



First Annual Seminar of the Society for the History of Science Kolkata (SHSK)

generously funded by the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi

in association with the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) and the Asiatic Society, Kolkata

Science, Technology, Medicine, and Environment: An Appraisal of Colonial and Post-Colonial Experiences of India

4 and 5 December 2023

Day one: 4 December, 2023

Seminar Hall- 18A/B, Science City, Kolkata

10.00 – 11.00 A.M. Inaugural Session

Chair- Professor Suranjan Das, Vice-Chancellor, Adamas University, Kolkata

10.00 – 10.05: Welcome Address- Professor Sahara Ahmed, Secretary, SHSK

10.05 – 10.15 A.M. Opening Songs by ***Gaanbhashi* Group, Lake Town, Kolkata**

10.15 – 10.20: Introduction to the Society- Professor Deepak Kumar, President, SHSK

10.20 – 11.00 A.M. Keynote Address- Professor Projit Bihari Mukharji, Guggenheim Fellow 2023, Department of History, Ashoka University, Haryana, and Professor of History of Science, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia – *From Ideas to Practice: Towards an Object-oriented History of Science*

Chair- Professor Suprakash C Roy, Formerly Department of Physics, Bose Institute, Kolkata

11.00 – 11.20 A.M. Special Lecture 1: Professor K Ramasubramanian, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay – *The History and Historiography of the advent of calculus in India*

11.20 – 11.40 A.M. Special Lecture 2: Professor Amartya Kumar Dutta, Stat-Math Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata – *Ancient Indian Mathematics: A Few Colonial and Postcolonial Responses*

11.40 – 12.00 P.M. Special Lecture 3: Professor Arnab Rai Choudhuri, Honorary Professor, Department of Physics, Indian Institute of Science Bangalore – *The interaction of matter and radiation: the physics of M. N. Saha, S. N. Bose, and C. V. Raman*

1st Technical Session: -

Chair- Professor Arabinda Samanta, Formerly Department of History, The University of Burdwan, Bardhaman, West Bengal

12.00 – 12.30 P.M. Speaker 1 – Dr Rahul Bhaumik, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Women's College Calcutta, Kolkata – *The Baleful Snakes and the Benevolent Society: Ophiology under the auspices of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*

12.30 – 1.00 P.M. Speaker 2 - Dr Dhrub Kumar Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi – *Birbal Sahni and Banaras Hindu University: A Preliminary Exploration*

Lunch – (1.00 – 2.00 P.M.)

2nd Technical Session: -

Chair- Professor Samir Saha, Formerly Department of Mechanical Engineering, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

2.00 – 2.30 P.M. Speaker 3 – Dr Jenia Mukherjee, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur – *Colonial urban hydrology: A historiographical overview*

2.30 – 3.00 P.M. Speaker 4 – Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Manikchak College, Malda – *Curtailing Consumption? Coal, Electricity, and the Colonial State in Delhi, 1942-43*

3.00 – 4.00 P.M. Meeting of the Executive Committee (Seminar Hall- 9A)

3rd Technical Session: -

Chair- Professor Rupkumar Barman, Department of History, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

3.00 – 3.30 P.M. Speaker 5 – Dr Indrajit Biswas, Assistant Professor, Samsi College, Malda – *Science in cross-cultural perspective: A case study of geology in colonial India*

3.30 – 4.00 P.M. Speaker 6 – Dr Suvankar Dey, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, Purulia – *A Dreadful Disease: Tuberculosis, Empire and Society in Colonial Bengal*

4th Technical Session: -

Chair- Professor Sudeshna Banerjee, Department of History, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

4.00 – 4.30 P.M. Speaker 7 – Dr Priyanka Guha Roy, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol – *Darwinism and Artificial Selection: Underpinning Species Science to understand Ecological Modernity of post-Darwinian era*

4.30 – 5.00 P.M. Speaker 8 – Dr Sneha Sinha, Research & Information System for Developing Countries, New Delhi – *Indian Science Congress Association and the Emergence of Scientific Community in India*

