

invites you to the Monthly Seminar Series Talk

'Women in the Literature of South Asia'

When we look at Women in the Literature of South Asia, we deal both with women as creators of that literature, as well as women as subjects of literary efforts that were not necessarily by women. Prof. Sen will be sharing experiences and questions that evolved while working on a course with this title in the Department of Women's Studies, Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, Wardha during 2009-11

Although that journey began with a consciousness of the shared cultural and historical heritage of South Asia, Prof. Sen recalls that the group working on the course was quickly forced to confront differences in political economy in the trajectories of development and governance as well as differences in national articulation at different historical junctures of the several South Asian States. One realization that the group had to factor in was that literature and women's writing could not be separated from the political history of our different national states, and the way in which state policy and peoples' resistance have interacted over the decades in our different national situations.

The result is that we look at literature in various languages, including English, and broaden the definition of literature to include prose fiction, poetry, drama, criticism, autobiographies, apart from touching upon analytical writing, art, film, as and if this is found relevant.

Certain thematic explorations are possible while trying to piece together this narrative, like

- The Theme of Partition
- Confronting Patriarchy
- Confronting the State
- Longings for a Unified and / or Liberal Nation
- Alternative Sexuality
- Poverty, Endemic Hunger
- Migration and Displacement
- Recreating Cultures in the Diaspora



Prof. Ilina Sen

Professor

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September 18, 2012

4.30 p.m.

**Conference Hall,
Main Campus, TISS**