



Azim Premji University Colloquium Series

presents a Lecture

"Persian in India's Literary Ecology: The Case of a 17th Century Persian Ramayana"

Speaker

Prashant Keshavmurthy, Associate Professor of Persian-Iranian Studies, McGill University, Montreal

Date: February 17, 2017 (Friday)

Time: 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Venue: Seminar Hall, 10th Floor, Pixel A, Azim Premji University

About the Lecture

Following a brief survey of the millennial life of Persian in South Asia, this lecture will offer the case study of Masih's early seventeenth century *Masnavi-i Rām va Sitā*, a Persian verse translation of Vālmiki's Sanskrit epic *Rāmāyana*. It opens by remarking on a shift in the study of the relations between poetics and politics of Persian translations of Indic texts. Then, purporting to complicate understanding of this relation, it takes issue with prior studies of this poem before answering the following questions these studies fail to pose: how does the prophetological metaphysics of the prefatory chapters relate to the poetics of emotion in the main body of his tale? And: what does this relation let us infer of Masih's theological conception of translation?

About the Speaker

Prashant Keshavmurthy is Associate Professor of Persian-Iranian Studies in the Institute of Islamic Studies, McGill University, Montreal. He is the author of *Persian Authorship and Canonicity in Late Mughal Delhi: Building an Ark* (<https://www.routledge.com/Persian-Authorship-and-Canonicity-in-Late-Mughal-Delhi-Building-an-Ark/Keshavmurthy/p/book/9781138185982>, Routledge, 2016) and is currently working on a study of Mughal Persian reading practices. His interests include pre-modern literary theory and Persian-Urdu literatures.