



भारतीय सामाजिक विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद  
(मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय)  
पूर्वी क्षेत्रीय केन्द्र  
**INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH**  
(Ministry of Human Resource Development)  
**EASTERN REGIONAL CENTRE**  
1/R-1, Baishnabghata Patuli Township, Kolkata - 700 094

Ref.: ICSSR-ERC/2019-20/71

Date: 07.11.2019

To  
Dr. Nibedita Chakrabarti  
Principal  
Victoria Institution (College)  
78-B, Acharya Prafulla Chandra Road  
Kolkata – 700 009


Dear Dr. Chakrabarti,

We refer to your proposal, dated 30.09.2019 requesting funds for organizing the fifth Series of Extension Lectures for Undergraduate Students of Political Science and Allied Social Sciences, by the Department of Political Science, Victoria Institution (College), Kolkata.

We are happy to inform you that a lump sum of Rs.30,000/- (Rupees thirty thousand only) has been sanctioned towards financial support for the series of lectures. We shall now request you to send a formal request for release of the grant of Rs.30,000/- and name of the payee with bank details so that we can send you a cheque for the amount. We shall also require a short report on this programme along with Utilization Certificate for the amount sanctioned soon after it is over.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

  
(Saibal Kar)  
Hony. Director

**Report  
On**

**5<sup>th</sup> Series of Extension Lectures for Students of Political  
Science and Allied Social Sciences, 2022**

**Organized by**

**Department of Political Science**

**Victoria Institution (College)**

**Financially Supported by**

**The Indian Council for Social Science Research – Eastern  
Regional Centre, Kolkata**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Department of Political Science, Victoria Institution (College) has successfully conducted the Fifth Series of Extension Lecture for Undergraduate Students of Political Science and Allied Social Sciences after the long lockdown and off-campus academic life due to the worldwide pandemic. The series was held after the college resumed its on-campus activities on February 2022 and was completed within May 2022. Certain specific areas of the under graduate CBCS (Honours) syllabus of Political Science, prescribed by the University of Calcutta, were discussed in the lecture series which, according to our understanding, requires an interdisciplinary and critical treatment. Academic calendar-bound teaching imposes certain unavoidable limitations not only upon teaching hours but also on lesson planning. In order to address these issues we have been successfully conducting series of extension lectures for the undergraduate students since 2014. These lectures prove to be highly effective since they serve as a supplementary element to the regular lectures students compulsorily attend. The aim of the programme was not only to enrich the students with the fundamentals of the discipline but also to expose them to the nuanced, critical and interdisciplinary aspects of the subject. Resource persons from various universities not only delivered theme-oriented lectures but also engaged the students in exhaustive discussion sessions.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We are grateful to the Indian Council for Social Science Research – Eastern Regional Centre, Kolkata for kindly agreeing to support us financially. It would not have been possible for us to conduct the series without the generous support of ICSSR-ERC, Kolkata. We had selected seven topics from the Core and DSE Honours papers from the prescribed syllabus of Calcutta University.

## **DETAILED ACADEMIC REPORT**

The inaugural lecture was delivered on 21.03.2022 by **Prof Dipankar Sinha**, Department of Political Science, Calcutta University. He spoke on the issue of *Public Administration in the era of Globalization, Liberalization and Privatization*. He began with the issue that Public Administration, both as an academic discipline and an everyday practice touches every level of the individual's life from the global to the local; hence, it cannot be an exception to the processes of *Globalization, Liberalization and Privatization*. For a long time Public Administration being state-centric, had fulfilled the twin issues of 'public interest' and 'public service'. However, these two functions are increasingly being taken over by the market and the state is losing its monopoly in different areas of public administration. Under the circumstances, public administration apart from focusing on empowerment, public participation, resource development and so on must also explore the potential of Human Choice and Capabilities to become more meaningful and relevant.

**Prof.Sobhanlal Dattagupta**, Surendranath Chair of Political Science (Retd), University of Calcutta spoke on *M.N.Roy's Idea of Radical Humanism* on 04.04.2022. Prof. Dattagupta began by throwing light upon the obscure yet fascinating life and times of M.N.Roy so that his idea of radical humanism could be put in the right perspective. Manabendra Nath Roy, born Narendra Nath Bhattacharya, was an Indian revolutionary, radical activist and political theorist. Roy was the founder of the Mexican Communist Party and the Communist Party of India. Disillusioned with both bourgeois democracy and communism, he devoted the last years of his life to the formulation of an alternative philosophy which he called radical philosophy and of which he wrote a detailed exposition in *Reason, Romanticism and Revolution*. Roy in his philosophy devised means to ensure human freedom and progress. He worked for the ideal of establishing a social order in which the best in man could manifest. Radical humanism is neither materialism nor idealism, but a scientific philosophy, insisting upon the freedom of the individual. In it human being has been discussed not only in the context of society, but in that of the whole cosmos. Its central theme is the liberty of the individual. Prof Dattagupta also highlighted the duality of remarkable consistency in the thoughts of Roy while undergoing continuous shifts in his political stance. So far as his activities are concerned he had shifted from

one position to the other, never being satisfied that it would lead to an emancipated social system. However, till the last he remained committed to Marxism which to him was not an arbitrary economic doctrine, neither a bundle of social dogmas. As he wrote in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of “*From savagery to Civilization*” Marxism was a complete and comprehensive system of philosophy, science, economics and politics, a revolutionary concept of life in all its branches, an ideology of civilised society.

