



CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY HISTORY
BANKURA UNIVERSITY

Main Campus, Bankura Block-II, P.O.: Purandarapur, Dist.: Bankura, Pin- 722155,
West Bengal

Call for Papers

Re- reading the Past in Contemporary Times

12-13 March, 2024

The reading(s) of Indian history involves changing perceptions of the past. The changes, one might surmise, cannot simply be regarded as disciplinary, historiographical shifts, unrelated to other developments. Readings and perceptions are political processes. Political processes, in their turn, adhere to modes of production and the production relations thus produced. Perceptions of the Indian past was also shaped through colonial interpretations. If the colonial masters engaged with what was considered to be the particularities of oriental cultures, the Indian nationalists responded with their own version of what constituted, in their terms, the specificities of an Indian way of life, ideas which remained with the independent nation.

In the context of the possibilities of diverse readings of the Indian past, this conference seeks to ask how histories of India came to be written and how popular perceptions informed the idea of the past. The conference seeks to engage with analytical frames and also going beyond them to look at changing trends and cultures of history writing.

Keeping in mind the themes which would be addressed in this conference, we invite papers which discuss the following –

- Reading ancient Indian history and medieval Indian in contemporary times
- Syncretistic traditions and composite cultures in medieval India
- Traditions of history writing in India
- Notions of colonial modernity

- Issues of contemporary politics.

The themes are indicative rather than restrictive.

Please send abstracts (300-350 words) and a bio-note (100-150 words) to cchbku@gmail.com by **February 15, 2024**. Decision regarding acceptance will be intimated by February 26, 2024. Once the paper is accepted, instructions for on-spot registration (Registration fee – 1200 INR), will be sent. The Centre is not in a position to provide accommodation, but queries regarding the options and any other queries may be sent to the same email address.