

Public Lectures & Conference on *Populism and Populist Politics in South Asia*

Organised by the Calcutta Research Group in collaboration with the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung

31st August 2019

5 to 5.30 PM: Tea & Registration

5.30 to 7.30 PM: Public Lecture Session

Chair: Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhuri, RBU & CRG

5.30-5.35 PM: Welcome Address: Prasanta Ray, CRG

5.35-5.50 PM Introducing CRG and the Project: Ranabir Samaddar, CRG

5.50-6.20 PM: Public lecture I: Syed Badrul Ahsan, Asian Age, Bangladesh

6.20-6.50 PM: Public lecture II: Badri Narayan, GB Pant Social Science Institute

6.50-7.15 PM: Discussion

7.15-7.25 PM: Chairman's remarks

7.25-7.35 PM: Certification Ceremony for Library Volunteers

7.35-7.40 PM: Vote of thanks by Rajat Roy, CRG

1st September 2019

9:00-9:30 AM: Registration

9:30-10:00 AM: Introductory Session

Chair: Subhas Ranjan Chakraborty

Round of Self-Introduction

Introducing the Conference and the Modalities: Rajat Roy, CRG

10:00-10:30 AM: Tea

10:30 to 12 PM: **Populism, Popular Culture and the Production of the Public (A)**

Chair: Paula Banerjee, SCU & CRG

Speakers

Gopa Sabharwal, LSR: *The Newspaper as Political Actor—The Dawn, New Delhi, 1947*

Sounita Mukherjee, CSSSC: *Populist Politics, New Urban Spectacles and the Idea of the Popular in Contemporary Kolkata*

Discussant: Iman Mitra, SNU & CRG

10:30-12 PM: **Populism, Popular Culture and the Production of the Public (B)**

Chair: Rajesh Kharat, JNU & CRG

Speakers

Muhammed Puthusseri, BITS Pilani: *Cinema and the (Re)construction of the Left Popular in Kerala*

Muhsina K.K., UoH: *Religion, Community and Minor Subject Positions: Understanding Contemporary Populist Movements in Kerala*

Discussant: Samata Biswas, SCU & CRG

12:00-12:30 PM: Tea

12:30 PM-2:00 PM: **Land, Caste & Identities (A)**

Chair: Byasdeb Dasgupta, KU & CRG

Speakers

Manish K. Jha, TISS & CRG: *Populism as Political Practice: Interrogating Caste and Social Justice in Hindi Heartland*

Harender Singh, TISS: *Populist Land Policy and Decoding Marginalisation: Study of Land Rights Movement of Dalits in Punjab and Change in Identity and Representation*

Discussant: Nasreen Chowdhury, DU & CRG

12:30 PM to 2:00 PM: **Land, Caste & Identities (B)**

Chair: Kalpana Kannabiran, CSD & CRG

Speakers

Indrani Talukdar, JNU: *In the Name of the "People": Cultivating Identity and the Peasant in Assam*

Kapil Tamang, UoH: *Right-Wing Intervention in Gorkha Identity Politics*

Rashad Ullah Khan, TISS: *Shrinking Spaces: Impact of Hindutva Populism on the Vulnerable*

Discussant: Sudeep Basu, CUG & CRG

2:00-3:00 PM: Lunch

3:00-4:30 PM: **Parties, Leaders & the Democratic Question (A)**

Chair: Bharat Bhushan, Catch News & CRG

Speakers

Sumona DasGupta, Independent Researcher & CRG: *Political Parties and Populist Policies in Contemporary India: Some Reflections on AAP*

Shefali Jha, UoH: *'An Other People': Muslims and Populist Politics in the Deccan*

Lipin Ram, The Graduate Institute, Geneva: *Democracy's Unfulfilled Promise? 'The Participatory Tradition' within Kerala's Communist Politics*

Discussant: Anjuman Ara Begum, PRIO & CRG

Parties, Leaders & the Democratic Question (B)

Chair: Anjoo Sharan Upadhyaya, BHU & CRG

Speakers

Sibaji Pratim Basu, VU & CRG: *Mamata Banerjee's Populist Politics*

Maidul Islam, CSSSC: *Electoral Democracy and the Nature of State Populism in West Bengal*

Discussant: Anup Shekhar Chakraborty, NIAS & CRG

4:30-5:00 PM: Tea

5:00-6:30 PM: **Schemes, Policies, Politics (A)**

Chair: Mouleshri Vyas, TISS & CRG

Speakers

Amit Prakash, JNU & CRG: *Populism as a Crisis of the Liberal Script: Reflections on Politics and Policy in India*

Ria De, CRG: *Kanyashree Scheme: Populism & Governmental Feminism*

Discussant: Xonzoi Barbora, TISS & CRG

Schemes, Policies, Politics (B)

Chair: Mahalaya Chatterjee, CU & CRG

Speakers

Rajat Roy, CRG: *Populism in the Times of Competitive Democracy: Chhattisgarh, A Case Study*

Atig Ghosh, VBU & CRG: *Rearticulating 'Agrarian Populism' in Postcolonial South Asia:*

Considerations around D.N. Dhanagare's Study of the Shetkari Sangathana in Maharashtra and the Populism of 'Maulana' Bhashani in Bangladesh

Nirmal Mahato, GBU & CRG: *Populism and Identity Politics: The Case of Purulia, West Bengal*

Discussant: Arup Sen

6.30-7 PM: Wrap-up Session

Chair: Ranabir Samaddar, CRG

Vote of Thanks by Ria De, CRG

[Programme tentative and subject to confirmation]