

## Invitation Occasional Lecture

**Topic of the Lecture :**The Politics and Rhetoric of New Populisms

**Speaker:** Dilip Gaonkar  
 Professor, Rhetoric and Public Culture &  
 Director, Center for Global Culture and Communication (CGCC)  
 Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, USA

**Date and Time:**  
 23 June 2017 at 4 pm

**Venue:**  
 Centre for Contemporary Theory  
 C-304 Siddhi Vinayak Complex  
 Behind Baroda Railway Station (Alkapuri Side)  
 Faramji Road, Baroda-390007



### *A Summary of the Lecture (Prepared by Dilip Gaonkar)*

This paper/presentation will interrogate the resurgence of populism in the twenty-first century in its various manifestations, covering a wide range of political and ideological positions from the left to the right and from the progressive to the conservative across the globe. As evident from Brexit and the election of Donald Trump to the US presidency, no geopolitical region or national/culture space appears to be immune to the lures of populist movements and moments (episodic gatherings and eruptions). The persistent and historically erroneous assumption that populism is a recurrent feature of politics in developing countries under duress due to crushing poverty or uncontained internal religious or ethnic strife has been suspended for the time being. Populism (along with the very idea of “people” and the “popular rule”) are beginning to command renewed public as well as scholarly attention, which is long overdue. This paper/presentation will try to examine and contribute to that renewed attention.

### *About the Speaker*

Dilip Gaonkar is Professor in Rhetoric and Public Culture and the Director of Center for Global Culture and Communication at Northwestern University. He is also the Director of Center for Transcultural Studies, an independent scholarly research network concerned with global issues. He was closely associated with the journal, *Public Culture*, serving as the Executive Editor (2000-2009) and as Editor (2009-2011). Gaonkar has two sets of scholarly interests: rhetoric as an intellectual tradition, both its ancient roots and its contemporary mutations; and, global modernities and their impact on the political. He has published numerous essays on rhetoric, including “The Idea of Rhetoric in the Rhetoric of Science” that was published along with ten critical responses to the essay in a book, *Rhetorical Hermeneutics: Invention and Interpretation in the Age of Science*, edited by Alan G. Gross and William Keith (1996). Gaonkar has edited a series books on global cultural politics: *Globalizing American Studies* (with Brian Edwards, 2010), *Alternative Modernities* (2001), and *Disciplinary and Dissent in Cultural Studies* (1995). He has also edited several special issues of journals: *Laclau’s On Populist Reason* (with Robert Hariman, for *Cultural Studies*, 2012), *Cultures of Democracy* (for *Public Culture*, 2007), *Commitments in a Post-Foundational World* (with Keith Topper, 2005), *Technologies of Public Persuasion* (with Elizabeth Povinelli, 2003), and *New Imaginaries* (with Benjamin Lee, 2002). He is currently working on a book manuscript on *Modernity, Democracy and the Politics of Disorder*.