

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

**GENERAL SEMINAR**

Sandra Bärnreuther  
Lecturer and Researcher, Department of Social Anthropology and Cultural Studies  
University of Zurich, Switzerland

will give a talk titled:

**“Producing Reproductive Medicine: A Hormone and its Transnational  
Commodity Chain”**

**Abstract:**

This presentation approaches reproductive medicine not only as a ready-made product that is consumed but also as a process that is produced historically and through everyday practices, employing the example of a medication used during IVF (In Vitro Fertilization) cycles. hCG (human chorionic gonadotropin) is a hormone made from human biological raw material and, in its pharmaceutical form, consumed by IVF patients. Based on oral history, archival material, grey literature and newspaper reports, the presentation follows hCG’s transnational commodity chain and illustrates how the hormone has moved in different forms between India and Europe between the 1960s and 1990s. The trajectory of hCG conveys the complex interplay of economic policy, industrial development, material infrastructure, medical practice, and local negotiations that have sustained and transfigured the practice of reproductive medicine over the last decades. In its attempt of a conjoined reading of medical history and political economy, the presentation pursues two lines of inquiry: (1) it dissects production processes of pharmaceuticals and (2) it pays attention to the global dimension of these processes where spaces get entangled and alliances are forged in unexpected ways through the travels of biological substances.

Date: Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2016

Time: 3 – 5 pm.

Venue: CSSSC’s Seminar Room, Patuli Campus

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