

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Invites you to its Weekly Seminar Series on

Wednesday, 18th September 2019

Nature's Crossroads: Democracy as if Ecology mattered

MAHESH RANGARAJAN

Prof of History and Environmental Studies, Ashoka University

Abstract

The epochal transformations of the last thirty years have implications for the ecological frame as much as polity economy and society. In the late 1960s in the wake of two successive droughts, intensive remakings of nature unfolded, exemplified in intensive agriculture as much as nature preservation. Legislative and executive engagement took wing over a two decade era in the form of ecological patriotism. The rumbles over justice, equity and power were within the frame of a mixed economy.

Over the last thirty years, the state has become not a source but a facilitator of private investment. The boom of 2003-11 exerted deep pressures on forests, water, top soil and air quality. Decentralisation and tenurial changes and statist measures each important have their limits.

How engaging with ecological issues in town, forest, farm, coast and country side can enrich and deepen democracy needs careful thought. A peace with nature is key to underpin peace among people.

Bionote

Prof. Rangarajan studied at Hindu College, Delhi University and at Balliol and Nuffield Oxford. He has taught at Delhi University in the Department of History and is now Professor of History and Environmental Studies at Ashoka University.

His first book *Fencing the Forest: Conservation and Ecological Change in India's Central Provinces, 1860-1914*, was published by Oxford University Press in 1996. His recent works include *Nature and Nation: Essays on Environmental History* (Orient Blackswan, 2015) and the co-edited *At Nature's Edge: The Global Present and Long Term History* (OUP, 2018).

TIME: 2:30 P.M.

Venue: Room no. 18, Satyakam Building Second Floor, Opp. Faculty of Social Sciences Building

ALL ARE INVITED