

**Department of Political Science, University of Kalyani**

**One Day National Seminar**

**On**

**'Social Movements in 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Conceptual Framework and Its Applicability'**

**28<sup>th</sup> March 2017**

*CALL FOR PAPERS*

The history of human civilization is a history of change. Sometimes the philosophers initiated the change through their ideas but more often it is the society as a whole that churned itself to propel the change of a given system in of a particular time and space. Social movements are an integral part of resisting any deep rooted practices of society that in the long run hinders the progress of the human self, individually as well as collectively. Hence social movements address a broad range of issues from social to economic to political. In its social form it reflects the identitarian movements for securing a self-regulated space for the development of a particular group of people. These movements can be seen in the demand for small states or for autonomous areas. In the economic terms, these movements demand for better wages and working conditions for the labours in both organised and unorganised sectors. Finally in its political sense, social movements attack the prevalent system of functioning of politics of a given time and try to reinstate it with a model of good governance. In the ultimate analysis the position, place and role of social movements depend upon the nature of the state, the level of social protest and the sensitivity and consciousness of the people in general. In the understanding of social movements a distinction is often made between the old social movements and new social movements. Old social movements arose to represent the particular interest of a clearly defined social aggregate and the movement depended on an organizational network that integrated members of the class collective. Social movements were a vehicle for groups that lacked access to political power through other political channels. New social movements signify a shift from group based political cleavages to value and issue based cleavages that identify only communities of like-minded people. The new social movement is not a revolutionary attack against the system but a call for democracies to change and adapt. The 21<sup>st</sup> century has been an era of social movements given the huge success of Arab Spring followed by the anti-corruption movement in India, Sahbag movement in Bangladesh and Tehriqi-square movement in Pakistan. In the West also one can feel the tempo of social movements on the rise trough the Occupy Wall Street movement. The role of modern means of communication and technology and the electronic and social media has created a virtual civil society that propels the activities of the real civil society across the globe. The social movements of the contemporary times thus uphold the voice of the 'multitude'.

In this context the two day international seminar proposes to probe deep into the theoretical framework of the social movements and the nature of its applicability across the globe with special focus on the Indian experience. Paper abstracts of 300 words are invited on the

following sub-themes : (a) Social movements: origin and development (b) Theories of social movements (c) Case studies of Social movements in the Western and the Third World (d) Gender in social movement (e) Media's role in social movements (f) Language of social movements (g) Reflection of social movements in cultural space.

The last date for submission of abstracts in the email [kupolscseminar@gmail.com](mailto:kupolscseminar@gmail.com) is 16<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and acceptance of abstract will be notified by 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

Registration fee for local participant is Rs. 300(faculty) and Rs. 200(research scholars)

Registration fee for outstation participant is Rs 1500(faculty) and Rs 1000(research scholars)

Conveners:

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