

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

GENERAL SEMINAR

Prof. Simon Glendinning
Professor of European Philosophy, London School of Economics and Political Science

will give a talk titled:

“Secularization and Globalization: Two Theses in Social Science”

Abstract

How best should we understand our time? We know what European social science, in its discipline defining texts, has had to say on this. Starting from the weakening of ecclesiastical power in Europe during the Middle Ages, through to the falling away of religious theism since the Enlightenment, scientists of society like Weber and Durkheim had predicted that European societies will become only more and more “secular”, and that religious ideas will probably wither away altogether – and will likely do so everywhere where humanity becomes “modern” (in the end: everywhere). Today this is called the secularisation thesis. It is not in good shape. On the other hand, one might also assign to European social science a connected but less imprudent characterisation of our time: as an era of globalization. That idea too has discipline defining texts, most notably Marx’s in this case. And in the wake of Marx we find, now and then, texts which project another ongoing weakening: the world-wide weakening of the nation state as an effective site for political discussion and deliberation over *res publica*. This weakening too, it is sometimes thought, is set to continue such that the nation state form will likely wither away altogether, and, again, everywhere where humanity becomes caught up in globalization’s unfolding (in the end: everywhere). This would be the post-national thesis. In this talk I will explore some of the implications of re-thinking the secularization thesis for our understanding of globalization and contemporary politics.

Date: Monday, 24 December, 2018; Time: 3 – 5 pm

Venue: CSSSC’s Seminar Room, Patuli Campus

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