

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

GENERAL SEMINAR

Nazes Afroz

Eminent Journalist and Photographer

will give a talk titled:

“From Kabul to Kolkata: Of Memories, Belonging and Identity”

Inspired by Tagore's short story 'Kabuliwala', two photographers – Moska Najib and Nazes Afroz – interacted with the Afghan community settled in Kolkata for nearly a century and a half and photographed their lives extensively. This photographic exploration has also touched upon the social transformations within this community from the mid-nineteenth to the twenty-first century. What kicked off as an intended art photography project, turned more into a documentary work as well as visual ethnography of the little known and noticed community. This close-knit community, with a lot of stigma and suspicions attached to them, normally lives outside the public gaze and does not allow outsiders into their lives. The two-year long interaction with them, gave Moska and Nazes the opportunity to explore the issues of identity, belonging and memories while visualizing these themes through their photographs. Among other things, they tried to capture the material life of cultural identity of a secluded community. The final outcome of the project has been turned into an exhibition with 50 photographs and exhibited in four cities – Kabul, Delhi, Dhaka and Kolkata – between March and May 2015. The exhibitions have attracted critical acclaim among the photography community in South Asia, the media worldwide and evoked considerable interest among educated public at large. Nazes Afroz will give a visual presentation of the exhibits and talk about his experience of working with the Kabuliwalas. His presentation will also include photographs and stories of the community that have not been included in the exhibition.

Date: Tuesday, 15th December, 2015

Time: 3 – 5 pm

Venue: CSSSC's Seminar Room, Patuli Campus

Trina Nileena Banerjee
(Convener, Seminar Committee)

All are welcome to attend.