

# Department of Sociology



Throughout the year the faculty members have been engaged in the formulation and implementation of the CBCS. A very important event of the year 2017 was the release of the Departmental Journal, *Young Sociologist*, held on 28th October. The theme was 'National Belonging'. On this occasion Dr. Gnana Aloysius spoke on 'Nation Formation and the Question of National Belonging: A Sociological Exploration' and Dr. Dipankar Sinha of the Department for Political Science (Calcutta University) spoke on aspects of a Post-Truth society, followed by a discussion. The second half of the event was a screening of a documentary on the Kumbhakars of Kumortuli made by a student, Diptava Sarkar.

In the course of the year the department organized several monthly colloquiums where the following scholars have presented their academic research and engaged in active discussions afterwards. Heba Ahmed (Jawaharlal Nehru University) on 'Minority Women and the Logic of Masculinist Protection', Dr. Udit Sen (University of Nottingham) on 'There is No Such Thing as a Bengali Refugee: Caste, Gender and Governmentality in the Aftermath of Partition', Dr. Manashi Ray (West Virginia State University) on 'Crossing Borders: Migratory Strategies and Routes from Burma to the USA', Dr. Debanuj Dasgupta (University of Connecticut) on 'Trans/Matters: Situating Trans/Kothi Spaces in Periurban Kolkata', Suha Priyadarshini Chakravorty (SOAS, UK) on 'Who is afraid of the Malana Crème?: An ethnography', Dr. Subir Sinha (SOAS, London) on 'The New Migrant Middle Class and the City' and Dr. Suhrita Saha (Presidency University) on 'Social Thought of Benoy Kumar Sarkar: Heritage Not Inherited'.

The students of the 2015-18 batch continue to do well as they found places in reputed institutions. This year students were sent to the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Presidency University, Azim Premji University, Tata Institute of

Social Sciences (Guwahati), IISWBM and the University of Calcutta. Our students have been active in sports and other extracurricular activities. Yashfeen Adil (3rd year) participated in JENESYS 2017 (Japan East Asia Network of Exchange for Students and Youth), an exchange program organized by the JICE (Japan International Cooperation Center) for the students of ASEAN member states, India and Timor Leste, around the theme of 'What the Youth in the Asian Countries can do for the Peace and Stability of the Asian Region. Krithi Rebello (3rd year) was adjudged the Best Athlete for 2017 and 2018 by the college. She has represented the college in basketball through the years 2016 and 2017, and was a part of the team which got the second position at the state level in 2016 and the third position in 2017. She has also been a part of the college relay team winning a Silver medal at the State meet conducted by the Reliance Foundation. Pragya Barla (3rd year) has participated in the XPL for two years, and has won a 2nd place in the Sports Day. She has also been a part of many Western Dance competitions. She has participated in Goonj 2016 and 2017 and in Xavotsav 2018, having been placed 2nd at both. She won at Spotlight 2016, Xavotsav 2017 and JD Birla Fest 2017. Vedika Bothra (3rd year) has participated in several inter college basketball tournaments including the Indian College Basketball League, and emerged winner in all of them. She is currently the Sports Secretary of the College. Anushka Kar (2nd year) won a silver medal in the Challenger National Championship and one silver and one gold medal in the Intra Club Rowing Championship. Sanjana Ghosh (2nd year) represented Calcutta University in Chandigarh and won one silver and two bronze medals in the Intra Club Anniversary Regatta Championship. She also won a gold medal in Senior Girls Double Sculls.

Faculty members have been academically active throughout the year. Prof. Zaid Al Baset co-edited the book (with Romit Chowdhury) titled 'Men and Feminism

in India' published by Routledge, London and New Delhi in 2018. Dr. Shaoni Shabnam's article titled 'In Defense of the Sustho Sanskriti (Healthy Culture) : Understanding Bengali Middle Classness in Neoliberal India' was published in the journal History and Sociology of South Asia, Vol.12, No.1 (pp 48-64). She also presented a paper titled 'Doing Good, Being Political : Understanding the Old Middle Class in Contemporary Bengal' at the National Seminar on 'Experiences, Aspirations and Struggles : New Middle Class in India Cities' held at TISS Mumbai on 26th-27th July, 2018. Dr. Shoma Choudhury Lahiri presented a paper titled 'Celebrating Science as Culture : The Science Fairs of Kolkata' at the 43rd All India Sociological Conference held at the University of Lucknow on 9th-12th December 2017. She also published a book chapter titled 'Negotiating Marginality : Women Activists in the People's Science Movement, Kerala' in Asmita Bhattacharyya and Sudeep Basu (ed) Marginalities in India : Themes and Perspectives, in Springer Nature, Singapore in January 2018.



The faculty members have also been involved in several activities of the college. Prof. Zaid Al Baset served as the Managing Editor of the college magazine The Xaverian 2017, and is the Convener of the same for 2019. He is also the President of the Debating Society of the College. On 21st September 2017 Prof. Al Baset and Dr. Choudhury Lahiri were invited to deliver two lectures, by the Department of International Affairs, St. Xavier's College, to students from Macquarie University, Sydney. They spoke on 'The Women's Movement in India' and 'Indian Society : Continuities and Challenges', respectively.