Streets in Motion

The book studies the social production of motion in a capitalist urban context. In the city of capital, motion refers to a fetish. The bourgeois order posits motion as a metaphor for energy, positivity, and progress—a norm—and obstruction (motion's dialectical opposite) as delinquency. The book uncovers the social tectonics of spatial mobilization and thus demystifies motion. Who and what set spaces on the move? How did various classes of city dwellers activate, experience, and negotiate motion?

*Streets in Motion* develops an approach to urban history by theorizing and historicizing the 'street' as an apparatus of city-making and subject formation. It works at two registers—a local history of Calcutta in colonial and post-colonial periods, and a theorizing of the logistical and political-cultural centrality of the street within this rubric. It is argued that the street is politics inasmuch as politics is the production of space.

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Streets in Motion
The Making of Infrastructure, Property, and Political Culture in Twentieth-century Calcutta

Ritajyoti Bandyopadhyay
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Abbreviations

CIT Calcutta Improvement Trust
CMDA Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority
CSSSC Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta
HSC Hawker Sangram Committee
NAI National Archives of India, New Delhi
NHF National Hawker Federation
SVA Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014
WBSA West Bengal State Archives, Kolkata
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