



National Institute of Technology Silchar

(An Institute of National Importance by MHRD, Govt. of India)
Silchar, Assam - 788 010

GIAN: Global Initiative of Academic Network

An Initiative of



Ministry of Human Resource Development
Government of India



Conquest of Knowledge: The British in India

This course examines the transformations wrought in India by the British, principally in the intellectual technologies of governance, rather than in histories riveted upon military conquests, the lives of proconsuls, or imperial policies and nationalist responses. It ventures into a sustained critique of the colonial systems of knowledge and the pervasive categories they furnish through which the world is sought to be understood, whether in the erstwhile colonies or beyond. This course can reasonably be described as being grounded in the philosophical and political insights that are to be derived from the work of Bernard Cohn, Michel Foucault, and Edward Said, among others, and will invite the participants to reflect on a set of pressing questions: What were the forms of knowledge produced by colonialism? What kind of histories did the British write, not only of their own conquests, but also of the Indian past? Indeed, why did they write histories at all, and what negotiations did they have to undertake to accommodate their histories to indigenous forms of knowing? What were the languages of governance, and what kinds of ‘translations’ did the British aim at achieving? How did the British approach Indian texts, what intermediaries did they use, and with what consequences? How did they transplant Indian notions of the text with their own notion of the text as one fixed in perpetuity? What was the nature of British record-keeping in India, and what forms of objectification did the British create with the census, cartographies and with various ethnographies?

Dates	16-22 December, 2016
Modules	A: Problematizing Historiography B: Forms of Colonial Knowledge C: Colonial Episteme
Objectives	(1) Introduce to some of the most significant scholarly materials on the colonial state in India and its forms of knowledge; (2) Probe into the modalities of knowledge formations vis-à-vis Eurocentric ideas of modernity; (3) Engage with issues that concern a range of socio-political and cultural shifts in South Asia, emerging out of its encounter with colonialism and modernization.
You Should Attend If...	Post-grad (MA, MPhil, PhD) interested in the British period of Indian history, comparative colonialism, colonial societies, cultural anthropology, historical anthropology, comparative history, political theory, postcolonial theory, and cultural, social, and intellectual history; or faculty from reputed academic institutions or from the industry with similar interests.
Fees	Participants from abroad: US \$500 Participants from Industry-Research Organizations: Rs. 10000 Participants from Academic Institutions: Rs.5000(Faculty) Rs.1000 (Students) Registration fee does not cover food or accommodation. Outstation participants may be provided with twin sharing accommodation on payment basis in Institute Guest House, if available.

Number of participants is limited to fifty.

The Faculty



Vinay Lal is Professor of History and Asian American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He writes widely on Indian history, historiography, public and popular culture in India, the Indian diaspora, colonialism, Gandhi and the architecture of nonviolence, and the global politics of knowledge systems. His fourteen books include the two-volume *Oxford Anthology of the Modern Indian City* (Oxford, 2013); *Deewaar: The Footpath, the City, and the Angry Young Man* (HarperCollins, 2011); *Political Hinduism: The Religious Imagination in Public Spheres* (ed., Oxford, 2009); *The Future of Knowledge and Culture: A Dictionary for the Twenty-first Century*, co-edited with Ashis Nandy (Viking Penguin, 2005); *Of Cricket, Guinness and Gandhi: Essays on Indian History and Culture* (Penguin, 2005); *The History of History: Politics and Scholarship in Modern India* (Oxford, 2003); and *Empire of Knowledge: Culture and Plurality in the Global Economy* (Pluto Press, 2002). He is an elected member of the World Academy of Art & Science and his work has been translated into Hindi, Urdu, Kannada, French, German, Spanish, Finnish, Korean, and Persian. He is presently completing two books on Gandhi, a work on Internet Hinduism, and a study of colonial governmentality in British India.



Avishek Ray teaches at the National Institute of Technology, Silchar (India). He earned his PhD in Cultural Studies from Trent University, Canada, and has worked on what loosely may be called archaeology of vagabondage: the political implication of the social construct ‘vagabond’ and cultural representations thereof in the context of South Asia. He has edited a Bangla anthology on Religion & Popular Culture, and published in reputed journals like the *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*, *Journal of Human Values*, *Canadian Journal of Comparative Literature* etc.

Course Coordinator

Dr. Avishek Ray

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<http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in>



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Course Outline

- Colonialism and the Politics of Knowledge: Comparative Framework
- Governing India: Norms, Etiquette, Requirements
- The Historians' Knowledge of India: Problems in the Interpretation of Colonial Histories
- On the State & Techniques of Governmentality
- Forming the Subject & Commanding the Native: Language & Education
- Social Reform and the Parliamentary Paper: The Case of Sati
- The Committee and the Commission: Politics of the Body & the Body Politic
- Anthropology and the Colonial Ethnographer
- Literarization/Scriptalization | Literacy & The Book: The Printing Press
- The University as a Pedagogic Model
- Science, State and Ideology

Registration Guidelines

- First, 'web register' at GIAN 'Courses Registration Portal': <http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in/GREGN/index>. If you're already registered, skip this step.
- Then, click 'Course Registration' tab on the GIAN Portal, and 'check box' to select this course (#161031F01) from the list. Click 'save' to register, and 'Confirm Course(s)' to confirm.
- Now, pay the requisite Course Fee **online** in favor of Director NIT Silchar, **A/C No: 010521277057, IFSC Code: SBIN0007061, MICR Code: 788002004**. Keep the payment info (transaction # & date) handy. You'll need this during the next step.
- Next, fill out the form here: <https://goo.gl/forms/8q7FFAJOHxq5UZCg2>, and click 'submit'. This is for the Course Coordinator's record. Your participation is now confirmed.
- Number of participants for the course is limited to 50, and the registration will be open till the seats are filled.
- For queries and clarifications, write to the Course Coordinator at: avishekray@ci.nits.ac.in