



UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

in collaboration with

RAMASHRAY ROY FOUNDATION
NEW DELHI



invites you to

Fourth Ramashray Roy Memorial Lecture: Do Concepts Have An Address?



Prof. Gopal Guru

Public Intellectual and Political Philosopher,
Former Editor of 'Economic and Political Weekly'

Chair: Prof. P.Kesava Kumar
Head, Department of Philosophy, University of Delhi

9th February 2024 ; 2:00 P.M
Room 22, Arts faculty, University of Delhi

Do Concepts Have An Address?

ABSTRACT

The concept of address with a question mark seeks to unfold to us the contestation about the origin of concepts in philosophy, theory and social sciences. The contestation that is processed through the claims such as our (Indian concepts) and their, the western, or our concepts are as universal as theirs. The contestation which involves disenabling binary does not offer an adequate explanation to the query: why certain concepts which have origin but have been intellectually sedimented.

These concepts, however, due to the force of external reason had to be rediscovered, resurrected and brought to the surface of our imagination. The contestation was carried out at the level of colonial or Eurocentric configuration of epistemic power by scholars coming from different intellectual backgrounds. Contestation also found its local articulation spearheaded by those scholars for whom, arguably the question of address does not acutely matter. Such scholars, historically and necessarily operate outside the binary such as 'ours' and 'theirs'.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Gopal Guru was a Former Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He is an Indian Public Intellectual, Political Philosopher, and the Former Editor of the journal 'Economic and Political Weekly'. He is the author of "The Cracked Mirror: An Indian Debate on Experience and Theory" (co-author Sundar Sarukkai), "Experience, Caste and the Everyday Social" (with Sundar Sarukkai), "Humiliation: Claims and Context"(Ed.).

He has worked in Bhimrao Ambedkar's "Philosophy of Moral Realism and Political Phenomenology of Touch" and contributed "On Caste" in the International Encyclopaedia of Anthropology.

Gopal Guru pioneered new dimensions in re-thinking of Dalit Discourse with the introduction of Critical Theory in understanding the questions of constructions and fallout of Dalit identity in India. His writings can be broadly located in theorising on the moral categories of self-respect, recognition, dignity, shame, humiliation and asserting a non-instrumentalist' view of rationality in explaining matters of Social Justice.

RAMASHRAY ROY (1927-2020)

Prof. Ramashray Roy was an eminent political scientist who had served as one of the founding directors of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) New Delhi and Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi. A pioneering psephologists and distinguished academics he had authored books on Gandhi, Development process and Electoral politics. He was also intensely interested in Mithila culture and intellectual traditions. He was awarded by Bihar Government and Madhya Pradesh Government for his contributions.