

im049

“ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING INDIAN PHILOSOPHERS OF THE 20TH CENTURY”



alpix 0828

**Professor Margaret Chatterjee**

PhD *University of Delhi*

**Born** 13.09.1925

***Passed away*** 03.01.2019

Professor Margaret Chatterjee taught Philosophy at University of Delhi from 1956 to 1990, and was Chairperson of the Department for part of that time.

Margaret wrestled with problems of diasporic migration, Otherness and being a stranger in an alien culture in many of her later works. She blossomed into a ***multicultural philosopher*** at home in many different cultures and wearing different hats.

It is truly amazing how she transcended being a ‘stranger’ in Indian culture. She spoke Bengali and Hindi with consummate fluency — one had to strain one’s ears to catch a slight hint of a British accent underlying her Bengali vowels. Few would have guessed that she was not a born Indian.

She was also a gifted **classical pianist** and one with many diverse aesthetic interests.

She was a philosopher of diverse interests, beginning with her early works on *Epistemology* progressing to a deep concern for the problem of dealing with the Other, with respect and compassion.

She was a *British expat who became an Indian citizen* and embraced her country of adoption wholeheartedly. Margaret was a multicultural, multi-disciplinary philosopher, who incorporated insights from the social sciences, literary and musical themes, into the evaluation of philosophic issues.

She taught for a year at Tagore’s dreamchild Shantiniketan Vishwa-Bharati.

She was Director Indian Institute of Advanced Studies Shimla, delivered the Teape Lectures at the University of **Cambridge** and lectured at different colleges in **Oxford** in the 1990s. She taught at **Bryn Mawr** and the **Hebrew University** in Jerusalem.

Yet, she always returned to Delhi like a homing pigeon — **she lived and thought as a Delhi-ite**, and seemingly wouldn't think of living elsewhere on a long-term basis.

Margaret was very active, publishing books well into her 80s. She died aged 93, after a full, rich life and career.

The Wire 12.01.2019 *adapted*  
The Indian Express 16.01.2019 *adapted*

*Here was **The Lady of The Campus**, When Comes Such Another ...*

*2 Her son Moloy was a renowned architect and daughters Amala and Neelima very gifted professionals, both Dipsites, students of DPS Mathura Road The Mother School.*

*When Amala died tragically young, a neon cross was installed in her memory at Free Church Parliament Street where she had conducted Sunday School for several years.*

*DPS has an Annual Inter School Junior School Debate for a Rolling Trophy instituted in her name and donated by her schoolmates including Kayem Vikram Dutt.*