



Seminar Notice

Food from Sewage: The Benefits and Risks of Eating the Produce of the East Kolkata Wetlands

Speakers:

Professor Marika Vicziany, Director, National Centre for South Asian Studies, Monash University Melbourne, Australia

Professor Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay, Vice-Chancellor, Amity University, Kolkata

Dr Somenath Banerjee, independent consultant on the East Kolkata Wetlands

Dr Debanajana Day, Assistant Professor of Economics and Commerce, St. Xavier's College, Kolkata

Dr Shubhra Bagchi, Associate Professor of Economics, Vidyasagar College for Women, Kolkata

Abstract

Professor Vicziany will outline the main conclusions of research published (jointly with Professor Dhrubajyoti Chattopadhyay and Dr Somenath Banerjee) in September 2017 about the benefits and risks of eating the produce of the East Kolkata Wetlands. This multi-disciplinary paper brings together two bodies of evidence that, to the authors' knowledge have not before been combined: literature about the efficient functioning of the East Kolkata Wetlands in the production of fish is juxtaposed against scientific research that documents the heavy metal pollution of those Wetlands caused by industries such as tanneries. The primary question here is whether it is safe to eat the fish (and other produce) of the Wetlands; a related issue is to assess the strengths and limitations of traditional knowledge. In discussing what the farmers know and what the scientists know, the authors' have placed their work in the context of a framework developed by Richards in 1979. The conclusions suggest that the expertise of the farmers and the expertise of the scientists can be brought together. This project led us to identify the tanneries of Kolkata as major pollutants of the wetlands. Dr Day and Dr Bagchi will explain the nature of their research on the tanneries and together they will report on their planned future research on the tanneries and the Kolkata environment.

Date: March 07, 2018 (Wednesday)

Time: 3.15 pm

Venue: IDSK Seminar Room, 5th Floor

All are Welcome

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