

**LIZA DAS**

Professor of English  
(Literary and Cultural Theory)

**Contact Information**

Office Room No. 204, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences,  
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**Employment**

Professor since August 2015, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati  
Associate Professor, April 2006 to August 2015, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati  
Assistant Professor, January 2001 to April 2006, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati  
Lecturer, Department of English, August 1992 to January 2001, Cotton College, Guwahati  
Research Fellow, 1991 to 1992, Dibrugarh University  
Lecturer, 1990 to 1991, Department of English, B. Barooah College, Guwahati

**Education**

Matriculation: 1983, with distinction in History, Mathematics and WE, from St. Mary's English High School, Guwahati  
Higher Secondary/Pre-University: Arts, 1985, Cotton College, Gauhati University, Topper (Rank 1)  
Bachelor's degree: English Major, 1988, Cotton College, Gauhati University, Topper (Rank 1)  
Masters degree: English, 1990, University of Delhi, New Delhi  
NET: English, 1991, University Grants Commission, New Delhi  
Doctorate: 1996, Department of English, Dibrugarh University, Assam

**Courses taught at IIT Guwahati**

HS 101 English  
HS 102 Literary Responses to Science and Technology  
HS 209 Meaning: Texts and Contexts  
HS 214 Cultural Theory and Practice  
HS 308 Language and Communication  
HS 404 Literature and Cognition  
HS 512 Critical Development Theory  
HS 713 Criticism: Theory and Application  
HS 720 Cultural Theory and Interpretation

## Doctoral Theses Supervision

Merry Baruah Bora, Family in Selected Novels of Shashi Deshpande, 2004-2010

Papori Rani Barooah, William Gibson's *Neuromancer* as Cyberpunk: A Thematic Study, 2006-2012

Mohammed Sohail Ahmed, Metaphors in Jhumpa Lahiri's Fiction, 2007-2012, with Prof Krishna. Barua

Jnana Ranjan Prusty, Conflicting Technological Systems in Textile Industry: A Study of Selected Handloom and Powerloom Industries in Odisha, 2008-2014, with Dr S. Mallick

Payel Chakrabarti, ongoing, A Study of Media Representation with Reference to Reporting of Violence in Assam, with Dr Sambit Mallick

Dhrubajyoti Malakar, ongoing, Riverscapes, Seasons and Love: A Study of Romanticism in Bhupen Hazarika's Lyrics, with Prof Krishna Barua

Dibyajyoti Borah, ongoing, Trauma and the Colonial Encounter: A Study of Selected Assamese Fiction

Ratan Deka, ongoing, Trauma of Displacement: A Study of Selected Contemporary Assamese Novels

Arfan Hussain, ongoing, Skepticism in Selected Essays of Emerson

Pallavi Gogoi, ongoing, The Autobiographies of Maya Angelou: Critical Perspectives on Crime and Deviance

## Masters (Development Studies) Dissertation Supervision

Biswajit Nath, Alternative Discourses on Development: Reading Syed Farid Alatas, 2013

## Publications

### Books

Das, Liza. 2005. *Gender, Culture and Writing*. Guwahati: Anwesha (ISBN 81-89003-18-6).

Das, Liza and Uttara Debi (eds.) 2005. *Natural Selection and Literature: A Companion*. Kolkata and Guwahati: BaniPrakash (ISBN 81-7643-054-4).

Das, Liza (ed. and introd.) 2005. *Daughter of Brahma and With Christ in Assam*. By Elizabeth E. Vickland. Guwahati: Anwesha (ISBN 81-89003-19-4).

### Book Chapters

Ahmed, Sohail and Liza Das. Forthcoming. "Bhalonam and Daknam: Metaphors, Names and Naming in Jhumpa Lahiri's *The Namesake*." *Negotiations 4*.

Borah, Dibyajyoti and Liza Das. Forthcoming. "Who speaks, who listens? Representing Tribal Women in Assamese Literature." *Writing from the Periphery: Women in/from the Northeast*, NEHU. Eds. L.C. Gracy et. al.

