

Bangladesh Faculty Training Workshop 2018 Summary

After a competitive application process, eight scholars from high--ranking institutions in Bangladesh and one from Sri Lanka were selected to participate in the faculty training workshop on writing and publishing in the U.S. In April 2018, nine scholars came for a one--week residency at the Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh. Co--sponsored by the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), and hosted by the Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies, this workshop provided a space for junior faculty from Bangladesh and Sri Lanka to learn about research methodologies, writing and the publishing process from UC Berkeley faculty.

Drs. Bokhtiar Ahmed, (Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Rajshahi); Fhamida Yasmin, (Assistant Professor of Gender and Women's Studies, University of Dhaka); Seuty Sabur, (Associate Professor of Anthropology, BRAC University); Kajalie Shehreen Islam, (Assistant Professor of Mass Communication and Journalism, University of Dhaka); Janaki Jayawardena, (Lecturer of History, University of Colombo); Khadija Mitu, (Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Chittagong); Mahruba Mowtushi, (Associate Professor of English, ULAB); Fahmida Akhter, (Associate Professor of Drama and Dramatics, Jahangirnagar University); Harisur Rahman, (Assistant Professor of Political Science, Sociology, North South University) arrived at UC Berkeley on Monday, April 23 for their one week residency at the Chowdhury Center. The first day of the workshop, led by Professors Clare Talwalker and Poulomi Saha, focused on writing a strong introduction and on how to conduct literature review and how to frame the theoretical constructs of their papers respectively.

The second substantive day of the workshop, led by Professors Abhishek Kaicker and Jeanne Merecek, focused on how to perform archival research (which included a visit to the South Asia library) and on qualitative methods respectively. From Professor Isha Ray, the faculty learned how to hone their research design, to deconstruct a paper and how to present their own research on Day 3. On the fourth day, the faculty spent a day with graduate students, Rahul Verma and Anirvan Chowdhury, learning how to best use quantitative methods and how to develop their surveys.

On the final day of the workshop at UC Berkeley, Dr. Sanchita Saxena, provided a summary of the topics covered in the previous days and used the scholars' papers and revisions to show how the material was being incorporated into the individual papers. Professor Talwalker returned to workshop their introductions and provide tips on the publishing process. During the week, faculty members were able to attend lectures by Dr. Naomi Hossain (Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex) and by Rajeeb and Nadia Samdani (founders of the Samdani Art Foundation and the Dhaka Art Summit).

Following the end of the workshop at UC Berkeley, the faculty presented their final workshopped papers at a day long symposium titled, [Rethinking Gender, Identity and Popular Culture in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka: A Faculty Research Conference](#).

The Subir and Malini Chowdhury Center for Bangladesh Studies and the American Institute for Bangladesh Studies really enjoyed being able to host these nine phenomenal scholars and we look forward to similar workshops in the future!