



Dr Sarbeswar Sahoo
Charles Wallace Fellow 2016-2017

The Charles Wallace Fellowship is one of the most prestigious fellowships through which an Indian scholar visits the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland for three months. I was a Charles Wallace Fellow at QUB during April-June 2017. One of the reasons why I applied to QUB is because of its interesting research profile. My research interests fall in the area of Anthropology of Christianity. A large number of scholars at QUB have been working on issues of religion, ethnic conflict and identity politics. During my stay at QUB, I benefitted greatly from my interaction with anthropologists, sociologists, historians, geographers, policy analysts and literature specialists. They all helped me look at some of my research questions from different perspectives. The closeness of the school to the Mitchell Institute is an added advantage. The Spring Festival Lecture Series of the Mitchell Institute and the Wiles Lecture Series organised by the Department of History provide wonderful opportunities for scholarly engagement. The fellowship also allowed me to visit the National Library of Scotland where I could manage to have access to some of the rare archival records of the 19th century Scottish missionaries in India. I believe these materials will help me construct a compelling historical narrative on missionary activity in India.

In addition to all these, I must mention that all the people at the school are very warm and welcoming and they did their best to make you feel at home. I am extremely happy that I got to experience the academic and social life of Belfast.

Thank you Charles Wallace Trust and Queen's University Belfast for this opportunity.