

Seminar Notice

Temporal Spaces and Urban Transformation -- Its Role, Process and Manifestation: An Understanding of the Durga Pujo of Kolkata

Speaker

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Date and Time

9 September 2022, 3.30 PM

Venue

Seminar Room, Fifth Floor, IDSK

Abstract:

We all are aware that the city of Kolkata undergoes significant urban transformation to host Durga Pujo celebration – which has become a major cultural phenomenon. Recognising its universal value UNESCO has declared it as an Intangible World Heritage of Humanity. It is a spontaneous response of the city of Kolkata that we witness every year with more energy, creativity, and festivity- its unique Cityness. However, this is a sensitively curated, designed event with a very motivating socio-cultural narrative that is being enacted every year in the spatial confines of residential neighbourhood of the city- by the local communities engaging the city as a whole. Thousands of public places are being curated for such cultural celebration -a unique form of public art installation making the whole city transformed into exhibition gallery. These unique places are the manifestation of a specific Time (duration), Place(neighbourhood) and Culture (Bengali) creating unique public experience. The paper attempts to identify these spaces as Temporal Spaces. It is an urban construct that brings meaning in city life – its unique Cityness, its sustenance and rejuvenation. The paper unearths the underlying process through decoding its nonverbal communication and manifestation. This is a negotiated design process that helps to overcome the mundane profane and limitations of the formal planning process, available infrastructure, and space constraints- to create a Heterotopia. Temporality is the important clue for such negotiation- manifested during festivals, public celebrations.

Sd/-

Simantini Mukhopadhyay
Convenor, Seminar Committee, IDSK