

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

**GENERAL SEMINAR**

Dr. Mukulika Banerjee  
Associate Professor in Social Anthropology at the London School of Economics and  
Political Science

will give a talk titled:

“Is the cultivation of democracy under threat?”

Abstract

In a forthcoming monograph ‘Cultivating Democracy’, I argue, based on over fifteen years of research in a single rural location in West Bengal, that democratic values and institutional norms need careful nurturing, vigilance and commitment. I argue that democracy is able to take root not just through the import of institutions but through a cultivation of these values; an anthropological investigation of village life shows that these values or social imaginaries are not generated simply through political institutions but are present also in the institutions of kinship, religion and the economy. On the eve of the 17th Lok Sabha elections, when much of what we know as Indian democracy is under threat, I will re-examine this thesis.

Date: Thursday, 11 April, 2019; Time: 3 – 5 pm

Venue: CSSSC Seminar Room 2, Patuli Campus

Debdatta Chowdhury  
(Convener, Seminar Committee)  
All are welcome to attend.