

URMISHREE BEDAMATTA

Professor & Head, Department of English

Ravenshaw University

Coordinator, Centre for Translation and Digital Humanities

Coordinator, Centre for Odishan Studies

I. Academic Profile

I work in vernacular intellectual history, bringing together philology, manuscript studies, translation studies, and Digital Humanities to investigate the production, transmission, and circulation of knowledge in Odisha. At the centre of my research is an interest in how regional knowledge traditions are produced, preserved, interpreted, translated, and continually reimagined across manuscript, print, and digital environments.

II. Research at a Glance

Profile	Highlights
Current Position	Professor & Head, Department of English
Research Centres	Founder, Centre for Translation and Digital Humanities; Coordinator, Centre for Odishan Studies
Funded Projects	Seven externally funded research projects
Funding	₹67 lakh+ plus international grants
Core Areas	Digital Humanities; Translation Studies; Manuscript Studies; Odia Literary History; Corpus Linguistics
International Engagement	British Library projects; invited lectures and conference presentations

Research Infrastructure Developed

1) Centre for Translation and Digital Humanities

Founder and Coordinator

Established the Centre for Translation and Digital Humanities (DHTraC) at Ravenshaw University to foster interdisciplinary research in Digital Humanities, translation studies, corpus linguistics, manuscript studies, and textual scholarship. The Centre has served as a platform for externally funded projects, collaborative research, academic training, and national and international conferences.

2) Centre for Odishan Studies

Coordinator

Coordinates the Centre for Odishan Studies, which promotes interdisciplinary research on Odisha's literary, linguistic, historical, and intellectual traditions. Under its aegis, the Centre has supported publications, digital initiatives, seminars, and sustained research on vernacular textual heritage.

Major Research Contributions

- Digital Scholarly Editing

Directed the preparation of the digital scholarly edition of the *Adi Parba* of the *Sarala Mahabharata* under the OHEPEE-funded project, integrating manuscript collation, digital annotation, and editorial scholarship.

- Digital Lexicography

Leads the ICSSR-funded project Digitalising Science in the Vernacular: An Open-Access Odia Lexicon, aimed at creating an openly accessible digital lexicon of scientific terminology in Odia.

- Corpus Development

Principal Investigator of the MRIP-funded project Preparation of a Parallel Corpus (Odia–English) of Ayurveda in Odisha, developing bilingual corpora for translation studies and language technology research.

- Archival Preservation

Principal Investigator of the British Library Endangered Archives Programme project The Archive of a Knowledge Institution: Utkal Sahitya Samaj (EAP1616), documenting and preserving rare archival materials relating to Odisha's literary heritage.

- Intellectual History

Directed the ICSSR–IMPRESS project Intellectual Histories of Bhakti: Concepts, Institutions and Practices in Orissa: 1500–2000, examining the evolution of devotional thought and institutions in Odisha across five centuries.

Research Collaborations

National

- Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)
- Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC)
- Odisha Higher Education Programme for Equity and Excellence (OHEPEE)
- Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha (MRIP)

International

- Endangered Archives Programme, British Library
- South Asia Materials Project, Centre for Research Libraries, Chicago

Year	Funding Agency	Project	Role	Grant
2026–	Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)	Digitalising Science in the Vernacular: An Open-Access Odia Lexicon	Project Director	₹16,00,000
2025–	Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC)	Sustainability Grant for the Centre for Odishan Studies	Coordinator / Project Lead	₹22,30,000
2025–	Mukhyamantri Research Innovation for Extramural Research Funding (MRIP), Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha	Preparation of a Parallel Corpus (Odia–English) of Ayurveda in Odisha	Principal Investigator	₹4,20,000
2024–	Endangered Archives Programme, British Library	The Archive of a Knowledge Institution: Utkal Sahitya Samaj (EAP1616)	Principal Investigator	£39,694
2022–2023	South Asia Materials Project, Centre for Research Libraries, Chicago	Rare Odia Serials at the Utkal Sahitya Samaj	Co-Principal Investigator	USD 3,462.94
2019–2022	ICSSR–IMPRESS	Intellectual Histories of Bhakti: Concepts, Institutions and Practices in Orissa: 1500–2000	Project Director	₹7,00,000
2018–2024	Odisha Higher Education Programme for Equity and Excellence (OHEPEE)	Literary Editing and Translation of <i>Sarala Mahabharata</i>	Principal Investigator	₹18,00,000

