

ICGC SOUTH ASIA SEMINAR SERIES

Famine and the Dawning of Hunger: Amarendra Ghosh's Char Kashem

Dr. Naveeda Khan

Professor, Anthropology, Johns Hopkins University

Wednesday, February 14 | 3:30 - 5:30 pm CT

537 Heller Hall (ICGC) | Live stream @ icgc.umn.edu



Photo credit:

A still from the Satyajit Ray 1973 film Ashani Sanket (Distant Thunder)

Abstract: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which provides a synthesis of peer reviewed scientific and social scientific literature on anthropogenic climate change, in recent years has been sounding the alarm of the strong possibility of food insecurity because of climate induced disruptions to agriculture. Through a focus on households within the context of the Bengal Famine of 1943, I consider the economist Amartya Sen's theory of entitlement developed with respect to this famine. I am particularly interested in the dimension of households as activity, in householding, which I interpret as a mode of interrelating shot through with the economic and the calculative. I claim that Sen and Ghosh offer us a vantage upon IPCC's projections for our future. I consider what kind of vantage it is and how it abuts that offered by the IPCC. This is very much a paper in progress and desperately needs critical engagement on its aboutness.

Graduate student discussant:

Pranav Menon, PhD student, Anthropology.



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