

## Seminar Notice

# The Rain and the Rivers: Towards a Water History of British India's Partition

### Speaker

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### Date and Time

**6 September 2024, 3.30 PM**

### Venue

**Seminar Room, Fifth Floor, IDSK**

### **Abstract:**

*This paper is an attempt to understand partition through the lens of water. Rivers and irrigational canals have received the attention of several partition scholars, particularly those who have studied the making of the Radcliffe Lines and the bilateral disputes emerging from their arbitrary nature. However, in this paper I do not focus on the bilateral conflicts and cooperations around the transboundary/border rivers and canals. Rather, I ask a few simple questions: how did the monsoon rains shape the process of implementing partition in 1947? Did monsoon have any impact in determining the migration experiences and patterns in Punjab and Bengal? What role did the riverscapes of eastern Bengal play in shaping the bhadralok memories of partition? How does water, or the absence of it, feature in the Dalit reminiscence of partition? Moving beyond the memories of water – both as a commodity that is plentiful and scarce, I also focus on the materiality of it in shaping the agrarian practices of the refugees in India. Thus, water in this paper emerges as obstruction, resource and a site of knowledge production.*

Sd/-

**Simantini Mukhopadhyay**  
Convener, Seminar Committee, IDSK