

**Martin Hříbek, PhD.**

**Seminar of Indian Studies, Assistant Professor**

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Bengali language and literature, Anthropology and Sociology of India, Indian nationalism

## **ACADEMIC CAREER**

Educated both in Indian philology and ethnology, Martin Hříbek, PhD. (2009) is an assistant professor in Bengali and Indian studies at the *Institute of South and Central Asia*, Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague. Besides his Alma Mater he was previously affiliated to the *Department of Sociology*, Calcutta University, India (2001-2004) and to the *Monash Asia Institute*, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia (Fall 2014). Dr. Hříbek participated in a number of research projects as a team member (e.g., by the *Czech Science Foundation* and *Ministry of Education of the Czech Republic*) as well as in the role of the principal investigator (*Czech Academy of Sciences Foundation*). He was awarded further funding for his research, e.g., by the *Indian Council for Cultural Relations* and the *Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship Fund*.

Besides research and teaching, Dr. Hříbek has been involved in numerous public outreach activities, namely Radio and TV interviews on current issues in South Asia for Czech media as well as on Indian studies for media in India and [Bangladesh](#). He has to his credit the curatorship of two exhibitions: [Many Colours of Asia](#) and [Bengali Film Poster](#). He had further co-organised round-tables with [Indian writers](#), [foreign affaires related events](#), and Indian community events in Prague. He acts as official translator and interpreter for the Czech Home Office and civil courts and has over 13 years of experience as a cultural tour guide in India, Nepal, China and Tibet. Dr. Hříbek is an Executive Council member of the [International Society of Bengal Studies](#) and acts as a deputy editor of the international refereed journal [PANDANUS](#). Formerly he was a deputy chairman of the [Czech Association for Social Anthropology](#) and a Deputy Director of the *Institute of South and Central Asia*.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

- Bengali language at elementary, intermediate and advance levels
- Reading and interpretation of Bengali literary and non-literary texts at various levels
- Bengali Literature
- Introduction to Indian Studies
- Hinduism
- Anthropological Perspectives on India
- Nationalism in India
- Art and Agency in India
- Seminar on Indian film
- Anthropological Seminar
- Translation Seminar

Individual lectures held, e.g., at the Department of Anthropology, Faculty of Humanities, CU in Prague; the Gellner Seminar at New York University in Prague; Cologne University, Germany, Frontier Lecture at Calicut University, Kerala, India; the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, India; Rabindra Bharati Society, Calcutta, India; Institute of Ethnic Studies, National University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur; Department of Bengali, Dhaka University, Bangladesh; Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, Calcutta; Surendranath College for Girls, Calcutta; Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta; Department of Modern Indian Languages and Literatures, University of Delhi.