A lecture on *India and Her Neighbourhood: A Geopolitical Understanding* was delivered by **Professor Anindya Jyoti Majumdar** of the Department of international Relations on 25.04.2022 as a part of the series. Professor Majumdar began by discussing the nuances of what foreign policy essentially means; four primary objectives of security, development, autonomy and prestige being central Professor Majumdar harped on the geopolitical determinant being the crux of understanding. Foreign policy dimensions between India and her neighbours were discussed with special reference to the underlying constraints of attitude or perception building, diplomatic skills or their absence, power projection capability – all juxtaposed withing the larger question geopolitical advantages which a state like India enjoys.

The fourth lecture of the series was delivered by **Professor Debi Chatterjee**, former professor at the Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University on *Views on Social Justice: Contributions of Savitribai Phule & Jyotiba Phule* on 05.05.2022 over online mode. The lecture was moored on the lack of adequate understanding and appreciation towards their understanding the undeniable contribution of Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule in their resistance against caste and patriarchal atrocities towards women and girl child. Professor Chatterjee began by providing a brief sketch of the life and works of the Phules; how they themselves resisted traditional binds imposed by the Hindu Brahminical society and the institutions of patriarchy; their journey towards setting an example for those who were being marginalized similarly. Both Jyoti and Savitribai had established schools for women and girls hailing from the backward classes, offered employment opportunities to them in those schools and also led their relentless fight against female infanticide by providing asylum to such women who had mothered children outside wedlock. the only way to put up a fight against the unfair

caste discriminatory Brahminical society and patriarchy was education through which awareness and empowerment could be actualized.

The fifth lecture was delivered by **Prof Partha Pratim Basu**, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University on *The Electorate and Electoral Behaviour* in the context of India on 19.05.2022. Prof Basu began by identifying the various issues connected to elections, upon which he focused on the variables which influence voting behaviour. Among these he first focused on caste and class which are not only often overlapping, but are also connected with the rural-urban variable. He cited the research of Nobel Laureate Abhijit Binayak Banerjee in whose opinion upper-caste votes tended to favour rightist parties more while working and lower-caste votes were more in favour of leftist parties. However, the scenario is ever-fluid, where he cited other researches where caste-class equations undergo constant changes. Prof Basu also identified Religion and Gender as other variables influencing voting behaviour. Consequently, the political parties have also changed their stance to enlist the support of voters from different cross-sections of society.

**Professor Imankalyan Lahiri** of the Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University delivered a lecture on 21.05.2022 on *Globalisation: The Bhagwati Stiglitz Debate*. This lecture was conducted online owing to the constraints of the university controlled academic calendar which is binding on colleges like ours. Professor Lahiri initiated the lecture by defining the primary contours of the concept and in a very lucid manner elaborated upon the trajectory of international political economy which culminated towards the all encompassing phenomenon of globalization, as we know it today. In the course he highlighted the unfair aspect of structural politics within the institutions of international economy (trade and commerce) and also the practices which ensued. The second phase of his lecture was a discussion on the opposite aspects of globalization which was put forth by Jagdish Bhagwati and Joseph Stiglitz. He provided with a detailed exposition on how free trade as a concept and practice was perceived to the cause of concern for the developing countries; an idea presented by former chairman of IMF Joseph Stiglitz. Jagdish Bhagwati's counter argument supporting free trade as a practice was also discussed in details.

**Prof. Sibashish Chatterjee**, Department of International Relations, Jadavpur University delivered the last and seventh lecture on 26.05.2022 in the online mode as a Webinar. He spoke

on *Citizenship: Contemporary Debates*. Prof. Chatterjee traced the history of the concept of Citizenship from the ancient Greek period to the modern period and highlighted two very important debates within the academic circles on the issue. The first debate centers around the Feminist critique which focuses on the inherent inequality and injustice within the Greek and Roman concepts of citizenship. Not only conceptually, inequality and injustice are present in the practical experiences of citizenship as well. The multiculturalist critique is the focal point of the second debate. Here the question is not necessarily of class or gender but of Identity in particular. Groups placed in differential social positions enjoy undifferentiated rights which are not always conducive to enjoyment of facilities arising from citizenship. Finally, citizenship to become a truly uniting force must accommodate the differences prevalent in society as it is not a unilinear.

