



Talk: Constructing the Muslim Enemy: From Crusades to 9/11

Speaker:
Dr Deepa Kumar

Date / Time:
May 3, 2013 - 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Venue:
Room No. 206, Pixel B, APU

Abstract:

In response to the events of 9/11, the Bush administration launched a “war on terror,” ushering in an era of anti-Muslim racism, or Islamophobia. However, 9/11 did not create the image of the “Muslim enemy.” In her recently released book “Islamophobia and the Politics of Empire” Dr. Kumar examines the historic relationship between anti-Muslim racism and the agenda of empire building. Beginning in the eleventh century and the context of the Crusades, Kumar offers a sweeping historical analysis of the changing views of Islam and Muslims in the West, examining the ways that ruling elites throughout history have used the spectre of a “Muslim enemy” to justify their imperial projects.

A Note on the Speaker:

Deepa Kumar is an Associate Professor of Media Studies and Middle Eastern Studies at Rutgers University.

Her work is driven by an active engagement with the key issues that characterize our era: neoliberalism and imperialism. Her first book, *Outside the Box: Corporate Media, Globalization and the UPS Strike* (University of Illinois Press, 2007), is about the power of collective struggle in effectively challenging the priorities of neoliberalism.

If neoliberal globalization characterizes the economic logic of our age, the “war on terror” has come to define its political logic. Kumar began her research into the politics of empire shortly after the tumultuous events of 9/11.

Her second book titled *Islamophobia and the Politics of Empire* (Haymarket Books, 2012), looks at how the “Muslim enemy” has historically been mobilized to suit the goals of empire. She is currently working on a third book about Political Islam, U.S. foreign policy and the media.