HISTORIA 2026, DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

DATE: 07.10.2026.

TIME:11:45 – 1:45

Nationalisation and Globalization: Currents and Cross Currents in the 20th Century.

Historia 2026, the annual academic conference organised by the Department of History, Loreto College (Autonomous), Kolkata, in collaboration with Scottish Church College, provided a platform for students from different colleges to engage in historical research, exchange ideas and explore diverse perspectives on the past. Centred on the theme "Nationalisation and Globalization: Currents and Cross Currents in the 20th Century," the conference examined the complex relationship between national identities, global interconnectedness, political developments and cultural transformations. The theme encouraged participants to look beyond conventional historical narratives and investigate how national and global forces influenced one another throughout the twentieth century and beyond.

The session featured Dr. Sanjukta Dasgupta, Associate Professor in the Department of Oriental Studies at Sapienza University of Rome, as the keynote speaker. The event brought together students, faculty members and scholars in an intellectually stimulating academic environment. A major component of Historia 2026 was its parallel paper presentation sessions, conducted simultaneously in different rooms, with each session evaluated by a separate judge. Students presented their research papers on various aspects of nationalism and globalisation, followed by discussions, questions and constructive feedback. These sessions encouraged critical thinking, academic confidence and meaningful interaction among students from different institutions.

Proceedings of the Parallel Paper Presentation Sessions

Auditorium

The Parallel Technical Session held in the Auditorium ,was part of the Undergraduate Paper Presentation segment and explored themes of mobility, migration, borders, identity, and the refugee problem. The session was compered by Trina Batabyal, with Dr Devaleena Sinha as the judge, who was felicitated by Dr Anindita Bandhopadhyay of the Department of History. The session featured seven research presentations by students from Loreto College, Lady Brabourne College, Scottish Church College, Jadavpur University, and St. Xavier's College, covering diverse aspects of nationalism, globalisation, citizenship, border controls, migration, and cultural memory.

The session concluded with an evaluation by Dr Sinha, who provided individual feedback and constructive guidance to the participants. Rupsa Chakrabarti of Jadavpur University was declared the winner, while Adrija Chatterjee of Loreto College secured the runner-up position. Dr Sinha commended the diversity and originality of the research topics, while Prof. Debadyuti Banerjee, Head of the Department of History at Scottish Church College, enriched the academic discussion through analytical questions to the presenters from Lady Brabourne College.

Room 425

The session in Room 425, was adjudicated by Dr. Ranjini Guha. Seven research papers were presented by students from Loreto College, Scottish Church College and Maulana Azad College. The presentations examined the relationship between nationalism and cosmopolitanism, the historical evolution of nationalism and globalisation, cultural hybridisation in post-liberalisation India, and the influence of food, rice and textiles on national identity. Particular attention was given to gastro-nationalism and the transformation of Tangail sarees as a cultural archive of post-Partition Bengal.

Each presentation was followed by a question-and-answer session, allowing the audience to engage actively with the presenters. Dr. Guha provided valuable feedback and suggestions, making the session intellectually stimulating. The discussions demonstrated how everyday cultural practices and material objects can serve as important sources for understanding the relationship between national identities and global influences.

Conference Room

The session in the Conference Room was adjudicated by Dr. Sutapa Rani Dasgupta, Assistant Professor in the Department of History at St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College, Kolkata. The presentations explored Indian cultural diversity, scientific heritage, linguistic plurality, contemporary social debates and the role of media in shaping national identity.The winning paper, *"Unveiling the Maritime Journeys of Girmitiya: A Vital Socio-Cultural Exploration,"* was presented by Snehajit Mitra and Kripa G. Pillai of ARSD College, University of Delhi. Their research examined the experiences of Indian indentured labourers during the colonial period, focusing on their overseas migration to destinations such as Mauritius, Fiji, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago. The presenters discussed the significance of *Girmit*, the challenges of crossing *kalapani*, and the emergence of *jahaji* relationships that fostered solidarity among labourers from different backgrounds. Their paper highlighted the social and cultural consequences of indentured migration and the development of the Girmitiya diaspora. Another presentation, *"The Visual Nation,"* examined the evolution of television in India, including the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment of 1975–76 and the expansion of broadcasting during the 1980s. The session also explored the influence of digital media on contemporary nationalism. Sampriti Mondal's paper, *"Television and Making of National Identity,"* examined television's role in shaping public perceptions and national consciousness and secured the runners-up position. The presentations collectively demonstrated how migration and communication technologies have influenced national identity and connected local experiences with global developments.