Borah, Dibyajyoti and Liza Das. 2012. "Ethnicity and the Colonial Encounter in Post-Independence Assamese Fiction: A Reading of *Rongmilir Hanhi, Iyaruingom* and *Ejaak Manuh Ekhan Aranya*." *Problematics on Ethnicity, Identity and Literature*. Eds. A.C. Barua and H.K. Nath. Guwahati: ISEIL / SPS India. 311-16.

Deka, Ratan and Liza Das. 2012. "Ethnicity, Identity and Trauma: Exploring Displacement in Uma Kanta Sharma's *Ejaak Manuh Ekhan Aranya*." *Problematics on Ethnicity, Identity and Literature*. Eds. A.C. Barua and H.K. Nath, Guwahati: ISEIL / SPS India, 2012. 105-11.

Chakrabarti, Payel and Liza Das, 2012, "Negative Representation of North East India Sells News," *Issues of Media Policy, Regulations and Ethics*, ed. Amrisha Saxena, New Delhi: Kanishka, 148-55.

Das, Liza, 2009. "Renegade Renunciate: The Aghora Trilogy of/on Vimalananda." *Traditional Knowledge Systems of India*, Ed. V. Chariar. New Delhi: IIT Kharagpur and Viveka Foundation. 21-29.

Das, Liza, 2008. "Manual Heroism: A Note on Edward W. Said's Presidential Address to the MLA." In *Edward Said and the Politics of Culture*. Ed. B. Choudhury. Guwahati: BPP Publications, pp. 99-110.

Das, Liza, 2007. "Interrogating Culture: Sexuality, Madness and Marxism in the London Novels of Doris Lessing." *Studies in Women Writers in English* Vol. VI. Eds. Mohit K. Ray and Rama Kundu. New Delhi: Atlantic Publishers, 20-42.

Das, Liza and Braj Bhushan. 2005. "From Hard Poetics to Situated Reading: A Cognitive-Empirical Study of Imagery and Graded Figurative Language." In *Cognition and Literary Interpretation in Practice*. Eds. B. Petterson, H. Veivo and M. Polvinen. Helsinki: University of Helsinki Press, 219-36.

Das, Liza and Merry Baruah. 2005. "Conceptual Blending and Narratives: Cognitive Perspectives on Shashi Deshpande's *A Matter of Time*". *Writing Difference: Reading Shashi Deshpande's Novels*. Ed. C. K. Naik. New Delhi: Pencraft International. 177-189.

Das, Liza, trans. 2005. "The Holy Dip" by Anima Dutta. In *Earth Songs: Stories from Northeast India*. Ed. K.C. Baral. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi. 143-152.

Das, Liza, 2004. "The Reinstatement of Rationality: Cognitive Science Rethinks Modernity." In *Rethinking Modernity*. Eds. S. Gupta, P. C. Kar and P. Dave-Mukherjee. New Delhi: Pencraft International, 208-18.

Das Liza, trans. 2003. "The Bride" by Mamoni Raisom Goswami. In *Asomiya: Handpicked Fictions*. New Delhi: Katha Publications. 86-95.

Das, Liza, trans. 2000. "As Days Roll By" by Anima Dutta. In *Woman: A Collection of Assamese Short Stories*. New Delhi: Spectrum Publishers. 230-41.

### Articles in Journals

Borah, Dibya Jyoti and Liza Das, 2014. "Trauma and Testimony in Mamoni Raisom Goswami's *Pages Stained with Blood*." *Literary Endeavour* 5.2: 1-5.

Bora, Merry Baruah and Liza Das, 2012. "The Body in the Family Politic: Reading Shashi Deshpande's *Moving On* and *In the Country of Deceit*." *The Atlantic Literary Review* 13.1(Jan-March):96-111.

Bora, Merry Baruah and Liza Das, 2012. "Quest for Identity: A Reading of Shashi Deshpande's *Small Remedies*." *Negotiations* 2 (2012): 24-29.

