

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

GENERAL SEMINAR

Dr. Amrita Datta

Visiting Lecturer at Global South Studies Centre, University of Cologne, Germany

will give a talk titled:

**Indian Female Migrants in Germany: Between
Heteronormativity and Transnational Patriarchy**

Abstract

This paper focuses on the female migrants in particular within larger context of Indo-German migration and argues that migration is not exclusively a male-dominated space where women are mere followers. Indians migrated to Germany in four phases - the first phase started in the 1950s with arrival of Indian students in Germany, the second phase is marked by the arrival of the nurses from Kerala to work in hospitals in the then West Germany in the 1960s, the third phase started with massive outflow of Punjabis and Sikhs due to Khalistan Movement in Punjab in the 1970s till the 1980s and the latest phase i.e. the fourth phase began with the introduction of the Green Card Scheme by the German government that brought 20,000 Indian high-skilled IT and Finance professionals to the host society (Gottschlich, 2012). This paper will explore how the Indian female migrants were contextualized in each of these phases of migration. For example, the first phase had very less number of women students from India to Germany, on the contrary, the second phase was exclusively spearheaded by Christian nurses from Kerala to North-Rhine Westphalia, to respond to the growing need for nurses in West German hospitals. The third phase again was initiated by the Sikh men and women mostly followed them while the fourth phase brought significant number of female high-skilled professionals from India to Germany. In that view, this paper will discuss how the myth of migration, centered around the perceived imagination of male migrants essentializing all autonomy and agency of migration, coupled with women as followers of the men, could be debunked. While doing so, the author will discuss how construction of a diaspora is similar to the process of nation-building, in which gender roles and gender-based performances, based on heteronormative structuration coupled with intersectionality reign supreme. The author will conclude that Indo-German migration led by female migrants from India to Germany is redefining the discourse of transnational patriarchy.

The paper is a work in progress, based on ethnography conducted by the author in Germany.

Date: Monday, 11 June, 2018; Time: 3 – 5 pm

Venue: CSSSC's Seminar Room, Patuli Campus

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