

Two-Day International Seminar

on

Science, Medicine, and Society in Colonial Bengal

Save the Date

5th & 6th Feb,
2024

Organized By

Centre for Research and Preservation of Culture Heritage
&
Department of History
Under the aegis of Internal
Quality Assurance Cell
Deshabandhu Mahavidyalaya, Chittaranjan'



Keynote Speaker

Dr. Poonam Bala

Visiting Scholar in Sociology at Cleveland
State University, USA

Call for Papers

We invite scholars to submit abstracts for paper presentations in Bengali or English addressing any of the key issues outlined above. We hope this concept note captures your interest. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or suggestions. **A publisher of national repute will publish selected papers with an ISBN.**

Submission of Abstract & Full paper

Deadline : 31. 01 . 2024

Word Limit : 250 words

Full paper : 7,000 words (within 15 days after the seminar)

Registration Fees (excluding accommodation)

Registration link:- <https://forms.gle/QWVV3HvgR8xTCJpu7>

Faculty: Rs. 700/-

Research Scholar: Rs. 300/-

Students: Rs. 100/-

Mode of Payment of Registration Fees

Netbanking details:

Account No: 420510100016879

Bank Name: Bank of India

IFSC Code: BKID0004205

Deshabandhu Mahavidyalaya

Chittaranjan



Paid accommodation may be arranged on request (Rs. 500/- per head)

Contact Person

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Concept Note

Theme

The seminar aimed to reassess the complex interplay between science, medicine, colonial power, and societal transformations in Bengal during the colonial period.

Rationale

Science in colonial Bengal was neither imported nor passively resisted. It was a contested arena where new ideas, technologies, and institutions interacted with indigenous knowledge systems, social structures, and cultural practices. This seminar aims to move beyond simplistic narratives of domination and appropriation, and delve into the nuanced and often contradictory ways in which science shaped and was shaped by Bengali society.

Key Issues

- * Bridging the gap between "Western" and "Eastern" scientific traditions: Exploring the emergence of hybrid forms of knowledge production, negotiating authority between indigenous practitioners and colonial scientists, and the role of vernacular languages in scientific discourses.
- * Science and power: Examining how colonial science served as a tool for governance, resource extraction, and social control, while also creating spaces for resistance, subversion, and the articulation of alternative visions of modernity.
- * The impact of science on diverse social groups: Investigating the differential effects of scientific advancements on various class, caste, and gender communities, including the emergence of new professions, changes in medical practices, and the transformation of everyday life.
- * Science and the Bengali Renaissance: Analyzing the role of science in the cultural and intellectual awakening of 19th century Bengal, exploring the relationship between scientific thought and nationalist discourse, and examining the contributions of Bengali scientists and intellectuals to global scientific progress.
- * Legacies of colonial science: Assessing the long-term impact of colonial scientific institutions and practices on post-independence India, and considering the ongoing debates about decolonizing science and creating more inclusive and equitable scientific knowledge systems.

Target Audience

Historians of science, medicine, and technology, social and cultural historians of Bengal, scholars of colonialism and postcolonialism, science communicators, educators, and members of the general public interested in the history of science, medicine, and its social implications.

Format

The seminar will feature a mix of keynote lectures, panel discussions, paper presentations, and interactive workshops. We aim to attract scholars from diverse disciplines and encourage interdisciplinary dialogue.

Expected Outcomes

The seminar will generate new insights into the history of science in colonial Bengal, challenge Eurocentric narratives of scientific development, and contribute to a broader understanding of the complex relationship between science, society, and power in colonial contexts. It will also foster international collaboration among scholars and create resources for teaching and learning about this area.

Potential Collaborations

We welcome collaborations with academic institutions, research centres, archives, museums, and public engagement organizations in India and elsewhere.

Conclusion

This seminar offers a timely opportunity to critically re-examine the history of science in colonial Bengal and its enduring legacies. By exploring the intricate interactions between science, society, and power, we can gain valuable insights into the past and inform our understanding of the present and future of science in a globalized world.

Contact Person

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