

Exploring Means of Democratic Transformation: Theory and Practice in South Asia

Funding Agency: Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, Berlin

Principal Investigator: Subhoranjan Dasgupta

IDSK and Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS) jointly implemented a project on 'Exploring means of democratic transformation: Theory and practice in South Asia' in 2013. The project period began from January 2013 and continued till the end of the December 2013. Thereafter the project was extended for 3 months in order to facilitate the preparation of the manuscript on the project for publication. This extended term ended on March 31st, 2014. The purpose of the project was to systematically explore left concepts related to democratic transformation in order to examine the quality of Left politics in participation at the theoretical and practical level. The project aimed to conduct a research based on available literature and interviews to arrive at a genuine definition of democratic transformation laying stress on universal suffrage and socio-economic equality.

As a part of the project, a vibrant conference was organised in November, 2013. The proceedings of the conference were published as a book. Apart from hosting this conference, emphasis was given on interviews with academics, artistes and writers who answered questions on politics of the Left and democratic governance in South Asia. These interviews have already been published as a monograph. Two other booklets were also published, the first, a comprehensive bibliography of South Asian politics and the second, a selection of excerpts on democracy. The project was guided and implemented by Professor Subhoranjan Dasgupta with the assistance of Titas Dasgupta.