



Mapping Minor Intellectual Traditions: Thoughts from Bengal
(Project sponsored by Government of West Bengal)

Institute of Language Studies and Research (ILSR), Kolkata
Ambedkar Centre for Social and Cultural Studies, Gour College

Collaborative Initiative as part of ILSR's current project of
Micro-texts and Micro-cultures

Mapping Minor Intellectual Traditions: Thoughts from Bengal

The seminar series proposes to map the minor intellectual traditions from Bengal. The prevalent image/ idea of Bengal associated with literature, culture and intellectual pursuits predictably celebrates the cultural and discursive milieu surrounding Kolkata and the thought practices of the *bhadralok* classes and castes while ignoring the thought geographies and epistemes outside the normative and elite academic zones and spheres of influence. The seminar series seeks to address the ideas coming from the margins - understood in terms of region, influence, resources, social groups, ideas etc. The lost/ buried/ marginalised thought traditions and cultural practices would be discussed and engaged with to provincialise metro- centric and normative discourses of Bengal. The seminar series may be divided in the following sections:

Retrieving the Indigenous Epistemes from Bengal

- The Buddhist, Jaina and Prakrit Knowledge Traditions & Cultural Contribution
- Tantra Tradition and Nathism
- Rahr Banga and its Obscure epistemes
- The Sahajiya and Sufi Traditions of Bengal & Its Continuous Relevance
- The Lokayata Traditions
- Inter-Faith Dialogues - Traditions of Co-living and Exchange of Ideas
- Islamic and Local Traditions – Infusions and Bridging from the Below
- Early Posthuman Traditions
- Local Indigenous Medical and Life Style centric Knowledge Systems

Bengali Muslim Intellectual Traditions

- Moulana Akram Khan, Munshi Meherulla and Bengali Muslim Organic Intellectuals
- The Sikha Group- Abul Hossain, Kazi Abdul Wadud & the rationalist tradition
- Nazrul and Kallol
- Minor Literature

The Adivasis of Bengal

- The Provincial Episteme and the Anthropocene
- Adivasi and the Indigenous Knowledge Systems
- Adivasi Literary & Cultural Heritage

The Dalits of Bengal

- The Dalit Intellectual Traditions
- Dalit Literature and Cultural Ontologies

First Seminar

22 March 2024 at ILSR, Kolkata

Speakers

Krishnapriya Dasgupta, Journalist & Author of *Bangali Hindur Rosul Charcha*, *Bangali Musalmaner Kali Charcha*

Tony K. Stewart, Vanderbilt University and Author of *The Final Word: the Caitanya Caritamrta and the Grammar of Religious Tradition*

Daniel Rycroft, University of East Anglia & Author of *Politics of Belonging in India: Becoming Adivasi*

First Seminar
**Minor Intellectual Traditions:
Thoughts from Bengal**
Part of ILSR's ongoing project
Minor Texts from Bengal

22 MARCH 2024
11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Organized by
Institute of Language Studies and Research (ILSR), Kolkata
in association with
Centre for Social and Cultural Studies, West College, India

Speakers
Krishnapriya Dasgupta, Journalist & Author of *Bangali Hindur Rosul Charcha*, *Bangali Musalmaner Kali Charcha*
Tony K. Stewart, Vanderbilt University and Author of *The Final Word: the Caitanya Caritamrta and the Grammar of Religious Tradition*
Daniel Rycroft, University of East Anglia & Author of *Politics of Belonging in India: Becoming Adivasi*

Conversations
Ananya Kumbhakar, ILSR, Kolkata; Shreya Anand, West College, Durgam Churni, IISL, Kolkata

Registration: ananyak@westcollegeindia.com

ILSR is part of
Institute of Language Studies and Research (ILSR), Kolkata, India
in association with
Centre for Social and Cultural Studies, West College, India

Second Seminar

18 April 2024

Gour College, Mangalbari, Malda

Speakers

June McDaniel, College of Charleston

Krishnapriyo Bhattacharya, Independent Researcher & Writer

Epsita Halder, Jadavpur University

Niharul Islam, Fiction Writer

Alekhya Mandal, ILSR- British Library EAP Project

Maitrayee Mukherjee, ILSR- British Library EAP Project

Roundtable

Rovincial Publication Houses: Challenges and Opportunities

Tanmoy Basak, *Shohortoli* publication

Aditya Mukherjee, *Udaan* publication

Ashim K. Sarkar, Gour College

Swati Guha, ILSR

Amitava Das, ILSR

Manas Dutta, Aliah University

Dhritiman Chakraborty, Gour College

Pritam Basak, poet and book seller

&

Anindya Purakayastha, ILSR

Mursed Alam, Gour College

Mapping 'Minor' Intellectual Traditions: Thoughts from Bengal

SECOND SEMINAR

Institute of Language Studies and Research (ILSR), Kolkata
Ambedkar Centre for Social and Cultural Studies, Gour College

*Part of ILSR's Ongoing Project
OR
Micro-Texts from Bengal*

Speakers

June McDaniel, College of Charleston
Kritikaarjya Bhattacharya, Independent Researcher & Writer
Epita Halder, Jadavpur University
Niharal Islam, Fiction Writer
Abhijya Mandal, ILSR- British Library EAP Project
Maitrayee Mukherjee, ILSR- British Library EAP Project

ROUNDTABLE

PROVINCIAL PUBLISHING HOUSES - CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

TANMOY BASAK, GOODHOTO PUBLICATION
ASTHA E. SARKAR, GOUR COLLEGE
SWATI GUHA, ILSR
AMITAVA DAS, ILSR
MANAS DUTTA, ALLAH UNIVERSITY
DHISTIAN CHAKRABORTY, GOUR COLLEGE

ANDIYA PHEAKAY ASTHA, ILSR
MURSED ALAM, GOUR COLLEGE

18 April 2024 11AM




Conveners
Anindya Parakayastha (ILSR), Mursed Alam (Gour College), Swati Guha (ILSR)

Registration:
anindya@vsnl.org

Venue:
New Conference Hall (B-206), Gour College
Malda, West Bengal, India

Prof. June McDaniel would speak online on 18 April in the evening.