Barooah, Paporani Rani and Liza Das, 2012. "'Consensual Hallucination': Mapping Cyborg Society in William Gibson's *Neuromancer*." *The Atlantic Critical Review* 11.2 (April-June): 123-56.

Bora, Merry Baruah and Liza Das, 2010. "Myths in Shashi Deshpande's *The Dark Holds No Terrors* and *A Matter of Time*," *DUJES* 18: 50-62.

Das, Liza, 2008. "Infidel Heteroglossia: A Bakhtinian Comment on Cyborology," *JICPR (Journal of Indian Council of Philosophical Research)* 23.4:188-96.

Barooah, Paporani Rani and Liza Das, 2008. "Artificial Intelligence and Computer Story Generators." *Protocol* II: 26-39.

Barooah, Paporani Rani and Liza Das, 2008. "Hard Texts and Hypertexts: A Case for Intertextuality," *Quills* 3:19-30.

Das, Liza, 2008, "Autonomy/Self-fashioning: Foucauldian Perspectives on Subnationalism". *Research Journal of Contemporary Concerns* 4:3-7.

Das, Liza, trans. 2008 "The Cry of the Crane" by Arundhati Dutta. *Indian Literature (Sahitya Akademi)*.

- Das, Liza. 2005. "Cognitive Science, Technology and Narratives: Towards a Model for a Pragmatic Approach". *Academic Exchange* June-July.
- Das, Liza, 2005. "Comfort Man". Special issue on "Citing Cities", *EnterText* 5.2 Winter 2005/6
- Das, Liza, trans. 2005. "Golam" by Saurabh Kumar Chaliha, *Postcolonial Text* 1.2
- Das, Liza, 2005. "From Great Households to Rooms of Their Own: A Cultural Account of Early British Women Writers". *Atlantic Critical Review* 4.3 (July-September): 36-60.
- Das, Liza, 2005. "Interrogating Culture: Sexuality, Madness and Marxism in the London Novels of Doris Lessing". *Atlantic Critical Review* 4.1 (January-March): 22-42.
- Das, Liza, 2005. "Reading Conversion Contrapuntally". *Journal of the Department of English, Gauhati University* 5 (March 2004): 82-85.
- Das, Liza, 2004. "Cognitive Science, Technology and Narratives". *Research Journal of Contemporary Concerns* 2: 11-15.
- Das, Liza, 2004. "Body, AghoraSadhana, and Contemporary Consciousness Studies". *Electronic Journal of Indian Culture and Society* 2 (Winter 2004) (IIT Kharagpur).
- Das, Liza, trans. 2004. "Break-Journey" by Saurabh Kumar Chaliha, *Drastaa: A Literary Journal* 1: 35-47.
- Das, Liza, 2004. "American Evangelist Writing in North East India". *Asian Quarterly* (May & August) 2.5/6: 80-93.
- Das, Liza, and Abhigyan Prasad. 2004. "The Topographical Imperative: Locale and Poetic Identity". *Negotiations* 1.1: 62-73.
- Das, Liza, trans. 2003. "The Holy Dip" by Anima Dutta. *The NEHU Journal* 1.3: 94 – 105.
- Das, Liza, 2001. "Representations of the East". *Cotton College Research Journal* I: 33-44.
- Das, Liza, 2000. "'Isolated Free Choosers': Existentialist Heroes in the Novels of Iris Murdoch". *Journal of the Department of English, University of Burdwan* XI-XII.1: 60-69.
- Das, Liza, 1997. "Women and Empire: Women Protagonists in the African Novels of Doris Lessing". *Dibrugarh University Journal of English Studies* 12: 85-96.
- Das, Liza, 1997. "The Dialectics of Form and Content: An Introduction to Russian Formalism". *Dialogue* II: 17-28.
- Das, Liza, 1997. "Mapping Postcolonialism". *Summerhill*, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, India. pp 23, 25.
- Das, Liza, 1996. "Feminist Critical Practice and the Idea of a Male Medusa". *Journal of the Department of English, Gauhati University* 1: 50-60.

