

## **Report on the activities of India International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (IISECS) 2022-24**

**PUBLICATION-** *Making the 'Woman': Discourses of Gender in 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century India*. Edited by Sutapa Dutta and Shivangini Tandon, Routledge (2024)

### **TALKS AND CONFERENCES**

**6th April, 2024**, '*Writing Mughal Delhi*', a conversation with authors Swapna Liddle and Madhulika Liddle, hosted by Prof. Nilanjana Mukherjee and Sayantani Chowdhury, at Kathika, Delhi.

**18 and 19 January 2024**, IISECS International Conference on *Morality, Conduct and Etiquettes in the Long 18<sup>th</sup> Century*, at the School of Languages, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. *Keynote Speaker*: Prof. Geraldine Forbes. *Invited Speakers*: Prof. Farhat Hasan, Prof. Penelope Corfield, Prof Nishat Zaidi, Dr. Rakhshanda Jalil

**12 May 2023**, IISECS collaborated with Vijaya Ramaswamy Memorial Trust for the first Memorial talk. *Distinguished Speakers* – Prof. Romila Thapar, Prof. T. K. Venkatasubramanian, Prof. Pius Malekandathil, Prof. Madhav Palat and Prof. Amar Farooqui. *Topic of Talk*: '**The Portuguese and Vijayanagara: Trade, Polity and Culture**' by Prof. Pius Malekandathil

**30 January 2023**, IISECS Distinguished Speakers Talk in collaboration with English Department, Saheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi, on '**Aethra and Clymen: Handmaidens of Helen of Troy**' by Dr. Eric Weichel, Nipissing University, Canada.

**18 January 2023**, IISECS International Conference on *Longing and Belonging: The Aesthetics of Transoceanic Indian Migration* at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. *Keynote Speaker*: Dr. Sarita Boodhoo, Chairperson of Bhojpuri Speaking Union, Republic of Mauritius; *Chair*: Ambassador Shri Virendra Gupta, IFS (Retd.) High Commissioner in

South Africa; Plenary Speakers: Prof. Harish Narang, Dr. Nandini Sen, Dr. Amit Kumar Mishra, Dr. K Kalyani, Mr. Rakesh K. Tiwari.

**15 November 2022, ISECS Distinguished Speakers Talk on ‘Transmitting and Sustaining Indian Diasporic Heritage in Mauritius: The Geet Gawai Tradition’.** Speaker: Dr. Sarita Boodhoo, Chairperson, Bhojpuri Speaking Union, Ministry of Culture, Mauritius; Chair: Amb. Anup K. Mudgal, former Ambassador to Mauritius; Discussant: Dr. Amit Mishra, Associate Professor, School of Global Affairs, Ambedkar University Delhi.

**ISECS representation at the 2023 International Seminar for Early Career Scholars, *The Shapes of Time in the Age of Enlightenment*, hosted at Villa Mondragone, Monte Porzio Catone, Frascati, Italy, 27th-30th June:**  
**Dr. Divya SETHI** (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi) Modernity and Time in the 18th Century Marwar: Issues of Mobility for a Mercantile Community

**ISECS representation at the 16th ISECS Conference at Sapienza University of Rome, 3-7 July 2023:**

1. **Opening Plenary Session: Sutapa DUTTA** (Gargi College, University of Delhi) From the Kohinoor to the Hitopadesha: The Making of Tangible and Intangible Indian Antiquities.

2. Parallel Session, Room: Aula III, Panel 50. Ideas, Identities and Practices in the Later Mughal Empire: Rethinking Eighteenth Century in India  
Convenor/chair: Noble SHRIVASTAVA (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

Papers included in the panel:

i. **Amrita CHATTOPADHYAY** (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi) Locating ‘Illumination’ in the Visual Landscape of Eighteenth Century India: Site of Materiality and Material Practices

ii. **Noble SHRIVASTAVA** (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi) Kothas and Courtesans: Rethinking Spaces, Sociability and Conviviality in 18th Century north India

iii. **Deepashree DUTTA** (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi) Situating the Little Kingdom of Bishnupur in Eighteenth Century India: Political Identities, Religious Practices and Devotional Traditions

3. Parallel Session, Aula “Ernesto Bonaiuti”, Panel 107. The invention of the territory and its nature. Botanical knowledge during the long 18th century between the discovery of “local nature” and the integration of ancient knowledge II.

Paper in the panel:

i. **Sutapa SAHA** (Nabadwip Vidyasagar College) The ‘Botanic’ Interest In The Foreign Lands: Dutch Encounters And British initiatives in India in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries

4. Parallel Session, Aula T25, Panel 127. Complaining and Petitioning in the 18th Century – perspectives and methods of investigation

Paper in the panel:

i. **Dr. Divya SETHI** (Jawaharlal Nehru University) Petitioning in the 18th Century Marwar: Microhistories of the Mercantile Community and the Agency of State