

KUASIA and HISTORY Department Seminar

Date: 17th May, 2018

Time: 4:00 – 5:15 pm

Room: CASE 133

Speaker: Prof. Faisal Devji, Oxford University & Visiting Professor at KUASIA

Jinnah and the Making of Pakistan

Pakistan was conceived as a state based on an idea rather than some immemorial link to the land. It was a project for which history and geography were mere instruments in the making of a people that was itself little more than an abstraction. Such a conception of the nation state belongs to the thought of the Enlightenment and its New World settler societies rather than to Europe's romantic nationalism. It is a conception that brings together New World colonies with migrant states like Liberia and in particular the Zionist vision of a Jewish state, putting Pakistan in an alternative political geography detached from that which defines its neighbors.

Short Biography of Speaker

Faisal Devji is Reader in Modern South Asian History and Fellow of St. Antony's College at the University of Oxford. He is also Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and Institute of Public Knowledge Scholar at New York University. Devji has held positions at the University of Chicago, where he also received his PhD in intellectual history, Yale University, the New School for Social Research and the Graduate Institute in Geneva. He is the author of four books, *Landscapes of the Jihad: Militancy, Morality, Modernity* (2005), *The Terrorist in Search of Humanity: Militant Islam and Global Politics* (2009), *The Impossible Indian: Gandhi and the Temptation of Violence* (2012) and *Muslim Zion: Pakistan as a Political Idea*.