### Conference papers

- Barooah, Paporani Rani and Liza Das, 2015, "Recrafting Human Bodies: Metamorphosis of the Human into the Cyborg in William Gibson's *Neuromancer*," IJAS conference, Malta, March 2-6.
- Borah, Dibya Jyoti and Liza Das, 2013, "Trauma and Mourning: The absent spaces of Japanese Soldiers in Guwahati War Cemetery", International Conference of Indian History Congress, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, on 28-30 December.
- Hussain, Arfan and Liza Das, 2013. "Class, Literature and Assamese Modernity: Perspectives from Hiren Gohain's Criticism," National Conference on Vernacular Modernities, Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Hyderabad, September 24-27.
- Hussain, Arfan and Liza Das, 2013, "The Global, the Glocal and the Postmodern: Perspectives from Selected Works of Hiren Gohain," International Seminar on Globalisation to Glocalisation, Bodoland University, October 4-6, 2013.
- Borah, Dibya Jyoti and Liza Das, 2012, "Ethnicity and the Colonial Encounter in Post-Independence Assamese Fiction: A Reading of *Rongmilir Hanhi*, *Iyaruingom* and *Ejaak Manuh EkhonAranya*," International Conference on *Ethnicity, Identity and Literature*, organised by Sibsagar College, IDOL, Gauhati University, Assam, October 11-14.

Borah, Dibya Jyoti and Liza Das, 2012, "Trauma and the Other: Home and the World in Mamoni Raisom Goswami's *Tezaru Dhulire Dhuxarito Pristha (Pages Stained with Blood)*," UGC National Seminar on *Contemporary Assamese Literature*, Central College, Jorhat, Assam, May 5-6.

Borah, Dibya Jyoti and Liza Das, 2012, "Ruins of Memory: Trauma and Testimony in Primo Levi's *If This is a Man*," UGC National Seminar on *Life Writing : Its Frontiers and Dynamics*, Department of English, H.P.B. Girls' College, Golaghat, Assam, August 31-1 September.

Deka, Ratan and Liza Das, 2012, "Ethnicity, Identity and Trauma: Exploring Displacement in Uma Kanta Sharma's *Ejak Manuh Ekhan Aranya*," International Conference on *Ethnicity, Identity and Literature*, organised by Sibsagar College, IDOL, Gauhati University, Assam, October 11-14.

Chakrabarti, Payel and Liza Das, 2012, "Negative Imaging of Northeast India with Reference to Media Marketisation," UGC National Seminar on *Journalism in the Age of New Media*, Surendranath College for Women, Kolkata, January 10-11.

Chakrabarti, Payel and Liza Das, 2011, "A study of communication for positive imaging through media representation with an ergonomic perception" International Conference on *Human Factors: Innovation and Usability in Product Development*, IIT Madras, December 15-17.

Chakrabarti, Payel and Liza Das, 2010, "Communication for Sustainable Perception Aiming at Children," National Conference on *Emerging Trends in Communication*, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun, December 21-13.

Chakrabarti, Payel and Liza Das, 2010, "Effective Media Representation: Referencing India's Northeast," National Conference on *Research Methodology in Journalism and Mass Communication: De-westernising Media Studies*, Tezpur University, November 26-28.

Das, Liza, 2007, "Eating Out: Perspectives from the Sociology of Consumption," National Conference on *Cultural History of Culinary Practices in Northeast India*, IIT Guwahati, December 1-2.

Bora, Merry Baruah and Liza Das, 2007, "Defamiliarising the Familiar: A Reading of Selected Short Stories of Shashi Deshpande". National Seminar on *Tradition and Transformation*, Sahitya Akademi, Guwahati, March 27-28.

