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presents

Home Rule: The Partition between Natives/Migrants within the Global System of National Sovereignties

Thursday, January 19, 2012

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

Green College Coach House (6201 Cecil Green Park Road)

http://www.maps.ubc.ca/PROD/index_detail.php?locat1=412

L&S calendar: www.greencollege.ubc.ca & www.law.ubc.ca/seminars/law_society.html

Today, people constituted as natives or migrants are largely seen to be separate, discrete and, increasingly, as naturally opposed. This is significant, for the binary identifications of native and migrant are mobilized in some of the most hotly contested and violent political events of our time. In this talk, I bring those identified as natives and migrants into the same field of analysis to examine how they both exist within the same global field of power known as postcoloniality and, crucially, how this field of power rests upon their analytic and political separation. I will investigate the political work that the categorization of people as native or migrant do in today's world by analyzing the temporal simultaneity of the post-WWII ascendancy of the global system of national-states and the expansion, intensification and racialization of immigration controls. Examining these developments in relationship to one another will reconcile the analytically separated spheres of political sovereignty, economic power and ideas of societal membership and further illuminate postcolonial forms of power. Developing a more complete analysis of the importance of ideas of national self-determination and native-ness to postcolonial governmentality will also help us better understand the systemic and cultural changes currently underway in our world.



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Nandita Sharma is an Associate Professor in the department of Sociology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Her research interests address themes of human migration, national state power, ideologies of racism and nationalism, processes of identification and self-understanding, and social movements for justice. Nandita is an activist scholar whose research is shaped by the social movements she is active in, including No Borders movements and those struggling for the commons. Amongst her publications is her 2006 book, *Home Economics: Nationalism and the Making of 'Migrant Workers'* in Canada (University of Toronto Press). She recently (in 2011) co-edited (with Bridget Anderson and Cynthia Wright) a special issue of the journal, *Refuge* entitled, "No Borders as a Practical Political Project."



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