



Invitation

Tuesday, 21 June 2016, 6 pm

The Hindu Right: It's Impact on the Future of Secularism and Minority Communities in India

Talk by Prof Dr Anwar Alam

Venue

Seminar für Südasiastudien
Institut für Asien- und Afrika-
wissenschaften
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin
Invalidenstr. 118, Raum 217
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There is growing fear among segments of secular intelligentsia and the Muslim community that the current politics of the Modi government would affect the prospect of secularism and discriminate against the Muslim community who are gradually excluded from the informal and formal opportunity structures of Indian society. Such fear is based on the anti-Muslim mooring of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which provides the religious and ideological reference for the ruling BJP, their role in past communal riots and particularly in the context of the 2002 Gujarat riots. The proposed talk would reflect upon the emerging internal political debates within India and would argue that the 'politics of fear' is much exaggerated, if not completely misplaced. It argues that the social diversity of India along with its constitutional structure and competitive electoral democracy impose an effective limitation on the implementation of 'Hindutava ideology'. It further argues for the re-examination of the nature of 'Muslim politics' and the nature of 'Indian secularism' that partly may be seen as contributing to the development of the Hindutava discourse.

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Anwar Alam is currently returning to Germany as a previous Alexander von Humboldt fellow. He is serving as Professor at the Department of International Relations at the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Science, Zirve University, Gaziantep, Turkey. Prior to this he served as Professor and Director of the Centre for West Asian Studies at the Jamia Millia Islamia University (JMI), and as Associate Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He had been awarded a number of international fellowships including also the International Visitor Programme (Islamic) Scholarship, USA, (2002), and the Indo-French Social Scientist Exchange Programme Fellowship (2003, 2010). He was Visiting Professor at Fatih University, Istanbul, Turkey (September 2010 –August 2011). His recent publications include 'Emergence of Muslim Middle Class in Post-Independence India and Its Political Orientations', *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*, Vol. 35, number 1, 2015, (Routledge: London), 'The Roots and Praxis of Fethullah Gulen's Educational Discourse', *Hizmet Studies Review*, Vol. 2, No. 3, Autumn 2015 (Belgium), 'The Arab Spring: A View From India' in *Routledge Handbook of the Arab Spring: Rethinking Democratisation* (Routledge, London, 2014) and 'Islam and Violence', *GITAM Journal of Gandhian Studies*, Vol 3. No 1, 2014.