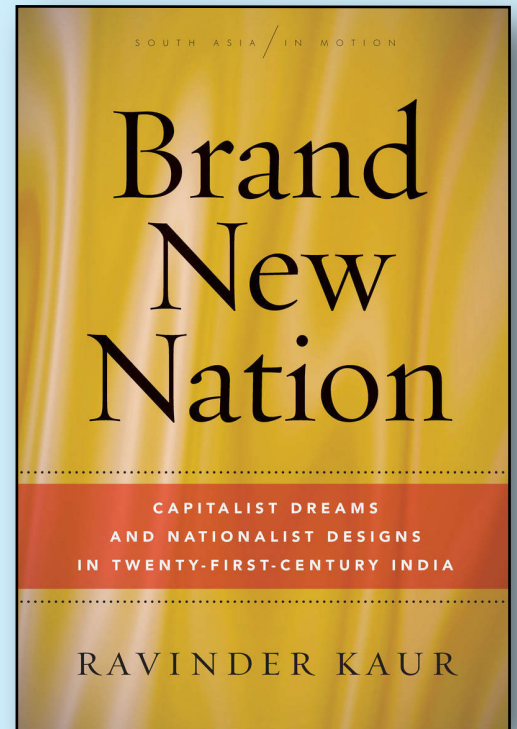


Transnational Asia

Speaker Series

Brand New Nation: Capitalist Dreams and Nationalist Designs in Twenty-First-Century India



Friday, October 9, 2020 @ 12 PM CDT
Online via Zoom (registration required)
Free and open to the public.

The early 21st century was an optimistic moment of global futures-making. The chief narrative was the emergence of the BRIC nations, branded afresh as resource-rich hubs of untapped talent and potential, “opened up” for foreign investments. The tantalizing promise of economic growth also offered utopian visions of “good times” and even restoration of lost glory to the nation’s citizens. This talk will disclose the on-the-ground experience of the relentless transformation of the nation-state into an attractive investment destination for speculative global capital. It demonstrates that the infusion of capital not only rejuvenates the nation, it also produces investment-fueled nationalism, a populist energy that can be turned into a powerful instrument of coercion. Grounded in the history of modern India, the talk reveals the close kinship between identity economy and identity politics, publicity and populism, and violence and economic growth.



RAVINDER KAUR is a historian of contemporary India. She is Associate Professor of Modern South Asian Studies and the Director of the Centre of Global South Asian Studies at the University of Copenhagen. Her core research focuses on the processes of capitalist transformations in twenty-first-century India. This is the subject of her most recent book *Brand New Nation: Capitalist Dreams and Nationalist Designs in Twenty-First-Century India* (Stanford University Press, 2020). She is also the author of *Since 1947: Partition Narratives among the Punjabi Migrants of Delhi* (Oxford University Press, 2007; 2nd edition, 2018).

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