

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
Stuart Blackburn, Ph.D.

AMILAV GHOSH

Born July 11, 1956, Calcutta

Biography As the son of a diplomat father, Ghosh had the opportunity to live in different cultures, such as Sri Lanka, Iran and Bangladesh, in addition to India. He went to the elite Doon school in India and received a BA and an MA from the University of Delhi in the late 1970s. Later he went to Oxford, in the UK, and received a PhD in Social Anthropology. His early cross-cultural experiences and his training as a social scientist are evident in his historical novels that explore themes of identity across the globe, but especially in Asia. Between 2008 and 2015, he published his celebrated trilogy (*Sea of Poppies*, *River of Smoke* and *Flood of Fire*) that focuses on the opium trade between India, Britain and China in the early nineteenth century. While studying he worked part-time as a journalist with the *Indian Express*, and after his PhD, he taught at Columbia, Harvard and American University in Cairo. His debut novel, *The Circle of Reason*, was published in 1986. As a full-time writer, he now divides his time between India and the US. He is married to an American who works in the publishing business, and they have two children.

Achievements Amitav Ghosh has won a large number of awards in his comparatively short literary career, starting with the Sahitya Akademi Award (from the Indian Academy of Literature) in 1989. Other prizes include the Arthur C. Clarke Award for Science Fiction in 1997, the Prix Médicis Étranger (France) in 1990 and the Man Asia Literary Prize in 2011. He was awarded a Padma Shri for literary excellence by the Indian government in 2007.

Works

Novels

The Circle of Reason (1986)
The Shadow Lines (1988)
In an Antique Land (1992)
The Calcutta Chromosome (1996)
Countdown (1999)
The Glass Palace (2000)
The Hungry Tide (2004)
Sea of Poppies (2008)
River of Smoke ((2011)
Flood of Fire (2015)

Essays

Dancing in Cambodia and At Large in Burma (1998)
The Imam and the Indian (2002)
Incendiary Circumstances: A Chronicle of the Turmoil of Our Times (2005)
The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable (2016)