III. Scholarship and Publications

Publication Highlights

- Peer-reviewed research articles: 17
- Accepted articles in Scopus/WoS journals: 2
- Books authored: 1
- Edited books: 3
- Book chapters and scholarly introductions: 8
- Literary translations: 4
- Conference proceedings: 3

- Publications with Cambridge University Press, Edinburgh University Press, Brill, Routledge, Taylor & Francis, SAGE: 10+
- Scopus-indexed journal articles: 7+
- Web of Science/AHCI-indexed journal articles: 5+

A. Articles Accepted for Publication

Year	Title	Journal / Publisher	Indexing	Remarks
Accepted	Vernacular Reconfigurations of Social Order and Authority in Odisha: Reading Śūdrāmūnī and the Kurāḷa Purāṇa (Co-author: Umakant Mishra)	<i>Bandung: Journal of the Global South</i> (Brill)	Scopus	Special Issue; Supported by Sustainability Grant
Accepted	The Digital Turn in Sarala Mahabharata: Text Variance and Pedagogy	<i>International Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing</i> (Edinburgh University Press)	Scopus; AHCI (WoS)	Special Issue on Digital Humanities

B. Articles in International Refereed Journals

Year	Article	Journal	Publisher	Indexing
2026	The ‘Oriya Pua’ Archetype in Colonial Literature and the Formation of Oriya National Consciousness	<i>Society and Culture in South Asia</i>	SAGE	Scopus
2025	Translation and Scientific Authority: From Mediation to Production in Indian Languages	<i>International Journal of Translation</i>	Indian Institute of Translation	Google Scholar
2025	Enhancing Data Authenticity: Leveraging Humanities Annotation Practices for NLP	<i>International Journal of Computer Applications</i>	Supported by OHEPEE	2025
2024/25	Mother Orissa, Mother India, Mother Victoria: Expressions of National Life in Colonial Orissa	<i>Nationalities Papers</i>	Cambridge University Press	Scopus; WoS
2023	Sarala Mahabharata in the Colonial Odia Public Sphere	<i>South Asian History and Culture</i>	Taylor & Francis (Routledge)	Scopus
2021	Gita Govinda and the Scribal Fashioning of the Ideal Listener	<i>Summerhill: IIAS Review</i>	IIAS	Google Scholar
2019	Engaging with an Indian Epic: A Digital Approach	<i>International Journal of Computer Applications</i>	IJCA	Google Scholar
2016	A Mirza’s Demands for Women, Cot and Cattle	<i>The Medieval History Journal</i>	SAGE	Scopus; WoS
2014	The MLE Teacher: An Agent of Change or a Cog in the Wheel?	<i>Australian Journal of Indigenous Education</i>	Cambridge University Press	Scopus; WoS
2013	Playing with Nonsense: Toward Language Bridging in a Multilingual Classroom	<i>Children’s Literature in English Language Education</i>	University of Münster	DOAJ
2013	Teaching Learning Materials in a Multilingual Education Programme	<i>Language and Language Teaching</i>	Azim Premji University	Google Scholar

C. Articles in National Refereed Journals

Year	Article	Journal	Remarks
2025	A Critique of the Folk Praxis of Literary Circles	<i>dialog</i>	Peer-reviewed
2020	Vignettes of Bhadramandali Leisure in 19th Century Katak	<i>Orissa Historical Research Journal</i>	Peer-reviewed
2015	Language Mix, “Low Forms” and Canonical Exclusion: The Lost Case of Mogul Tamsa	<i>Ravenshaw Journal of Literary and Cultural Studies</i>	Peer-reviewed
2011	Reclaiming Chha Mana as a Multilingual Text	<i>Ravenshaw Journal of Literary and Cultural Studies</i>	Peer-reviewed

D. Edited / Edited & Translated Books

Year	Title	Role	Publisher
2026	<i>Sarala Mahabharata: Adi Parba</i> , Vol. 1	Editor & Translator	Centre for Odishan Studies, Ravenshaw University / Wide Open Window Books
2023	<i>Life, Politics and Power in Colonial Orissa: The Journey of Juju</i>	Co-editor	Centre for Translation and Digital Humanities
2017	<i>Classical Indian Tradition and the Philosophy of Art</i>	Editor	Brahmi Publications

