Dr Ayesha A. Irani
Assistant Professor of Asian Studies, University of Massachusetts Boston

will give a talk titled:

**THE NABĪVAMŚA’S PURĀṆ-KORĀN SALVATION HISTORY:
TRANSLATION AND THE MAKING OF BENGALI ISLAM**

**Abstract**

The seventeenth-century *Nabīvamśa*, “The Lineage of the Prophet,” is a universal history of the prophet Muḥammad written by Saiyad Sultān. It is also the first major work to communicate Islamic doctrine to Bengalis in their mother tongue. This paper examines the roots of the *Nabīvamśa* in the *Qiṣaṣ al-anbiyāʾ* (Tales of the Prophets) traditions of Arabic and Persian. I show how Sultān’s renewal of salvation history involves “refreshing the *shariʿa*” by creating a new “*purāṇ-korān*” tradition that draws upon para-Qur’ānic and purānic models. In this analysis, translation is shown to be not merely a “sub-version” of the established models of prophetic tale-cycles, but one which subverts the *hinduāni* traditions of its auditors, manipulating their ontological and epistemological notions of self.

Date: Tuesday, 13 August, 2019; Time: 3 – 5 pm

Venue: CSSSC Seminar Room 2, Patuli Campus

Maidul Islam
(Convener, Seminar Committee)

All are welcome to attend.