

BANKURA UNIVERSITY

(WEST BENGAL ACT XIX OF 2013 - BANKURA UNIVERSITY ACT, 2013)

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

MAIN CAMPUS (BESIDE NH 60)
BANKURA BLOCK - II, P.O.- PURANDARPUR, DIST.- BANKURA, WEST BENGAL,
INDIA. PIN - 722 155

Two-Day International Seminar on Locating Modernity: Displaying Time in the Region

2ND & 3RD DECEMBER, 2025

REGISTRATION & ABSTRACT SUBMISSION LINK:

About Bankura University

Bankura University was established by the West Bengal Act XIX of 2013, and the assent of the Governor was first published in the Kolkata Gazette (Extraordinary) on 6th January 2014. Bankura University is committed to the dedicated task of disseminating higher learning in this region and aspires to move toward a glorious future by promoting the study of indigenous folk and cultural traditions, as well as sustainable rural and tribal development.

Bankura, historically known as Mallabhum, can truly boast a rich heritage of traditional cultural excellence. This is evident in its traditional Dokra art, the intellectual and artistic achievements of the eighteenth-century mathematician Subhankar (the well-known Subhankari Arya), the temple town of Bishnupur, and the artistic contributions of Jamini Roy and Ramkinkar Bej.

The University continues to sustain and strengthen a unique dissemination of knowledge systems in language, literature, cultural studies, social sciences, and various branches of science. At present, it comprises four campuses located at Purandarpur, Puabagan, Mithila, and Chhandar in the Bankura district. Bankura University is recognised under Sections 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act, 1956, and is accredited by NAAC.

About Department of History

The Department of History was established under the School of Social Sciences in 2014. The Department has designed its M.A. and Ph.D. programmes with a view to understanding the diverse patterns of the past and exploring multiple ways of engaging with them. The courses illuminate different methodological approaches and highlight key variables in the interpretation of history.

Focusing on various genres of history—political, economic, social, cultural, and intellectual—the syllabus seeks to provide students with a holistic understanding of earlier eras. Special emphasis is placed on issues related to local and regional history, keeping in mind the location of the University and the backgrounds of the students who study here. The syllabus also stresses how history as a discipline has evolved over the years, how the practice of writing history has changed, and how historians have negotiated with theoretical frameworks emerging from related disciplines.

The courses equip students with the tools necessary to interpret not only the past but also contemporary socio-economic and political configurations. As is often observed, history is a continuous dialogue between the past and the present. The postgraduate programme seeks to make students aware of the complexities of past issues while enabling them to understand and analyse the contemporary world. Through the Mentor-Mentee Programme, each faculty member is assigned to a specific group of students to assist them with academic guidance, queries, and assignments.

The Department offers a two-year Master's programme spanning four semesters, as well as a PhD programme. At present, 36 research scholars are pursuing their theses on diverse themes. Regular excursions to places of historical interest are organised to provide students with practical exposure to the significance of historical sites as primary sources.

The faculty members have taken the initiative to build a departmental library, assembling books and articles to provide students with easy access to reference materials related to their coursework and research. The Department also organizes a monthly lecture series to introduce students to recent scholarship and emerging debates in the field.

Students of the Department actively participate in extracurricular activities. They contribute to campus beautification and are involved in various sports. They have also undertaken a plantation programme, securing necessary permissions, collecting saplings suitable for the campus, and planting them. The Department of History firmly believes in and works toward the holistic development of each individual so that they may contribute meaningfully to the creation of a more inclusive and egalitarian society.

CONCEPT NOTE

Locating Modernity: Displaying Time in the Region

Writing the history of the region and the locality involves negotiating with many temporalities. While the idea of what constitutes modern time in India, shaped through colonial practices, determined particular patterns of development, cultural patterns specific to regions and localities had the potential to go against the grain of such unilinear notions of modernity. They could inform other notions of time, not squarely connecting labour to clock-time. Local rulers and people of a particular region, while subscribing to the colonial tropes of historical time, were also keen on situating their history against the backdrop of an endless, immemorial time. A study of regional cultures would therefore entail coming to terms with multiple, multilinear temporalities. It would involve understanding a particular display of time in the region. This conference seeks to understand regional history and culture in India through the lens of time. It would look at the conjunction of histories specific to regions with a notion of time marked by such specificities.

The conference seeks to explore, but is not restricted to the following themes –

1. Dynastic histories and their relationship with time.

2. Regional practices of worship.

3. Scientific practices in the region.

4. Tracing ancestral histories.

5. Work and leisure in the region.

6. Agrarian practices, seasonal time.

Call for Papers

Please submit abstracts of original work of not more than 500 words in Times New Roman (font), 12 (font size) with 1.5 line spacing and justified text, along with a brief bionote of not more than 100 words and contact information to (email).

Submission Procedure

Once accepted, the full paper (5000-6000 words) should be submitted in the same format as the abstract to (email).

Registration Process

The registration fees are to be submitted at the time of the

Registration Fees

- For teachers 800 INR
- For Research Scholars 600 INR
- For Students 400 INR.

Book Proposal

After the conclusion of the seminar, the papers might be compiled into a book.

Important Dates

- The last date for the submission of abstracts is 20 November, 2025.
- Confirmation of the acceptance will be sent by 22 November, 2025.
- Once accepted, the full papers should be sent by 30 November, 2025.

Venue

The Seminar will be held in blended mode (virtual and in-person) at the Department of History, Bankura University.

Contact Us

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