

**PROFESSOR NIRMAL KANTI MAJUMDAR
MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES
2021**

October 25, Monday: 7.30 PM IST

October 29, Friday: 3.30 PM IST & 6.00 PM IST

November 12, Friday: 3.30 PM IST

**Register using the google forms at <https://tinyurl.com/pcyccu8f>
by October 20, 2021**



**Economics Department
Presidency University**

PROF. NIRMAL KANTI MAJUMDAR MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES

2021

PROGRAMME

DATE & TIME	RESOURCE PERSONS	TITLE OF THE LECTURE
25 October 2021 (Monday) 7.30 PM IST	Amitava Krishna Dutt Professor of Economics and Political Science University of Notre Dame Session Chair: Anup Kumar Sinha Professor (Rtd.), Indian Institute of Management Calcutta	Varieties of Macroeconomics in the 21st Century
29 October 2021 (Friday) 3.30 PM IST	Sudipto Dasgupta Professor, Department of Finance Chinese University of Hong Kong Session Chair: Soumyen Sikdar Professor (Rtd.), Indian Institute of Management Calcutta	Stakeholder Governance
6.00 PM IST	Kaushik Mitra Chair Professor of Economics Birmingham University Session Chair: Partha Ray Director, National Institute of Bank Management, Pune	Adaptive learning in Macroeconomics
12 November 2021 (Friday) 3.30 PM IST	Gary Dymski Professor of Applied Economics Leeds University Business School Session Chair: Abhirup Sarkar Professor (Rtd.), Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata	Caught between the wheels of empires and the enchanted financial world? India at the global macroeconomic crossroads



**Economics Department
Presidency University**

Message from Head of Department

The Department of Economics, Presidency University had been organizing a one-day conference on “Issues in Economic Theory and Policy” every second year since 2015. The conference is funded by a generous endowment given by Prof. Mukul Majumdar, HT Warshow and Robert Irving Warshow Professor in the Economics Department at Cornell University, in the memory of his late father, Prof. Nirmal Kanti Majumdar, an ex-faculty in the Political Science Department, Presidency College. The objective was to encourage young researchers, who are either undertaking M. Phil / Doctoral research or have recently completed such research, to present their output before a broader audience and receive critical feedback on their work by renowned economists.

Despite the success of the conference, given the need to maintain health protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic, this year we have decided to hold a series of four lectures in honour of Prof. Nirmal Kanti Majumdar, focusing on Macroeconomics and Finance. We have invited four distinguished speakers from UK, USA and Hong Kong to deliver these lectures online. On behalf of the department, we thank the speakers for accepting our invitation and agreeing to deliver the lectures. We are sure that participants will enjoy listening to the lectures and will benefit from them. Participants are requested to register using the google forms at <https://tinyurl.com/pcyccu8t>.

We would also like to express our gratitude to Prof. Majumdar for his constant support and encouragement in this endeavour.

Mousumi Dutta

Mousumi Dutta

Professor & Head

Economics Department

Prof. Nirmal Kanti Majumdar: A short introduction

Prof. Nirmal Kanti Majumdar was a teacher of Political Science in the erstwhile Presidency College. He had the rare distinction of being a scholar as well as teacher of high repute and his students still fondly recall with admiration, his encyclopaedic grip over topics as varied as Aristotle's Politics, the French Fifth Republic or the newly drafted (in the early 1960s) Ceylonese constitution. His Bangla translation of Politics is regarded as seminal.

On retirement from the WBES, Prof. Majumdar went on to teach at the post-graduate department of Political Science at the University of Calcutta for several more years during which time, he also served with distinction in West Bengal State Textbook Board as a senior expert. He also regularly published works of fiction in many famous contemporary Bangla literary magazines such as Prabashi, Bharatbarsha, etc. Even though his direct involvement with the Presidency College was not very long but, his real involvement was much deeper and longer.

All three of his sons were students of Presidency and the youngest, Prof. Mukul Majumdar of Cornell University, USA has strengthened that bond by instituting the Nirmal Kanti Majumdar Endowment fund in Presidency University. In this new university, we hope to keep the spirit of Prof. Nirmal Kanti Majumdar's scholarship and pedagogy alive and this endowment lecture and seminar series will go a long way towards achieving that goal.

