

Department of English, University of Delhi

LECTURE NOTICE

SUBHA CHAKRABORTY DASGUPTA

on

Japan in Bengali Travelogues: Myths, Moments of Truth and Intercultural Discourse

ABSTRACT

My presentation will deal with the portrait of Japan in a few Bengali travelogues in the first half of the twentieth century and try to understand the general framework within which the country received its shapes and contours in Bengal's imagination. The second area of my presentation will try to look at the mythicizing processes in the travel narratives, and then focus on a few rare moments experienced in an intense manner, those that demythicize and that in their stylistic dimensions bear testimony to a rare insight or truth. I will then try to understand the directions that emerge in the area of intercultural relations within these processes.

Subha Chakraborty Dasgupta is a former Professor and Head, Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, Kolkata. She has been the Coordinator for the Centre of Advanced Study, Department of Comparative Literature, and former Joint Director, School of Cultural Texts and Records, at Jadavpur University. She has taught at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo for two years. Her major

publications include *A Bibliography of Reception: World Literature in Bengali Periodicals* (1800-1900) and a forthcoming book from Sahitya Akademy, titled *Discourses on Translation*. She has also translated stories, poems, and critical essays from Bengali into English, French into Bengali, and from Hindi into Bengali and English.

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