



Azim Premji University Colloquium Series

presents a lecture

"The Paradox of Culture and Development and the Spread of Gender Inequality: Questioning Tradition in The Sudan"

Speaker

Lina Fruzzetti

Professor of Anthropology, Brown University and
Fellow, Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Advanced Studies, JNU, New Delhi

Date: February 25, 2016 (Thursday)

Time: 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Venue: 10th Floor Auditorium, Pixel A, Azim Premji University

Watch the live broadcast of the talk by clicking <http://lectures.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/>. It can be accessed from Android and iOS devices too.

About the Lecture

Concerns around women and development often underscore the so-called challenges that traditions seem to pose, stifling change and continuing women's social and economic marginalization. Much of the literature in development has assumed that it would be possible to change women's lives merely through the a priori tools of modernization, without regard for the productive potential of women. This talk seeks to understand the meaning of development, progress, and change for rural families in the context of their understanding of culture and values in North East Africa.

About the Speaker

Lina Fruzzetti is Professor of Anthropology, Brown University. Her research interests are in the areas of kinship, marriage, ritual and the construction of gender, race and ethnic relations in India and North East Africa. She has done extensive work on caste and the life cycle rites of Hindus; and is now addressing the recent structural changes in the institution of marriage and notions of personhood. Her most recent book on India, *When Marriages Go Astray: Choices Made, Choices Challenged* (2013), is based on more than four decades of research in rural West Bengal and addresses questions within feminism, nationalism, religious identity and citizenship in post-independent India. She has also taught at the universities of Khartoum, Dar Es Salaam, University of Helsinki, ISCTE (Lisbon), and IIT, Gandhinagar. Besides academic publications, she has

directed six documentary films including *In My Mother's House*(2015), which was based on ten years of ethnographic and documentary work on her mother's life in Eritrea under Italian colonial rule and Ethiopian occupation, her life as a refugee in Sudan, and finally her return home to independent Eritrea.