



DR APJ ABDUL KALAM GOVERNMENT COLLEGE

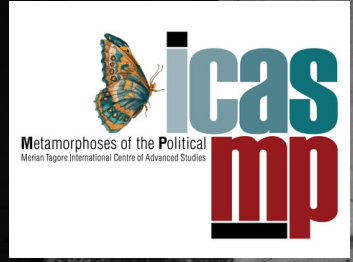
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY, IQAC IN
COLLABORATION WITH ICAS: MP AND ANUSHTUP,
THE BANGLA QUARTERLY

PRESENTS

National Research Colloquium

METAMORPHOSES OF THE POLITICAL

Voices from the margins of
West Bengal



22nd and 23rd
February 2024

@ Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam
Government College Premises

Plot BA-1, Action Area I, New
Town, Rajarhat, Kolkata - 156
(Behind the central Mall)



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Concept note

Scholarly discourse on West Bengal has traditionally sidestepped caste as a crucial factor in understanding social and political dynamics, with a predominant focus on class mobilization, party structure, and the intellectual engagement of the urban bhadralok to perpetuate its cultural dominance. While recent years have witnessed a welcome shift with notable studies delving into the caste complexities of West Bengal, particularly concerning marginalized Dalit and tribal groups, there remains an obvious tendency to overemphasize certain Dalit castes like the Namasudra or the Matua, neglecting smaller and less powerful communities.

In recognition of this gap, we have convened this meeting with the explicit aim of addressing the voices from the margin of the margins. A number of both emerging and established researchers have recently undertaken studies on communities such as Bagdi, Bauri, Pundra Kshatriya, Mahato, and others, deserving our scholarly attention. Through detailed examination of these studies — some published, many unpublished — we seek to enhance our capacity to contextualize these population groups within a coherent framework of political analysis. The meeting aims to facilitate in-depth discussion to advance our understanding of these castes in both their epistemic lineages and ontological conditions. Critically, it also seeks to elucidate the strategies deployed by these groups to engage with state institutions and political parties for claiming scarce public resources and enhancing political influence.

February, 22-23, 2024

At Dr. APJ Abdul kalam Govt. College



Convenors

DWAIPAYAN BHATTACHARYYA

KUMAR RANA

SUMAN NATH

Programme Schedule

Day I (presentation and interaction) 22.02.23 at Room no. 19, second floor

10.30-10.45: Welcome Address (Mala Neogy, co-ordinator, IQAC)
Principal's address (Moushumi Chakravorti, officer-in-Charge)
Preliminary Remarks (Suman Nath, Kumar Rana, Dwaipayan Bhattacharyya)

10.45-11.00: Kumar Rana, 'A socioeconomic profile of the Dalits in West Bengal'

11.00-12.00: **Session 1: Dalit Dynamics**
Chair: Semanti Ghosh

Arjama Ghosh: 'Interaction of the Dalits and the Middle castes'

Riya Mukherjee: 'Dalits through their autobiographies'

Naran Biswas: 'Dalit Employees' Movement'

Aneek Biswas: 'Dalit Emancipation through Literary movement'

Subhamoy Ghosal: 'Review of Anand Teltumbde's Republic of Caste'

Kamal Krishna Halder: 'Dalits in the age of privatization of public services'

12.00-12.45: **Discussions**

12.45-1.30: **Session 2: Women Voices**
Chair: Kapil Krishna Thakur

Preetikana Jana: 'Dalit women'

Baishali Biswas: 'Work participation of Dalit women'

Suranjan Midday: 'Dalit women of Sundarbans'

1.30-2.00: **Lunch**

Programme Schedule

Day I (presentation and interaction) 22.02.23 at Room no. 19, second floor contd..

2.00-2.45: **Discussion**

2.45-4.15: **Session 3: Specific Dalit
Communities**
Chair: Anil Acharya

- Sujit Majhi: ‘The Bagdi: Dalit among the Dalits’
Prasenjit Naskar: ‘The Socio-political Dynamics of the
Poundras of West Bengal’
Subhadeep Mondal: ‘The Mehtars of West Bengal’
Kingshuk Bhattacharya: ‘Doms of West Bengal’
Partha Mukherjee: ‘The Mahisyas Mobility to Become a
Middle Caste’
Uttam Das: ‘The presence and non-existence of the
Bauris of West Bengal’
Bimal Barman: ‘The Rajbangshis: How Geography and
Politics intermingles with caste
Hierarchy’
Kapil Krishna Thakur: ‘Matua Movement and Dalits of Bengal’

4.15-5.00: **Discussion**

Day II 23.02.23 at IQAC room, Ground floor

Discussant meet

Discussants

Anirban Chattopadhyay (Journalist and Author)

Kumar Rana (Independent Researcher, Author, Formerly with Pratichi Trust, India)

Anil Acharya (Editor, Anushtup)

Semanti Ghosh (Head, Editorial Department, Anandabazar Patrika)

Suman Nath (Assistant Professor, A P J Abdul Alam Government College, Kolkata)

Zaad Mahmood (Associate Professor, Presidency University, Kolkata)

Snigdhendu Bhattacharya (Author, Independent Journalist)

Abdul Matin (Assistant Professor, Jadavpur University, Kolkata)

Dwaipayan Bhattacharyya (Professor, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)



Chief Patron

Moushumi Chakravorti

Officer-in-Charge

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Government College

Patron

Mala Neogy,

Co-ordinator, IQAC

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Government College

Convenors

Dwaipayan Bhattacharyya

Professor, JNU, New Delhi

DAAD guest professor, University of Gottingen

Kumar Rana,

Independent Researcher

Suman Nath

Assistant Professor of Anthropology

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Government College

Organising Secretaries

Moumita Gupta

Assistant Professor and HoD, Anthropology

Madhumati Chatterjee

Assistant Professor of Anthropology



Committee for

National colloquium on

**Metamorphoses of the political:
Voices from the margins of West
Bengal**