

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

**Sangh and Sarkar: Hindutva and Governance in Modi's
'New India'**

by

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Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), commonly known as Sangh, crafting an enticing electoral strategy, which promised development, employment, transparency and inclusive governance under charismatic leader Narendra Modi, made possible for the BJP to form the government (Sarkar) in New Delhi in 2014. Initially, Modi's posturing appeared to be out of the box and even autonomous of Hindutva, raising hopes in his promise of a 'New India'. Surprisingly, instead of consolidating these initiatives, the government soon started treading on an exclusivist Hindutva path promoting majoritarian governance. The Modi government deviated from a welfare model which promised 'development for all' to a warfare model which targeted selected 'enemies' – from common Muslims to political opponents, and from student protesters to 'urban Naxals'. The lecture will explain this puzzle by focusing in detail on the dynamics of the Sangh-Sarkar relationship.



Pralay Kanungo, Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, is currently Fellow at Max-Weber-Kolleg, Erfurt University and Guest Professor at Sichuan University, Chengdu (2015-2020). Kanungo has been ICCR Chair of Contemporary India Studies at Leiden University (2013-2018) and Honorary Professor at Australian Catholic University, Melbourne (2015-2018). Kanungo is the author of *RSS's Tryst with Politics: From Hedgewar to Sudarshan* (2002) and co-edited *The Algebra of Warfare-Welfare: A Long View of India's 2014 Election* (Oxford, 2019), *The Politics of Ethnicity in India, Nepal and China* (Primus, 2014), *Public Hinduisms* (Sage, 2012) and *Cultural Entrenchment of Hindutva: Local Mediations and Forms of Convergence* (Routledge, 2011).

Date: Wednesday, 23 January 2019

Time: 16:00-18:00

Venue: SAI R 317

All are cordially invited!