



## Invitation

### ZMO-Kolloquium

Thursday, 24. April 2008, 6 pm

#### Venue

Zentrum Moderner Orient  
Kirchweg 33

14129 Berlin

## The Many Worlds of Science in Independent India: The Stages of an Experiment in Decolonisation and Development

**Lecture by Prof. Dhruv Raina (z.Zt. Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin)**

Ironically enough, the history of modern science and the systems of higher education in India cannot be disentangled from the history of imperial science and that of the anti-colonial nationalist struggle. The first part of the lecture briefly summarizes the inauguration of the scientific research system in colonial India and its relationship to the system of higher education. This is followed by a discussion on the processes of decolonization and the attempt to reorient the goals of the scientific research system without demolishing the institutions of British colonial science. The evolution of the modern scientific research system in India over the last sixty years is situated against the backdrop of the changing political context and shifting policy. Finally, in a departure from conventional historical method I discuss the results of a recent sociological study that reveals the layered and many worlds of science in contemporary India and the different responses to so called globalised science.

**Prof. Dhruv Raina** studied Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics at Bangalore University and at the Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai. He received a PhD in Theory of Science at the University of Göteborg. Since 2002 Dhruv Raina is as an associated professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. He currently works as a fellow of the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin on the project „French savants and British indologists: diverging representations of India's mathematical past“. His fields of research are science policy, philosophy of science, studies on the politics of knowledge in Colonial India, science and social movements. Among numerous publications Dhruv Raina published in 2003 „Images and Contexts: Studies in the Historiography of Science in India“ and in 2004 together with S. Irfan Habib „Domesticating Modern Science: A Social History of Science and Culture in Colonial India“. Again with S. Irfan Habib he edited in 1999 „Situating the History of Sciences: Dialogues with Joseph Needham“ and in 2007 „Social History of Science in Colonial India“.

Weitere Informationen: <http://www.jnu.ac.in/FacultyStaff/ShowProfile.asp?SendUserName=dhruv>

Der nächste Vortrag im ZMO-Kolloquium findet am 28.05.08 um 18 Uhr s.t. statt: Irène Maffi (Université de Lausanne) spricht über „History, Memory and Identity in Jordan“.

GEFÖRDERT VOM



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