# National Level Online Lecture Series on Doing Theory: Politics and Practice(s)

**Date:** 4th, 5th, 8th, 18th, and 19th August 2020 **Platform:** Virtual (Google Meet & YouTube Live)

Speaker: Dr. Samprat Sengupta

Patron: Dr. Dipak Kumar Tamili, Principal, Egra S. S. B. College

**Participants:** 113

## Schedule of the Lecture Series

Day	Speaker	Date of the Lecture	Time	Title of the Lecture	YouTube Link
Day - 1	Dr. Samprat Sengupta	4th August 2020	6.00 pm	Tracing Knowledge Power: Politics of Life and Death	Click here
Day – 2	Dr. Samprat Sengupta	5th August 2020	11.00 am	Tracing Madness: Foucault and Derrida in Conversation	Click here
Day – 3	Dr. Samprat Sengupta	8th August 2020	11.00 am	Tracing the End of Ideology: Spectres of Marx and Beyond	Click here
Day – 4	Dr. Samprat Sengupta	18th August 2020	11.00 am	Tracing The Body: Sexual Difference and Profeminist Anxieties	Click here
Day – 5	Dr. Samprat Sengupta	19th August 2020	11.00 am	Tracing Technology: Doing Humanities in the Digital Age	Click here

#### **Overview**

The seminar titled "Doing Theory: Politics and Practice(s)" jointly organized by the Department of English, Egra S. S. B. College, and the Department of English, Kharagpur College, spanned multiple dates from 4th to 19th August 2020. Dr. Samprat Sengupta, an esteemed scholar and expert in critical theory, delivered a series of lectures exploring various intersections of theory, politics, and practice.

#### **Event Highlights:**

**Lecture 1:** Tracing Knowledge Power: Politics of Life and Death (4th August): Dr. Sengupta's first lecture delved into the intricate dynamics of knowledge power, examining how politics influences notions of life and death. He discussed the implications of power structures on the production and dissemination of knowledge, challenging participants to critically analyze societal hierarchies.

**Lecture 2:** Tracing Madness: Foucault and Derrida in Conversation (5th August): The second lecture focused on the themes of madness, drawing insights from the works of Michel Foucault and Jacques Derrida. Dr. Sengupta explored the philosophical underpinnings of madness, engaging

participants in a dialogue on the construction of sanity and the marginalization of "othered" identities.

**Lecture 3:** Tracing the End of Ideology: Spectres of Marx and Beyond (8th August): Dr. Sengupta's third lecture analyzed the concept of the end of ideology, referencing Karl Marx's ideas and their contemporary relevance. Participants examined the specters of Marxian thought in the context of evolving political ideologies, prompting reflections on the intersections of theory and socio-political reality.

**Lecture 4:** Tracing The Body: Sexual Difference and Profeminist Anxieties (18th August): The fourth lecture explored the complexities of the body, focusing on sexual difference and profeminist anxieties. Dr. Sengupta engaged participants in a critical examination of gendered norms and the challenges posed by patriarchal structures in contemporary society

**Lecture 5:** Tracing Technology: Doing Humanities in the Digital Age (19th August): The final lecture centered on the impact of technology on the humanities, addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by the digital age. Dr. Sengupta discussed the evolving landscape of scholarly inquiry and the necessity of adapting theoretical frameworks to engage with digital mediums.

Conclusion: The seminar on "Doing Theory: Politics and Practice(s)" facilitated by Dr. Samprat Sengupta was an intellectually enriching experience for all participants. The diverse range of topics explored in the lectures stimulated meaningful discussions and contributed to the academic growth of attendees. The collaborative effort between the Department of English at Egra S. S. B. College and Kharagpur College underscored the value of interdisciplinary exchange in academic pursuits.

### **Graphical Presentation of the Programme**





