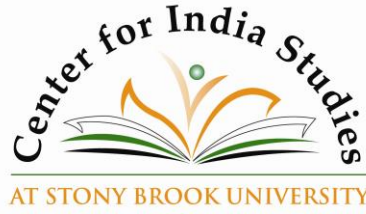


Bishembarnath & Sheela Mattoo



invites you to a lecture-discussion

Morals for Mortals: Lessons from the Mahabharata for our Mad Times

Professor Arindam Chakrabarti

Monday, April 17, 2017, 6:30 PM

Humanities Building 1006

From the refugee crisis in Europe, global celebration of extreme economic inequality, to the “post-truth” politics of a divided United States, and vegetarianist violence going viral in India—we surely live in pretty insane times! To read the post-war cantos of the *Mahābhārata* at this juncture is to undergo a sense of *déjà vu*—as if each of the ethical dilemmas, the inescapable irresolution following every moral decision one faces in our times, is a re-run of the *Book of Dharma at the Time of Crisis (Āpaddharma Parva)*. Let us try to learn critically from this ancient yet contemporary epic, at least the context-sensitive life-affirming ethics of situations (*āvasthika dharma*), non-cruelty (*ānṛśamsya*) as distinct from impracticable non-violence (*ahimsā*), and the virtue of public fearless speaking of the truth against power.

Arindam Chakrabarti, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Hawaii-Manoa, is an authority on Western and Indian philosophy, aesthetics, political theory, comparative religion, and the humanities in general. He has taught and lectured worldwide and published over a dozen books in English, Sanskrit, and Bengali on Indian theories of language, mind, logic, art, ethics, democracy, food, fashion, and emotions.



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