

Centre for the Study of Social Systems
School of Social Sciences

CSSS Colloquium

Carmel Christy

(Assistant Professor, University of Delhi)

Will be presenting a paper on

**Neology as a Site of Sexuality:
Constituting the Visible**

Date & Time:

March 23, 2017 (Thursday), 3.00 pm

Venue:

CSSS Committee Room (Room No: 13), SSS-II

Abstract: Linguistic possibilities have often been deployed deliberately or otherwise which in turn orient objects that it constitute. The paper weaves together a narrative of neology that emerged in the Malayalam media to report stories related to sexuality after the 1990s. The paper methodologically treads a strenuous path of locating meanings in a particular spatio-temporal moment while leaving space for the excess meanings that are produced in continuum. The discussion delineates how neology constitutes explicit visibility of sexuality which was an offshoot of that peculiar historical moment globally. Yet, the ways in which this discourse emerges in the regional spaces through its peculiarities have more interesting stories to offer— that of negotiation between the existing prudish public space and the emerging discourse of gender/sexuality rights, the faceoff between categories of class, caste and gender/sexuality rights and so on. On the one hand, neology, a product of that particular historicity, desexualised the debates on sexuality in the regional space of Kerala. At the same time, the meanings that it produced has never been fixed, creating excess meanings as it journeyed into various cultural circuits. The paper, thus, foregrounds the specificities through which the explicit visibility of sexuality gets constituted after the 1990s through neology in media.

Bio: Carmel Christy is assistant professor of Journalism at Kamala Nehru College, University of Delhi. Her book titled 'Sexuality and Public Space in India: Reading the Visible' is published recently by Routledge, UK. Besides her expertise in media studies, Carmel is interested in research questions that explore the interconnected nature of caste, space, body, gender and sexuality. At present, she is working on a project that seeks to analyse the multiple narratives that constitute the city of Kochi, Kerala.