Das, Liza, 2006, "Rasa, Dhvani and Santarasa: The Primacy of Affective Cognition in Sanskrit Literary Criticism". Biannual International Congress of *Internationale Gesellschaft für Empirische Literaturwissenschaft*, (IGEL), Munich, Germany, August 5-9.

Das, Liza, 2005, "Problems of Women in Enterprise Development". Regional Gender Forum, The World Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh, October 2-3.

Das, Liza, 2005, "The Birth of Self-Fashioning: Understanding Autonomy through Foucault". International Conference on *Critical Thinking: "What is Autonomy?"*, Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group and the Ford Foundation, Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata, July 29-30.

Das, Liza, and V. Prabhu, 2005, "Media Ontology and Democracy: A Theoretical Approach". National Seminar on *Mass Media and Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with Reference to Northeast India*. Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, NE Campus, Shillong, February 21-22.

Das, Liza, 2005, "'Powerful Infidel Heteroglossia': Reading Contemporary Cyborological Texts through Bakhtin". National Seminar on *Mikhail Bakhtin and the Aesthetics of Transgression*, Department of English, Gauhati University, January 4-6.

Das, Liza, 2004, "Cognitive Shakespeare: The New Direction in Shakespeare Criticism and its Relevance," International Conference on *Shakespeare across Cultures, 3<sup>rd</sup> World Shakespeare Conference*, Loreto College, Kolkata, India, December 5-8.

Das, Liza, 2004, "From Hard Poetics to Situated Interpretation: Broadening the Scope of Literary-Cognitive Studies". International Conference on *Cognition and Literary Interpretation in Practice* University of Helsinki, Finland, August 27-29.

Das, Liza, 2004, "Humanism / Heroism: Some Reflections on Edward Said's Presidential Address to the MLA". Seminar on *Edward W. Said and the Politics of Culture*, Department of English, Gauhati University, January 30-31.

Das, Liza, 2004, "Renegade Renunciate: The Aghora Trilogy of/on Vimalananda". National Conference on *Traditional Knowledge Systems of India*, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, January 9-11.

Das, Liza and Braj Bhushan, 2003. "The Grandeur is for Real: Modernity, Cognitive Science and the Reinstatement of Rationality". International Conference on *Rethinking Modernity*, University of Jaipur, sponsored by Forum for Contemporary Theory and India Studies Program, Louisiana State University, USA, December 14-17.

Das, Liza, 2003, "Narratives and Dynamical Systems: Some Reflections on Narratology and Cognitive Science." National Seminar on "*Narrative Theory and Practice*", Department of English and Foreign Languages, Tezpur University, February 11-12.

Das, Liza and Abhigyan Prasad, 2002, "The Topographical Imperative: Locale as Identity Constructor/Construct in Selected Poetry of the Northeast". *Fifth International Conference of Forum on Contemporary Theory and India Studies Program, University of Louisiana, Shreveport, USA, on "Constructing Identities: Local and Global*, Shillong, India. December 15-18.

Das, Liza, 1998, "Society, Senses and Sensibilities: Doris Lessing and the Encounter with London", *Eighth International Women and Society Conference*, Division of Humanities, Marist College, New York, USA, June 5-7.

Das, Liza, 1998. "The Hills as Metaphor in the Poetry of North-east India", *North East Poetry Seminar*, Gangtok, Sikkim, February 10-12.

Das, Liza, 1998, "Representations of the East: American Evangelist Writing on Assam," *International Conference on International Perspectives on American Studies in Asia in the Pacific Era* organised by Salisbury State University, Maryland, and Srinakharinwirot University, Thailand, at Bangkok, January 8-10.

Das, Liza, 1997, "Evangelical Literature and Orientalist Representation: American Baptist Missionaries in Assam," *National Seminar on Cultural Studies: Interdisciplinary Perspectives*, Forum on Contemporary Theory, M.S. University, Baroda, October 2-5.

Das, Liza, 1997, "Problems and Responsibilities of the Working Woman in the Present Day Context," *Seminar on Problems and Responsibilities of Women*, Women's Studies Research Centre, Gauhati University, March 8.

