

COLLOQUIUM BY PRASENJIT DUARA

THE CRISIS OF GLOBAL MODERNITY: ASIAN TRADITIONS AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE (CAMBRIDGE, 2015)

TIME: 1-2PM, MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2015

VENUE: AB 1079

Speaker: Dr. Prasenjit Duara, historian of China, Raffles Professor of Humanities and Director of Asia Research Institute at National University of Singapore.

ABSTRACT:

The present is defined by the intersection of three global changes: the rise of non-western powers, the crisis of environmental sustainability and the loss of authoritative sources of transcendence - the ideals, principles and ethics once found in religions or political ideologies. The physical salvation of the world is becoming - and must become - the transcendent goal of our times, but this goal must transcend national sovereignty. Duara suggests that a viable foundation for sustainability might be found in the traditions of Asia, which offer different ways of understanding the relationship between the personal, ecological and universal. These traditions must be understood through the ways they have historically circulated and converged with contemporary developments.

BIO:

Prasenjit Duara is a historian of China and more broadly of Asia in the twentieth century. He also writes on historical thought and historiography. Duara was professor and chairman of the History department at the University of Chicago. From 2008 he has been at NUS where he is Raffles Professor of Humanities and Director of Asia Research Institute. Duara has spoken as a keynote lecturer or distinguished speaker at over 100 institutions around the world since 1996.

Among his books are *Rescuing History from the Nation* (1995), *Sovereignty and Authenticity: Manchukuo and the East Asian Modern* (2003), edited volumes, *Decolonization* (Routledge, 2004), *The Global and the Regional in China's Nation-Formation* (Routledge 2009) and *A Companion to Global Historical Thought* co-edited with Viren Murthy and Andrew Sartori (John Wiley, 2014). His book, *Culture, Power and the State:*

Rural North China, 1900-1942 (Stanford, 1988), won the Fairbank Prize of the AHA and the Levenson Prize of the AAS. His work has been widely translated into Chinese, Japanese, Korean and several European languages. In December 2014, he published *The Crisis of Global Modernity: Asian Traditions and a Sustainable Future* with Cambridge University Press.