

Professor T.D. Dwivedi Memorial Lecture

“Life & Work of Professor Mahalanobis: A Myriad Minded and Renaissance Man, with Reference to ISI and Dr. Rao”



A talk by

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Date: Friday, October 4, 2019

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Location: 1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd West, Montreal
J.W. McConnell Building/Library Bldg
Room S-LB 646

The talk will be followed by a small reception in room S-LB 921.04

Please RSVP to g.ford@concordia.ca

Anil K. Bera is Professor of Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a well-known econometrician, most noted for his work with Carlos Jarque on the Jarque-Bera test. He has been associated with several other institutions of world repute such as the Australian National University, the Indian Statistical Institute, and Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium.

In addition to a long list of publications in reputed Econometrics journals, he is endowed with several academic honours, notably the fellowships of the Spatial Econometrics Association and the Japan Society for Promotion of Science. He has been a keynote speaker at several international academic conferences in Econometrics and Forecasting. Having received the Award of Excellence in Graduate Teaching multiple times, he holds a distinction of being an excellent teacher at his resident university.

Abstract: As far as the discipline of statistics, especially in the context of India, is concerned, we are now at an interesting juncture of time, made possible by concurrence of certain events. 2018-19 is being celebrated as the 125th birth anniversary of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (PCM). On September 20, 2019, Dr. C. R. Rao, still active, entered his 100th year. As well, the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) founded in 1931 by PCM will observe its 90th year soon. Thus, it is a good time to look back and also to look ahead.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the American Transcendentalist, once said, “An institution is the lengthened shadow of one man,” and that is so very true of ISI in relation to the Renaissance man, PCM. The ISI came into existence from one man’s vision regarding the future of statistics in India (and elsewhere too), and was ably supported by the emergence of a band of dedicated, brilliant young workers who came to share his dream, and Dr. Rao was foremost of them.

In my talk, I will first summarize some of the history discussed in some of my previous articles, and then present much of the overlooked facts about PCM, ISI, and Dr. Rao.