



Dr. Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay, Assistant Professor, IISER, Mohali, will present a paper on

Economic Informality and Democracy at the Time of Covid-19

Date: 14 August 2020

Time: 5PM

Abstract:

This talk attempts to present our initial understanding of the implications of Covid-19 for India's Informal economy. It offers a brief map of the terrain of the informal economy and its linkages with contemporary capitalist development, migration, democratic politics, and state welfare with an intension to demonstrate the urgency for further, detailed studies on the changing dynamics of the informal economy in the postcolonial context. We make use of the current disruption as a living archive of changing capitalist and regime sensibilities. An analysis of this extraordinary moment unravels layered entanglements of democracy, migration, and economic informality that would otherwise have remained "secret" in public memory. Disruptions are occasions when these secrets enter the realm of public discourse. In what follows, we present our ongoing work in two 'fields' of informality: a) *karkhanas* in the fringe areas of NCR Delhi, and b) street hawking in Kolkata.

The Webinar will be via Zoom. All those who are interested to join can please fill the google form so that invitations can be sent to you.

Link to Google Form: <https://forms.gle/zciPfpGu55A13tSz9>

**Sd/- Subhanil Chowdhury,
Convenor, Seminar Committee, IDSK**