

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

GENERAL SEMINAR

Raza Naeem
Independent researcher and translator, Lahore

will give a talk titled:

“Pakistan's Gramsci: Remembering the Life and Legacy of Sibte Hasan (1916-1986)”

Abstract:

The talk will highlight Sibte Hasan's seminal albeit neglected and marginalized role, and continuing relevance, in contributing to a people's history of Pakistan as well as to a popular history of Pakistani culture and Urdu letters. This was true especially of his neglected work *The Evolution of Culture in Pakistan* (1975), but also of his other works like *Naveed-e-Fikr* (The Glad Tidings of Thought) and *The Battle of Ideas in Pakistan*, which have merited his comparison with the celebrated Italian Marxist Antonio Gramsci.

Beginning from a holistic definition of culture, Hasan traces the people's history of Pakistan from the ancient Indus Valley civilization to a discussion of Mughal culture in the mirror of contemporary Western culture and then Pakistani culture and its identity in our own time. Hasan's work is a vital corrective to history-writing in Pakistan since he convincingly shows us that our history is not merely a catalogue of the activities of kings, rulers and their courts but an ordinary person in ordinary circumstances is present throughout this history with his mind and his hands. Supported by original translations of Hasan's selected work from the Urdu, the talk is a timely reintroduction for a new generation of historians, and critical appreciation of, the role of Sibte Hasan as a people's historian and the continuing relevance of his contribution to a people's history of Pakistan and by extension South Asia.

Date: Friday, 15th January, 2016

Time: 3 – 5 pm.

Venue: CSSSC's Seminar Room, Patuli Campus.

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