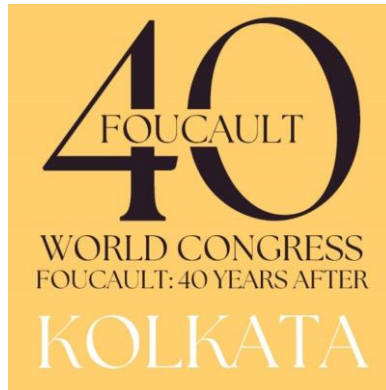


## Call for Papers



<https://foucault40.info/>

### Seminar: Foucault and Postcolonial Governmentalities in South Asia

24-25 May, 2024

<https://foucault40.info/kolkata/>

Organised by

Postcolonial Studies Association of the Global South (PSAGS)

&

Institute of Language Studies and Research (ILSR) Kolkata

**Venue:** Institute of Language Studies and Research (ILSR) Kolkata, New Town Campus

This seminar hinges on South Asian governmentalities (Legg and Heath, 2018), as experienced in postcolonial South Asian nation states. They were erstwhile colonies, liberated through intense anti-colonial struggles against the British, a move that involved totalizing discourses of autonomy and nation-making. The newly born nations, supposed to be democratic *guardian* states, however, adopted the sovereign logic of governmentality and gradually most postcolonial nation states in South Asia, engulfed in internecine conflicts, diluted its nourishing roles to legitimize structural authoritarianism. They often demonstrate autocratic tendencies, evolving into absolutist state-machines, adopting culturalist disciplinary technologies to govern its citizens. There are occasional signs of carceral despotism, liquidating norm-deviant voices, adopting bio-political control in the name of national integration, identity and securitization. All these governmentality-oriented highhandedness demand a fresh Foucauldian analysis of normative categories such as *power*, *civil society*, *territoriality*, *identity*, *state control*, *security*, etc in the South Asian contexts. Postcolonial scholars, so far, have primarily looked into the perspectival reservoir of indigenous thinkers (quite understandably and legitimately so) but a larger Foucauldian critical hermeneutics can offer fresh analytical tools to understand the postcolonial biopolitical predicament. This proposed Kolkata chapter of the World Foucault Congress will look into the postcolonial governmentality question through the Foucauldian lens.

**Original scientific paper proposals are invited, focusing on but not limited to the following areas of research:**

Foucault, Postcolonial State and Governmentality

Foucault, South Asian biopolitics and bio-sociality

Gender and Sexuality in the Global South and Foucault

Foucault and Postcolonial Literary, cultural Agenda  
Prison Reform, Incarceration in South Asia and Foucault  
Foucault and Postcolonial Nationalist Discourses  
Foucault and Postcolonial Human Rights  
Violence and Postcolonial Discourse of Power  
Foucault and the Question of Identity  
Foucault and the Question of Caste, Race and Religion in South Asia, etc  
Foucault, Neoliberalism and Subalternity  
Foucault, Anthropocene and Critical Animal Studies  
Foucault and Psychoanalysis

**Method of submission of proposal:**

Submit an **abstract (300 words maximum)** with a short bio-note (150 words) within **March 10, 2024** to [foucaultcongresskolkata@gmail.com](mailto:foucaultcongresskolkata@gmail.com)

**Selection results will be communicated within 25 March, 2024**

**Selected abstracts will be asked to submit a full paper of 3000-4000 words (for a presentation of 15-20 minutes) within 15 May 2024**

**Confirmed Invited Speakers:**

Deana Heath, University of Liverpool

Srila Roy, University of the Witwatersrand

Anup Dhar, Ruhr University Bochum

Sreenanti Banerjee, University of Bristol

Jonathan Saha, Durham University

**Convenors:**

Anindya Sekhar Purakayastha, ILSR, Kolkata

Subhendra Bhowmick, Sidho Kanho Birsha University

Mursed Alam, Gour College, University of Gour Banga

Selected candidates will be informed about the registration process in due course of time. For any queries reach us at [foucaultcongresskolkata@gmail.com](mailto:foucaultcongresskolkata@gmail.com)