E. Book Chapters, Scholarly Introductions and Critical Essays

Year	Chapter	Book
2025	Introduction	<i>Tika Gobindachandra</i>
2025	Introduction: The Journey of a Siddha	<i>Rudrasudhanidhi</i>
2022	A Goddess Goes to War: Claiming the Right to Modesty	<i>Chandi Purana</i>
2016	Introduction	<i>Mathuramangala</i>
2016	A Historical Context of Multilingual Education in India	<i>Multilingualism and Multiculturalism</i>
2015	Introduction	<i>Tika Gobindachandra</i>

F. Literary and Scholarly Translations

Year	Translation	Published in
2024	Patadei (Binapani Mohanty)	<i>The Big Book of Odia Literature</i> (Penguin Random House India)
2024	Dialogue: A Modern Philosophy of Life	<i>A Life of Thoughts</i>
2021	Colophons of Palm-leaf Manuscripts in Odisha	<i>Critical Discourse in Odia</i> (Routledge)
2021	An Essay on Dinakrushna Das’s Rasakallola	<i>Critical Discourse in Odia</i> (Routledge)
2019	Folklore: Discovering Odia Culture	Black Eagle Books

G. Conference and Symposium Proceedings

Year	Paper	Proceedings
2026	Development of Odia Part of Speech Tagger Using Supervised Machine Learning Algorithm	ICOLSI-43 Proceedings (CIIL)
2025	Folk Variants in Textual Transmission	<i>Bharatiya Bhasha Pariwar: Perspectives and Horizons</i> (National Book Trust)
2012	Discourse Markers: Time We Noticed Them, Eh?	UGC National Seminar Proceedings

I. Digital Scholarship

Year	Project / Output	Nature of Contribution
2026	<i>Sarala Mahabharata: Adi Parba</i> , Vol. 1	Digital scholarly edition; Editor & Translator
2025	<i>Digitalising Science in the Vernacular: An Open-Access Odia Lexicon</i>	Digital lexicon (ICSSR-funded)
2025	Parallel Corpus (Odia–English) of Ayurveda	Corpus development (MRIP-funded)
2018	Digital <i>Sarala Mahabharata</i>	Digital scholarly editing, annotation, manuscript collation

IV. Digital Scholarship, Manuscript Studies & Knowledge Infrastructures

1. Digital Scholarly Editing

Digital Edition of the *Sarala Mahabharata*

Principal Investigator and Editor

Prepared the digital scholarly edition of the *Adi Parba* of the *Sarala Mahabharata* under the Odisha Higher Education Programme for Equity and Excellence (OHEPEE). The project combines manuscript collation, textual criticism, editorial annotation, and digital publication to create an interactive scholarly edition that documents textual variants while preserving the manuscript tradition.

Major Contributions

- Preparation of a digital scholarly edition based on multiple manuscript witnesses.
- Editorial annotation and documentation of textual variants.
- Integration of manuscript evidence with digital editorial methods.
- Development of workflows for collaborative digital editing.
- Use of the edition as a pedagogical resource for manuscript and textual studies.

2. Corpus Development and Language Resources

Parallel Corpus of Ayurveda (Odia–English), Principal Investigator: Developing a bilingual parallel corpus of Ayurvedic literature under the Mukhyamantri Research and Innovation Programme (MRIP) to facilitate research in translation studies, corpus linguistics, and language technologies.

Open-Access Digital Odia Lexicon, Project Director: Leading the ICSSR-funded project *Digitalising Science in the Vernacular: An Open-Access Odia Lexicon*, which aims to create an openly accessible digital lexicon of scientific and technical terminology in Odia, supporting multilingual knowledge dissemination and digital language resources.

3. Linguistic Annotation and Digital Humanities

My research has explored the application of humanities-based annotation practices to computational language processing and Digital Humanities.

Selected areas include:

- Linguistic annotation
- Metadata development
- Text encoding

- Corpus preparation
- Natural Language Processing support
- Humanities-informed data validation

Related publication:

- *Enhancing Data Authenticity: Leveraging Humanities Annotation Practices for NLP* (2025)

4. Manuscript Studies

My manuscript research combines codicology, textual scholarship, and archival preservation.

Major Activities

- Transcription of Oriya manuscript **EAP373/21/18** archived under the Endangered Archives Programme, British Library.
- Manuscript survey and documentation.
- Study of scribal practices and manuscript culture.
- Research on colophons and manuscript transmission.
- Preparation of scholarly descriptions for manuscript collections.

5. Digital Archives and Documentary Preservation

British Library Endangered Archives Programme, Principal Investigator of the project, “The Archive of a Knowledge Institution: Utkal Sahitya Samaj” (EAP1616): The project documents, digitises, and preserves rare archival materials relating to the literary, cultural, and intellectual history of Odisha, making them accessible for future research.