Room 413

The session in Room 413 was abjudicated by Mr. Jishnu Dasgupta, while Dr. Sukanya Mitra, the faculty-in-charge, was also present. The presentations explored interrelationship between nationalism and globalisation in the 20th century. The presentations reflected diverse perspectives on the ways in which nationalism and globalisation intersected, influenced one another and sometimes came into conflict.

The papers demonstrated critical thinking, research skills and an engagement with different historical interpretations, following the presentations, Mr. Dasgupta offered constructive feedback and suggestions, encouraging participants to refine their arguments and develop

their research further. The interactive discussions provided students with an opportunity to articulate their ideas before an academic audience and gain confidence in presenting historical research. The session highlighted the importance of scholarly inquiry, constructive criticism and the exchange of ideas in developing a deeper understanding of historical developments.

Room 410

The session in Room 410 focused on the sub-theme *"Globalisation and Marginalisation: Dialectics, Identity and Politics."* It was chaired by Dr. Prithwiraj Biswas and felicitated by Dr. Suparna Ghosh. Six papers explored the effects of globalisation on political authority, cultural identity, migration and marginalised communities. The presentations examined standard time and colonial governance, racism and Western stereotypes, the relationship between globalisation and nativist nationalism through the Sikh diaspora, and the experiences of migrants through the Komagata Maru incident and Turkish guest workers. Other papers explored cultural survival and appropriation, including the Gomira mask tradition of North Bengal.

Dr. Biswas provided immediate feedback after each presentation, raising questions and suggesting areas for improvement. The resulting discussions demonstrated that nationalism and globalisation are interconnected rather than entirely opposing forces. Global systems can strengthen state power while simultaneously creating new forms of exclusion and marginalisation. The papers also highlighted how diaspora networks, social media and heritage recognition can help marginalised communities preserve their identities and seek wider recognition. The session emphasised the importance of studying globalisation through diverse historical sources and understanding identity as a process that is continually negotiated and reshaped.

Historia 2026 provided a significant academic platform for examining the complex and often interdependent relationship between nationalisation and globalisation in the 20th century. The parallel paper presentation sessions demonstrated how these processes shaped political structures, cultural identities, migration patterns and social hierarchies, while also creating new forms of inclusion, exclusion and resistance. By engaging with diverse subjects ranging from food and textiles to indentured labour, media, diaspora communities and cultural heritage, the conference encouraged participants to move beyond conventional historical narratives and appreciate the interconnected nature of historical developments.

The successful organisation of Historia 2026 reflected the guidance and support of the faculty members of the Department of History, Loreto College (Autonomous), particularly Dr. Prof. Krishnokoli Hazra, Head of the Department, Dr. Prof. Anindita Bandhopadhyay , Dr. Prof. Sukanya Mitra and Prof. Srijita Chakravarty. Their contribution, alongside the participation of the judges, presenters and student volunteers, helped create an environment conducive to scholarly exchange and intellectual engagement. The constructive feedback provided by the judges and the discussions that followed the presentations enabled students to refine their arguments, engage with alternative interpretations and develop their research and presentation skills. Ultimately, Historia 2026 reaffirmed the significance of academic collaboration in historical scholarship and demonstrated that the study of nationalism and

globalisation requires an understanding of how political, social and cultural forces continually interact across geographical and historical boundaries.



CONFERENCE ROOM



ROOM 410



ROOM 413



AUDITORIUM


GPS Map Camera
Kolkata, West Bengal, India
Loreto House, Loreto College, 7, Sir William Jones Sarani,
Park Street Area, Kolkata, West Bengal 700071, India
Lat 22.549632° Long 88.352264°
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ROOM 425


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