DUI BANGLA: Bangladesh and West-Bengal
from Environmental Issues to Cultural Perspectives

(Les deux Bengale : Bangladesh et Bengale-Occidental,
des questions environnementales aux perspectives culturelles)

16-17 December 2019

The Dui Bangla conference covers a wide range of topics, from environmental studies to literature, language pedagogy, and cinema. The aim of this event organized by the University of Chicago Center in Paris and the INALCO is to bring together scholars, translators, and language teachers from around the world to discuss topics pertaining to Bengal studies and Bengali language. The first day will be devoted to language and literature, while the second day will feature panels on social sciences and cinema. The keynote speakers will be Supriya Chaudhuri (Jadavpur University, Kolkata) on Monday, December 16th and Dipesh Chakrabarty (University of Chicago) on Tuesday, December 17th.

Monday 16 December 2019

Venue: University of Chicago Center in Paris, 6 rue Thomas Mann, Paris 13e

Session I Literature

9h30 Welcome speech

9h45 “Early Bengali Texts in Nepal: Dance and Song”
Dr. Makoto Kitada (Osaka University)

10h15 “The smell of Radha: concept of smell in Middle Bengali Texts”
Michal Panasiuk (University of Warsaw)

10h45 Coffee break

11h “Illiterate scribes? Premodern literacy and Middle Bengali textual criticism”
Thibaut d’Hubert (University of Chicago) et Saymon Zakaria (Bangla Academy, Dhaka)

11h30 “Rivers, Merchants, and Poets: Literary Geography in Bijayram Sen’s Tirthamaṅgal (1770)”
Richard Williams (SOAS, London)
Session II  Literature and language pedagogy

14h30  Keynote speech by Prof. Supriya Chaudhuri (Jadavpur University, Kolkata)
“Region, Nation, Border: reflections on Bengali literature and history”

15h15  “Amar Sonar Bangla: Building a Mythology of the Nation in Modern Bengali
Literature (1871-1971)”
Jérémie Codron, (INALCO, Paris)

15h45  Coffee break

16h  “Dusting off the public image of Tagore in the West”
Bee Formentelli

16h30  “’Television of a Rotten Soul’: A Reading of Phalguni Ray’s Poetry”
Daniela Capello (Universität Heidelberg)

17h  “Teaching Bangla as a second language: A reflective narrative of an educator”
Mandira Bhaduri (University of Chicago)

Tuesday 17 December 2019


Session III  Social sciences

9h30  Opening speech by the ambassador of Bangladesh in Paris

9h45  Keynote speech by Prof. Dipesh Chakrabarty, (University of Chicago)
“Dui or Many Banglas? Thinking Bengali History from the Diaspora”

10h30  “Hybrid Landscapes and Fleeting People: Chars in Deltaic Bengal Connecting
Dui Bangla”
Prof. Gopa Samanta (University of Burdwan)

11h  Coffee break

11h15  “Poverty “Convergence” in Two Bengals: Trends, Explanations and
Implications”
Binayak Sen, (Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies)

11h45  “Fish, rivers and identities: negotiating being a frontier Bengali today”
Annu Jalais, (National University of Singapore - Professeure invitée de
l'EHESS)
12h15  “Environment and Empire: Another History of the Calcutta Botanic Garden, c. 1860 – c. 1910 »
Marine Bellégo (EHESS)

Session IV  Cinema

14h30  Rochona Majumdar (University of Chicago)

Screening of The Cloud-Capped Star (Meghe dhākā tārā), directed by Ritwik Ghatak

18h  Reception