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2017a.** ‘Modern Appropriations of Devī.’ In *Conceiving the Goddess: Transformation and Appropriation in Indic Religions*, edited by Jayant B. Bapat and Ian Mabbett. Clayton, Victoria: Monash University Publishing, pp. 257-277. ISBN (pb): 978-1-925377-30-9. The volume is reviewed in [newbooks.asia](#), an initiative of the International Institute for Asian Studies.
- 2017b.** ‘Imagining Transnational Connectivities: Some Asia-centric Perspectives from Central Europe.’ In *Proceedings of International Conference on Inter-Regional Connectivity: South Asia and Central Asia*, edited by Khalid Manzoor Butt and Muhammad Manzoor Elahi. Lahore: Department of Political Science, Centre of Excellence China Studies, GC University Lahore, pp. 207-211. ISBN: 978-969-9071-07-2.
- 2017c.** ‘Fabrizio M. Ferrari and Thomas Dähnhardt (eds.), *Roots of Wisdom, Branches of Devotion: Plant Life in South Asian Traditions* – a review,’ *PANDANUS* ‘16, *Nature in Literature, Art, Myth and Ritual*, Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 83-92. ISSN 1802-7997.
- 2016.** ‘বিংশ শতাব্দীর প্রথম পর্বে চেকোস্লোভাকিয়াতে রবীন্দ্রচিন্তার প্রভাব’ (Rabindranath Tagore and his ideas in Czechoslovakia in the first half of the twentieth century) *Bhabanagara: International Journal of Bengal Studies*, Vol. 5, No. 5-6, pp. 567-582. ISSN 2313-6065.
- 2015a.** ‘Dalai-Lamaism: An Orientalist Construction of Post-socialist Consciousness.’ In *Rethinking Ethnography in Central Europe*, edited by H. Cervinkova, M. Buchowski, Z. Uherek. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 217-239. ISBN: 978-1-137-52448-5. The volume is reviewed in *American Ethnologist*, *Pol-Int (Polish Studies)*.
- 2015b.** ‘Rabindranath Tagore’s Czechoslovak Connection.’ In *Tagore the Eternal Seeker Footprints of a World Traveller*, edited by Suryakanthi Tripathi, Radha Chakravarty and Nivedita Ray. New Delhi: VIJ Books, pp. 141-150. ISBN: 9789382652953.
- 2015c.** ‘Heroes from the Margins in Contemporary Bengali Fiction,’ *Indologica Taurinensia: The Journal of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies*, Vol. XL (2014), pp. 113-130, special issue edited by Tiziana Pontillo. ISSN 1023-3881.
- 2014.** ‘Czechoslovakia and its Successors.’ In *Rabindranath Tagore: One Hundred Years of Global Reception*, edited by Imre Bangha and Martin Kaempchen, editorial adviser Uma Dasgupta. New Delhi: Orient BlackSwan, pp. 333-356. ISBN: 978-81-250-5568-6. The volume is reviewed in [The Statesman](#), [The Telegraph](#), [The Times of India](#), and [The Indian Express](#).
- 2012a.** ‘Czech Indology and the concept of Orientalism.’ In *Understanding India: Indology and Beyond*. Edited by J. Vacek and Harbans Mukhia. Assistant Editor M. Hříbek. Acta Universitatis Carolinae, Philologica 1 – 2011, Orientalia Pragensia XXVIII, pp. 45-56. ISSN 0587-1255; ISBN 978-80-246-2031-2. The volume is reviewed in [Studies in History](#) (Sage).
- 2012b.** ‘Doslov’ (Afterword). In Ghosh, Amitav, *Ve starobylé zemi (In an Antique Land)*. Praha: Sociologické nakladatelství, pp. 291-295.
- 2011.** ‘Rabīndranāth Thākūr a jeho vztah k Československu.’ *Perspektivy Indie*, 2011, pp. 6-13. ISSN: 0970 5074.
- 2009a.** *Durgāpūjā in Calcutta: The Poetics and Politics of a Ritual*, (PhD. Dissertation, Charles University in Prague).
- 2009b.** ‘Pascal Boyer: Religion Explained’ – a review, *CARGO* 1/2009: 124-125.
- 2008a.** ‘Bohyně Durgá a její podoby v současné Kolkatě’ (The Goddess Durga and her many forms in contemporary Calcutta). In *Mé zlaté Bengálsko*, Ed. Lubomír Ondračka. Praha: Ex Oriente; FF UK, pp. 134-148.
- 2008b.** ‘Matching uneven pairs: Lotuses, water lilies, and their Sanskrit counterparts,’ *PANDANUS* ‘08, *Nature in Literature, Art, Myth and Ritual*. Vol. 2/2., pp. 147–153; ISSN 1802-7997. The volume is reviewed in [Orientalistische Literaturzeitung](#).
- 2007.** ‘Flowers and trees in Tagore’s songs relating to summer, autumn and winter,’ *PANDANUS* ‘07, *Nature in Literature, Art, Myth and Ritual*. Vol. 1, pp. 141–154; ISSN 1802-7997.
- 2006.** ‘Flowery images of spring in Rabīndrasaṅgīt.’ In *PANDANUS 2006, Nature in Literatures and Ritual*. Ed. by J. Vacek. Charles University, Faculty of Arts; TRITON, Praha 2006, pp. 271-285; ISBN 80-7254-899-9.
- 2005a.** ‘A note on plants in the Devi Mahatmya.’ In *PANDANUS 2005*. Ed. by J. Vacek. Signeta, Prague, pp. 121–134; ISBN 80-903325-2-8.

