



Azim Premji University Colloquium Series

presents a lecture on

Thinking afresh toward a Swaraj for Health: Strengthening Democracy, Strengthening Health Care

Speaker

Madhulika Banerjee

Professor of Political Science, University of Delhi

Date: October 15, 2015 (Thursday)

Time: 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

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

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About the Lecture

It's by now an old adage in public health discourse that the arena of medicine is a deeply political one and that it needs to be reiterated through all the clutter of technicalities that can dominate any discussion on it. This perspective has yielded some wonderful insights and critique in terms of the relationships in the triad of state-market-civil society. But through theory, practice and critical analyses, we have not yet arrived at a point that is able to take us closer to a democratic space of health; one that enables people's health in their own hands—and more. The idea of swaraj as a control over all aspects of one's life needs to be explored and activated such that a diverse set and mix of health and medical practices become the order of the day for all kinds of people in society. This talk will argue that this idea of Swaraj for health exists as much in the restructured negotiations within the state-market-civil society as much as in its interstices--a large number of indications are afloat and we need to take cognizance of them and locate them in the frame of our political analysis. That way, we may be able to better understand how strengthening health care could strengthen democracy, or indeed, the other way ro

About the Speaker

Madhulika Banerjee has taught mainstream Political Science at the University of Delhi since 1985 and researched on the margins of the discipline during the same period. Her book "Power, Knowledge, Medicine: Ayurvedic Pharmaceuticals at home and in the World" published by Orient Blackswan appeared in 2009. Her work on Ayurveda, long focused on the state and market dimensions of the knowledge system, has now taken a turn toward those aspects of its operation outside of either and its interaction with the local health traditions on the ground, which is the mainstay of people's health for a large part of the Indian population. She now teaches a course on the politics of knowledge, attempting to extend her argument on medicine to other non-modern knowledges. She is also engaged, at a very preliminary level, in a comparative analysis of the trajectories of pharmaceuticalisation of India and Brazil.