

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

GENERAL SEMINAR

Thomas Blom Hansen
Professor of Anthropology, Stanford University

will give a talk titled:

“Urban memory and segmented publics in middle India”

India’s urban revolution happens in its vast hinterlands. Tier 3 cities, with less than a million, are projected to be home to 350 million people in another decade. Most social dynamics in these new urban spaces fly in the face of virtually every established truth in urban studies: class formation is vastly overdetermined by new caste identities; capital formation is structured by histories of land ownership and community ties; urban life amplifies rather than overcomes deep social segmentation and histories.

This paper explores one of these dimensions: the contested social life of public memory in Aurangabad, a city that in the last two decades went from a sleepy backwater to a major center of industrial production. Its political and social life is entirely dominated by constant recasting the history of the city and the region. The paper focuses on three examples: (a) the attempts to ‘Hinduize’ the city’s physical appearance since the early 1990s; (b) the powerful but subdued long shadows of the violence and deprivations visited up the city’s Muslims after the so-called Hyderabad ‘police action’ of 1948; (c) the memories and public life of the city’s long history of Dalit movements, from Ambedkar’s founding of Milind College, over the campaign to rename the local university, to the recent disturbances after the Bhima Koregaon attacks in 2018.

Date: Friday, 9th March, 2018

Time: 3 – 5 pm.

Venue: CSSSC’s Seminar Room, Patuli Campus.

Trina Nileena Banerjee
(Convener, Seminar Committee)
All are welcome to attend.