Amitava Krishna Dutt



VARIETIES OF MACROECONOMICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

At least since the time of Keynes the existence of varieties of macroeconomics, even within mainstream economics, was widely recognized. This talk will examine the current state of mainstream macroeconomics and its lack of pluralism which, it will be argued, has led to its impoverishment and even its virtual annihilation. It will trace, in very broad terms, how and why this has happened, and whether a different and richer future for macroeconomics is possible and what that could look like.

**25 October 2021 (Monday)
7.30 PM IST**

Amitava Krishna Dutt is a Professor of Economics and Political Science at University of Notre Dame.

Graduating from Presidency College in 1975, he undertook his doctoral research from MIT under Lance Taylor. Subsequently he has held teaching institutions at MIT, Florida International University, Joan B. Kroc Institute of International Peace Studies, and other institutes. He has also been a visitor at Cambridge University, UN WIDER, University of Innsbruck, University of Paris, etc.

Prof. Dutt's areas of specialization are macroeconomic theory, development economics, international economics and political economy. His current research focuses on global uneven development and globalization, models of growth and distribution, consumption and happiness, and the political economy of war and peace.

He has published extensively in journals like American Economic Review, Cambridge Journal of Economics, History of Political Economy, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Post Keynesian Economics, Metroeconomica, Oxford Economic Papers, Review of Political Economy, Review of Radical Political Economics, and World Development. He is a co-editor of Metroeconomica. He has also authored books like *Growth, Distribution and Uneven Development* (Cambridge, 1990), *Crossing the Mainstream* (coedited with K Jameson, Notre Dame, 2001), *Development Economics and Structuralist Macroeconomics* (coedited with J Ros, Edward Elgar, 2003), *International Handbook of Development Economics* (2 volumes, coedited with J Ros, Edward Elgar, 2008), *Happiness, Economics and Politics* (coedited with B Radcliff, Edward Elgar, 2009), and *Economics and Ethics* (co-authored with C Wilber, Palgrave-Macmillan, 2010).

STAKEHOLDER GOVERNANCE

The “stakeholder governance” model calls on corporate managers to take into consideration in their decision making not only the welfare of the owners/shareholders, but also those of other stakeholders, such as employees, customers, suppliers, and communities. The stakeholder model, however, has many pitfalls. In this paper, we highlight the distortions that can arise from stakeholder influence in the presence of managerial agency problems and the inability of stakeholders to commit to a long-term relationship with the firm. We show that following the revelation of financial fraud by a major customer – an important class of stakeholders – the supplier firm’s performance improves along a number of dimensions. The supplier’s innovation becomes more diversified, its customer base, sales growth, and market value improve, and the long-term survival likelihood is higher, compared to a control group. We attribute these improvements to weaker customer bargaining power which reduces distortions associated with managerial agency problems.

Sudipto Dasgupta



**29 October 2021 (Friday)
3.30 PM IST**

Sudipto Dasgupta is currently a Professor at the Department of Finance at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He previously held academic positions at Lancaster University (where he was Distinguished Professor of Finance), The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, The Jawaharlal Nehru University, The Indian Statistical Institute, and The University of Southern California. He has been the Managing Editor of the International Review of Finance since 2008 and is a Senior Fellow of the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) and the Asian Bureau of Finance and Economics Research (ABFER).

Graduating from Presidency College in 1977, Prof. Dasgupta obtained his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Southern California in 1988 and has been teaching Finance since 1993.

Prof. Dasgupta’s early work was on Applied Game Theory and the Theory of Industrial Organisation. He worked on the design of procurement auctions and on takeover bidding environments. He later worked on topics such as the role of firm leverage on worker-firm bargaining, on information sharing among competing firms in an oligopolistic market structure, and the effect of leverage on product market outcomes.

