

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

GENERAL SEMINAR

Swadhin Sen
Professor, Department of Archaeology, Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh

will give a talk titled:

**"Infinite Yearning for Spatio-temporal Singularities?
An Engagement with Heritagification of Archaeological Things in Bangladesh"**

The 'heritagification or heriteisation is a complex, multilayered and often, contradictory process of constructing, representing, manufacturing, circulating and managing the past in one or more than one way(s) at the present. The archaeological thoughts and practices in Bangladesh which have their genealogy under the project of colonial modernity/modernities show continuity and contingencies, in conceptual terms, throughout the historicity of their formations. There is, for example, a never ending aspiration for a civilizational identity in the past that is desperately being pushed backward within the linear temporal framework to validate the claims for recently invoked identities, policies and assumptions. It can be shown that these aspirations are entangled with deeply embedded and naturalized ideals of socio-cultural evolutionism. Even the statist narratives of 'unity in diversity' are structured within the conditions of unequal power relations. Simultaneously, the persistent invocation of the oldest, the civilized self in reference to, for example, thousand year old 'Bangalee (and Bangladeshi) identity and culture' is enmeshed with ethnic and linguistic nationalism, both 'secular' and 'religious', in reference to the contesting, yet shared political discourses in the public sphere, and current needs of the nation-state and dominating elites. Archaeological objects/artifact, as things, are identified in authoritative heritage discourses variously as cultural property, cultural resources or cultural heritage, are one of the keys in the legitimization procesees of particular narratives about the past. This lecture is a reflection upon the attempt to understand the heritagification in Bangladesh in critical terms.

Date: Tuesday 14th March 2017

Time: 3 – 5 pm

Venue: CSSSC's Seminar Room, Patuli Campus

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