

J·D·H·L·S

Journal of D. H. Lawrence Studies



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*In memoriam
Malcolm Gray*

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D. H. Lawrence Society of Great Britain

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Subhadeep Ray and Goutam Karmaker, eds, *Modernist Transitions: Cultural Encounters between British and Bangla Modernist Fiction from 1910s to 1950s*.
 New Delhi: Bloomsbury India, 2024.
 Pp. 237. £29.98 (₹ 1599 hardcover). ISBN 978 9 3564 0447 2

Reviewed by Abhik Mukherjee

Two separate chapters of this book compare the work of D. H. Lawrence with that of two Bengali novelists, namely Bonophul and Sailajanand Mukhopadhyay. These are 'Modernity and Tradition in Select Fiction of Bonophul and Lawrence on Health, Illness and Treatment' by Supriti Debnath and 'The Pitmen's Union: A Comparative Study of Select Coalmine Fictions of D. H. Lawrence and Sailajanand Mukhopadhyay' by Aratrika Ganguly. The editors claim:

Aratrika Ganguly's chapter, which uses the Marxist lens to view the metabolic rift between (wo)man and nature as resulting in rifts in humanity and focuses on fictional representations of working class lives [sic], can be placed in a critical dialogue with Supriti Debnath's chapter on corporeality in Part II of this volume. (150)

Both these chapters have the potential to make an important statement about Lawrence's international influence, although they gloss over the critical tradition, largely ignoring the historical and ontological differences between European and Bangla modernisms. The treatment of Bonophul and Sailajanand Mukhopadhyay's works are well informed and enjoyable to read, but the relevance of comparing them with D. H. Lawrence is unconvincing. Debnath argues that "Bonophul's sarcastic challenge to colonial modernity" (98), can be compared to the "sustained critique of Western modernity's approach" that "Lawrence's short stories ... provide" (101). But she does not clarify that the ideological motif of critique

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JONATHAN LONG is a solicitor who practised in the East of England, specialising in agricultural law, now working part-time as a consultant. A Lawrence enthusiast for over 45 years, his work has also been published in *The Journal of D. H. Lawrence Studies*, *Journal of the D. H. Lawrence Society of Australia*, *D. H. Lawrence Review* and *Études Lawrenciennes*. He has written a chapter on Lawrence and book design for *The Edinburgh Companion to D. H. Lawrence and the Arts* (2020) and one on the various editions of *Sea and Sardinia* in *Insights into D. H. Lawrence's Sardinia* (2022).

ABHIK MUKHERJEE is Assistant Professor of English at Dr. B. C. Roy College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences in Durgapur, India. He has published a number of articles on literature and film, and in 2018–19 worked on a Fulbright Nehru Postdoctoral project at Washington State University Vancouver with Carol Siegel on 'D. H. Lawrence and Satyajit Ray's Contributions to Understanding the Construction of Gender'.

PAUL POPLAWSKI has published widely on Lawrence, including *Promptings of Desire: Creativity and the Religious Impulse in the Works of D. H. Lawrence* (1993), *D. H. Lawrence: A Reference Companion* (1996), *Language, Art and Reality in 'St. Mawr'* (1996), *Writing the Body in D. H. Lawrence* (2001), and the revised third edition of *A Bibliography of D. H. Lawrence* (2001). His other works include *Encyclopedia of Literary Modernism* (2003), *English Literature in Context* (2nd edition, 2017), and, as guest editor for the