



The Present and Future of Bengal Studies: Prospects and Problems

**September 14, 2018
10:00am-5:00pm
147 Bay State Road, Room 202**

Totaling over 250 million people spread out across more than 91,200 square miles, greater Bengal is a region of the world that is rich in history, culture, and literature. With 189 million speakers, Bengali is the seventh most spoken language in the world, yet it is only taught at a few universities in North America and Europe. This one-day roundtable hosted at Boston University brings together scholars in the humanities and social sciences to discuss the state of Bengal Studies today. Some have argued that Bengal has historically received more academic attention than other regions of South Asia, while others argue that it is most often overlooked. What are the facts, and why has this subfield of South Asian Studies achieved the ambiguous status that it now holds? The greater New England area is fortunate to be the home of a significant cluster of scholars who conduct research in Bangladesh and West Bengal, India. Thirteen of these scholars will critically discuss where Bengal Studies stands today and what might be done to elevate its profile in the future, not only locally, but nationally and internationally as well.

Participants:

Sugata Bose, Harvard University
Brian Hatcher, Tufts University
Elora Chowdhury, University of Massachusetts, Boston
Nusrat Chowdhury, Amherst College
Lina Fruzzetti, Brown University
Ayesha Irani, University of Massachusetts, Boston
Nazli Kibria, Boston University
Frank J. Korom, Boston University
Sarah Lamb, Brandeis University
Golam Mathbor, Monmouth University
Dwaipayan Sen, Amherst College
Nafisa Tanjeem, Lesley University
Sufia Uddin, Connecticut College

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