

Forthcoming conference

Emergence of Modern Science in Colonial India

Venue: Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi

Dates: 14 – 16 March, 2018

Organizing Committee: Arnab Rai Choudhuri FNA (Chair), Deepak Kumar, Suprakash C. Roy, Rajinder Singh

Aim: Modern Western science began in colonial India at the initiative of the British rulers, who needed geological, botanical, zoological and meteorological surveys of their empire, as well as an understanding of tropical diseases. From the closing years of the nineteenth century, several pioneering Indian scientists started making path-breaking contributions in basic sciences (J.C. Bose, P.C. Ray, C.V. Raman, M.N. Saha, S.N. Bose) some of which have remained among the most important scientific contributions made by any Indian till today. The emergence of modern science in colonial India presents one of the most extraordinary case studies of the transplantation of science from one society to another – a topic of considerable interest to historians of science.

This conference aims to bring together scholars trained in history of science as well as scientists *seriously* interested in this subject. One aim will be to identify important topics on which not much work has been done and to chalk out strategies how to fill up these gaps. One of the difficulties of doing research in this field is that not much of the relevant source materials have been preserved properly. We shall try to make an inventory of source materials which may be known to different participants and discuss ways of preserving these, perhaps even the possibility of setting up an archive specifically for this purpose.

Enquiries about this conference may be sent to science.history.conference@gmail.com. The proceedings of this conference will be published as a special issue of *Indian Journal of History of Science (IJHS)*.

The programme for this conference has already been finalized and we regret that we are not in a position to consider any further requests for official participation in this conference. Especially, the INSA Guest House where the outstation participants will stay is completely full and no further accommodation in this Guest House for attending this conference is possible. However, this is an open academic conference and anybody is welcome to attend any talk in the conference.

14 March 2018, Wednesday

Session I. Chair: Arnab Rai Choudhuri

- 9:30 – 9:50 Inauguration
9:50 – 10:30 Deepak Kumar (keynote) – *The Raj and the organizations established by it*
10:30 – 10:45 Gulfishan Khan – *Indo-Persian and Urdu speaking elite's discourses on the modern 'European' science*
10:45 – 11:00 Abhidha Dhumatkar – *Prof. B.P. Modak (1847 – 1906) a 19th century science propagator from Western India*

11:00 – 11:30 Tea

Session II. Chair: Robert Anderson

- 11:30 – 12:00 John Lourdasamy (invited) – *Two institute-builders of Bengal Renaissance: Mahendralal and Asutosh*
12:00 – 12:30 John Mathew (invited) – *Ronald Ross to U.N. Brahmachari: medical research in colonial India*
12:30 – 12:45 Rahul Bhaumik – *Britons, Indian snakes and their venoms*
12:45 – 13:00 Apalak Das – *The role of Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine in leprosy research (1914 – 1955)*

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

Session III. Chair: Arun Murthy

- 14:30 – 15:00 Dhruv Raina (invited) – *Historiography of mathematics in colonial India*
15:00 – 15:15 Maidul Rahaman – *Institutionalization of veterinary science in colonial India*
15:15 – 15:30 Sriharsha KV – *Chronicles unfolding revival of indigenous medical sciences in late 19th and 20th centuries w.s.r to Ayurveda*
15:30 – 15:45 Suvobrata Sarkar – *Electification of colonial Calcutta*
15:45 – 16:00 Irfan Habib – *Bending over backwards: New historiographies of science in South Asia*

16:00 – 16:30 Tea

Session IV. Chair: Jahnvi Phalkey

- 16:30 – 16:50 Shekhar Pathak – *Pundit Nain Singh Rawat: From Coolie to 'Pundit of Pundits'*
16:50 – 17:10 GS Sodhi – *The forgotten Indian pioneers of fingerprint science*
17:10 – 18:00 Open discussion (Discussion leader: Jahnvi Phalkey): *What can we do to attract young people to history of science and to train them?*

15 March 2018, Thursday

Session V. Chair: Aparajith Ramnath

- 9:30 – 10:10 Subrata Dasgupta (keynote) – *Judging Creativity: The case of Jagadis Chandra Bose*
- 10:10 – 10:40 Syamal Chakrabarti (invited) – *Sir P C Ray: A visionary entrepreneur of British India*
- 10:40 – 11:00 Rajinder Singh – *The real cost of a Nobel-winning discovery: Raman effect*

11:00 – 11:30 Tea

Session VI. Chair: John Mathew

- 11:30 – 11:50 TA Abinandanan – *The early history of IISc as revealed by documents in the IISc archive*
- 11:50 – 12:10 Sunayana Maiti & Sujata Banerjee – *Reassessing the impact of Curzon's role in the development of technical education in India*
- 12:10 – 12:30 Madhumita Mazumdar – *N.R. Dhar and the legacy of P.C Ray in Indian chemistry*
- 12:30 – 12:45 Gautam Gangopadhyay – *Physics Department of the University of Calcutta: the formative years*
- 12:45 – 13:00 Anirban Kundu – *University of Calcutta: Physics teaching and research in the first two decades*

