



Webinar Notice

Pandemic, Governance and Communication: The Curious Case of COVID-19

Speaker

Prof. Dipankar Sinha
Professor of Political Science, University of Calcutta

Date and Time

1 April 2022, 3.30 PM

Abstract:

The discussion will be based on the book *Pandemic, Governance and Communication: The Curious Case of COVID-19*, Routledge, 2022, by the speaker. The book focuses on what is arguably the most devastating phenomenon in the history of modern civilization. It shows how, on the one hand, the pandemic has exposed the failure of ‘governance’ the world over to deal with a major crisis; on the other hand, it analyses some measures undertaken by the ruling forces to normalise the surveillance of biopolitical mode on people in the name of ‘security’ and ‘safety’. The book also discusses how the mainstream versions of crisis communication and risk communication are found to be thoroughly deficient in coping with the challenges posed by the pandemic. Finally, it analyses how the pandemic propels, especially with the use of social media, an extraordinary expansion of infodemic — rapid spread of excessive quantities of mis/disinformation of the fake and false variety, leading to a new genre of subversion of the prevalent information order and destroying its myth of objectivity. As the epistemic background the book throughout generates the argument that the communicative exercises during the pandemic bring to the fore the indelible presence of the ‘unknown’ as a mark of late modernity.

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89593412895>

Sd/-

Simantini Mukhopadhyay
Convenor, Seminar Committee, IDSK