

Firdous, Azim, BRAC University, Bangladesh

Institutionalising Cultural Studies in Bangladesh

This paper will try to trace the various ways in which cultural studies enters the academic sphere in Bangladesh. I will draw from my experiences in a department of English, where new ways of teaching literature had to be devised. With the advent of post-colonial and feminist theories, links between sociology and literature started opening up, thus paving the way towards cultural studies. The paper will also try and look at the advantages and limitations of such an approach.

The question of academic research, on the other hand, will be looked at through the lens of development. As we all know Bangladesh is the crucible for experimentation in development interventions, and to bring in the cultural issue within concepts of development and empowerment, is a big challenge. This paper will also shed light on the research being done under the 'Pathways of Women's Empowerment' project in BRAC University, and highlight the ways that cultural studies is making an inroad into contemporary development discourse.