

Conference on ***Pratyaha: Everyday Lifeworld***

A two-day multi-disciplinary conference on ***Pratyaha: Everyday Lifeworld*** was organized by IDSK on October 20 and 21, 2011 to explore the everyday life process that is slowly gaining ground in the Indian social sciences. The conference focussed on 'everyday' lives or the site for common sense and common place. The Conference stressed that there are varied theoretical/ideological positions from which everyday phenomena are examined, choice of methodology and the sites of everyday practices and experiences. The conference was jointly organized by Professor Prasanta Ray and Dr. Nandini Ghosh.

On 20th October, the inaugural session of the conference began with a welcome address by Professor Amiya Bagchi, Director IDSK followed by an introduction to the conference by Professor Prasanta Ray. The keynote address of the conference was delivered by Professor Sabyasachi Bhattacharya. In the first session, the theme Food was elaborated through 3 papers that upheld food practices in Bengal, two from a qualitative perspective and the last from a quantitative perspective. The session on Literature explored a range of topics from children's literature to Islamic writings to contemporary Bengali literature. The session on Ordinary Lives illuminated the everyday lives of people from different walks of life that included a manager, a factory worker and a litigant.

In the session on Women, the three papers delved into the everyday lives of Anglo Indian Women and the domestic help in Kolkata, as well as women whose lives were understood and read through their memoirs. The session also had papers on discrimination against the girl child and exploration of the life world of the modern day woman. In the session on Negotiations, the papers explored different themes ranging from poverty in mainstream cinema to the cult of the popular goddess and everyday lives of persons with disabilities. Finally in the session on Philosophical reflections on everyday life worlds, the paper explored spiritual pragmatism and its engagement with different levels of theory and practice.