

**SPECIAL
LECTURE**

Education, Utopia, and Literature

Speaker

Barnita Bagchi
Chair and Professor
World Literatures in English
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Date and Time

9 August 2024, 3.30 PM

Venue

Fifth Floor, IDSK

Abstract:

This talk examines education as a site of freedom and of control, relating it to utopianism, or social dreaming, and dystopia, or social nightmares, and analysing both in a range of literary texts. I shall discuss the ineluctable gaps between dreams and achievement in utopian and dystopian literature, the concomitant necessary articulation of hope even in dystopian texts, reflections on utopia as process-oriented method, and focus on the highly important relationship between utopian practice or communities and utopian literature, two of the faces of utopianism proposed by Lyman Tower Sargent, which in turn helps enrich the theorization of utopianism, the third face. Case-studies include texts from contemporary South Asian diasporic literature and from pre-1950 South Asia and Great Britain.

Sd/-

Simantini Mukhopadhyay
Convenor, Seminar Committee, IDSK