



**NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY**  
**School of Social Sciences**  
DD 26, Sector I, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700064  
Website: www.wbnsou.ac.in

## **CALL FOR PAPER**

**Two-Day National Seminar Sponsored by the Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Bio-Technology, Government of West Bengal**

**Title of the Seminar :** Caste, Social Formation and Political Mobilization:  
Modern Bengal in Historical Context

**Date :** March 15–16, 2019

**Venue :** Seminar Hall, Netaji Subhas Open University,  
DD 26, Sector I, Salt Lake,  
Kolkata - 700064.

The School of Social Sciences, Netaji Subhas Open University and NSOU Centre for Social Studies is jointly organizing **Two-Day National Seminar Sponsored by the Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Bio-Technology, Government of West Bengal**. The Title of the Seminar: **Caste, Social Formation and Political Mobilization: Modern Bengal in Historical Context**.

**The Concept Note and other details are given below:**

### **Concept Note**

Caste is a historically determined phenomenon of the Indian society with social identifications and cultural attributions. In the pre-modern era, caste played very important role in the social structure of India as well as of Bengal. The introduction of British rule, the emergence of a modern form of economy and education, the rise of the new classes like the middle class or the working class and articulation of social reform movements in modern Bengal under the colonial rulers contributed to the formation of a new type of society in 19<sup>th</sup> century.

However, the rise of a new type of society under the dominance of the colonial rule does not imply the end of the importance of caste in the Bengali society. On the contrary, there was continuous interaction of caste and society in modern Bengal in multiple ways. And as a result of this complex interaction, caste question acquired certain new forms, meanings and identities in the expansive frontier of societal transformation from a pre-modern pre-colonial era to modern and colonial era. In other words, the absorption of bourgeois



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property rule and norms of *capital*, as well as *class* in the Bengali society in the 19<sup>th</sup> century did not lead to the marginalization of caste as a social entity. Rather, caste as a category was able to mutate and transform itself through the invention of suitable strategy, tactics and ideology from time to time in the historical perspectives of modern Bengal.

It is needless to point out that in a socio-culturally differentiated society of Bengal, the ideological proposition and strategy-tactics algorithm of castequestion would be far from homogeneity and rigidity. In other words, the different castes developed their own ways not only to *survive* but also achieve *progress* of their community under the new conditions of colonial modernity. Obviously, it was not an uncontested form of social communication. The entire process faced obstacles and resistance so far as the articulation of the identities of depressed consciousness was concerned. The present seminar intends to explore this little-highlighted area of the contested social communication of the depressed class consciousness, the modalities of power manifestation, the formation of caste identities and frontier of the politics of possibility. The caste question needs to be analyzed also an expression of power and culture not only under the colonial terrain, but also under the post-colonial configuration. The establishment of parliamentary democracy and electoral politics in post-colonial India created new conditions for the development of caste politics with new dimensions. The present seminar will also explore these features of the Bengali society. It will also address the so-called ‘myth’ of the absence of caste consciousness and caste politics in the historical development of contemporary West Bengal.

#### Subthemes:

- Caste and Society: Historical Development
- Caste: ‘Contested’ Social Communication and Depressed Class Consciousness
- Caste, Culture and Social Formation
- Caste, Politics and Hegemony
- Caste and Political Mobilization
- Caste and the Question of Social-Cultural Marginality
- Caste, Community and Identity Formation
- Caste and Gender Question
- Caste Movements: Case Studies
- Caste and Dalit Literature
- Caste, Social Justice and Empowerment

#### Important Dates:

- Last date for Full Paper submission: **28.02.2019**
- Acceptance/Rejection of papers will be notified by **06.03.2019**
- Last date for Registration and Deposit of Registration Fees: **12.03.2019**



**Details of Paper Submission:**

**Order: Author details - Title of the Paper - Abstract - Keywords - Body - Conclusion - References - Appendices**

- **Author details: Name, email, designation, affiliated instruction, mobile no.**
- **Abstract: 150–200 words**
- **Keywords: Seven/Eight**
- **Full paper: 5000–6000 words without citation and references**
- **Language of the Paper: English( USA)**
- **Format: Font size 12, Times NewRoman, Microsoft Office Word.**
- **Line space: 1.0, PageSize– A4.**
- **Please follow the EPW Stylesheet ([www.epw.in](http://www.epw.in)) for citation**
- **The contributors will submit their papers with the following Declaration:  
I/we do hereby declare that the present paper is an original unpublished research work of the undersigned. The undersigned(s) shall also be responsible for data, interpretation, and views used and/or expressed in the paper.**
- **Registration Fee: Rs. 500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred only) for each participant. In case of joint or more than two authors of a single paper, each participant has to pay the Registration Fee of Rs. 500.00 ( Rupees Five Hundred only ).**

Registration Fee should be made through NEFT/ RTGS mode only. ( **Cash Payment / Bank Draft will not be entertained in any way).**

The Bank Details and Registration Procedure will be intimated to the participants in due course through Email.

**Email ID for Communication: [cbacademics@gmail.com](mailto:cbacademics@gmail.com)**

**The original research-based papers are invited for this Two–Day National Seminar titled *Caste, Social Formation and Political Mobilization: Modern Bengal in Historical Context* sponsored by the Department of Higher Education, Science & Technology and Bio–Technology, Government of West Bengal from the scholars, especially from the younger scholars, for presentation and discussion.**

*(All research articles submitted will be checked for plagiarism. The author (s) are strictly expected to acknowledge the references made use of.*

*Author (s) must strictly adhere to guidelines, failing which their submissions must not be considered. The author (s) of the selected papers will be intimated in due time.)*



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**Publication:**

The Editorial Board will publish all the selected papers in Edited Volume (with ISBN). The Paper Review Committee/Editorial Board will, however, reserve the right to accept/reject any paper for presentation and/or publication. The Scrutiny Process will be done through double-blind peer review method. The decision of the Paper Review Committee/Editorial Board will be final regarding the publication of paper in the proposed Edited Volume.

**For sending the abstract and full paper, please click on the following link:**  
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**Manoj Kumar Haldar**  
*Assistant Professor of Political Science*  
*NSOU & Organizing Secretary,*  
*Seminar Committee*

**CHANDANBASU**  
*Director, School of Social Sciences*  
*NSOU*

**Dr. Srabonti Chaudhuri**  
*Assistant Professor of Sociology,*  
*NSOU & Organizing Secretary,*  
*Seminar Committee*