

## Department of Political Science

# Conceptions of Religion in India: An Analysis of the Discourses of Bhakti and Modern Indian Political Thought

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In this paper Dr.Lamba wants to analyze the conceptions of religion that have obtained on the subcontinent in two distinctive discourses – one related to Bhakti and the other to a key strand of modern Indian political thought as expressed in the writings of M. K. Gandhi, R. Tagore and B. R. Ambedkar. The aim of the discussion is to reflect upon the divergences and convergences between the two discourses with a view to considering appropriate modes for public-political engagement in societies marked by deep diversity.



Dr Rinku Lamba is assistant professor at the Centre for Political Studies in Jawaharlal Nehru University. She is presently on a senior research fellowship at the Kolleg-Forschergruppe "Multiple Secularities" in the University of Leipzig. She was educated in Delhi, Oxford and Toronto, and has a strong interest in modern Indian political thought, democratic theory, the history of western political thought, and contemporary political theory -- especially secularism, liberalism and multiculturalism. Her published work is on themes such as state power, nationalism, Ambedkar's views on the reform of religion, and the discourse about socio-religious reform in colonial India. She is co-editor of a forthcoming special issue of *Studies in Religion* on the topic of managing religious diversity in Canada, China and India, which includes an essay by her about Gandhi's response to religious conflict. Lamba has held visiting positions at the Humboldt University and the University of Wurzburg, and research fellowships at the European University Institute and the universities of Victoria, Sydney and Hyderabad.

**Date: Monday, November 14th, 2016**

**Time: 1600 hrs -1800 hrs**

**Venue: SAI, Room 316**

All are cordially invited!!