

FACULTY OF LAW

PRESENTS

EXPERT TALK

THINKING THROUGH THE PROJECT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES:

READING AMBEDKAR, DU BOIS AND ARENDT

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Dr. Kumud Ranjan,

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 11 AM ONWARDS

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ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Dr. Kumud Ranjan is currently teaching sociology at the Jindal School of Liberal Arts & Humanities, O. P. Jindal Global University. He is also a visiting research fellow at the Department of International Relations, School of Global Studies, University of Sussex, United Kingdom. He completed his PhD at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi in 2022, wherein he engaged with the writings of W. E. B. Du Bois, B. R. Ambedkar and Hannah Arendt.

Dr. Kumud Ranjan broadly engaged with their writings through the debates on the philosophical approach of pragmatism and social theory. Subsequently, he was a visiting scholar in the Department of Sociology at the University of Cambridge. He is the founding member of the Ambedkar Reading Group at Cambridge (ARC), Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge. He is an affiliated faculty member for the course 'Decolonizing Climate Emergency, Anti-Racism, and the Politics of Liberation' organised by the University of Granada, Spain and The Center of Study and Investigation for Decolonial Dialogues. He is currently working on the manuscript of his first book based on his doctoral research. He has presented his work on international platforms, such as the American Sociological Association, the British Sociological Association, and the European Sociological Association.

ABOUT THE TALK

The talk is an extension of the debates that have primarily taken place in the last two decades in social and political theory and pragmatism. It is through the existing debates the paper develops a departure in crucial ways to think of social and political theory and pragmatism as global projects of intellectual and political thinking in the twentieth century. Thus, an attempt has been made to read three formidable thinkers of the twentieth century, i.e. W. E. B. Du Bois, B. R. Ambedkar and Hannah Arendt. In a way, to be precise, how these three thinkers transformed their individual experiences as part of the broader collective that moved beyond their specific contexts.

These three thinkers began their intellectual and political life world with experiences from the immediate context and transcended these immediate contexts to develop a more coherent approach towards shared and collective lives of human beings across societies. In order to reflect upon these experiences, they understood the importance of transcending their immediate boundaries to understand the catastrophe they lived through from a global perspective. Primarily, the attempt has been to read these global perspectives by locating them in the long-standing tradition of social and political theory.