



Azim Premji University Colloquium Series presents a lecture

"Is the Whole World Becoming a Third World?"

Speaker

Upendra Baxi, Professor Emeritus, University of Warwick

Date: March 10, 2017 (Friday)

Time: 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

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

About the Lecture

In this talk, Upendra Baxi shares several stories of the entire world becoming a third world. Used judgmentally, the expression covers a Philistine world which offers nothing but a solitary, short, nasty, and brutish life. Understood historically, the Third World is a creation of the Siamese twin of colonialism and imperialism generated by the First and erstwhile Second world. It also creates a fourth world of global impoverishment and 'disposable' peoples. Ideologically, one seeks to distinguish between the 'Third World' (of States) from a 'Third Worldism' (a state of consciousness of the people). If we were to romanticize a little bit, one would say the latter consists of an attitude of ethical insurgency towards the making and unmaking of the world, and of the peoples (democide). In that sense the whole world becoming a third world is a good thing, indeed! The flip side of course is authoritarian statism, laced by popular (electoral) populism. We already see in *Euroamerica* an evacuation of the values fabled to have initiated development, progress, and equity measures, specially by the idea of human rights. Now we live increasingly in the 'endtimes' of human rights. Is the whole world on its way to becoming rightless? And is that a good thing? Also, what may be the future foretold by the advancing Anthropocene?

About the Speaker

Upendra Baxi, currently Professor Emeritus, University of Warwick, and has been at the Warwick Law School since 1996. He served earlier as Professor of Law, University of Delhi (1973-1996) and as its Vice Chancellor (1990-1994.) He was also served as: Vice Chancellor, University of South Gujarat, Surat (1982-1985); Honorary Director (Research) The Indian Law Institute (1885-1988.) He was the President of the Indian Society of International Law (1992-1995.) Baxi graduated from Rajkot (Gujarat University), read law in University of Bombay, and holds LL.M degrees from University of Bombay and University of California at Berkeley, which also awarded him with a Doctorate in Juristic Sciences. He has been awarded Honorary Doctorates in Law by the National Law School University of India, Bangalore, and the University of La Trobe, Melbourne. One of the most prolific contributors to the corpus of legal writing both on India and on many contemporary global concerns, Baxi's recent works include *Future of Human Rights* (OUP, 2008) and *Human Rights in a Posthuman World* (OUP, 2007)

Prasanna is a theatre director and founder of Charaka, a Multipurpose Women's Handloom Co-operative in Bhimanakone. He has written *Indian Method in Acting* (2013) and *Shudraragona Banni* (Let us Become Shudras, 2015).