



Talk: Mutant Modernities, Socialist Futures

Speaker:
Dr Ravi Sinha

Date / Time:
October 22, 2012 - 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Venue:
Room No 103, Pixel B, APU

Abstract:

Modernity and socialism belong to two different categories of concepts. The former is philosophical-civilizational in its make up while the latter is a political-economic system. In this talk we will first identify the principal features of modernity and outline the processes through which it became the reigning paradigm first in Western Europe and later on rest of the planet. We will also locate aspects of capitalism that facilitated the spread of modernity. Processes of modernity are closely related to the aspirations of equality, prosperity and freedom. We will examine the troubled relationship between capitalism and modernity, evaluate the experience of twentieth century socialism and argue that future socialism must be envisioned as a system that overcomes capitalist pathologies while enhancing the realm of freedom. To read an essay where Dr Sinha has summarized his experiences and ideas on the tem blog Kafila, click [here](#)

A Note on the Speaker:

Dr Ravi Sinha is an activist-scholar who has been associated with the left movement for nearly four decades. Trained as a theoretical physicist, he has a doctoral degree from MIT, Cambridge, USA. He worked as a physicist at University of Maryland, College Park, USA, at Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad and at Gujarat University, Ahmedabad before resigning from the job to devote himself full time to organizing and theorizing. He is the principal author of the book, *Globalization of Capital*, published by Lal Parcham and Lok Dasta in 1997, co-founder of the Hindi journal, *Sandhan*, and one of the founders and a leading member of the upcoming platform, *New Socialist Initiative*.