

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

GENERAL SEMINAR

David Scott
Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University

will give a talk titled:

"'The Word is Love': Michael Manley's Styles of Political Will"

Abstract: How and with what conceptual preoccupations should we reflect on the recent postcolonial past? What kinds of questions should motivate and propel our reconstructions of earlier moments in the making of the post-Independence state? What concepts from the past might be worth rehabilitating, and why? This essay is concerned with the written work of one postcolonial statesman and intellectual, namely, Michael Manley, twice prime minister of Jamaica and author of a number of books. Here, I am expressly *not* concerned with Manley's political practice. I am concerned with how, in his first and most important book, *The Politics of Change: A Jamaican Testament* (1973), he constructed a conceptual vision of what needed to be done in the circumstances of sovereignty in the postcolonial Jamaica with which he contended (one characterized by a sharpening tension between the political left and right). Especially, what interests me in this text is the central theme of "political will," a concept that today in liberal theory is much derided. Given the character of colonial power, is the problem of political will of unavoidable importance in the postcolonial world? And if so, what needs to be done in order to re-work its conceptual and moral-political purchase?

Date: Monday, 12th March, 2018

Time: 3 – 5 pm.

Venue: CSSSC's Seminar Room, Patuli Campus.

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