



**Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta**  
*R-1 Baishnabghata-Patuli Township*  
*Calcutta 700 094, India*

# **CULTURAL STUDIES WORKSHOP 2009**

## **Urban Cultures**

Annual Cultural Studies Workshop organised by the  
Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata  
to be held at Shillong  
*February 1-6, 2009*

The Centre for Studies in Social Sciences (CSSSC) in collaboration with Ford Foundation and the South-South Exchange Programme for Research on the History of Development (SEPHIS, Netherlands) will hold its 14th Annual Cultural Studies Workshop from **February 1-6, 2009** at **North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, India**. The broad theme for this year's workshop is **Urban Cultures**.

Cities have historically been important spaces of opportunity, arenas for defining and rehearsing notions of citizenship, democracy, and caste, class, ethnic, gender or sexual identity. Equally, the city has been the site of intense conflict, regulation, criminality and deprivation/marginalisation. Both the desire for, and the dread of, the city, has inspired much literature, film and art. The abundance of what had been scarce (eg. food and commodities) and the scarcity of what had been abundant (eg. land, fresh water and air) in contemporary cities has called for new resources, regulations and laws in the conduct of everyday urban life. Contending with spatial practices, built forms and civic cultures of local regional, religious or linguistic communities is global capital's impulse to homogenize city space, and hegemonise consumption.

Against this broad background, the Cultural Studies Workshop 2009 will focus on the following specific themes:

1. Cities and citizenship: How have contemporary cities nurtured new civic and democratic cultures? How are they shaped or regulated by the protocols of governmentality?
2. Constructing sites and spaces: Architectural and planning styles; questions of history, conservation and heritage; cultural productions and representations.

3. Cultures of leisure and consumption: The emergence of new youth cultures; the hyper-sexualisation of the visual space; festivities and public life; anxieties, pleasures and segmented publics.
4. Livelihood, work cultures, and the right to the city: Questions of displacement, migration, and marginalisation; notions of rights and entitlement; disappearing industries, new services and technologies.
5. Law, violence and securitisation: How have violence and crime recast the urban cultural fabric and reordered everyday life? When does violence become a way of laying claim to city space? With what consequences for gender and class relations?

The workshop is intended to give young researchers an opportunity to share their work with senior scholars in the field, including some of the faculty of the CSSSC. It is aimed at doctoral or post doctoral students (below the age of 35) whose ongoing or just completed work focuses on one or more of the themes listed above.

CSSSC will bear the expenses of surface travel (AC two-tier and shared taxi) and accommodation at Shillong for all selected candidates from India. Priority will be given to students currently affiliated to Indian educational institutions.

International participants who have studied, or have been working long term, in countries of the global South are also invited to apply. Their airfare and local hospitality will be covered by the CSSSC in collaboration with SEPHIS.

Those wishing to participate in the workshop may apply with their current C.V. clearly indicating date of birth; current academic affiliation and current postal addresses and email IDs. Applications must include a brief description (no more than one typed page) of the paper they intend to present which draws on their dissertation research.

Hard copies of applications must reach Madhuban Mitra, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, R-I Baishnabghata-Patuli Township, Kolkata 700 094 [email: [csw@cssscal.org](mailto:csw@cssscal.org)] by **September 10, 2008**.



**FORD FOUNDATION**

**S E P H I S**

**The South-South Exchange  
Programme for Research on  
the History of Development**