

## 6.3.2 Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum and Archives

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Name of In-charge (2023-24)	Dr. Kishor Chandra Satpathy
Physical Address	Amrapali, ISI, 204 B T Road, Kolkata-700 108
Founded in	29 <sup>th</sup> June, 1993
Founded by	Indian Statistical Institute

### Brief Overview

The Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives (PCMMM&A) was founded in 1993 to commemorate the birth centenary of pioneer statistician and the founder of the Indian Statistical Institute, Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (PCM). The museum and archives highlight PCM's life and works, including his contributions to the fields of statistics, economics, and planning in India. In addition, it contains his private collection of books and an assortment of rare photographs and documents. The primary objectives of the Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives are to collect, preserve, restore, display, disseminate, and document of personal, administrative, and rare source materials associated with the life and legacy of Prof. Mahalanobis and the establishment of the Indian Statistical Institute, as well as the development of the Institute and statistical science in India.

### The Museum & Archives

PCMMM&A is housed in Amrapali, the erstwhile residence of Prof. Mahalanobis, which is situated on the institute's campus in Kolkata. A permanent exhibition featuring photographic displays about the life and work of PCM is located on the eastern side of the house's ground floor. A total of five galleries make up the museum's exhibit. These galleries feature 921 exhibits spread across 101 panels. The house's first floor has been preserved for the audience, including an open lounge (the Chatal), PCM's study, and private areas of the residence. On the first floor, a new gallery opened in 2016 depicting Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis and his wife Nirmal Kumari Mahalanobis's special relationship with Rabindranath Tagore.

The archival materials of PCMMM&A traces back the evolution of statistics in the Indian subcontinent during and after the PCM's lifetime, paying particular attention to his outstanding contributions in this field. The archival materials include official and personal documents, files, correspondence, scientific and literary papers, photographs, newspaper cuttings, diaries, and manuscripts related to Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis and Nirmal Kumari Mahalanobis. These collections also includes audio-visual materials such as sound recordings, film footage, negatives, and slides. There are approximately 3 lakh documents, with approximately 1.9 lakh having already undergone preservation treatments, depending on their condition. The digitization of documents began in 2007. To date, approximately 25,000 documents have been digitized, with metadata for approximately 20,000 documents saved on a customized server and approximately 2000 documents uploaded to the D-Space server.

Note: Presently the Museum & Archives has been shifted to the third floor of the library building temporarily for the renovation work of the existing museum building (Amrapali). The physical museum space is closed for the time being for the general visitors. With prior permission serious visitors can access the museum and archives. Also, PCMMM&A has a presence on virtual platforms (Instagram, Facebook & Twitter). General visitors can be reached through these digital mediums.

PCM Memorial Museum and Archives: Major Collections	
Name of Collection	Brief Overview of Collection
Manuscripts	3,00,000 Manuscripts (Typescript/ Handwritten)
Books	850
Audio-video [Spool, Record, Cassettes]	93 nos., 89 nos., 101 nos.
Photographs	6700 approx.
Negatives	5000 approx.
Slides	1236 slides approx.
Artifacts	1330 approx.

Researchers Visited/ Consulted PCMMM&A 2023-24	
Name of Activity	Affiliation
Reference Services for Researchers and Scholars	Professor Sumitra Purkayastha, ASU, ISI Kolkata
	Gautham S, University of Columbia, NYC
	Shubham A Singh, Germany
	Sayori Ghoshal, Krea University, Andhra Pradesh
	Professor Tumpa Mukherjee, HOD Sociology, Women's Christian College, University of Calcutta
	Pramit Bhattacharya, Journalist, Mint & Fellow, New India Foundation, Bengaluru
	Professor Elisabeth Burton, University of Toronto
	Professor Reinhold Martin, Columbia University
	Saarang Narayan, University of Leeds
Nikhil Dharmaraj, University of Cambridge	
Sutapa Malakar, Assistant Professor, Economics, East Calcutta Girls' College	

## Major Activities during 2023-24

### Museum Visit

- Guided tours were provided to the visitors by the PCMMM&A Trainees. During 2023-2024 PCMMM&A received a total no. of 768 visitors.



### Preservation Treatment



- Conservation and preservation of the archival documents ensures longevity and availability of the valuable documents for future research. During this financial year, approximately 1979 nos. of archival documents were provided preservation treatment after assessing their condition.

### New Initiatives

A Public Lecture series has been launched by PCMMM&A. Topics of the lectures are following:

- "Knowledge Worlds: Research Universities and Frontiers in the United States since 1945". Speaker: Prof. Reinhold Martin (Columbia University), 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024
- "Surveillance in Transit: An Abolitionist Chronology of AI, Power, Complicity and Eugenics in the Indian Ocean World C. 1850- Present." Speaker: Nikhil Dharmaraj (MPhil Student, University of Cambridge), 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum and Archives  
Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

### PCMMM&A Public Lecture Series

A Talk On

#### Surveillance in Transit: An Abolitionist Chronology of AI, Power, Complicity and Eugenics in the Indian Ocean World C.1850-Present

This dissertation project explores the historical journey of statistics, AI power dynamics, and biometric technologies across the Indian Ocean World, particularly between South Asia and East Africa. It investigates the evolution of surveillance methods from analog fingerprinting to modern facial recognition algorithms in smart cities like Cape Town, Nairobi, and New Delhi. The project questions how state-sponsored AI surveillance in the Indian Ocean World reflects broader historical patterns of brahminical, colonial, and racialized power.

