Habitat Centre, and later at Poorva Sanskriti Kendra in East Delhi, has created highly coveted **permanent free performance space for the benefit of the artistes’ community.**
* Played a critical role in developing and establishing several intangible cultural properties like **cultural festivals** (Delhi International Arts Festival, Rangayan Festival in Guwahati, Ahmedabad International Arts Festival, Dilli Ka Apna Utsav, Fifteen Minute Fringe Festival, etc). These Festivals are both large scale, enhancing the cultural quotient of the city, or focused and niche focusing on specific arts, often those that are fast disappearing, like the salon music concerts called ‘Baithak’ and the Dance and the Camera Festival- DanzLenz.
* Till October 2016, engaged with creating an **International, Asia level, Television Dance Showcase** that would succeed in catapulting uncelebrated but extremely talented artistes on to a global stage.
* Established **Kri Foundation**, a **Not for Profit Organization dedicated to the arts, and arts scholarship,** that has been working in the field for over 12 years. The Dilli ka Apna Utsav (Delhi’s own Festival), DanzLenz and The Fifteen Minute Fringe Festivals are cultural equities that it has built up over the years. The NGO offers residencies to Indian and international artistes and no less than 50 artistes have benefitted from this facility. Kri Foundation has been supported at some time or the other by some of the leading government bodies like the Ministry of Culture, Sangeet Natak Akademi (The National Academy for the Arts), Indian Council for Cultural Relations ( the Ministry of External Affairs’ Cultural Diplomacy wing) etc.

**Consulting Experience**

* Advisor to DD Bharati, India’s only Television Channel dedicated to Arts & Culture- May 2014 to October 2016.
* Founder and Managing Trustee, Kri Foundation a Not for Profit Organization that works in the Arts, Social Development and the Building of New Knowledge- Currently, since August, 2003.
* Consultant, with the Sangeet Natak Akademi, for the Kathak Kendra, the National Institute for Kathak Dance, for the fiftieth year programming and public- private partnerships- November 2014-April- 2015.
* Executive Director, Delhi International Arts Festival. Pioneered, India’s largest multi arts, multi venue, multi nation, Cultural Festival- October 2007- March 2010.
* Vice President, Programmes at Poorva Sanskriti Kendra, New Delhi, June- December 2005.
* Consultant, Networking and Communications, United Nation’s Organisation for Drugs and Crime, ( Regional Office for South Asia), to pioneer the collaborative UNODC- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India’s Project for the Prevention of Drugs and Drug driven HIV- October 2005-October 2007. (Here one of the deliverables was to forge an engagement with eminent artistes from all over India, to become Ambassadors against Drugs and Trafficking.)
* **Consulted regularly by the Travel and Tourism sector, for expert inputs in the curation, presentation, and showcasing of Indian arts.** Has done several flagship programmes, including curating the cultural programme for a visit of the Aga Khan, at a select venue in Agra that silhouetted the performance against the iconic Taj Mahal. While working for the tourism sector took care to ensure that the diversity of Indian arts would find representation, that the authentic voice would be upheld and that the arts would get their respectful place without any compromise.
* Fulbright Fellow for the Arts, at Lincoln Centre, New York ( November 2003-April 2004).
* Creative Head (Culture and Entertainment- Programming), India Habitat Centre. Created a seminal addition to Delhi’s intellectual and cultural life, through a rich and free access calendar of cultural showcases and activities across all arts, and built a forum for robust discussions around Habitat and Civil Society issues. For the artistes this model created an opportunity to access the most prestigious performance venue, to showcase their work, pro bono, unlike other auditoriums that all charge a high fee (April 1994- August 2004).
* Hosted “Sneak Preview”, India’s first Television programme that served as an all India preview of forthcoming performances- 2001-2002.
* Dance Critic, Times of India- 1987- 1992.
* Host to the National Programme of Dance and Music on Doordarshan’s National Channel for almost 30 years- 1980-2010.

**Activism/Service**

* Board Chair and founder member of the YP Foundation, a youth driven and youth directed, ‘Not for profit’ organization dedicated to developing potential in young people- <http://www.theypfoundation.org/new-page-1/> ([www.theypfoundation.org](http://www.theypfoundation.org)).
* Established, as Founder Member and Managing Trustee- **Kri Foundation,** dedicated to the Arts, Social Development Issues and the development of Knowledge. Some of Kri’s best known initiatives in the Arts are-

- “Dasham Dakshinam”, the thanksgiving programming in its tenth year, including path breaking shows – “Black & White” with Kathak dancer rani Khanum ( on the rights of Indian Muslim Women with respect to the Muslim personal law); “Shwetamukti” ( The feminine search for nirvana) with Odissi dancer Kavita Dwivedi, “ Mad & Divine” ( a performance around the voice of women bhakti poets) with Bharatanatyam dancer Rama Vaidyanathan; “The Flight of Birds”, also with Bharatanatyam Dancer Rama Vaidyanathan, to draw attention to the vulnerabilities of Birdlife (This was recorded for national television and is part of its archives); and “Eleni of Sparta” an Indo Greek retelling, as a danced story, by New York based Performance artiste Rajika Puri.

-The ‘Dilli Ka Apna Utsav’ – A cultural festival based on the tangible and intangible heritage and traditional Arts of Delhi.

-The mixed media and multi city ‘Mohana Festival.’

