

**IDSK
SEMINAR****Understanding coercion as a system
and practice: Tea plantations of
West Bengal****Speaker**

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**Date and Time**

14 July 2023, 3.30 PM

Venue

Fifth Floor, IDSK

Abstract:

Labour studies has treated coercion as a default aspect of labour, paying little attention to concrete mechanisms and systems through which it takes place. This article examines how systems of coercion are put in place, operationalised and resisted through a close study of Dooars tea plantations. The configuration/assemblage of such coercion are made up of multiple, easily overlooked practices structuring and manipulating time and space on the plantation. Originating through systemic elements like the recruitment process, laws and contracts coercion endures and nuances itself through practices such as subtle manipulation, cheating and other covert means of exercising control. Coercion is hardly ever absolute and there are sustained examples of workers' resistance to these. Workers' resistance are a constant challenge against the colonizing of time and space as currencies of coercion.

Sd/-

Simantini Mukhopadhyay

Convenor, Seminar Committee, IDSK