Centre for Research Libraries (Chicago), Co-Principal Investigator in the preservation and digitisation of rare Odia serial publications through the South Asia Materials Project.

6. Translation Technologies and Multilingual Knowledge Systems

My research extends beyond literary translation to technology-enabled multilingual knowledge production. Major initiatives include:

- Collaboration with the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Noida, on multilingual translation projects involving English, Hindi, and Odia.
- Preparation of scientific and technical terminology in Odia under the Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology, Government of India.
- Development of bilingual lexical resources.
- Integration of translation studies with Digital Humanities methodologies.

7. Digital Knowledge Infrastructures

Infrastructure	Purpose
Digital scholarly edition of the <i>Sarala Mahabharata</i>	Textual scholarship and manuscript studies
Digital corpus (Odia–English Ayurveda)	Corpus linguistics and translation research
Open-access scientific lexicon	Multilingual knowledge dissemination
Digital manuscript archive	Preservation of Odisha’s manuscript heritage
Linguistic annotation workflows	Digital Humanities and NLP research
Translation resources	Multilingual digital scholarship

V. Academic Talks & Scholarly Engagements

A. Invited Lectures, Keynotes & Plenary Addresses

Year	Host Institution / Organisation	Capacity	Title
2026	54th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin–Madison, USA	Invited Symposium Panellist	<i>Rethinking the Region: Odisha Studies</i> (forthcoming)

Year	Host Institution / Organisation	Capacity	Title
2026	PG Department of English, Shailabala Women's Autonomous College, Cuttack	Invited Speaker	<i>English After English</i>
2026	Department of Humanities (English), Midnapore City College	Resource Person	<i>From Unmasking to Attunement: The Mahatmya Mode and the Posthuman Question</i>
2026	Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India	Subject Expert (Vishaya Visheshajna)	<i>Mahabharat mein Granth Pravesh Parampara: Sanskrit aur Odia Pathon mein Vaicharik Samyata evam Vichalan</i>
2025	Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata	Expert	<i>The Translator's Challenge in Scientific Terminology</i>
2025	Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT), Ministry of Education	Resource Person	<i>Mining Traditional Knowledge: Creating Scientific and Technical Terminology from Ayurvedic Texts: A Case Study of Tailabaridhi</i>
2025	Berhampur University & Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti	Invited Speaker	<i>The Life and Afterlife of Words: Folk Etymology in Indian Linguistic Traditions</i>
2025	Salipur College (Autonomous)	Resource Person	<i>Introduction to General Linguistics</i>
2024	Department of Philosophy, Ravenshaw University	Resource Person	<i>Language in Philosophy</i>
2023	Indian Academy of Neurosciences, Jiwaji University	Resource Person	<i>From Goddamn Particle to God Particle: How Far Can AI Take You in Writing</i>
2023	Sri Sri University & CSTT, Ministry of Education	Resource Person	<i>Ayurveda in Early Modern Orissa: Text and Context</i>
2022	IMT Pharmacy College & CSTT, Ministry of Education	Resource Person	<i>The Discourse on Health, Disease and Medicine in the Odia Public Sphere</i>
2022	UGC-HRDC, Utkal University	Resource Person	<i>In a World of Fluid Texts: The Story of Sarala Dasa's Mahabharata and Jayadeva's Gita Govinda</i>
2022	Stewart Science College	Plenary Speaker	<i>A Humorist's Study of People in Society</i>
2022	UGC-HRDC, Jawaharlal Nehru University	Resource Person	<i>The Antiquarian Enterprise in Indian Literature</i>
2021	Sir Sayyed College, Aurangabad	Keynote Speaker	<i>Untranslatability is Real</i>
2020	IATE National Seminar, Ravenshaw University	Resource Person	<i>What if Education Becomes a Government Sponsored Programme to Exclude</i>
2019	Shailabala Women's (Autonomous) College	Invited Speaker	<i>Post-colonialism: Theory, Text and Context</i>
2018	Rama Devi Women's University	Invited Speaker	<i>The 'Textual Object' and the Computer: The Case of an Odia Epic</i>
2017	Salipur College (Autonomous)	Seminar Lecturer	<i>Odia Students of English Literature and the English Riddle</i>
2016	Radhanath Institute of Advanced Studies and Education (RNIASE)	Extension Lecturer	<i>Teaching English to Odia Students</i>
2014	Salipur College (Autonomous)	Extension Lecturer	<i>Journalism and Mass Communication</i>

