

# Religion, Ideologies and Nationalism in South Asia

## Overview

The importance of religion on contemporary debates ranging from nationalism to its place in the public sphere is exceedingly being felt. Nations -- referred to as imagined communities (Anderson, 1991) -- speak to the profound need for both legitimacy and belonging(ness), often articulated through one's religious vis-a-vis ethnic identities in the modern world. This course will address this issue by focusing on the relationships between religion, geo-politics and the emergence and proliferation of nationalism in the context of South Asia. While examining the manner in which religion and nationalism interact, this course will reflect on a series of pressing questions: how do religious nationalism and spatialization of the nation-state, both as an idea and polity, enable the territorialization of religion? How do people envision their nation in terms of religious identities and symbolic sacralization? How do discourses on religion, more so in the curious case of South Asia, (re)invent and (re)configure 'traditions' that feed into the ethos of nationalism? How did religious categories originating from the Western frameworks of references travel and were domesticated in South Asia to give rise to, as Edward Said (2000) insists, a diverse range of discursive meanings, contingencies and implications? How does this religious interact with the secular, also taken to be a 'Western' concept adopted and adapted in South Asia? To illustrate the complexity and richness of the topic, this course will touch upon a diverse range of issues – proselytization, Orientalism, nationalist historiography, cartography, scientization, secularism, the Partition, multiculturalism, caste, gender, and postcoloniality, among others -- in the context of South Asia.

<b>Dates</b>	<b>23-28 October, 2017</b>
<b>You Should Attend if You're</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ a student (undergraduate, graduate, research) interested in, broadly speaking, cultures and practices of religiosity, issues of nationalism, secularism and postcolonialism.</li> <li>▪ a faculty from reputed academic institutions; having similar interests.</li> <li>▪ from the industry, with similar interests.</li> </ul>
<b>Fees for Participants from</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Abroad: US \$500</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Industry-Research Organizations: Rs. 10000</b></li> <li>▪ <b>Academic Institutions: Rs.5000(Faculty)   Rs.1000 (Students)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>NIT Silchar: Rs. 500 (PhD &amp; PG)   NIL (UG)</b></li> </ul> <p>Registration fee does not cover food or accommodation. Outstation participants may be provided with twin sharing accommodation on payment basis in the Institute Guest House, if available.</p>

**Number of participants for the course will be limited to fifty.**

## The Faculty



**Ishita Banerjee-Dube** is Professor of History at the Center for Asian and African Studies, El Colegio de México, and holds the highest Rank (level 3) in the National Scheme of Researchers (SNI), Conacyt, Mexico. She is the editor of the series “Hinduism” with De Gruyter

Open. Banerjee-Dube has been a Visiting Professor at the Department of History, University of Syracuse; the School of Women’s Studies, Jadavpur University; Fellow, Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla; visiting scholar at the South Asia program, Cornell University; Süd-Asien Institut, University of Heidelberg; and Junior Research Fellow at the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta.

Her research explores issues of religion, law and power, time and temporality, language and identity, gender and nation, food and emotion, and democracy and social justice. She has authored 4 books: *A History of Modern India* (Cambridge University Press 2015); *Religion, Law, and Power* (Anthem Press, 2007), *Divine Affairs* (Indian Institute of Advanced Study, 2001), and in Spanish, *Fronteras del Hinduismo* (El Colegio de México, 2007). Among her ten edited volumes feature *Cooking Cultures: Convergent Histories of Food and Feeling* (Cambridge University Press 2016); *Ancient to Modern* (Oxford University Press, 2009); *Caste in History* (Oxford University Press, 2008); and *Unbecoming Modern* (Social Science Press, 2006).

## Course Co-ordinator

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