Special Lecture on "The Indian Expert: Statistics and Anticolonialism in Late Colonial India"

July 23, 2024

Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis
Memorial Museum and Archives
Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

PCMMM&A Public Lecture Series #3

A Talk On

The Indian Expert: Statistics and Anticolonialism in Late Colonial India

Despite being colonized subjects in the early 20th century, Indians established themselves as scientific experts with global contributions. This talk examines the rise of statistics as a modern Indian discipline. Indian statisticians legitimized their expertise by highlighting their scientific rigor over untrained colonial administrators. At the intersection of nationalism and the postcolonial vision, they portrayed statistics as a 'public good' needing democratic approval. This duality of presenting statistics as both an exclusive domain of experts and a democratically validated practice shaped the nature of expertise and the figure of the expert in India.

Tuesday
3:00 - 4:00 pm
23rd July 2024
Venue : Seminar Room, 4th Floor, Library

Speaker: Sayori Ghoshal

Sayori Ghoshal is a postdoctoral fellow at the Moturi Satyanarayana Centre for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Krea University, India. She previously held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for the History & Philosophy of Science & Technology (IHPST), University of Toronto. She earned her PhD from Columbia University, New York, and is working on her first book, A Sense for Statistics: Constructing Religious Minority in Modern India. Her research, focusing on the development of statistical sciences and their impact on community identity in colonial and postcolonial India, has been published in journals such as Isis, History Compass, British Journal for the History of Science Themes (forthcoming), and Economic and Political Weekly.

RSVP:
9435175531
ksatpathy@gmail.com
monalimitrapaladhi@gmail.com
avikdas98@gmail.com

Special Lecture on "The Indian Expert: Statistics and Anticolonialism in Late Colonial India"

July 23, 2024