



Dr. Shankar Borua, Ph.D.
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Objective:

Seeking to leverage substantial international expertise and education in a teaching/mentoring/skill development position

Key Abilities

- *Excellent leadership, project management, entrepreneurial and communication skills (written, verbal, and visual)*
- *Successful completion of motion picture and media projects from conception to screen (writing, directing, producing, and acting) in a multi-cultural production environment*
- *Extensive domestic and international exposure and experience in a dynamic goal-driven team environment*

Education

Ph.D. in Mass Communications, Texas Tech University (TTU), Lubbock, Texas, USA, 2012

Dissertation Title: *American Political Documentaries: Structure, Agency, and Communication of Meaning.*

M. A. in Criminal Justice and Criminology, Sam Houston State University (SHSU), Huntsville, Texas, USA, 2008

Thesis Title: *Center Mass: Police Use of Deadly Force.*

B. A. (Honors) in Economics, Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), University of Delhi, New Delhi, India, 1992

Filmography

- Borua, S. (2018). **RONGEEN** (Assamese with English subtitles, 115 mins., 2018), Narrative Feature, Writer/Director/Actor/Producer, (Theatrical release: Assam, India, March 15, 2019)

[*Rongeen (Colorful)*, a political musical, harnesses Assamese 'rap' music to depict a David versus Goliath tale where a man from a humble background, in his attempt to settle an old score, takes on a powerful adversary through participatory democracy. A rural narrative revolving around a bye-election in the interiors of Upper Assam, it is essentially a story of an ordinary man attempting to achieve an extra-ordinary feat.]

Link to trailer of Rongeen (Colorful) on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/GPP-M15IUO4>

- Borua, S. (2017). **THE CURIOSITY SHOP** (Assamese with English subtitles, 156 mins., 2017), Narrative Feature, Writer/Director/Actor/Producer (Theatrical release: Assam, India, November 3, 2017; New Delhi, India, November 17, 2017)

[*The Curiosity Shop*, highlighting the abuse of women within the family, is an urban tale, both bright and bleak, set in contemporary Guwahati, Assam, India. It is an expansive narrative about the capacities of human beings to be both brutally evil and sublimely kind. In the midst of naiveté and childhood innocence lurks dark deeds of deviousness and unspeakable brutality. A book store called 'The Curiosity Shop', where a lot of the drama unfolds is the metaphorical theater where these two worlds collide.]

Link to trailers of The Curiosity Shop on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/IWjxkaptG8c>

https://youtu.be/CBcpTco_Prg

<https://youtu.be/XRBfR3U58fE>

<https://youtu.be/tO4lnyZWGO0>

- Borua, S. (2016). **GRIEF ON A SUNDAY MORNING** (Assamese with English subtitles, 83 mins., 2016), Narrative Feature, Writer/Director/Actor/Producer

[*Grief on a Sunday Morning* is a narrative about the unraveling of a dysfunctional father-son relationship with a dark subtext - the sexual abuse of little boys. Merely waiting for decades to completely fall apart, the relationship finally receives the death knell over a weekend when old wounds and deep mental scars come to the fore, removes the patina of inauthenticity and lays bare the fiction of filial affection.]

Golden Camera Award for Best Film, 1st Guwahati International Film Festival (GIFF), 2017, Assam, India

Link to trailers of Grief on a Sunday Morning on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/PS5S6q0zXqo>

<https://youtu.be/A7mOTiKOUV8>

- Borua, S. (2014). **BELEAGUERED** (15 mins., 2014), Documentary Short, Director/Cinematographer/ Producer

[*Beleaguered* is a political documentary on the recent history of Assam (1979-2014). It is a movie about another movie made in 1990, *The Blood Red Sun* (Surjyo Tezor Onyo Naam), a fairly successful commercial venture about an armed revolution in Assam. *Beleaguered* rides on that horse (*The Blood Red Sun*) to travel across

this stretch of Assam's recent history and attempts to present the real 'movie' playing in the 'theater' of Assam for the last 40 years.]

