

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

GENERAL SEMINAR

Dr. Stefan Ecks
Deputy Director of the Graduate School of Social & Political Sciences and Senior
Lecturer in Social Anthropology, University of Edinburgh

will give a talk titled:

“Two to ten crises: Psychiatry in the post-DSM era”

Abstract

The publication of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-5) in 2013 marks a point of deep crisis in psychiatry. The National Institute of Mental Health has renounced DSM and proposed a radical shift to "research domain criteria" (RDoC). During the same era, the pipeline for novel treatments has dried up, and most major pharmaceutical companies have withdrawn R&D investments into finding new medications. All areas of psychiatry look to be in trouble: the epidemiology does not seem to stand up to scrutiny, research into biomarkers does not lend itself to finding new treatments, and the difference between the normal and the pathological is more disputed than ever. Drawing on Ian Hacking's model of "ten engines of discovery," I examine why psychiatric innovation has come to such a juncture, and I explore where future innovation is promised to come from. Focusing on the diagnosis and treatment of major depressive disorder, I describe two to ten crises of psychiatric knowledge and how they are intricately linked to each other. I also show how the best critics of psychiatry no longer come from without the field, but from within.

Date: Thursday, 14 February, 2019; Time: 3 – 5 pm

Venue: CSSSC Seminar Room 2, Patuli Campus

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