

**CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL SCIENCES, CALCUTTA,  
R-1 BAISHNABGHATA PATULI,  
KOLKATA 700094**

**GENERAL SEMINAR**

Dr. Navine Murshid

Associate Professor of Political Science, Colgate University, New York

will give a talk titled:

**‘Bengali Muslim Marginalization and Inverted Neoliberalism’**

Abstract

Historians and political scientists have produced a significant body of research on Bengali Muslims and their marginalization at different moments in history. Much of this rich literature focuses either on the colonial period or on the period leading up to the formation of Bangladesh in 1971. Little attention has been paid to Bengali Muslims outside the newly-created Bangladeshi state and subsequent to its formation. This paper begins by establishing that Bengali Muslims outside Bangladesh are socially, economically and politically marginalized. Not only do they appear at the bottom of socio-economic rankings of the country in question, but in the Indian context they do not assert themselves politically either. Curiously enough, in a polity that is increasingly segmented by identity, Bengali Muslims are quite invisible. Focusing on West Bengal, this paper analyzes the political economy of the marginalization of Bengali Muslims; and offers an explanation for the relative invisibility of this constituency in political discourse. Bengali Muslims’ marginalization, I suggest, is best understood in light of the labor demands of capital in contemporary West Bengal, while the regime of informal trade along the India-Bangladesh border can help explain why Bengali Muslims have thus far not asserted themselves as a community. The changing nature of border trade, I suggest, reveals a curious inversion of neoliberalism in the borderlands, a fact that is likely to make Bengali Muslims’ situation more precarious in the future.

Date: Monday, 28th May, 2018; Time: 3 – 5 pm  
Venue: CSSSC Seminar Room, Patuli Campus

Trina Nileena Banerjee  
(Seminar Committee)  
All are welcome to attend.