

**A one-day colloquium in memory of the historian,  
Kumkum Chatterjee  
(12<sup>th</sup> June, 1958 – 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2012)**

**Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta  
Seminar Room 2  
Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2015**

**ARCHIVING THE PAST  
RETHINKING REGION, RELIGION AND LANGUAGE IN  
MODERN INDIAN HISTORY**

This colloquium brings together a set of new historical concerns about the forms of archiving of texts, objects and records and about the networks of circulation that have redefined the notions of region, religion and language in eighteenth and nineteenth century India. Many of these concerns were integral to Kumkum Chatterjee's historical scholarship on the intellectual and cultural worlds of eastern India during Mughal and early British rule, and were emerging as a prominent strand in the new book she was planning. This colloquium is intended as our tribute to her legacy as a historian, to the books and articles she has left behind and to the research that she had hoped to take forward.

**Opening session: 11 - 11.30 am**

Introduction by the Director

Gautam Bhadra: A remembrance of Kumkum Chatterjee's work

**11.30 – 11.45 am – Tea**

**Panel 1: 11.45 am – 1.15 pm**

**The Production of Literary Archives**

11.45 – 12.15

Prachi Deshpande: "The Ramdasi Archive: Manuscript culture, language and history in an early modern Sampradaya"

12.15 – 12.45

Samyak Ghosh: "Situating Kachar: Precolonial past, colonial intervention and the literary archive"

Discussant: Partha Chatterjee

12.45 – 1.15 pm: Discussion and questions

**1.15 -2.15 pm – Lunch**

**Panel 2: 2.15 – 4 pm**

**The Collecting and Circulation of Objects**

2.15 – 2.45 pm.

Sraman Mukherjee, “Collecting Bihar: Recovering Ancient Pasts”

2.45 – 3.15 pm.

Parjanya Sen, “Encountering Enlightenment: Empire, Museums and Objects Buddhist”

Discussant: Tapati Guha-Thakurta

3.15 – 3.45 pm: Discussion and questions

**3.45 – 4 pm. – Tea**

**Panel 3: 4 – 5.30 pm**

**The Forging of Islamicate Networks**

4 – 4.30 pm

Rajarshi Ghose: “Uses of History: Shibli Numani and the Muslim middle class in colonial Bengal”

4.30 – 5 pm.

Soumen Mukherjee: “The Ismaili, the ‘Shemite’ Sunni, and the ‘Aryan or Indo-European’ Shia in the Aga Khan Case (1866)”

Discussant: Lakshmi Subramanian

5 – 5.30 pm: Discussion and questions