

Bio-note



Badri Narayan Tiwari poet, author and social scientist, is the Director of Govind Ballabh Pant Institute, Allahabad. Badri Narayan Tiwari is also a Social Historian and Cultural Anthropologist. His interests cover a wide range of subjects spanning from culture, memory and politics, contemporary histories, ethnography of marginalized politics, social and anthropological history, Dalit and subaltern issues and identity formation and the question of power. He is the author of 'The Making of the Dalit Public in North India: Uttar Pradesh, 1950 Present', Oxford University Press, 2011, among other books.

Hindutva and Populism

(Abstract)

Badri Narayan

Populism creates hope and desire through connect, trust and memory base of the society. While the Indian National Congress claims to have a language that dates back to the late 19th century, Sangh Parivar traces the origins of its language that are as old as 5000 years. While economic populism has to do with the politics of gift, this public lecture focuses on the practices of cultural populism that are deeply ingrained in the *katha* tradition through a series of ethnographies conducted in the Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. Hindutva involves appropriation of the icons of the marginalized communities. Their politics entails a displacement of both Naxalite and Dalit politics. The appropriation of the icons and cultural practices also means that resistance is drying up day by day. Ambedkar – unlike Kanshiram – cannot be called a populist leader.