



Department of Economics, Presidency University, Kolkata
Presents

Dipak Banerjee Memorial Lecture 2023

21 January 2023 (Saturday)

2:30 pm IST

P.C. Mahalanobis Auditorium

Register [here](#) on or before 17 January 2023

From political economy to development studies

PROF. AMIYA KUMAR BAGCHI

Emeritus Professor
Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata



PROFESSOR DIPAK BANERJEE

Dipak Banerjee (1930-2007) is one of the legendary teachers of economics at Presidency College, Calcutta. He graduated from the London School of Economics with, as Lord Lionel Robbins wrote, “an unbroken string of A’s”. Although he was offered a good graduate-school fellowship to do his PhD, and perhaps an assistant lectureship later at London School of Economics, Dipak Banerjee chose to come to Presidency College as Assistant Professor. He subsequently returned to London School of Economics for a brief period, and also spent a year at Berkeley. Apart from these two stints, he remained in Economics Department, Presidency College for over four decades, starting from the late 1950s, where he produced one brilliant economist after another for the rest of his life. It was here that legends started accumulating this charismatic teacher and great conversationist to create the myth of “DB”, as his students used to call him. As Amartya Sen once remarked “In (the Presidency) culture, there was a kind of easy transition from what was happening in the classes to what was happening across the street in Coffee House. And if I can think of a practitioner of excellent teaching and excellent teaching and great conversation, it is hard to think of anyone that could come close to Dipak Banerjee”.



PROFESSOR AMIYA KUMAR BAGCHI

He has taught, researched and guided research in many institutions and universities including Presidency College, Kolkata, University of Cambridge (UK), University of Bristol (UK), Cornell University (USA), Trent University (Canada), Roskilde University (Denmark), where he was Guest Professor of Danish Research Academy, and Maison de Sciences de l’Homme, where he was Visiting Director of Studies in the Ecole des Haute Etudes en Sciences Sociale, and Curtin University of Technology, Australia, where he was Haydn Williams Fellow for 2005. He was formerly Reserve Bank of India Professor of Economics and Director, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. Until 2005, he was a member of the State Planning Board, Government of West Bengal and served as Chairman of a committee appointed by the Government of West Bengal to report on the finances of the government during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. He acted as the official historian of State Bank of India until 1997. He founded the Institute of Development Studies Kolkata in 2002 and directed it until his retirement in 2012.