

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

**GENERAL SEMINAR**

Preben Kaarsholm,  
Professor, Department of Society and Globalisation  
Roskilde University

**“Indian Ocean Networks and the Transmutations of Servitude: The Protector of  
Indian Immigrants and the Administration of Freed Slaves and Indentured  
Labourers in Durban in the 1870s”**

Focusing on Durban and its harbour, the paper discusses the importation of different kinds of transnational bonded labour into Natal in the last half of the nineteenth century, and examines the ways in which Southern African and Indian Ocean histories were inextricably intertwined in the processes that built the colonial state. The more particular focus is on the institution of the Protector of Indian Immigrants as a central ingredient in state building, which served to give it legitimacy in regulating the supply of labour. The early history of the Protector's work in the 1870s is given special attention as regards the introduction into Natal of freed slaves from the Indian Ocean coast, of indentured labourers from India, and of 'Amatonga' migrant workers from Mozambique. An 1877 court case is discussed, which led to the forced resignation of a Protector, as it threatened to undermine the respectability of the institution. The paper shows the continuities that existed between forms of servitude from slavery and forced labour through the recruitment of 'liberated Africans' and indentured Indians to more recent types of migrant and voluntary wage labour. The paper concludes by placing this history in the context of contemporary globalisation, where labour agents and contract labour have made their comeback alongside mass unemployment.

Date: Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.

Time: 3 – 5 pm.

Venue: CSSSC's Seminar Room, Patuli Campus.

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