



INDIA INTERNATIONAL
CENTRE



Programme

2:30: **Registration**

3:00-3:45: **Opening Session**

Welcome Remarks: Ambassador Ashok K Kantha, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies

Opening Remarks: IIC Representative

Overview: Prof. Tansen Sen: Who is a Chinese-Indian, or is it Indian-Chinese?

3:45-4:15: Screening of the documentary '*The Legend of Fat Mama*', directed by Mr. Rafeeq Ellias

4:15- 7:00: **Panel Discussion** (15 mins each presentation)

Chair: Prof. Tansen Sen

4:15-4:30: Prof. Lawrence Liang: 'Miniscule Minorities' and the Imagination of Citizenship

4:30-4:45: Dr. Jayani Jeanne Bonnerjee: Migration and Shifting Notions of Home

4:45-5:00: Prof. Rita Chowdhury: Victims of War: The Uprooting of a Society

5:00-5:15: Ms. Severin Kuok: Chinese Indians or Indian Chinese? - The 'Returnees'

5:15-5:30: Ms. Piya Chakraborty: Memory, Identity and Diaspora: A Discussion on the Indian Chinese Cuisine in Kolkata

5:30-5:45: Mr. Bean Ching Law: The Chinese Indian Conundrum: Being a Chinese Indian Today and Tomorrow

5:45- 7:00: **Q & A**

7:00- 7:30 **TEA**

Brief Bio of Speakers

Tansen Sen is Professor of history and the Director of the Center for Global Asia at NYU Shanghai, and Global Network Professor at NYU in New York. He received his MA from Peking University and Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of *Buddhism, Diplomacy, and Trade: The Realignment of Sino-Indian Relations, 600-1400*

(2003; 2016) and *India, China, and the World: A Connected History* (2017). He has co-authored (with Victor H. Mair) *Traditional China in Asian and World History* (2012) and edited *Buddhism Across Asia: Networks of Material, Cultural and Intellectual Exchange* (2014). He is currently working on a book about Zheng He's maritime expeditions in the early fifteenth century and co-editing (with Engseng Ho) the *Cambridge History of the Indian Ocean, volume 1*. He served on the Governing Board of the Nalanda University and taught at the City University of New York prior to joining NYU Shanghai.

Lawrence Liang is currently a Professor of Law, Governance and Citizenship at Ambedkar University, New Delhi. He is an ethnic Chinese who was born and brought up in Kolkata and has also resided in Bangalore for many years. He is a co-founder of the Alternative Law Forum (ALF) a non-profit collective that works on various aspects of law, legality and power. ALF provides legal services to various marginalized groups, focusing on access to the criminal justice system, issues of gender, disability and sexuality. Prof. Liang is also the cofounder of two open access video archives in India, Public Access Digital Media Archive (Pad.ma) and Indiacine.ma.

Jayani Jeanne Bonnerjee is an Associate Professor, Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities. Bonnerjee is a cultural geographer with research and teaching interests in postcolonial urbanism and critical geographies of diaspora. She completed her PhD (Geography) from Queen Mary, University of London, focusing on issues of identity and belonging for Calcutta's Chinese and Anglo-Indian communities. Building on this research, Jayani is currently working on a book on the Calcutta Chinese community and the idea of the cosmopolitan city. Her work has been published in the *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, *South Asian Diaspora* and *Global Networks*.

Rita Chowdhury is currently the Director of the National Book Trust, India. She holds Master's degree in Political Science and Asamiya. She received her PhD from Guwahati University. Before joining the Trust, she was an Associate Professor in the Political Science Department, Cotton College, Guwahati. A prominent Asamiya novelist, poet and activist, Dr. Chowdhury's oeuvre include the 2008 Sahitya Akademi Award winning novel *Deo Langkhui*, on the glorious Tiwa kingdom of Assam; *Ei Xomoy Xei Xomey*, a fictionalized account of the societal and political changes brought in by historic Assam Agitation against illegal immigration from Bangladesh to Assam; and *Makam*, a poignant portrayal of Assamese Indian community of Chinese origin. *Makam* (The Golden Horse) brought her national and international acclaim and this novel led to several critical discussions in national media on issues like Sino-India war, force migration in Post Partition India etc. The book has appeared in English as *Chinatown Days*.

Severin Kuok is currently pursuing her Ph.D. from the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies (SLL&CS), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), India. Her MPhil dissertation was titled "Chinese Diaspora of India: The Impact of 1962 and Search for Identity". She is the recipient of the Harvard Yenching Institute-Institute of Chinese Studies Fellowship for 2014-15 and is currently engaged in conducting her research and fieldwork on

her PhD thesis titled “The Chinese Diaspora in India: Negotiating Mobility and Belonging.” Severin is also an ethnic Chinese born and brought up in New Delhi.

Piya Chakraborty is a PhD research scholar currently pursuing her doctoral research in the Department of Sociology in Shiv Nadar University, India. Having completed both her Bachelor’s (Presidency College Kolkata) and Master’s degrees in Sociology (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi), she went on to complete her M.Phil. degree in the field of Social Sciences (Centre for Studies in Social Sciences Calcutta). Thereafter, she was employed as a researcher in an international sociological research project conducted by Umeå University, Sweden in collaboration with Global Change Research Kolkata. She was also employed as guest faculty in the Department of Sociology, Jadavpur University for a brief period. She is currently conducting her doctoral research on the Indian Chinese community in India, specifically focusing on food, memory of war and their relationship with the construction of Indian Chinese subjectivity.

Bean Ching Law is a third generation Chinese Indian. Mr. Law has pursued his early education in India and was a Gold Medallist in Architecture from IIT Roorkee. He then went on to do a Masters in Building Science from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles. Mr. Law has been the President of the Chinese Indian Association for the last three years. The Association has been engaged in trying to unite the Chinese Indians under one umbrella in order to protect the Chinese community in India, their cultural Chinese heritage properties, and unique culture. It has also been trying to give a unified voice to the various societal concerns that affect the larger society in general, and a few that affects the Chinese Indian community in particular. He is also a Managing Trustee of some of the heritage Chinese Buddhist and Confucian temples in Kolkata.