



CENTRE FOR ASIAN AND  
TRANSCULTURAL STUDIES

SOUTH ASIA INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386

**Lecture Series on Governance and Politics in South Asia**  
*Department of Political Science*

Special lecture on  
**Why India May Never Be A Great Power?**  
By  
**Prof. Sumit Ganguly**

India has long aspired to play a major role in global politics. In the immediate post-independence era, it sought to do so mostly through ideational means as it lacked much material power. It met with some success in this endeavor in the initial years after independence. However, the disastrous Sino-Indian border war, for all practical purposes, ended India's wider role in global politics. It was only after the Cold War's end, the adoption of market-friendly policies and substantial economic growth that it could, once again, meaningfully aspire to play a viable role in global politics. Despite its economic achievements, the concomitant growth of its military capabilities and its institutional stability, there is much doubt that it can actually transcend the region. A range of domestic infirmities ranging from problems of inequality, access to education, health care and environmental shortcomings may well hobble its great power ambitions.



**Prof. Sumit Ganguly** is a Distinguished Professor of Political Science, and holds the Rabindranath Tagore Chair in Indian Cultures and Civilizations, at Indiana University, Bloomington. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (elected 2017), and a recipient of the Humboldt Research Award (2017), to be hosted by the Department of Political Science, SAI, Heidelberg University. A specialist on the contemporary politics of South Asia, Professor Ganguly's research spans security, ethnic conflict, democratization, foreign policy, and international politics of that region. He is the author, co-author, editor, or co-editor of over 20 books on the region. His most recent books include *The Oxford Handbook of India's National Security* (Oxford University Press, 2015, co-edited with Nicolas Blarel and Manjeet S. Pardesi); *Deadly Impasse: Indo-Pakistani Relations at the Dawn of a New Century* (Cambridge University Press, 2016); and, with William R. Thompson, *Ascending India and Its State Capacity* (Yale University Press, 2017).

**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2019  
**Time:** 16:00 - 18:00  
**Venue:** CATS, EG SR 01 (010.00.21)  
*Followed by a reception*

All are cordially invited!