

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

GENERAL SEMINAR

Dr. Indira Viswanathan Peterson
Professor of Asian Studies, Emerita
Mount Holyoke College, USA

will give a talk titled:

**“An Enlightenment Library in Early Nineteenth-century India:
The Personal Collection of King Serfoji II of Tanjore”**

Ruler of the small south Indian kingdom of of Tanjore (Thanjavur) under British colonial supervision, the Maratha king Serfoji Bhonsle II (1798-1832) built on his European education –unusual in his time – to engage with the Enlightenment in conversation with Indian knowledge systems, and to disseminate European arts and sciences in his kingdom. At the center of the king’s enterprise was his personal library of over 4,700 books and journals in English and other European languages. In this presentation, Peterson will discuss her current project concerning Serfoji’s European collection, which has been an important source for her recently-completed biography of this remarkable Indian intellectual. Her aim is to illuminate the king’s path-breaking career as consumer and purveyor of printed books and Enlightenment knowledge at the margins of empire in the early nineteenth century, and in relation to metropolitan and local practices in these regards. She also wishes, by situating the library in the context of the circulation of books and ideas between Europe and Asia, to uncover an important chapter in book history and global intellectual history.

Date: Wednesday, 28th February, 2018

Time: 3 – 5 pm.

Venue: CSSSC’s Seminar Room, Patuli Campus.

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