

Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg  
Südasien-Seminar  
Orientalisches Institut  
Philosophische Fakultät I  
06099 Halle (Saale)  
Germany



## Fifth Conference on Bengal Related Studies for Students and Young Scholars

October 26-28 2018, Halle (Saale), Germany

The South Asia Seminar of the Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg is pleased to host the Fifth Conference on Bengal Related Studies for Students and Young Scholars. The aim of the conference is to provide an interdisciplinary venue for students and young scholars who focus on the Bengal regions in their studies.

Guests are very welcome. There will be no conference fee, but those interested in participating as guests are requested to contact the local organisers by email first.

**Contact:** [brsc@suedasien.uni-halle.de](mailto:brsc@suedasien.uni-halle.de)

**Conference Venue:** Emil-Abderhalden-Str. 26 (2nd floor, room 7/1.32), 06108 Halle (Saale), Germany

### Conference Committee:

Chaiti Basu, Britta Feuge, Arne Harms, Mascha Schulz,  
Franziska Strich, Shabnam Surita, Nora Warmer

### Financial Support by:

Dekanat und Fachschaftsrat der Philosophischen Fakultät I, Prorektorat für Forschung und wissenschaftlichen Nachwuchs & International Office der Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg



### Organisers & Partners:

Bengal Link e.V. & Arbeitskreis Neuzeitliches Südasiens der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Asienkunde

**bengal·link**

**DGA**  
DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR ASIENKUNDE E.V.  
GERMAN ASSOCIATION FOR ASIAN STUDIES

## Friday, 26 October 2018

18.00 – 19.30 Welcome by the Organisers and Introduction of Conference Participants

20.00 Participants' Common Dinner

## Saturday, 27 October 2018

9.00 – 11.20 **Session 1: The Colonial Bengal Lounge: Of Infinite Bearings**  
*Chair: Sukla Chatterjee (Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn)*

**Occultism of Bhadrakok: Studying the Theosophical Society in Colonial Bengal in a Transcultural Context**

*Mriganka Mukhopadhyay (Universiteit van Amsterdam)*

**Broomsticks, Brushes and Hand-Carts: Scavengers' Strikes in Late-Colonial Calcutta**

*Maria-Daniela Pomohaci (Georg-August-Universität Göttingen)*

**What an 'Effeminate' Bengali Should Eat: The Debate on Vegetarianism and Non-Vegetarianism in Colonial Bengal**

*Suvajit Halder (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)*

**Bengali Agriculture Science Periodicals and Making Knowledge Available Beyond the Laboratory and Peers in Colonial Bengal**

*Pankoj Sarkar (Tata Institute for Social Sciences, Bombay)*

11.20 – 11.45 Coffee Break

11.45 – 12.55 **Session 2: Modernism and Bengali Literature: Of Men and Letters**  
*Chair: Chaiti Basu (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg)*

**Encountering the Effete through the Bengali Comics of the 1960s**

*Sourav Chatterjee (Columbia University, New York)*

**Tracing the Bengali Avant-Garde – A Study in the Poetics and Politics of Naxalism and Hungryalism**

*Moinak Banerjee (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)*

12.55 – 14.00 Lunch Break

14.00 – 15.45 **Session 3: A Passage to Bengal: Of Transport and Infrastructure**  
*Chair: Arne Harms (Universität Leipzig)*

**The City on Wheels: Road Transport and Traffic in Calcutta, c. 1914-1947**

*Soumita Mazumder (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)*

**'Infrastructuralisation' of a Formerly Stateless Territory:**

**The Politics of Road and School Construction in a Border Village of Bangladesh**

*Md. Rashedul Alam (University of Western Ontario, London (CA))*

**"Āmāy bhāsāili re ...": Bengal's Wandering Minstrels and the Metaphor of Transportation across the River of Life**

*Aratrika Bhattacharya (Presidency University, Calcutta)*

15.45 – 16.15 Coffee Break

**16.15 – 18.00 Session 4: Bengal and Politics of Resistance**

*Chair: Franziska Strich (Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg)*

**Political Parties as Pathways to Women's Political Participation:  
A Study of the All India Trinamool Congress in West Bengal**  
*Proma Ray Chaudhury (Dublin City University)*

**From Class to Caste: Understanding the Change in the Communist Episteme  
of Struggle in Bengal**  
*Debayudh Chatterjee (Naba Ballygunge Mahavidyalaya, Calcutta)*

**Resistance under Ritualized Salutations: Some Experiences  
from the Santals' Villages of Bangladesh**  
*Farhat Jahan (Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg)*

19.00 Informal Dinner at the Venue

**Sunday, 28 October 2018**

**9.00 – 10.10 Session 5: Bangladesh, Radicalism, and the Public Sphere**

*Chair: Mascha Schulz (Universität Zürich/London School of Economics and  
Political Science)*

**The Islamist Public Sphere in Bangladesh:  
Religious Soundscape or Hate Speech?**  
*Rokeya Chowdhury (McGill University, Montréal)*

**The Fatal Attraction: Violent Extremism in Contemporary Bangladesh:  
An Empirical Analysis of 35 Cases**  
*Saimum Md. Parvez (University of Sydney)*

10.10 – 10.40 Coffee Break

**10.40 – 11:50 Session 6: Bengali Diaspora: Traveled Concepts and Situational Positionings**

*Chair: Shabnam Surita (Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn)*

**Rashbehari Bose in Japan: An Exiled 'Revolutionary's' Concept of Asia  
in his Japanese Publications**  
*Ludwig Merker (Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg)*

**Ambiguous Positionalities: Bangladeshi Migrant Men in The Hague**  
*Mohammad Ibrahim Khalad (Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka)*

**Final Discussion**