28 March 2024 4:00 PM, Thursday  
CVPR Seminar Room, 8th Floor, S.N. Bose Bhavan

RSVP:  
9435175531  
ksatpathy@isical.ac.in  
avikdas@isical.ac.in

Speaker: **Nikhil Dharmaraj**

Nikhil Dharmaraj is an MPhil candidate in the Ethics of AI, Data, and Algorithms at the University of Cambridge and an alum of Harvard University in Computer Science and South Asian Studies. Across creative, academic, and political mediums, Nikhil's work aims to situate "AI" technologies within historical structures of power and violence from trans-feminist, anti-colonial, and anti-racist perspectives, while foregrounding complicity as a primary ethical obligation (writing as a caste- and class-privileged person raised in Silicon Valley).

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Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

### PCMMM&A Public Lecture Series

A Talk On

#### "Knowledge Worlds: Research Universities and Frontiers in the United States since 1945"

The talk, based on the book *Knowledge Worlds: Media, Materiality, and the Making of the Modern University* (2021), explores how physical resources and existing knowledge structured the early 20th-century university and the concept of an "endless frontier" for research within the context of colonial events and conflicts.

Wednesday  
03:00 - 04:00 pm  
13th March 2024  
Venue: CSSC VC Room, 4th Floor

Link: <https://www.isical.ac.in/2024/03/13/03-00-04-00-pm-13th-march-2024/>  
Meeting ID: 921 804 5995  
Passcode: 229423

Speaker  
**Prof. Reinhold Martin**  
Columbia University

Reinhold Martin is a historian of architecture, technology, and media, and a professor of Architecture at Columbia University. His current research in the cultural economy of technology and philosophical aesthetics. His notable books include *Knowledge Worlds: Media, Materiality, and the Making of the Modern University* (2021) and *The Urban Operatic: Neoliberalism and the City* (2018). Martin has also directed the Temple House (with Sergio Pini) for the Society of American Architecture and chaired the Society of Fellows' Hayden Foundation for the Humanities Programme. The book *Knowledge Worlds* will be published by Routledge.

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POSTERS

Current Project:

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Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

### CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- High school/college/university or higher degree holders
- 18+ years old
- Knowledge of English Language
- Knowledge of Social Media
- Knowledge of Indian History

**JOB PROFILE:**

- Content creation
- Content management
- Community engagement
- Marketing Strategy
- Outreach through content
- Content and Creative Design

**BENEFITS:**

- Certificate of Appreciation
- Museum Membership Card
- Handling special requests
- Hands on experience in preservation & conservation
- Access to Museum Professionals
- Guidance

**DURATION:**  
• 6-8 months (starting from April 2024)

**APPLY NOW**

Send your resume to  
[ksatpathy@isical.ac.in](mailto:ksatpathy@isical.ac.in)  
For further details, please call us at  
9435175531 / 8240887945

Application Deadline: 31 March 2024


Flyer

- Call for Volunteers Programme for PCMMM&A

Special Visitors of PCMMM&A 2023-24

- Swami Upasananda, Ramakrishna Mission, Barrackpore
- Dr. Nabi Hasan, Librarian & Head, Central Library, IIT Delhi
- Raghu Nandan Sengupta, Professor, Department of Industrial and Management Engineering, IIT Kanpur
- Prof. P.G. Dastidar, Visiting Professor, SGT University, Gurugram, Former Scientist G/Adviser at the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India
- Dr. Jay Prakash, Assistant Professor (CSED), National Institute of Technology, Calicut
- Philip E. Pare, Assistant Professor, Elmore Family School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Purdue University
- Dr. Badan Barman, Assistant Professor, Department of Library and Information Science, Gauhati University, Assam
- Vinod Kumar K T, Librarian, LBS College of Engineering, Kasaragod, Kerala
- Dipankar Mandal, IIT Kharagpur
- Melinda Pavek, US Consul General Kolkata
- Dr. Neeza Singh, Librarian, T S Central State Library in Chandigarh
- Professor Kadambari Baxi, Barnard College, Columbia University



Participation in events	
Sl. No.	Brief Overview
1.	<p><b>Exhibitions</b></p> <p><b>Offline</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exhibition on 'History of Computing' on the occasion of National Statistics Day in collaboration with Repro Photography Unit (Date: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023)</li> <li>2. Curated an exhibition on Professor C. R. Rao on the occasion of 93<sup>rd</sup> Foundation of Indian Statistical Institute (Date: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023).</li> <li>3. Exhibition showcasing guest faculties, researchers &amp; visitors from USA at ISI Kolkata on the occasion of the visit of US Consul General Melinda Pavcek from U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata (Date: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024).</li> </ol>
2.	<p><b>Online</b></p> <p>Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum &amp; Archives (PCMMM&amp;A) had celebrated world heritage week in the virtual platform (Instagram &amp; Facebook). (Date: 19.11.2023 to 25.11.2023)</p> 
3.	<p><b>Outreach</b></p> <p>Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum &amp; Archives have participated in <i>Acharya Satyendra Nath Bose Bijan 'O' Prajukti Mela</i> (Science &amp; Technology Fair) and won second best stall award (<b>Date: 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 to 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan 2024 at Hedua Park.</b>)</p> 