

The Program in Scripture and the Arts  
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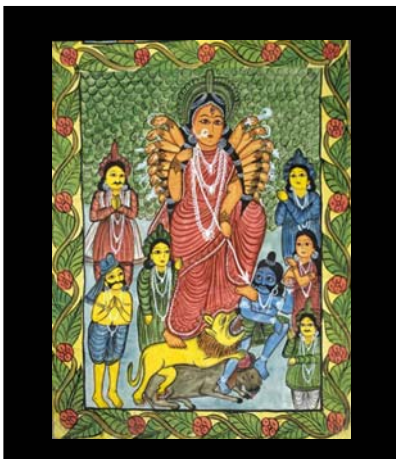
# "Orality, Literacy, and Innovation in a Bengali Bardic Tradition"



a lecture by

## Frank Korom

Professor of Anthropology and Religion at Boston University



**Thurs., Sept. 18, 2008**

Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies  
147 Bay State Rd.

reception at 6pm, room 202  
lecture at 7pm, room 201



This presentation explores the changing worlds of the Patuas of West Bengal, an itinerant caste of scroll painters and singers who converted en masse from Hinduism to Islam in the thirteenth century. Originally working in a solely oral medium, they have gradually come to rely on other forms of media for inspiration, due to a declining system of patronage in the age of mechanical reproduction. Using examples from their extensive repertoires, the intersections of sacred and secular, oral and literate will be examined in the context of a dynamic tension between tradition and modernity.

For more information please visit our Web site at [www.bu.edu/luce](http://www.bu.edu/luce) or contact Program Coordinator Cristine Hutchison-Jones at 617-358-1754 or [crissy@bu.edu](mailto:crissy@bu.edu).