



Colloquium: Engaging Modern Indian Political Thought

Speaker:

Ramachandra Guha

Date / Time:

March 21, 2013 - 3:45pm - 5:15pm

Venue:

10th Floor, Auditorium, Pixel A, APU

Abstract:

In the last few years Ramachandra Guha has published *Makers of Modern India* (2011) and *Patriots and Partisans* (2012). In both books Ramachandra has engaged seriously with the political crises faced by a liberal India. In this Colloquium he will engage in a discussion with Sudhir Krishnaswamy on the value of reading the work of politicians who are simultaneously engaged in action and theoretical reflection. More generally the Colloquium will address concerns of Indian political thought in the 20th Century and explore novel and exciting ways of engaging with these materials.

A Note on the Speaker:

Ramachandra Guha is an author and columnist based in Bangalore. Born in Dehradun in 1958, he studied at St. Stephen's College, the Delhi School of Economics, and the Indian Institute of Management at Kolkata, where he wrote a doctoral thesis on the history and prehistory of the Chipko movement. Now a full-time writer, he has previously taught at the universities of Yale and Stanford, held the Arné Naess Chair at the University of Oslo, and been the Sundaraja Visiting Professor at the Indian Institute of Science. In 2011-2 he will occupy the prestigious Phillippe Roman Chair in History and International Affairs at the London School of Economics. Guha's books include a pioneering environmental history, *The Unquiet Woods* (Oxford University Press, 1989); *Savaging the Civilized* (University of Chicago Press, 1999), *A life of the anthropologist-activist Verrier Elwin* which the Times Literary Supplement called the 'best biography by an Indian for many years', an award-winning social history of cricket, *A Corner of a Foreign Field* (Picador), and *India after Gandhi* (Picador, 2007), a widely discussed (and also award-winning) history of India since independence. He is now working on a book on Mohandas Gandhi's years in South Africa. Aside from his scholarly work, Guha writes regularly on social and political issues for the general public. Between 1997 and 2009 he wrote a fortnightly column for *The Hindu*, India's national newspaper. He now writes columns in *The Telegraph* and the *Hindustan Times*, with these articles appearing in translation in other Indian newspapers (such as *Hindustan*, *Dainik Bhaskar*, *Prajavani*, and *Andhra Jyoti*). Guha's awards

include the Leopold-Hidy Prize of the American Society of Environmental History, the Daily Telegraph/Cricket Society prize, the R. K. Narayan Prize, and the Padma Bhushan. The New York Times has referred to him as 'perhaps the best among India's non fiction writers'; Time Magazine has called him 'Indian democracy's preeminent chronicler'.