

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

GENERAL SEMINAR

Dr. Carole Spary
Assistant Professor in the School of Politics and International Relations University of
Nottingham, UK

will give a talk titled:

'Performing Representation: Women Members in the Indian Parliament'

Abstract

Voters in India are due to elect their 17th Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) in May 2019. The proportion of women MPs in the Indian parliament has never exceeded 12 per cent and efforts to introduce gender quotas in parliament have so far met with controversy and resistance. This paper discusses the findings of our new book, [Performing Representation: Women Members in the Indian Parliament](#) (OUP 2018, co-authored with Prof. Shirin Rai). The book discusses a range of themes including but not limited to women's access to electoral politics and the challenges they overcome; women's experiences in contesting elections; the intersectional profiles of women parliamentarians and questions of 'representativeness', the gendered norms of performance of representation in parliamentary debates and the substantive and symbolic representation of gender; women's presence and participation in parliamentary committees, especially the Committee on the Empowerment of Women; and the challenges of staying on in electoral politics and sustaining a political career. The research is based on innovative methodological approaches guided by a combined performative and institutionalist framework, and uses mixed methods and a range of quantitative and qualitative data from memoirs to elite interviews to documentary analysis to electoral statistics.

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

Venue: CSSSC's Seminar Room, Patuli Campus

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