



VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY

International Seminar

on

Society, Culture and Identity: Emerging Trends in South Asian History

Organized by

Department of History, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore-721102, West Bengal

Inaugurator



Professor Dipak Kumar Kar

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor,
Vidyasagar University

International Speaker



Dr. Tom Vickers

Nottingham Trent University,
United Kingdom

Keynote Speaker



Professor Koushik Bandopadhyay

West Bengal State University,
Barasat, West Bengal

Venue: Department of History, Vidyasagar University

Date: 21st February 2026

Time: 11 a.m.

Concept Note: As South Asia was connected to the world capitalist economy in the 19th century, major changes took place in society, not only on the basis of class but also in other social categories, such as caste and gender. Social and cultural relationships were constantly renegotiated and changing. Colonial and post-colonial states became a tool and spatial location of modernity. In recent South Asian historiography, some of the questions revolves round the issues like rethinking territory, periodization, and temporality. In the background of space time question, the question of modernity is also placed. There is also a renewed interest in studying tradition and vernacular histories located in pre-colonial times. Recognizing society, culture and identity in South Asia as primordial categories, new scholarships have moved beyond the homogeneous representations of caste, religion, gender, or nation to foreground plurality, negotiations, contestation and lived experiences. The shift has emerged as a critical lens through which historians now reconstruct both colonial and postcolonial South Asia beyond the context of so-called tradition-modernity binaries. This seminar will engage with these new, interesting and changing histories of South Asia through interdisciplinary and comparative approaches.

Sub-Themes:

- ❖ Changing dynamics of identity formation
- ❖ Everyday life
- ❖ Gender and culture
- ❖ Marginal voice in subaltern context
- ❖ Religious rituals in society
- ❖ Migration and diaspora
- ❖ Media and society
- ❖ Environment and culture
- ❖ Performing arts
- ❖ Indigenous Knowledge System

Important Dates:

Last Date of Registration: 18/02/2026

- ☆ Last Date of Abstract Submission: 15/02/2026
- ☆ Last Date of Full Paper Submission: 18/02/2026

Interested participants are requested to send their abstracts and full papers as an email attachment to

[nirmalkmahato@mail.vidyasagar.ac.in/](mailto:nirmalkmahato@mail.vidyasagar.ac.in)
dasgupta_history@mail.vidyasagar.ac.in

Accepted paper presenters will be intimated by 16/02/2026

- **Contact: 7797512761**

Participants are requested to register through the following Google form link:

Registration link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd6GvDTyeKPGPk1nhke0C8X8Tpd7DxwBQG_83wcoVhKSzgiDg/viewform?usp=publish-editor

Registration Fees:

- ❖ Faculty Members: Rs.1000/-
- ❖ Research Scholars: Rs. 500/-
- ❖ PG Students: Rs. 150/-

Bank Account Details:

- ❖ Name of the Beneficiary: Vidyasagar University
- ❖ Bank Name: UCO Bank
- ❖ Nature of Bank A/C: Savings
- ❖ Account Number: 17480100003992
- ❖ IFSC Code: UCBA0001748

Dr Nirmal Kumar Mahato

Convener

Professor Koushiki Dasgupta

Joint Convener

Organizing Committee

Professor Koushiki Dasgupta, Vidyasagar Chair Professor

Professor Sujaya Sarkar

Sri Gautam Chando Roy

Dr Nirmal Kumar Mahato

Dr Shyamaprasad De

Dr Debjani Das

Dr Sourav Naskar

Guidelines for Abstract and Full Paper Submission:

- ✿ The word limit of the full paper and abstract should not exceed 3000 words and 300 words respectively.
- ✿ The full research paper/abstract is to be submitted either in English (Times New Roman) or in Bengali version (by using Avro Software). Font size must be 12 pt and Footnote size 10 pt, Line and Paragraph Spacing 1.5 as end note on A4 Paper with 1inch Margins on all sides.
- ✿ References and Bibliography will be according to the 17th Edition Chicago Manual Style.