- 2005b.** [‘Le sens et les règles: assemblage de données sur la Durgapuja à Calcutta.’](#) In *La restitution des données dans la recherche en sciences sociales: techniques et enjeux*. Actes des Ateliers Jeunes Chercheurs en Sciences Sociales. New Delhi: AJEI & CSH.
- 2005c.** [‘Strom užitečný, citlivý a uctívavý: několik příkladů z indické tradice.’](#) *Revue Souvislosti* 4/05, pp. 132-135; ISSN 0862-6928.
- 2004a.** ‘Rama’s inventory of flowers for Durga worship according to the Krittibasi Ramayan,’ In *PANDANUS 2004*, ed. J. Vacek. pp. 47-64. Praha: Signeta.
- 2004b.** ‘Kosovo war refugees in the Czech Republic: A micro-study in transition process.’ In *A Decade of Change: Reflections in Hungarian and Slavonic Languages, Literatures and Cultures*, Department of Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian Studies, Delhi University: Delhi. pp. 35-40.
- 2003.** ‘Nature motifs and symbols in the oral literature and village arts of Bengal: an ethnobotanical approach.’ In *PANDANUS 2003*, ed. J. Vacek. pp. 133-153. Praha: Signeta.
- 2002a.** ‘Ritual use of plants in the worship of the goddess Durga in Bengal.’ In *PANDANUS 2002: Nature in Indian Literatures and Art*, ed. J. Vacek, pp. 41-62. Praha: Signeta.
- 2002b.** ‘Smoking the demon out: Pathways and intersections of two contemporary rituals,’ *Cargo* 1,2/02, pp. 81-93.
- 2001.** ‘Dipankar Gupta. Mistaken Modernity: India Between Worlds – a review,’ *Cargo* 1,2/01, pp. 158-159.
- 2000.** ‘Reflexe terénního výzkumu obrazu uprchlíků z Kosova u obyvatel obcí, u nichž byla umístěna humanitární střediska’ (Reflections on fieldwork. Czech hosting town and Kosovo Albanian refugees in an ethnographer’s view). In *Terénní výzkum integrace a segregace (Fieldwork Research on Integration and Segregation)*, ed. S. Kužel, pp. 199-216. Praha: Cargo Publishers.
- 1999a.** ‘Marc Augé: Pour une anthropologie des mondes contemporains - a review,’ *Cargo* 3,4/99, pp. 264-268.
- 1999b.** *Vidnava and Kosovo Albanian Refugees*. An unpublished report for the Administration of Refugee Camps of the Czech Home Office, 30 pp.
- 1999c.** ‘Antropologie v Portugalsku. Vývoj a současnost ve srovnání s Českou republikou’ (Anthropology in Portugal: It’s Development and Present Status in Comparison with the Czech Republic), *Cargo* 2/99, pp. 159-163.
- 1999d.** ‘15th European Conference of Modern South Asian Studies,’ *Cargo* 1/99, pp. 70-71.
- 1998.** ‘Sanskrtizace - Způsob sociální mobility v kastovním systému’ (Sanskritisation, a way of social mobility in the caste system), *Cargo* 1/98, pp. 3-8.

## TRANSLATIONS

- 2017a.** Hak, Hásán Ázizul. Klec (The Cage – literary translation of a short story from Bengali into Czech), *Plav*, Vol. XIII, No. 5-6, pp. 25-31. ISSN: 1802-4734.
- 2017b.** Bhattáčárja, Nabárun. Úleřáci (literary translation of a short story from Bengali into Czech), *Plav*, Vol. XIII, No. 5-6, pp. 19-24. ISSN: 1802-4734.
- 2016.** ‘Proč je dobré mít antropologii (Why Anthropology Matters),’ *Český lid: The Czech Ethnological Journal* 1/103, pp. 15-21.
- 2009a.** Madžumdárová, Tilottamá. Psí matka (Dogmother – literary translation from Bengali into Czech), In *Dusivá noc: Moderní bengálské povídky*, Ex Oriente; FF UK, pp. 72-82.
- 2009b.** Bandjopádhjáj, Atín. Neslušnost pana D. (Insolence of Mr. D. – literary translation from Bengali into Czech), In *Dusivá noc: Moderní bengálské povídky*, Ex Oriente; FF UK, pp. 182-222.
- 2007.** Malinowski, Bronislaw. *Sex a represe v divošské společnosti* (Sex and Repression in Primitive Society, with a co-translator). Prague: SLON.
- 2000.** Kürti, Lászlo. Antropologie Východu na začátku nového tisíciletí (Toward an Anthropology of the East in the New Millennium). *Cargo* 2/00, pp. 133-146.