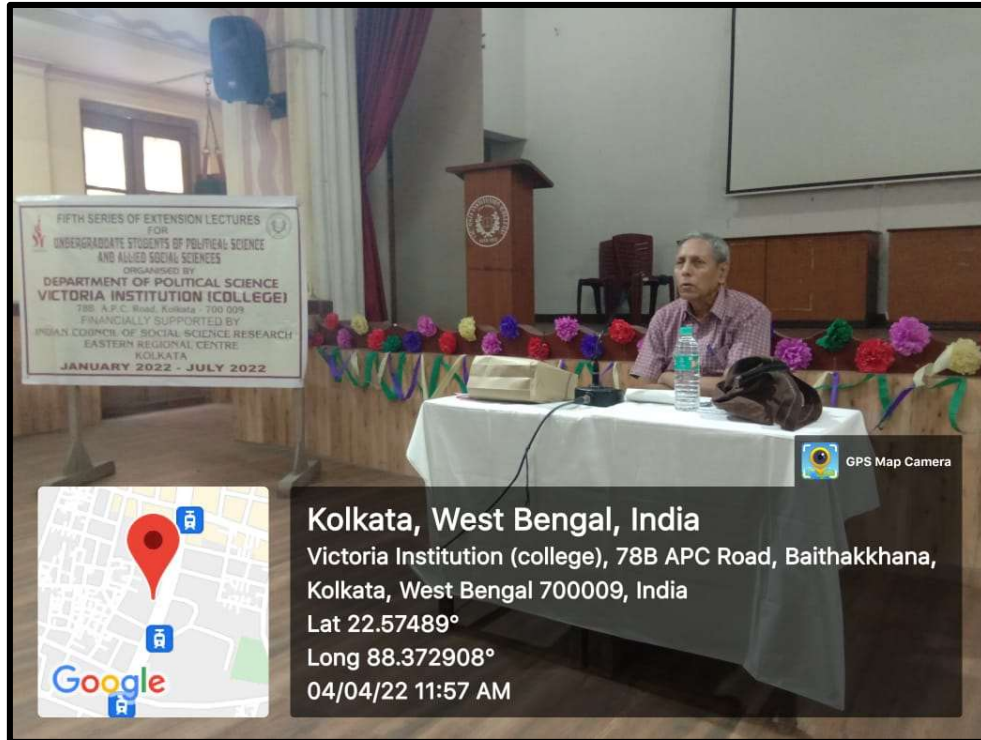


**Teacher-in-Charge, Dr. Uma Ray Srinivasan inaugurating the 5th Series of Extension Lectures.**



**Professor Dipankar Sinha at the first lecture of the series**





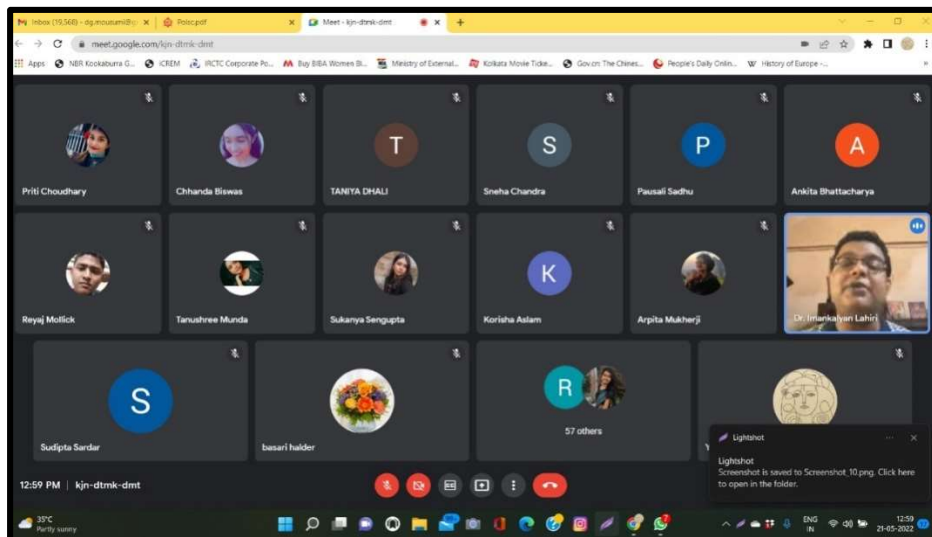
**Professor Sobhanlal Dattagupta delivering his Lecture on M.N.Roy**



**Professor Partha Pratim Basu being introduced by Dr. Basari Haldar, faculty and serving Head of the department of Political Science, Victoria Institution (College)**



**Professor Anindya Jyoti Majumdar delivering his lecture India and her neighbours**



**Professor Imankalyan Lahiri delivering his lecture on the Stiglitz Bhagwati debate on Globalisation**