

Centre for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies

School of Humanities

NETAJI SUBHAS OPEN UNIVERSITY

Accredited Grade A by NAAC (First cycle)

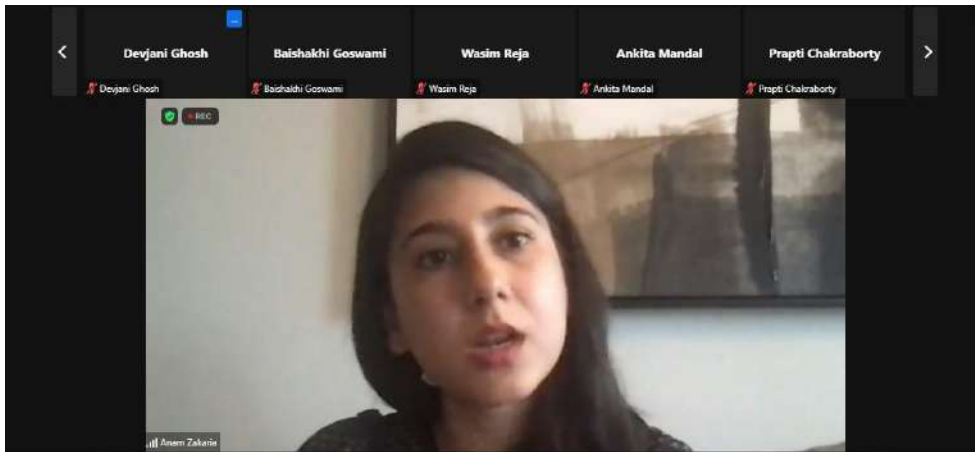
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Report on 21st Lecture of Partition Lecture Series, Netaji Subhas Open University

Eminent oral historian and Pakistani English author Anam Zakaria delivered the 21st lecture of the Partition Lecture Series organized by the Center for Language, Translation and Cultural Studies of Netaji Subhas Open University. Toronto-based author Anam Zakaria addresses the next generation of scholars in her lecture on the different aspects of partition studies. Also, she talks about how the state constructs the rhetoric of partition and how oral narratives of survivors challenge the state-sanctioned history of Partition. The said lecture was organized with the support of the Center for Language, Translation and Culture Studies, School of Humanities, School of Humanities, Netaji Subhas Open University on Friday, May 12, 2023.



For the past several years, partition lectures have been organized regularly under the initiative of the Bengal Partition Repository of Netaji Subhas Open University and many eminent personalities and researchers have delivered invited lectures in this lecture series. Renowned writer Debesh Roy, eminent researcher Saktinath Jha, Pippa Virde and others have given invited lectures in this series of lectures. Anam Zakaria was the chief guest for the 21st lecture of the lecture series. Her book 'Footprints of Partition' published in 2015 was well received by the readers. Project Director & Director of the School of Humanities, Prof. Manankumar Mandal introduced the speaker to the audience at the beginning of the 21st lecture. He briefly touched on the context of Partition and the Liberation War & the important role of oral narratives in the making of that history and informed the audience about Anam Zakaria's contributions to documenting this oral history over the past decade.

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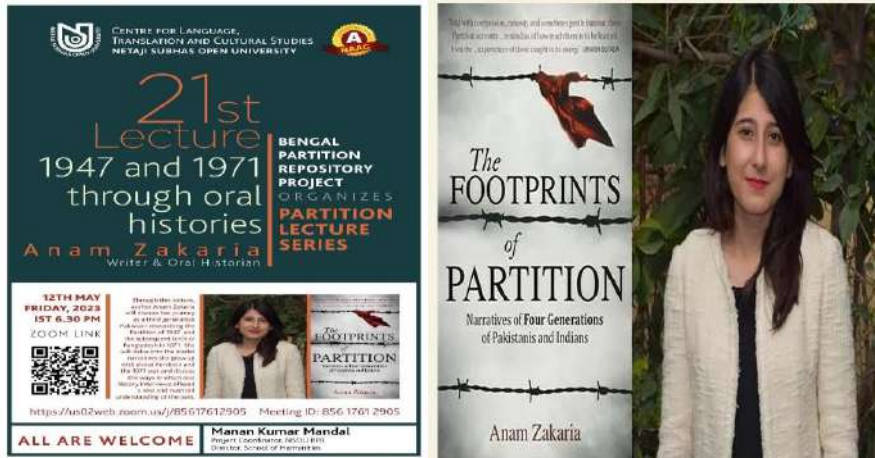
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Prof. Mondal also briefed the audience about the activities and methodology of the Bengal Partition Repository. He further added that the Bengal Partition Repository already has interviews of more than 400 people and it contains 500 hours of audio and video interviews from various districts of West Bengal. After Prof. Mandal's introductory talk, Anam Zakaria began her speech by discussing the context of oral history and intergenerational memory. She read excerpts from the introduction to her first book 'Footprints of Partition'. According to Zakaria, we should lay special emphasis on the Hindu-Muslim narratives of partition and it needs to be discussed more carefully. She further added that the study of partition should be done in relation to the present situation of different states and many important research directions can be uncovered from there.



The entire lecture was held online and around fifty researchers, and teachers from India and Bangladesh participated in the discussion. At the end of Anam Zakaria's talk, the participants discussed several important issues with the speaker in the question and answer session. In this context, it may be noted that, at present, Bangladesh Open University has signed an MoU with Netaji Subhas Open University for further development of the Bengal Partition Repository Project. Currently, researchers from two universities in Bangladesh and West

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Bengal are engaged in fieldwork. Earlier, the first few phases of this project have been completed in a joint initiative with Bangladesh's Khulna University and Rajshahi University. Project Director Professor Mandal thanked the participants at the end of the program.



Total no of participants attended online lecture: 46