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2018.** The 5<sup>th</sup> [International Congress of Bengal Studies](#) (January 25-27, 2018), Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh. Paper: “The Social Life of Clay”.
- 2017.** Seminar [Komunikace o náboženství a sekularismu ve veřejné sféře](#) (Communicating Religion and Secularism in Public Space, October 23, 2017), Centre for Global Studies, Institute of Philosophy, Academy of Sciences, Prague. Paper: „Sekularismus, hinduismus a indický veřejný prostor“

(Secularism, Hinduism, and Indian Public Space).

**2017.** International Seminar [\*Journeys and Travellers, Routes and Destinations in Indian Literature and Art\*](#) (September 21-23, 2017), Chair of South Asian Studies, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Warsaw, Poland. Paper: "Journeys of Rabindranath Tagore across Central and Eastern Europe".

**2016.** Convenor (with Hans Harder) of [\*Synergies in Modern South Asian Studies: Interdepartmental seminar of the Institute of South and Central Asia, Charles University in Prague & South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University\*](#) (November 23, 2016), Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague. Paper: „Acts of violence and political struggle in Nabarun Bhattacharya’s fiction“.

**2016.** [\*International Conference on Inter-Regional Connectivity: South Asia and Central Asia\*](#) (November 9-10, 2016) Department of Political Science, Centre of Excellence China Studies, GC University Lahore, Pakistan. Paper: "Imagining Transnational Connectivities: Some Asia-centric Perspectives from Central Europe".

**2016.** International Seminar [\*Crossing Boundaries, Transforming Experiences in Indian Literature and Art\*](#) (September 2-24, 2016), Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland. Paper: "Crossing boundaries and transforming experiences in Nabarun Bhattacharya's fiction".

**2016.** Co-convenor of the 4<sup>th</sup> [\*Biennial Conference of the Czech Association for Social Anthropology\*](#) (September 30 – October 1, 2016). Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague.

**2016.** Convenor of the panel „[\*Imagining India in Central and Eastern Europe\*](#)“ at the 24th ECSAS (*European Conference on South Asian Studies*) at the University of Warsaw (Poland, July 27-30).

**2016.** Co-convenor of the international seminar [\*Ritual change in South Asia: Circulations, transfers, transgressions\*](#) (April 29, 2016), Centre français de recherche en sciences sociales, Prague. Paper: „Animating images of Durga: Art, ritual and technologies of enchantment on the streets of Calcutta“.

**2015.** International seminar [\*Patterns of Bravery: The Figure of the Hero in Indian Literature, Art and Thought\*](#) (May 14-16, 2015), University of Cagliari, Italy. Paper: „Heroes from the margins in contemporary Bengali fiction“.

**2014.** [\*Monash University special one day roundtable on aspects of the state and civil society in modern India and Bangladesh\*](#) (November 28, 2014), Monash Asia Institute, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. Paper: „Czech constructions of India and beyond from nineteenth century to post-socialism“.

**2014.** International conference [\*Rethinking Anthropologies in Central Europe for Global Imaginaries\*](#) (May 26-27, 2014), Institute of Ethnology, Academy of Sciences and Visegrad Fund, Prague. Paper: „‘Dalai Lamaism’: An Orientalist element of Czech national identity in postsocialist period“.

**2013.** International seminar [\*Pandanus '13: Nature in Literature, Art, Myth and Ritual\*](#) (May 30 - June 1, 2013), Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague. Paper: „Nature in patriotic songs of Rabindranath Tagore“.

**2013.** [\*Beyond Socialism and Postsocialism: Contemporary Ethnographic Perspectives on Central/Eastern Europe\*](#) (May 16, 2013), workshop sponsored by the Wenner-Gren Foundation at the School of Education, University of Lower Silesia, Wrocław, Poland. Paper: "‘Dalai-Lamaism’: An Orientalist element of Czech national identity in postsocialist period“.

