



Azim Premji University Colloquium Series

presents a lecture

Democracy contra Democracy: Reflections on Values, Violence and the People

Speaker

Manas Ray

Professor in Cultural Studies, Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Date: April 14, 2016 (Thursday)

Time: 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Venue: 10th Floor Auditorium, Pixel A, Azim Premji University

Watch the live broadcast of the talk by clicking <http://lectures.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/>. It can be accessed from Android and iOS devices too.

About the Lecture

We live in the midst of violence, its traces are everywhere in modern democratic states. If violence is omnipresent, if social solidarity is shattered all so often by its eruptive presence, the question to ask is how come, through what magic, the democratic state as a political formation is surviving in the first place. Despite all the uncertainties and the glaring fault lines, it somehow seems to function and retain even if a tattered unity. What makes democracy as a political praxis so durable in spite of its myriad loopholes and thousand histories of disappointment? The curious fact is that the more democratic states are under the sway of violence, the more resolute people seem in their demand for more democracy. This is a great paradox of contemporary life. To understand and unveil this apparent contradiction is the purpose of my presentation for which I invite you to take a fresh look at the fundamentals of political democracy.

About the Speaker

Manas Ray is Professor in Cultural Studies at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta(CSSSC) and the coordinator of Cultural Studies Workshop, an annual pedagogic workshop for doctoral students that the CSSSC has been conducting since 1995. He convenes two MPhil/PhD courses at the CSSSC. These are: "Modernity and the Making of the Social" & "Biopolitics, Ethics and Subjectivation". He has written on a wide variety of areas including Marxism, ethics, postmodernism, New German Cinema, Bollywood, biopolitics, continental political philosophy, critical legal theory, cultural lives of Indian diasporas, and memory and locality of post-partition Calcutta. His essays have been anthologized in more than twenty

collections. A selection of his articles – *Displaced: Lives on the Move* -- is forthcoming from Primus Books, Delhi this year. He is also in the process of editing a comprehensive collection of essays consisting of 32 contributors on the present state of Indian democracy. Between 2009 and 2011, he functioned as the editor of the *Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences*, the journal of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla.