

Departmental Colloquium: New Interventions in the History of Partition

A Future that Never Came: Ambedkar on the Eve of Partition

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This paper analyses B.R. Ambedkar's political writings and activism in the years prior to Partition. I contextualise Ambedkar's changing views on Pakistan through his *Thoughts on Pakistan* (1941), *Pakistan or the Partition of India* (1945, 1946); and *Communal Deadlock and a Way to Solve It* (1945). Ambedkar's writings in this period were concerned with what he perceived as an attack on the political concept of the 'minority' in India. Since Dalits throughout India were a heterogeneous cluster of communities without a common denominator to bind them together (such as language, profession or territory) other than their

social and political oppression, their recognition as a political category gave structure to the body of their politics. Yet, at this time the future of the concept of the political minority was under threat from different camps including the Hindu right, the Muslim League and Congress.



Registration and
Information

Thursday 03.11.2022
16:15 CET (Zoom)

Image: Emery Kelen, "Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar" Indian Round Table Conference, 1930-31; Derso and Kelen Collection, MC205, Public Policy Papers, Department of Special Collections, Princeton University Library.