**2013.** International conference [\*Tagore on Discriminations: Representing the Unrepresented\*](#), Metropolitan University, Prague, (November 1, 2013). Paper: "Tagore in Czech translations".

**2011.** [\*The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of Bengal Studies\*](#) (December 17-20, 2011), University of Dhaka and Bangla Academy, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Paper: ঢেকোন্মোভাকিয়তে বাংলা চরচা ও বাংলা সংস্কৃতির প্রভাব (Bengali studies and Bengali cultural influence in Czechoslovakia).

**2011.** International Seminar [\*History and Society as Described in Indian Literature and Art\*](#) (September 15-17, 2011), Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland. Paper: "Rivers of separation, roads to hope: cultural identity in post-independence Bengali cinema".

**2011.** 2nd Joint Biennial Conference of the Czech Association for Social Anthropology and the Slovak association of social anthropologists: [\*OF COSMOPOLITANISM AND COSMOLOGIES\*](#) (September 2-3, 2011), Telč, Czech Republic. Paper: "Czech Indology and the Concept of Orientalism".

**2010.** Pandanus '10. [\*International Seminar Narrative Techniques in Indian Literature and Art\*](#) (January 7-9, 2010), Calicut University, Kerala, India. Paper: „Merging the narratives: tradition and modernity in popular arts of Calcutta“.

- 2010.** International Seminar *Stylistic Devices in Indian Literature and Art* (September 16-18, 2010), University of Milan, Milano-Gargnano, Italy. Paper: “Stylistic devices in Rabindrasangeet”.
- 2010.** CEENIS regional conference *Indological Studies and Research: Languages, Literatures, History and Culture – Indological Identities* (June 17-19, 2010), Charles University in Prague. Paper: “Indology and Social Sciences: A Central-European Perspective”.
- 2010.** *The 1<sup>st</sup> International Congress of Bengal Studies* (February 25-28, 2010), Delhi University, Delhi, India. Paper: “Cognition, structure and meaning: an anthropological analysis of Durga Puja”.
- 2009.** CEENIS regional conference *Tradition and Modernity in Indian Culture, Indology and Teaching about India* (September 25-26, 2009), Sofia University, Bulgaria. Paper: “India and Eastern Europe: the Interplay of Shifting Identities”.
- 2009.** Pandanus '09. International Seminar *Nature in Indian Literatures, Art and Religion* (June 4-6, 2009), Charles University in Prague. Paper: „Flowery images of the rainy season in Rabindrasangit”.
- 2008.** International Seminar *The City and The Forest in Classical Indian Literature* (September 25-27, 2008), University of Warsaw, Poland. Paper: “The topos of the forest in Bankimchandra’s Anandamath”.
- 2006.** Pandanus '06. International Seminar *Nature in Indian Literatures, Art and Religion* (May 18-21, 2006), Charles University in Prague. Paper: „Flowery images of spring in Rabindrasangit”.
- 2005.** Ateliers Jeunes Chercheurs: *La restitution des données en sciences sociales* (February 28 - March 4), Centre de Sciences Humaines, Jawaharal Nehru University, India International Center, New Delhi, India. Paper: „Le sens et les règles: assemblage de données sur la Durgapuja à Calcutta”.
- 2005.** International conference for students and postgraduates: *Question of Identity: Religion Tradition-Modernity* (April 7-10, 2005), Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland. Paper: „A goddess of the people, an icon for the nation: imaging Bharat Mata in modern Bengal”.
- 2003.** Pandanus '03 International Seminar (May 23, 2003), Charles University in Prague. Paper: „Nature motifs and symbols in the oral literature and village arts of Bengal: an ethnobotanical Approach”.
- 2002.** International Seminar *A Decade of Change: Reflections in Hungarian and Slavonic Languages, Literatures and Cultures* (March 13-14, 2002), Department of Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian Studies, Delhi University, India. Paper: “Kosovo war refugees in the Czech Republic: A micro-study in transition process”.
- 2002.** Pandanus '02 International Seminar (May 24-25, 2002), Charles University in Prague. Paper: „Ritual use of plants in the worship of the goddess Durga in Bengal”.
- 1999.** 4th *International Congress of Aleš Hrdlička* “World Anthropology at the Turn of the Centuries” (August 31 – September 4, 1999), Prague and Humpolec.