In less than a quarter of a century, women in South Asian communities in the United States have taken on leadership roles in progressive activism and advocacy work. Nowhere is this leadership more prominent than the anti-violence against women movement. The anti-violence against women advocacy began with simple direct intervention and has proliferated into complex transnational collaborations and policymaking, and expanding definitions of domestic violence within the U.S. This activism has been led by community-based organizations that place culturally and linguistically sensitive advocacy and service provision at the center of their work.

Dr. Das Dasgupta will explore the historical trajectory of the anti-violence against women movement in the South Asian American community, its nuances, and the intersections of gender, race, sexuality, class, religion, and residency status at its core. In addition, she will discuss some of the paths this movement is taking in terms of initiating legal changes and transnational coalition building.