



CCMG INVITED LECTURE ON

IMAGES TO INTERROGATE: SOME PHOTOGRAPHS FROM MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY INDIA

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Abstract:

A collection of photographs taken by a photojournalist named Kulwant Roy, and later restored by Aditya Arya, allows us to examine the version of history which they represent. Kulwant Roy was one contributor to a process of representation; other contributors included scores of journalists, creative writers, film-makers, and historians. Looking critically at the photographs means interrogating what they are meant to celebrate. What was photographed, and what was not? Comparison of such images with contemporary European photojournalism can also be revealing. Perhaps such photographs cleanse modern Indian history of its unrelieved sufferings, unmet aspirations, and underplayed continuities. As for what they do not show, we may let our imagination wander, and as in a school exercise, fill in the blanks.

Bio

Indivar Kamtekar teaches modern history at JNU. He did a B.Sc. in physics from Delhi University, an MA from JNU, and a Ph.D. from Cambridge. He has been a faculty member of IIM Calcutta; a fellow of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study at Shimla; Visiting Senior Fellow at the National University of Singapore; and Visiting Professor at the University of Goettingen. He is the co-author, with the photographer Aditya Arya, of the titled *History in the Making: The Visual Archives of Kulwant Roy* (HarperCollins, 2010)

EVENT DETAILS

Venue: CCMG Network Governance Lab

Date: Thursday, 17 March, 2016

Time: 2:00 pm