

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

KOLKATA 700094

GENERAL SEMINAR

[Corrigendum: On account of the fact that the 24th of December is a holiday, Nayanika Mookherjee's talk will be held on Monday, the 28th of December, 2015.]

Nayanika Mookherjee

Reader of Socio-Cultural Anthropology, Durham University

will give a talk titled:

“The Spectral Wound. Sexual Violence, Public Memories and the Bangladesh War of 1971”

Abstract:

Following the 1971 Bangladesh War, the Bangladesh government publicly designated the thousands of women raped by the West Pakistani military and their East Pakistani local collaborators as birangonas, ("brave women"). While this celebration of birangonas as heroes keeps them in the public memory, they exist in the public consciousness as what Mookherjee calls a spectral wound. Dominant representations of birangonas as dehumanized victims with disheveled hair, a vacant look, and rejected by their communities create this wound, the effects of which flatten the diversity of their experiences through which birangonas have lived with the violence of wartime rape. In critically examining the pervasiveness of the birangona construction, Mookherjee opens the possibility for a more politico-economic, ethical, and nuanced inquiry into the sexuality of war.

Date: Monday 28th December, 2015 Time: 3 – 5 pm.

Venue: CSSSC's Seminar Room, Patuli Campus.

Trina Nileena Banerjee

(Convener, Seminar Committee)

All are welcome to attend.