

Seminarium

# *The Kolkata intellectuals and post colonialism*

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**Plats:** Institutionen för orientaliska språk, Syd- och Centralasienstudier,  
Kräfteriket 4A, SAL 136. (Buss hpl: Albano. Buss 40/70/670)

**Tid:** Måndagen den 1 november kl 15.00



Examining the Kolkata intellectuals, this seminar will discuss the relationship between the intellectual elite, post-colonialism and anti-orientalism. Kolkata has a specific position in India, being the entrance point for the British colonialism and the colonial hegemonic discourse and also focal point for criticism and contesting discourses among the Bengali population. In the 19th century, the Bhadrakalok, the “modern” intellectual elite in Kolkata emerged as a distinct social category. The category has a long tradition of intellectualism, radicalism and political activism, and at present, constitutes the leaders in the leftist government. Intellectuals are agents of change, situated in the interface between cultures, traditions and discourses and the Kolkata intellectuals have had an extensive interaction with external forces, colonialism and western influences. They have played crucial and central role in the formation of new discourses, paradigms and system of ideas, something, which has led to distinct forms of culture, language, literature, social institutions, philosophical and political paradigms. The Kolkata intellectuals are integrated in a wider system of knowledge and power, in between the west and the rest. A discussion of the Kolkata intellectuals illuminates the necessity of a self-reflective approach, expressed in for example the post-colonial and anti-orientalist paradigm, questioning the presumptions of western cultural and radical prominence and the relationship of power and domination.