

**POSTCOLONIAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION
OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), KOLKATA
POSTGRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

PRESENTS

Two-Day Annual Conference and Meeting, 2026

*Whither Grief,
Whither Mourning
Critique as Melancholy Science?*

25TH-26TH SEPTEMBER, 2026

VENUE: ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, RAGHABPUR CAMPUS

CALL FOR PAPERS

Abstract: 300 Words (Max) | Include a short bio-note (100 Words)

Email Abstract with Bio-Note to:

psagsindia@gmail.com & debaratihistory@sxccal.edu

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: 10TH JULY, 2026

INFORMATION:

- SELECTED ABSTRACTS WILL BE NOTIFIED BY 30TH JULY, 2026
- SELECTED PROPOSALS WILL BE ASKED TO SUBMIT THEIR FULL PAPER (3000-4000 WORDS) BY 15TH SEPTEMBER, 2026
- REGISTRATION FEES: FOR FACULTY MEMBERS: ₹1500, FOR PHD SCHOLARS: ₹500, FOR P.G. STUDENTS: ₹400
- TWO MODEST TRAVEL BURSARIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR TWO OUTSTANDING PROPOSALS

CONVENERS

Subhendra Bhowmick
Department of Sociology, Sidho Kanho Birsha University

Debarati Ganguly
Department of History, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Kolkata

Mursed Alam
Department of English, Gour College, University of Gour Banga

Manas Dutta
Department of History, Aliah University

CONCEPT NOTE

Are grief and mourning fundamental categories and testimonies – testimonies to life being lived with sensitivities, awakened and registered through the language of loss, pathos, repentance and lament? Grief and mourning sometimes become interchangeable, for one has to mourn grief so that it 'touches' him/her through a projected aesthesis. But there can be another more social variant of sadness that might suffer from the absence of the language of pain we encountered above. This numbness is caused not so much by the ephemerality of everything, but by the emptiness of life through continuous violence – precariousness that converts holistic bios into a desperate zoon. How would humanities and social science research approach the question of grief and mourning over the loss of lives, living spaces, affects and sensibilities? Has grief and mourning morphed into mere cosmetic rituals and catchphrases? Are authoritarian war room strategies, pogroms and collateral damages immune to grief and mourning today? Is history a mere chronicling of the past and the present or does it elicit pensive caesuras and meditative ruptures? Has humanities research or critique become too instrumentalised or can it still register itself as a melancholy science – alive to the human condition of pain and cries? Is scientism a close ally of the bureaucratisation and eclipse of reason? How do we bolster a science of compassionated analysis and non-polarising contemplation? How do we revisit categories of weltenschmerz, shoka, bishad, lamentation, karuna, elegy, doya and tragedy, as new frontiers of humanities research in the current conjuncture?

We invite scholarly submissions from early career and experienced scholars on but not limited to the following areas

1. Erosion of the self: Memory, transformation, and the grief of becoming
 2. Fragile limits of identity
 3. Enigma of grief and politics of violence
 4. Rituals of mourning and cultural performance
 5. Violence, trauma, and the inability to mourn
 6. Grief as resistance
 7. Frivolity, banality, and the death of mourning
 8. Revaluation of grief as critique
 9. Mourning, melancholia, and the postcolonial condition
 10. Gendered grief: Silence, speech and the body
 11. Ecological grief and planetary mourning
 12. Archives of sorrow: Literature, art, and testimony
 13. Grief in the digital age: Memorialisation and loss online
 14. Collective trauma and national narratives of mourning
 15. The pedagogy of grief: Teaching loss in the classroom
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