Link to Beleaguered on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cbs0YaWTHnE&t=7s>

- Borua, S. (2011). **HOPE IS A GOOD THING** (22 mins., 2011), Documentary Short, Director/ Cinematographer

[It is a documentary on the immense potential for using digital storytelling as a tool for digital literacy, empowerment and self-expression among 9-15 year-old children in rural Assam.]

Links to Hope is a Good Thing on YouTube (In 2 Parts):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxVVWNZwpGc&t=15s>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_K3jXuBLxU&t=1s

- Borua, S. (2008). **CENTER MASS: POLICE USE OF DEADLY FORCE** (67 mins., 2008), Feature Documentary, Director/Cinematographer [A new version incorporating the George Floyd killing in Minneapolis (Summer of 2020) released in 2022]

[The grand theme is about the adversarial relationship between two sets of people in America, pro-police and anti-police, and how a filmmaker from another land plays negotiator for once. The template is the complex and politically charged issue of police use of deadly force and the predicament of a free society in fairly investigating its own frontline representatives of the government.]

Link to trailer of Center Mass on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qp9jpiIzDuU>

- Borua, S. (2007). **TEXAS HONORS** (20 mins., 2007), Promotional Documentary on the Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas, Director/ Cinematographer
- Borua, S. (2004). **HEPAAH (All those longings...)** (Assamese with English subtitles, 130 mins., 2004), Narrative Feature, 35mm, Writer/ Director/Producer (Theatrical release: Assam, India)

[Set against the backdrop of the turbulent civil war that ravaged Assam for more than three decades, this dramatic feature is about a rag-tag band from a small town in Upper Assam that makes it big.]

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hepaah#Cast>

- Borua, S. (2002). **IF GOD BE WITH US: THE NAGA NATION** (120 mins., 2002), Feature Documentary, Director/Cinematographer (World Premiere: Vancouver, Canada, Asian Heritage Month)

[This film documents the struggle by the Nagas, an indigenous people at the trijunction of India, China and Burma, resisting the occupation of their land and the appropriation of their heritage.]

- Borua, S. (2000). **ANGST AT LARGE** (60 mins., 2000), Feature Documentary, Director/ Cinematographer (Canadian Premiere: Vancouver, Asian Heritage Month; India Premiere: India International Centre, New Delhi, India; Bombay Premiere: National Centre for Performing Arts)

[This political documentary, centering around the twin issues of nationality and identity in strife-torn Assam (North-East India), explores the principal fault lines of class and caste that impeded the Assamese nation-building process by interacting with common folks, young and old, from different walks of life across the length and breadth of Assam.]

Listed under *Films for Classroom Use*, Center for South Asia Outreach, University of Wisconsin – Madison
(<http://southasiaoutreach.wisc.edu/angst-at-large/>)

Screenplays in Development

A Mighty Wish, *Saptarishi (The Great Bear)*, *Luima Chit (Just a Little Green)*, *The Denouement*, *The Chef and The Conductor*, *Right Side of History*

Acting Experience

Screen name: *Upamanyu Boruwa*

Boruwa, U. (2018). Played one of the leads in ***River Song***, a film about “the plight of Himalayan communities struggling to survive amid the construction of dams and their forced displacement.”

<https://mubi.com/en/in/films/river-song>

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt8762020/>

Boruwa, U. (2018). Played one of the leads in the political musical ***Rongeen*** (Colorful) that highlights the power of participatory democracy in the face of endemic corruption and injustice in South Asia.

Boruwa, U. (2017). Played one of the leads in ***The Curiosity Shop***, a film about a father and a daughter depicting the abuse of women within the family while espousing the adoption of a girl child.

Boruwa, U. (2016). Played the lead in ***Grief on a Sunday Morning***, a film about the sexual abuse of little boys and the deep wounds they carry across their lives.

Major Professional Film Experiences

Boruwa, S. (2002). Location Production Assistant in Mark Malone’s ***Dead Heat***.