His more recent work includes papers based on empirical methodology and he has examined such issues as the capital structure policy of firms, the effect of financial constraints on firm behaviour, including inventory investment and the allocation of cash among alternative uses, the reputational effects of large customer accounts on the loan spreads of supplier firms, whether the managerial labor market rewards top executives for their perceived ability, whether more intense product market competition increases firm efficiency by accelerating the replacement of less efficient managers, and so on.

Kaushik Mitra



**29 October 2021 (Friday)
6.00 PM IST**

ADAPTIVE LEARNING IN MACROECONOMICS

The standard assumption in the theory of economic policy is rational expectations (RE) which is a very strong assumption. Under RE, both private agents and policy makers have complete knowledge of the correct form of the model including all parameters as well as the knowledge that other agents are rational and so on. This is clearly unrealistic and we need an appropriate model of bounded rationality in macroeconomic models.

Economists forecast economic variables using econometric techniques, so a good starting point is model agents and policy makers as “econometricians.” Econometricians must select models, estimate parameters and update their models over time. Arguably this is what agents and policy makers (e.g. central banks) do in practice and this approach puts them in the same footing as (smart) econometricians. Economists engage in processes of learning about the economy in these models. The lecture will focus on this so called adaptive learning approach in macroeconomics. This method has become extremely popular during the past two decades. The lecture will introduce you to some basic concepts of adaptive learning and applications of these models to monetary and fiscal policy.

Kaushik Mitra is currently Chair Professor of Economics at Birmingham University.

After graduating from Presidency College in 1989, he joined Cornell University with a Sage Graduate Fellowship and completed his Master’s degree and doctoral research. He has been associated with Universities of Helsinki, York, Royal Holloway, and St. Andrews, and has also visited Bank of Finland, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, and Washington University, St Louis.

Professor Mitra has research interests in Macro and Monetary Economics and is one of the research leaders in the field of adaptive learning in macroeconomics.

Prof. Mitra has published in journals like Journal of Monetary Economics, Journal of Money, Credit and Banking, Macroeconomic Dynamics, and Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control. He is an Associate Editor of Macroeconomic Dynamics and a member of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Peer Review College

**CAUGHT BETWEEN THE WHEELS OF EMPIRES AND
THE ENCHANTED FINANCIAL WORLD?
INDIA AT THE GLOBAL MACROECONOMIC
CROSSROADS**

Gary Dymski



**12 November 2021 (Friday)
3.30 PM IST**

This lecture pays tribute to the scholarly achievements of Sunanda Sen and examines India's challenges as it faces a global macroeconomy precariously located at an historical crossroads. We'll build from some basic perspectives on how global macro financial systems work and explore what has changed after the international economy entered what Alain Lipietz called, as early as 1985, the 'enchanted world' of globalized financial markets. In working through these ideas, we'll be guided by insights drawn from the writings of Presidency College alumna Sunanda Sen. Taken together, her lifetime of scholarship – from early work on the Indian currency 'problem', to writings on financial instability and crisis, and her older and newer work on imperialism and its legacy – provide a deep understanding of the past and possible futures of the Indian economy.

Prof. Gary Dymski is currently Professor of Applied Economics at Leeds University Business School, University of Leeds.

Graduating from the University of Pennsylvania in 1975, he received his Masters of Public Administration from Syracuse University. His doctoral research was undertaken in University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Prof. Dymski has been faculty in University of Southern California and University of California Riverside. He has been a visiting scholar in universities and research centers in Australia, Brazil, Bangladesh, Colombia, Greece, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, and Mexico. Prof. Dymski has been founding executive director of the University of California Center Sacramento. He is currently an advisor to the Debt and Development division of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), and a member of the council of the Post Keynesian Economic Society (UK).

He has published in journals like *Economica*, *Review of Political Economy*, *International Review of Applied Economics*, *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* *Review of Keynesian Economics*, *Journal of Economic Issues* and *Review of Radical Political Economics*.

His research interests are broad—banking, financial fragility, urban development, credit-market discrimination, gender and racial inequality, the Latin American and Asian financial crises, exploitation, housing finance, the subprime lending crisis, financial regulation, the Eurozone crisis, and economic policy.