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Populism and Postcoloniality in Contemporary India (1985–2025)

Guest Speaker: **Dr. Ajay Gudavarthy** (Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi)

June 9, 2026 || 18:15 hrs (Germany)/ 09:45 pm (India)

Venue: Room 3.08, Nauklerstr. 35

Or Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 967 9728 7656 Passcode: 625613

This talk examines populism as a mode of political mobilization that both challenges liberal constitutional democracy and draws legitimacy from popular sentiment. While populism contains an inclusive and anti-elite dimension, it can also weaken institutions, legal procedures, and the articulation of social differences.

Focusing on contemporary India (1985–2025), the lecture explores how right-wing populism negotiates the tensions between democracy, authoritarianism, and popular legitimacy. It further asks whether populism and postcoloniality converge in shaping a more vernacularized form of democracy in the present global moment.

About the Speaker: Associate professor, JNU. Associate member, Institute for Humanities, Simon Fraser University, Canada. Authored *India after Modi: Populism and the Right* (2019), *Politics, Ethics and Emotions in New India* (2023)



Part of the Summer Semester 2026 course: Landscapes of Liminalities: Contesting Political and Literary Images of the Future from South Asia (19th–21st Centuries)

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