



INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES KOLKATA

(A Centre of Excellence in Social Sciences funded by the Government of West Bengal)

SALT LAKE CAMPUS • DD 27/D, SECTOR 1, SALT LAKE, KOLKATA 700 064

Seminar Notice

Dr. Udit Sen

Assistant Professor of Liberal Arts
University of Nottingham, UK
will deliver a lecture on

Citizen Refugee: Forging the Indian Nation after Partition

Abstract

This presentation explores the interface between nation-building and refugee rehabilitation in post-partition India. Relying on archival records and oral histories, I analyse official policy towards Hindu refugees from eastern Pakistan to reveal a pan-Indian governmentality of rehabilitation. This governmentality emerged in the Andaman Islands, where Bengali refugees were recast as pioneering settlers. Not all refugees were willing or able to live up to this top-down vision of productive citizenship. Their reminiscences reveal divergent negotiations of rehabilitation 'from below'. Educated refugees from dominant castes mobilised their social and cultural capital to build urban squatters' colonies, while poor Dalit refugees had to perform the role of agricultural pioneers to access aid. Policies of rehabilitation marginalised single and widowed women by treating them as 'permanent liabilities'. These case studies dramatically expand our understanding of popular politics and everyday citizenship in post-partition India.

Date: July 11 (Wednesday), 2018

Time: 3.15 pm

Venue: IDSK Seminar Room, 5th Floor

All are Welcome

Subhanil Chowdhury
(Subhanil Chowdhury)

Convenor, Seminar Committee, IDSK

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