In celebration of the 250th birth anniversary of Raja Rammohun Roy

Victoria Memorial Hall
in its Centenary Year
cordially invites you to an online lecture

Rammohun Roy
and
The Roots of the Indian Democratic Self

by

Milinda Banerjee
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Wednesday, 25 August 2021, 6.00 pm

Please join on the link below
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89676287417?pwd=SE5UdNJxTDB4eVQrZ1doUyttSGptQT09
Meeting ID: 896 7628 7417
Passcode: 013775

To be livestreamed also on Facebook Live at
https://www.facebook.com/victoriamemorialhall
This talk takes Rammohun Roy as a biographical point of departure—and global intellectual history as a methodological lens—to argue that democratic conceptions of selfhood have multiple roots. Democracy is not a ‘thing’ that simply spreads from the West to the non-West—whether through circulation of texts about liberal constitutionalism, or as an after-effect of global capitalism. Democratic conceptions were forged in modern India through dialogues between varied local and transnational models of emancipatory selfhood. We must acknowledge the deep histories of these concepts and struggles if we are to understand the achievements of Indian democracy—and reckon with the subaltern-indigenous democratic heritage that was brutally suppressed during the fashioning of bourgeois democracy.