



SLAS Lectures

Univ. of Lausanne

Department of
South Asian Studies

Mriganka Mukhopadhyay (Uni. Amsterdam)

Theosophy in Bengal: Organisation, Individuals, and Ideas

This talk aims to discuss how the Theosophical movement developed in colonial Bengal between the late nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth centuries. Following the foundation of the Bengal Theosophical Society—the first branch in Calcutta—in 1882, the movement spread all across the state of Bengal and influenced its social, intellectual, cultural, and political climate. In his presentation, Mriganka Mukhopadhyay will talk about its organisational structure and the growth of the movement's history thus highlighting the relevance of the Bengali Theosophists. Introducing some of the leading Bengali members of the Theosophical Society, he will show how their ideas created a dent in the history of occultism across the world. These individuals weaved Indian philosophical traditions with Western counter-culture thus developing a global history of modern esotericism. This led to the formation of intellectual networks between India and the Western world thus resulting in transcultural encounters. Therefore, this talk will highlight some crucial aspects of the entangled histories in modern esotericism and spirituality.

**Tuesday
20 October 2020
4:15-6:00 pm**

Unil, Anthropole-
4088

**online on Zoom
register in advance:
secretariat-slas@unil.ch**



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