Borua, S. (1999). Camera Assistant (Intern) in Jane Campion's *Holy Smoke* (India Schedule).

Borua, S. (1999). Assistant Director in Mahesh Mathai's *Bhopal Express*.

Borua, S. (1997-98). Assistant Director in Anand Patwardhan's *Fishing: In the Sea of Greed*.

Borua, S. (1997). Property Master in Kaizad Gustad's *Bombay Boys*.

Borua, S. (1995). Art Department Assistant in Mira Nair's *Kamasutra: A tale of love*.

Borua, S. (1994). Assistant Director in Jahnu Barua's *It's a long way to the sea*.

Canvassing/Fundraising Experience:

Western Canada Wilderness Committee (2002-2006). Canvassing door-to-door in Vancouver (British Columbia) and Toronto, Canada. (Major Campaigns: Pacific Salmon and Temperate Inland Rain Forests of British Columbia)

Teaching Experience:

*University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun, India, Faculty in the School of Business (May 2024-January 2025)

*Tezpur University, Assam, India, Faculty in the Department of Mass Communication (March-May 2013)

*Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, USA, Graduate Part-Time Instructor of Digital Media Production as a Doctoral Candidate, College of Media and Communication (Fall 2011)

Mentoring/Training and Skill Development

Organized and conducted the following Filmmaking and Communication Workshops:

*Phatik Baruah Memorial Basic Film Production and Film Appreciation Workshop, Guwahati, India, 2021

*Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong, India, Communication Workshop, Executive MBA Program, 2020

*Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Jorhat, India, Filmmaking and Visual Communication Workshop sponsored by NAHEP (National Agricultural Higher Education Project), 2019

Academic Awards and Honors

*Academic Scholarship, College of Media and Communication, Texas Tech University, Texas, USA, 2010-2012

*Study Abroad Scholarship, Texas Tech University, Texas, USA, 2011

*Academic Scholarship, College of Criminal Justice, Sam Houston State University, Texas, USA, 2006-2008

*Academic Scholarship, Government of Assam, India, 1987-1989

*Academic Scholarship, Oil India Limited, India, 1987-1989

Invited Screenings and Lectures (2001-2022): University of Chicago, City University of New York, University of Colorado (Colorado Springs), University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Canada), Hampshire College, Mt. Holyoke College, Humber College (Toronto, Canada), University of Toronto (Canada), Wilfred Laurier University (Waterloo, Canada), Acadia University (Halifax, Canada), Fordham University (New York City),

Columbia College (Chicago), University of Southern Mississippi, Roanoke College (Virginia), Mississippi State University

Research Interests: American fiction film (1950-1990); Narratives of War, Crime, and Justice in Film; Documentary and Oral History; Development Communication; Popular Culture and Mass Media, Digital Storytelling

Academic Papers:

Effect of Movies with a Redemptive Message on Criminal Justice Students' Perceptions of Crime & Criminality (2007); *At the Tri-junction of Crime, Entertainment Media, and Culture* (2009); *Intervention in Public Space and Public Memory: Harlan County, USA and Bowling for Columbine* (2010); *Hope is a Good Thing: An exploratory field study on the potential for digital storytelling with children in rural Assam* (2011).

Academic Conferences

Borua, S. Presented at Global Fusion 2010, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, USA.

Borua, S. Presented at Global Fusion 2011, Temple University, Philadelphia, USA.

Borua, S. Presented at Broadcast Education Association (BEA) 2011, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

Borua, S. Presented at Arts and Humanities Graduate Student Research Conference 2011, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, USA.

Borua, S. Presented at International Communication Association (ICA) 2012, Phoenix, Arizona, USA.

Borua, S. Presented at South Asian Media & Cultural Studies Conference (SAMCS) 2025, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, USA.

Interests: Jazz, Fishing, Hiking, Tennis, Nature Walks, Gardening, Social Entrepreneurship, Physics, Neuroscience

References

Dr. Philip Poe

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Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi, USA.

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Dr. Kevin Stoker

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University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

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Associate Professor, Advertising & Public Relations
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