



## **Colloquium Series: Ambedkar in His Time and Ours**

Speaker:

Anupama Rao, Department of History, Barnard College, USA

Date / Time:

October 20, 2011 - 3:00pm

Venue:

Room 103, First Floor, Pixel B, APU

Abstract:

Can we rescue Ambedkar from Ambedkarism? Why might we wish to do so? This talk argues that Ambedkar has been parochialized as a Maharashtrian thinker, at best, and a movement leader at worst. Ironically, this makes for deep complicities between those who scant Ambedkar's significance as a profound and innovative thinkers of democracy, on the one hand, and those who would freeze his life and image for Dalit hagiography on the other. Instead, this talk explores Ambedkar's globality --his constant invocation of world historical events, and the political thought of emancipation--as enabling his critique of caste, capital, and the Hindu historical. The talk will thus explores the global historical dimensions of Ambedkar's articulation of a \*Dalit\* political thought.

A Note on the Speaker:

Anupama Rao is Associate Professor at the Department of History, Barnard College, USA. Her research and teaching interests are in the histories of gender, caste and nationalism in South Asia, historical anthropology, political theory, law, human rights, colonial and non-Western histories.