**Abstract for Job Talk**

Drawing from the debates of gender and performance studies, my research/talk will chiefly concentrate upon the Indian feminist theatre. I would like to discuss briefly the working definition, socio-historical background and constructing factors responsible for the emergence and growth of Indian Feminist theatre. While discussing the salient features of Indian Women Drama, I will also emphasize upon the identical thematic commonalities mentioned in the play-texts with references to women dramatists working both in English and regional languages. It will also discuss how the representation of female body, sexuality and gender violence situating with the theatrical performances can explore as well as sensitize the audience for resistance and protest in Indian context. Besides, my research interest in folks and myths and its reflections upon Bengali theatrical narratives as well as in Bollywood movies in contemporary time encourage me to explore the Goddess culture. I will elaborate how this goddess culture decodes the religiosity and gender politics reproduced in the cultural imaginations. Also as the part of my research interest, I would like to discuss about the Theatre of Androgyny in the context of Bengali stage. It will discuss how the queer theatre makes a departure from the previously stage practice of female impersonation and how the theatre can be used as a social space and public forum for performing queer bonding, empowerment and communication for accepting/rejecting the alternative sexuality in the mainstream society.

submitted by Praggnaparamita Biswas