

**The South Asia Institute presents a conference  
in honor of Dr. B .R. Ambedkar  
“Caste and Contemporary India”  
Friday and Saturday, October 16 and 17, 2009**

Co-sponsored by  
Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research  
Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race  
Department of Middle East and Asian Languages and Cultures  
Institute for Religion, Culture and Public Life  
Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy

Additional funding provided by the Dr. Ambedkar International Mission (AIM) Inc., U.S.A.; Office of the Provost, Columbia University; Taraknath Das Foundation; and the U.S. Department of Education

Location: Room 1501, International Affairs Building. Columbia University  
420 West 118<sup>th</sup> Street at Amsterdam Avenue (15<sup>th</sup> floor)

Conference Schedule  
Day One: Friday, October 16

- 8:00am – 8:45am Coffee and Breakfast
- 8:50am – 9:00am Welcome address by Janaki Bakhle (History, Columbia University; Director, South Asia Institute)
- 9:00am – 10:45am Panel: Affirmative Action, Law and Inequality in India and the United States  
Lee C. Bollinger (President, Columbia University and Professor, Law School)  
Marc Galanter (Law and South Asia Studies, University of Wisconsin, Madison)  
Pratap Mehta (Centre for Policy Research)  
Moderated by Nicholas B. Dirks (Anthropology and History; Vice-President and Dean, Arts & Sciences, Columbia University)
- 10:45am – 11:15am Coffee Break
- 11:15am – 12:45pm Panel: Contemporary Politics and Caste  
Balmurli Natrajan (Anthropology, William Paterson University)  
Sivakami Palanimuthu (activist and writer)  
Anand Teltumbde (activist and writer)  
Moderated by Christophe Jaffrelot (Sciences-Po)
- 12:45pm – 2:15pm Afternoon break (no lunch will be provided at conference)

- 2:15pm – 4:00pm      Panel: Gender and Caste  
 Smita Narula (Law, New York University)  
 E. Sudha Rani (History, Dean of Social Sciences,  
 Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University)  
 Jebaroja Singh (Women and Gender Studies, Saint John Fisher  
 College)  
 Moderated by Anupama Rao (History, Barnard College)
- 4:00pm – 4:30pm      Coffee Break
- 4:30pm – 4:40pm      Introduction of Plenary Speaker by Thomas Blom Hansen  
 (Anthropology, University of Amsterdam)
- 4:40pm – 5:45pm      Plenary Session featuring an Address by  
 Gyanendra Pandey (History, Emory University)
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm      Reception

Day Two: Saturday, October 17

- 8:30am – 9:15am      Coffee and Breakfast
- 9:15am – 11:15am      Panel: Religion and Caste  
 Gnana Aloysius (Independent Scholar, New Delhi)  
 Masood Alam Falahi (Islamic Studies, Maulana Azad National  
 Urdu University)  
 Raj Kumar Hans (History, M. S. University of Baroda)  
 Nathaniel Roberts (South Asia Studies, University of Pennsylvania)  
 Moderated by Gauri Viswanathan (English & Comparative  
 Literature, Columbia University)
- 11:15am – 11:30am      Coffee Break
- 11:30am – 11:40am      Introduction of Plenary Speaker by Sudipta Kaviraj (Chair, Middle  
 East and Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University)
- 11:40am – 12:45pm      Closing Plenary Session featuring an Address by Gopal Guru  
 (Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University)
- 12:45pm – 1:00pm      Closing Remarks by Janaki Bakhle
- 1:00pm – 2:00pm      Lunch