

The Forum on Contemporary Theory

Welcomes you to an Open Lecture by

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On

History and the Experience of the Present Reading Naipaul's *A Bend in the River*

On 7 December 2018, Friday, at 5 pm

Venue: Conference Room, Forum on Contemporary Theory
C 303, Siddhi Vinayak Complex, Faramji Road, Baroda

Abstract

The talk will attempt to give a reading of V. S. Naipaul's *A Bend in the River* that is meant to be both an appreciation and a critique of certain wide-ranging attitudes and interests central to the novel. It will show how the novel offers certain reflections on the postcolonial conditions that question the deeply entrenched binary proposition about the relationship between the colonizer and the colonized as simply one of power and powerlessness. In the process the novel opens a deeper postcolonial discourse, one about modernity, psychological consequences, and an emergent but fraught postcolonial globalist identity. As it suggests this new line of reflection on postcolonial discourse, it also reveals the problematic and flawed nature of Naipaul's historical understanding.



Professor Suresh Somnath Raval's interests include modern British fiction, Anglophone postcolonial fiction, literary theory, postcolonial studies, and globalization and literary studies. Some of his research is focused on intersections between philosophy (in the sense of analytic and post-analytic philosophy) and literary criticism and theory. He is the author of *Metacriticism, The Art of Failure: Conrad's Major Fiction, Grounds of Literary Criticism, and Renunciation, Reform and Women in Swaminarayan Hinduism*. He has published essays in literary and philosophical journals on literary and cultural theory and on Conrad, Rabindranath Tagore, Jamaica Kincaid, and J. M. Coetzee, among others.

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A BEND
in THE RIVER