

CALL FOR APPLICATION

Society, Politics and Students in Contemporary Times

In 1968, tens of thousands of youths from California to Kolkata took to the streets demanding radical political and societal changes. Their protests in 56 countries, 22 of them in Europe, shook the establishments of those countries. These upheavals led to cultural shifts in many countries with the emergence of new ideas and movements for human rights, women's rights, workers' rights, individual sexual preferences and protection of the environment.

The youth assertion in the state of West Bengal and particularly in the city of Kolkata can be traced back at least a decade and half preceding the 1968 youth unrest. In 1953, the youth of the city occupied streets protesting an increase in tram fares, forcing the government to back down. The next round of protests started in 1958, when the state was facing an acute food crisis. The protests culminated in August 1959 when thousands of protestors laid siege to the Writers' Buildings, the seat of the state government. The movements of 1965 took off from the earlier unrests and congealed on the issues of food shortage and rise in tram fares in that period. The history of youth movements in the late 1960s thus may be placed within these larger economic and political currents.

On the fiftieth anniversary of these global youth movements, Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan Kolkata in partnership with the Centre of Advanced Study, Phase III, of the Department of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University, are organizing a week-long programme including an exhibition, panel discussions, and film shows. As part of the programme, a roundtable discussion involving students on the topic of '**Society, Politics and Students in Contemporary Times**' is being planned. The objective of the roundtable is to tease out young people's thoughts on politics and activism at present.

Interested students may submit their respective details (name/contact number/name of institution) and an abstract (up to 500 words) on the topic, looking at the broader picture of contemporary student and youth activism in the backdrop of the last five decades. In addition, an excerpt written on the applicant's respective thoughts on the evolution of directions and achievements of socio-political actions taken by students and youths, globally and locally from the past to the present day scenario should be added to the application.

Eligibility: Any university-student from West Bengal is eligible to submit applications.

Support for selected out-stationed student: Accommodation, travel and daily allowance will be provided to only the selected out stationed students from outside Kolkata.

(Please note that selected students from Kolkata are not eligible for the above support)

Deadline: 5. February 2019.

Selection: Selected students will be informed by 12. February 2019.

Date and time of the Roundtable: 1 March 2019 from 4.30 pm at Jadavpur University.

Submission: All applications should be send to 1968kolkata@goethe.de