

# Near/Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

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**Prof. Dr. Gita Dharampal-Frick  
(University of Heidelberg)**

## **“Mahatma Gandhi and Islam”**

As a prominent defender of Islam, Mahatma Gandhi proclaimed in 1938 that "the sayings of the Prophet", ranked "among the treasures of mankind, not merely of Muslims" (Foreword to a reprint of *The Wisdom of Muhammad* by Abdullah Suhrawardy). The talk will trace the development not only of Gandhi's empathetic appreciation of Islam's civilisational and political significance, but will also underscore the extent to which this 'prophet of nonviolence' drew inspiration from Islamic theology for his own doctrine and implementation of *satyagraha* ('truth force') in the struggle for Indian independence.

Gita Dharampal-Frick, Head, Department of History, South Asia Institute, Heidelberg University, teaches modern South Asian history. Her publications and research foci deal with topics ranging from pre-modern transcultural interactions between Europe and India, the maritime cultural history of the Indian Ocean region (700-1700), medical history, religio-ritual transformations (1500-2000), the socio-cultural and political history of the colonial period, in general, with a special emphasis on Gandhi's movement for political and cultural resurgence.

**October 13, 2016**

**4:00-6:00 pm**

**White-Levy Room**

**Lecture Series  
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