



Colloquium Series: Ethics of Receptivity

Speaker:

Gopal Guru, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Date / Time:

August 16, 2012 - 3:45pm - 5:30pm

Venue:

10th Floor, Auditorium, Pixel A, APU

Abstract:

Gopal Guru talks about the moral significance of the art of listening in the classroom. Listening becomes important because, in most of the cases, students prefer to listen to that content which sounds sonorous to the ears. The ears rule out any 'shrilling content'. What is shrilling content? It is something that causes discomfort to some students. Students tend to change their body language into alienation the moment they listen to such 'problematic content'. The content which is normally treated as problematic to the extent it brings out in a person a sense of guilt or repulsion. In order to avoid this guilt or repulsion, students may choose to switch off their ears from listening to such content in the class. Gopal already assumes the possibility of some teachers transacting such content as a social necessity in the class. For inter-subjective understanding, he argues it is necessary to bring such content into classroom discussions. However, the receptivity of such content requires the readiness of the ear and, of course, heart. The larger question that he poses: Are our ears and hearts open to receiving strident content?

A Note on the Speaker:

Gopal Guru is Professor at the Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His research and teaching interests include Indian Political Thought, Indian Politics and Critical Theory. He is the author of *Dalit Cultural Movements in Maharashtra*, Vikas Adhyan, Publication, Mumbai (2000) and the co-author of *The Cracked Mirror: An Indian Debate on Experience and Theory*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press (2012). He has also edited *Humiliation: Claims and Context*, New Delhi: Oxford University Press (2009).