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

Session VII. Chair: D. Balasubramanian

- 14:30 – 15:00 Atri Mukhopadhyay (invited) – *Meghnad Saha*
- 15:00 – 15:30 DCV Mallik (invited) – *K.S. Krishnan as co-discoverer of Raman effect and as independent scientist*
- 15:30 – 16:00 Rajinder Singh (invited) – *Going beyond the big three of Calcutta physics: D.M. Bose, S.K. Mitra and B.B. Ray*

16:00 – 16:30 Tea

Session VIII. Chair: V.V. KKrishna

- 16:30 – 16:50 Biman Nath – *The beginnings of modern astronomy research in British India: Pogson and Evershed*
- 16:50 – 17:05 Sneha Sinha – *Institutionalisation and professionalisation of science: The role of Indian Science Congress Association (1914 – 1947)*
- 17:05 – 18:00 Open discussion (Discussion leader: Deepak Kumar): *What can we do to*

preserve archival materials and make them accessible to scholars?

16 March 2018, Friday

Session IX. Chair: Abha Sur

- 9:30 – 10:10 Robert Anderson (keynote) – *How Shanti Bhatnagar played against/with the colonial system*
- 10:10 – 10:40 D Balasubramanian (invited) – *Organic chemists of pre-independence India*
- 10:40 – 11:00 Arnab Rai Choudhuri – *FRS election as a recognition for scientists of colonial India*

11:00 – 11:30 Tea

Session X. Chair: Irfan Habib

- 11:30 – 12:00 Ashok Sahni (invited) – *Birbal Sahni and his father Ruchi Ram: Science in Punjab rising from the shadow of the Raj*
- 12:00 – 12:30 Aparajith Ramnath (invited) – *Engineering and technology in colonial India*
- 12:30 – 13:00 Abha Sur (invited) – *Women scientists of colonial India*

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch

Session XI. Chair: Subrata Dasgupta

- 14:30 – 14:50 Anup Kumar Dhar – *G.S. Bose: a pioneer of psychoanalysis in India*
- 14:50 – 15:10 Samir Saha – *Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis and the beginnings of ISI*
- 15:10 – 15:30 Vinod Singh – *Role of ICAR in institutionalization of agricultural research in colonial India, 1929 - 1947*
- 15:30 – 15:45 Indranil Chatterjee – *Colonialism and indigenous scientific knowledge of forest conservation*
- 15:45 – 16:00 Baisakhi Bandyopadhyay – *Emergence of environmental science in India during the first half of 20th century*

16:00 – 16:30 Tea

Session XII. Chair: Rajinder Singh

- 16:30 – 16:50 Jahnvi Phalkey – *ReCollect India and infrastructure for history of contemporary science in India*
- 16:50 – 17:30 Open discussion (Discussion leader: Rajinder Singh): *What should be our action plan after this conference?*
- 17:30 – 17:40 Concluding session

Participants of the conference

Outstation participants (for whom accommodation will be provided at the INSA guest house)

1. Robert Anderson
2. Subrata Dasgupta
3. Rajinder Singh
4. Arnab Rai Choudhuri
5. D. Balasubramanian
6. John Mathew
7. Aparajith Ramnath
8. Syamal Chakrabarti
9. Atri Mukhopadhyay
10. D.C.V. Mallik
11. Abha Sur
12. Ashok Sahni
13. Sekhar Pathak
14. T.A. Abinandanan
15. Samir Saha
16. Arun Murthy
17. Jahnvi Phalkey
18. Gulfishan Khan
19. Biman Nath
20. John Lourdusamy
21. Gopal Hazra
22. Suraj Prakash Upadhyay
23. Anirban Kundu
24. Gautam Gangopadhyay
25. Sujata Banerjee
26. Baisakhi Bandyopadhyay
27. Sriharsha K. V.
28. Rahul Bhaumik
29. Vinod Singh
30. Apalak Das
31. Abhidha Dhumatkar
32. Sunayana Maiti
33. Diwakar Sahay
34. Indranil Chatterjee
35. Maidul Rahaman

36. Suvobrata Sarkar
37. Madhumita Mazumdar
38. Malika Basu

Other participants – primarily from the Delhi area – who are not provided accommodation

1. Deepak Kumar
2. Dhruv Raina
3. Irfan Habib
4. G.S. Sodhi
5. Sneha Sinha
6. Anup Kumar Dhar
7. Madhvendra Narayan
8. A.K. Bag
9. Yatendra Kumar Satija
10. R.S. Sharma
11. Srikanta K. Panigrahi
12. Sanjay Sharma
13. V.V. Krishna
14. Bidyarthi Dutta