5.00 – 5.30 P.M. Speaker 9 – Dr Sunayana Maiti, Guest Faculty, Department of History, West Bengal State University, Barasat – *The shift from Black and White to Colour Television in India: The initial hiccups behind a technological change*



Day Two: 5 December

Vidyasagar Hall, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata

10.30 – 11.10 A.M. Inaugural Session

Chair- Professor Swapan Kumar Pramanik, President, The Asiatic Society

10.30: Offering Flowers to Vidyasagar

10.33: Welcome Address on behalf of SHSK – Professor Sahara Ahmed, Secretary, SHSK

10.38: Welcome Address on behalf of the Asiatic Society – Dr Asok Kanti Sanyal, General Secretary (Acting), The Asiatic Society

10.45: About SHSK and Its First Seminar – Professor Arun Bandopadhyay, Vice-President, SHSK

10.55: Presidential Address – Professor Swapan Kumar Pramanik, President, The Asiatic Society

11.05: Vote of thanks- Dr Sujit Kumar Das, Treasurer, The Asiatic Society

Chair- Professor Sujata Mukherjee, Department of History, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata

11.10 – 11.30 Special Lecture 4: Professor Syamal Chakrabarti, Department of Chemistry, University of Calcutta – *History of Science OR Science in History*

11.30 – 11.50 Special Lecture 5: Professor Nupur Dasgupta, Department of History, Jadavpur University, Kolkata – *Medical Plants in the Changing Perspective of 19th and Early 20th Century Bengal*

Tea – (11.50 – 12.00)

5th Technical Session: -

Chair- Professor Asok Kanti Sanyal, Biological Science Secretary, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata

12.00 – 12.30 P.M. Speaker 10 – Dr Jayanta Bhattacharya, Independent Researcher – *Changing the Course of Medical Education: Reorganization, Recognition and the First Educational Sojourn from CMC*

12.30 – 1.00 P.M. Speaker 11 – Dr Aratrika Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Indore – *Viruses in and of novel writing: Unseeing Bombay Plague in Kalpish Ratna's Room 000*

Lunch – (1.00 – 2.00 P.M.)

6th Technical Session

Chair- Professor Mahua Sarkar, Department of History, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

2.00 – 2.30 P.M. Speaker 12 – Dr Apalak Das, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Rani Birla College, Kolkata – *In the Name of Care: Leprosy in Colonial Orissa, 1870s to 1940s*

2.30 – 3.00 P.M. Speaker 13 – Dr Amrita Bagchi, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Bethune College, Kolkata – *Nursing Homes of Kolkata: Stepping stone towards the emergence of private health care*

7th Technical Session

Chair- Professor Ranjan Chakrabarti, Department of History, Jadavpur University, Kolkata

3.00 – 3.30 P.M. Speaker 14 – Dr Mili Ghose, Guest Faculty, Department of History, Jadavpur University, Kolkata – *1737: Supercyclone or Earthquake Tsunami?*

3.30 – 4.00 P.M. Speaker 15 – Dr Leena Bose, Research Assistant, Rajendra Mishra School of Engineering Entrepreneurship, Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur – *Navigating Pondscales of Burdwan: Historical and Political Ecological Explorations*

8th Technical Session

Chair- Professor Rajkumar Roy Choudhury, Physical Science Secretary, The Asiatic Society, Kolkata

4.00 P.M. – 4.30 P.M. Speaker 16 – Shri Indranil Sanyal, Director, North East Zone, National Council of Science Museums – *Dr Gopal Chunder Roy: An extraordinary life dedicated to the cause of medical science*

4.30 – 5.00 P.M. Speaker 17 – Dr Shirish Kavadi, Visiting Professor, Symbiosis School for Liberal Arts, SIU, Pune – *Tata Philanthropy and Cancer Research in India, 1941-1992*

5.00 – 5.25 P.M. Valedictory Session

Chair- Professor Arun Bandopadhyay, Vice-President, SHSK

5.00 – 5.20: Valedictory address- Dr Jagdish N Sinha, Formerly Department of History, Rajdhani College, University of Delhi, New Delhi

5.25 – 5.30 P.M. Vote of thanks- Dr Suvabrata Sarkar, Treasurer, SHSK