Das, Liza, 1995, "'Whitey Cockroaches': Status of White Women in Colonial Culture," *National Seminar on The Status of Women and Social Change*, Women's Studies Research Centre, Gauhati University, December 20-30.

Das, Liza, 1994, "Feminist Critical Practice," *National Seminar on Interpretation of Literary Texts*, Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, and Department of English, Gauhati University, Gauhati, November 21-26.

## **Laboratories**

Language Lab with colleagues from HSS and CC

Virtual Lab, Digital Northeast India, MHRD project, Department of HSS and Centre for Educational Technology, IIT Guwahati

Virtual English Lab, MHRD project, Department of HSS and Centre for Educational Technology, IIT Guwahati

## **Development of Teaching Material at IIT Guwahati**

### **NPTEL Phase II courses** (MHRD sponsored)

Cultural Studies (40 Video lectures), Principal Coordinator

Cultural Studies (40 Web lectures), Principal Coordinator

English Language and Literature (20 Video lectures), Principal Coordinator

Indian Society: Issues and Problems (5 Web lectures), Joint Coordinator

### **Virtual Labs** (MHRD sponsored)

Virtual Lab: Digital Northeast India

Virtual English Lab

Interactive exercises and pedagogy tools in both labs

## **AICTE, QIP Curriculum Development Cell projects**

QIP CD Cell Project Lecture Notes on *Language and Communication* (2006-07)

QIP CD Cell Project Instruction Slides on *Cultural Theory and Practice* (2008-09)

QIP CD Cell project Instruction Slides on Critical Development Theory (2011-12)

### **Lectures in Short-term courses organized by the Department of HSS, IIT Guwahati**

"Marxist Literary Criticism" in Research Methods Course, Department of HSS, IIT Guwahati, March 2011

"Deconstruction as a Method" in Research Methods Course, Department of HSS, IIT Guwahati, March 20

"Cognitive Approaches to Literature" in Research Methods Course, Department of HSS, IIT Guwahati, March 2011

"ICT and the New Pedagogy: Reshaping the Cultural Politics of Education, Power and Curriculum," Short-term Course on ICT and Development. 2007.

"The New Integration: Cognitive Science and Literary Studies," Short-term Course on Integrating Humanities and Social Sciences in Technical Education. 2005

"The Cognitive Turn," Intensive Course for Young Researchers, Theory after Derrida, the 3<sup>rd</sup>Theory/Praxis Course, Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati and the Forum on Contemporary Theory, Baroda, sponsored by the Ford Foundation, 2005.

### **Short term courses**

QIP short-term course on "Science, Technology and Society" December 13-17, 2010, with Dr Sambit Mallick

Symposium on "Industry and Ecology: Perspectives on Development in Northeast India." October 26, 2007, with Dr Sukanya Sharma

### **Invited Lectures / Chairs**

Keynote Address, National Seminar on "Feminist Concerns in Indian Writing in English by Women during the Post-Colonial Era," Department of English, Barbhag College, Assam, September 3, 2012.

"Literature and Society: A Marxist Approach", Young Social Scientists' Meet, January 20-21, Omeo Kumar Das ISCD and ICSSR, Guwahati.

Chairperson, "Missionary Literature in Assam", Indian Council of Historical Research, Northeast Branch, 2007

Invited Talk on "Problems of Women in Enterprise Regional Gender Forum, The World Bank, Dhaka, Bangladesh Development". 2005

Invited Lecture, "Reading in an Age of Electronic Media" North East India Book Fair, 2003

Resource Person, Training Programme on "Methodology in Gender Studies", Womens' Studies Research Centre, Gauhati University, 1999

Chair, Session on Cultural Studies, International Conference on "International Perspectives on American Studies and Cultural Studies in Asia in the Pacific Era"organised by Salisbury State University, Maryland, and Srinakharinwirot University, Thailand, Bangkok, 1998

Chair, Seminar on "Poetry from North East India", Gangtok, Sikkim, 1998