



Shaping Asia

Decolonising Knowledge

Knowledge Production and Circulation in India's Higher Education: Connectivities, Comparisons, Collaborations

Dhruv Raina

Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka

Bielefeld University, Germany

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11:30 a.m. (Berlin time) 3 p.m.

(Delhi time)

Zoom event

All over the world, scholars increasingly engage in decolonising higher education. Important points of departure are the post-colonial critique of the institutional and disciplinary arrangements that are often linked with critical enquiries into the neo-liberal encroachments on academic knowledge production and circulation. These debates and actions have spatial and temporal dimensions. On one hand, the intellectual preoccupations with these concerns have been shifting in significant ways once independence from the colonial rule was achieved. On the other, the debates and measures towards decolonising are spatially situated.

The conversation between Dhruv Raina and Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka will concentrate on the de-colonial concerns and processes in India's higher education. It will trace the historical underpinnings of the contemporary interrogations (including 'pre-colonial knowledge'), debates, events and controversies in the Indian academia while concentrating upon the complex power imbalances between centres and peripheries. The conversation will tackle issues of social exclusion and inclusion and discuss the tensions between excellence and relevance in academic constellations. Disciplinary re-arrangements and curricular reforms will be tackled as one central field for academic self-reflexivity and action. Another important dimension will be the reflection on and comparisons with de-colonial preoccupations in other parts of the world, for instance in South Africa.

Dhruv Raina is professor of history and philosophy of science at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. His research has focused upon the politics and cultures of scientific knowledge in South Asia both in historical and contemporary contexts, as well as the history and historiography of mathematics. His most recent work addresses the contemporary concerns of the circulation of concepts in the social sciences, the emergence of inter- and transdisciplinary fields of research.

Joanna Pfaff-Czarnecka is professor of social anthropology at the Faculty of Sociology, Bielefeld University, Germany. Her current research focusses on knowledge production and circulation, on belonging as well as on the 'social life' of universities (especially the nexus of inequality and heterogeneity). Currently, she is the co-coordinator of the DFG-funded research program Shaping Asia.

Zoom registration Link: <https://uni-bielefeld.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUrdOupqDkqHNfJT9JHF3fQYyazAZwRM7dT>