"Divisions of Grandeur: Nation, Representation and the Partitions of India"

Gautam Ghosh PhD
Lecturer in Social Anthropology | University of Otago | New Zealand

A common understanding of the Partition of India is to see it as the consequence of demagoguery: self-aggrandizing and corrupt leaders manipulated “the people” into the territorial divide. Another understanding, popular among academics, sees the Partition as a traumatic temporal rupture, particularly for the “masses” displaced by it. The presentation will qualify both approaches by examining the ways some Bengali “gentlemen” portray themselves, in the aftermath of the 1947 Partition, as genuine and worthy leaders who provide(d) the best for "their" people.

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