



# India @ 70 Memories and Histories

**Department of Humanities & Social Sciences  
IIT Kharagpur  
3-4 January 2018**

India celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> year of its Independence on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Celebratory national histories, in their enthusiasm to commemorate the giant strides made by the Indian nation in the last seven decades, have tended to marginalize its alternative memory as Partition, which is under the threat of being elided with the rapidly diminishing generation of Partition survivors.

This Seminar aims to complement and supplement the history of Independence through an exploration of the long-term repercussions of one of the most tragic events in Indian history. By reconstructing the personal stories of Partition survivors through literary, filmic, autobiographical and cultural representations as well as historical and testimonial narratives - the seminar hopes to create a better understanding of the afterlife of Partition in the personal, political and cultural spheres.

In revisiting these narratives, the Seminar will focus not just on the violence accompanying the process of nation-making but also on survivors' resettlement. What were the processes initiated by the state to resettle refugees after the Partition? How did refugees negotiate with the state machinery to wrest rights and privileges? What were the networks they drew on to begin their lives anew? How did they negotiate their new status in new regions and host communities? How did their assimilation into host cultures dispossess them of language, culture and a sense of belonging? How did they reconstruct old homes in new places? What impact did the creation of new political borders have in the cultural sphere? These are some of the questions the Seminar aims to investigate.

Papers are invited on but not limited to any of the sub-themes listed below:

- Partition-in-the-east and Partition-in-the-West
- Corporeal and Non-corporeal Violence
- Memory and History
- Post-memories and the 1.5 Generation
- Narrative, Fiction, Testimony
- Displacement, Resettlement, Home
- Lives in the Camps and Refugee Colonies
- Partitioned Subjectivities

- Legacies of Violence
- Memory, Forgetting, Forgiveness

Please email abstracts of about 250 words along with a brief bio-note to the seminar coordinators by 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

Selected papers of the Seminar will be published in an edited volume.

### **Important Dates**

Submission of Abstracts:	9 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
Communication of acceptance:	16 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
Submission of Papers:	26th January 2018

### **Coordinators**

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