Year	Host Institution / Organisation	Capacity	Title
2014	SCERT, Chhattisgarh	Extension Lecturer	<i>Problems of MLE in Odisha</i>
2011	State Resource Centre for Adult Education, Bhubaneswar	Extension Lecturer	<i>Language in Adult Education</i>

B. Selected Conference Presentations

Year	Conference / Institution	Presentation
2026	ICSSR National Seminar, Siliguri College	<i>Jasobanta Dasa and the Historic-Hagiographic Composite in Sudarsan Dasa's Chaurasi Agya (forthcoming)</i>
2025	First Annual Dharma Studies Conference, IIT Bhubaneswar	<i>A Family Woman Writes Her Devotional Self: Figuring Brundabati Dasi in the Odia Bhakti Ecosystem</i>
2025	Utkal University	<i>Reading the 1866 Famine through Ananta Das</i>
2025	International Seminar on Indigenous Knowledge System and Decolonial Turn, Bodoland University	<i>Codes of an Indigenous World Order: Insights from the Odia Mahabharata</i>
2025	International Seminar on Bhakti Literature	<i>Home, Gender and Devotion in Odia Bhakti Tradition</i>
2025	International Conference on Women's Journey of Resilience and Empowerment, Rama Devi Women's University	<i>Voices from the Antahpura: Self-Expression in the Literary Works of Royal Women</i>
2025	International Conference on Digital Humanities and AI, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad	<i>Reimagining Digital Editions: The Participatory Model of the Odia Mahabharata</i>
2025	International Conference on Human, Animal and Natural History: An Ecocritical Approach to World Literature, Ravenshaw University	<i>Ecocriticism across Genres and Geographies</i>
2024	DHARTI Biennial Conference, IIT Jodhpur	<i>Digital Archiving for Language Preservation and Machine Translation: A Case Study of Low-Resource Languages</i>
2024	10th World Conference on Women's Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka	<i>Exploring the Cultural, Literary, and Activist Landscape: Unveiling a Women's Archive (1930–1950) and the Mosaic of Early Indian Feminism</i>
2024	Veer Narmad South Gujarat University	<i>English Studies in India: A Paradigm Shift in Language and Literary Discourse—Exploring Defining Moments in Odisha</i>
2023	Annual International Conference of IACLALS	<i>Devotion, Discourse and the Odia Literary Imagination: Narrativizing the Mukti Mandap in Puri</i>
2022	ICSSR National Seminar, Pondicherry University	<i>Odia Panchasakha Literature: "Metaphysical Confusion" or Poetic 'Self'-Consciousness?</i>
2021	43rd International Conference of the Linguistic Society of India (ICOLSI)	<i>Development of Odia Part of Speech Tagger using Supervised Machine Learning Algorithm</i>
2021	22nd Bigyan O Paribesh Congress	<i>The Householder's Ecology</i>
2020	42nd International Conference of the Linguistic Society of India (ICOLSI)	<i>Dealing with Variations in Linguistic Annotation: The Case of Classical Corpus of Mahabharata in</i>

Year	Conference / Institution	Presentation
		<i>Odia</i>
2018	Fourth World Conference on Women's Studies, Colombo	<i>Tales from the Inner Quarters: How a Queen Mother Avenges the Death of Her Daughter and Other Stories from Eastern India</i> Session Chair: <i>The Nature of Research and Writing By and About Women</i>
2016	National Seminar on <i>Odia Literary Criticism: Tradition and Future Progress</i> , Ravenshaw University	<i>Odia Literary Criticism: Tradition and Future Progress</i>
2014	38th Indian Folklore Congress	<i>Multilingual Education for Tribal Children</i>
2014	17th World Congress of the International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA), Brisbane	<i>Toward an Ethnography of Communication: Insights from a Multilingual Performance in Eighteenth Century India</i>
2012	2nd Philippine Conference on Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education, Iloilo City	<i>The Politics of Mother Tongue-Based Multilingual Education: A Case Study of MLE for Juanga Children</i>
2012	UGC National Seminar, SKCG Autonomous College	<i>Discourse Markers: Time We Noticed Them, Eh?</i>
2012	International Seminar on the Politics of Children's Literature, Ravenshaw University	<i>Playing with Nonsense: Toward Language Bridging in a Multilingual Classroom</i>

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Urmishree Bedamatta

31 July 2026