-The ‘Fifteen Minute Fringe Festival’ a curation of avant garde and collaborative performances that bring together the unexpected.

-‘Danzlenz’- the Dance and the Camera Festival, Seminars & Showcases, highlights of which include:

1. DanzLenz showing for Natya Balet Centre’s 3rd Inside/Outside event-21st April 2018
2. Interactive Screenings of films based on contemporary Dance Performance in India, from the collection of Danzlenz, as part of the DanSe DialogueS Festival organized by the Embassy of France, April 24th, 2014.
3. Interactive Workshop with screenings of Dance Films from the DanzLenz collection for “Interface”- The International Festival of Dance, organized by Sapphire Creations in Kolkata, September 24th- 25th , 2012.
4. Interactive Workshop with screenings of Dance Films from the DanzLenz collection at Potti Sriramulu Telugu University, Hyderabad, November 26th & 27th, 2007.
5. International seminar, workshop and showcase featuring Anna Brady Nuse of the dance for the camera festival at Lincoln Centre, Jody Kaplan, New York based dance film maker and Canadian film maker Evann Seibenns- 2006.

-The North East initiatives (Showcases and Awareness workshops).

-Kri Residencies. Kri Foundation hosts residencies. Over 50 residencies, with 25% for overseas artistes and scholars, have been offered since its formation. Kri Foundations long and short stay free residencies for scholars and artistes are very popular both in India and abroad. Recently its longest staying residency (nearly 1 year) was for SNA awardee, VK. Sharma and his family (four people) and was created in response to the tragedy that befell him.

-Kri Foundation has worked with arts for international organizations, with international artistes and in international settings, such as:

i) International Labour Organization on Child Labor (in this case we worked with child labor to create a performance that gave preventive messages and the protective protocol to a general public including children, industrial and labor communities and the general public).

ii) United Nation’s Office on Drugs and Crime on issues of Human Trafficking and Drug Abuse, and creating a band of Ambassadors from among artistes who could spread this message and information.

iii) World Food Programme and the Embassy of India in Kabul, where mime artiste Niranjan Goswami was selected and sent by Kri Foundation on behalf of the Government of India and the WFP to add value to the Nutritional supplement programme that was being run for the children of Afghanistan. (Niranjan Goswani went on to conduct the first mime workshop at the Kabul University’s Theatre Department).

iv) Kri Foundation has presented several international artistes in India, including artistes from the Cirque Du Soliel, the ‘Din and Tonic’ a capella singers of Harvard University, the students choir from Texas University, and other artistes from countries as diverse as Malaysia, France, United Kingdom, Canada, Bangladesh and USA, encouraging always interactions with Indian artistes.

-Social activities with children, adolescents, women and girls, and marginalized communities of homeless, drug addicts and prisoners of Tihar Jail. Many of these activities use the role of the Arts to carry the messages more powerfully.

-Walks and talks with marginalized communities, to engage them with City Culture.

-Kri also intervenes on issues of Gender sensitivity, sexual harassment and child protection with the police and community officers. Our Kathak dance programme that looked at the rights of Indian Muslim women under Indian Muslim personal law- ‘Black & White’- generated much interest from the Police and NGOs working on the ground on minorities’ issues.

* Kri Foundation subscribes staunchly to an **equal access to the arts, and cultural life,** and has worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between un-served neglected and marginalized communities and the arts. Regular cultural programmes are conducted at **Tihar Jail** in an attempt to help this severely restricted population, access the arts. To familiarize Delhi students to the rich culture of Northeast India, especially in the wake of the shameful recent racist attacks, regular workshops are conducted to create respect for the region and its people in Delhi’s private and government schools.
* Imaginatively **harmonized social concerns like** gender equality, human trafficking and Drug and substance abuse, environmental issues and the built and natural heritage, **with artistic and aesthetic exploration**.
* Member of the Indian National Trust for Art Culture and Heritage (INTACH): Contributed to the Intangible heritage component of the dossier that went to UNESCO pitching for Delhi’s inscription as a World Heritage City. Was invited to be on the Board of the Delhi Chapter of INTACH. Contributed to the Exhibition on “Delhi- A Living Heritage” and wrote a chapter for the Book that accompanied it. Called in frequently as an expert on the Intangible Heritage of Delhi. Conducted the two day Seminar on the Intangible Heritage of Delhi for INTACH; Conducted heritage awareness activities at Delhi’s schools; Presented before the ICOMOS Technical Evaluation Mission Committee that had come to evaluate the dossier, on 9th October, 2014.
* Member: Indian Trust for Rural Heritage and Development- Anchored the performing arts component of the Azamgarh Festival 2014 & 2015.
* Member, India International Centre, a frequent contributor to their publications, and regularly featured on their Programme Calendar.
* Member, Delhibird, a network of bird watchers and activists. Part of several bird ringing and bird health monitoring Camps held in collaboration with Bombay Natural History Society at Corbett National Park, Chambal River Valley and Sultanpur National Park area. Active in organizing talks and bird walks, as well as cultural programmes around the theme of bird life. Created a programme in the Bharat Natyam style around awareness of Birds and their Habitat, along with renowned dancer Rama Vaidyanathan.
* Member, India Habitat Centre and a frequent presence on their Cultural Calendar.
* Member, World Wildlife Fund, where Kri Foundation showcased a specialized programming on World Dance Day, accompanied by a workshop for children on bird movement and bird life.