

FRIDAY

RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

Conversations on society since 1960

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi

<http://sociology.du.ac.in/sociological-research-colloquium/>

FRIDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY 2022 AT 3:00 PM

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PARAMJIT
SINGH JUDGE



CULTURE AS A FLOWING RIVER:

EMERGING TRENDS IN PUNJABI MUSIC & ITS CULTURAL IMPLICATIONS

Abstract:

This paper attempts to understand changes in Punjabi culture through music and its relationship with society. The romantic ballads of Punjab, particularly the stories of Heer and Mirza, shape the symbolic universe of its culture through the binary opposition of rebel and saint. Punjabi music is adapting to changes in world music to cater to the needs of transnational Punjabi-speaking people. Contemporary western modes such as rap, orchestra and dancing are combined with Punjabi beat, dancing and the singing of folk and romantic ballads. The metaphors and symbols are largely drawn from the Punjabi cultural tradition. As a result, despite its western form, the content remains traditional and continues to revolve around the opposition between the soft lover Ranjha and the violent Mirza. This calls for an understanding of how cultural evolution enables a political economy of cultural production that caters to the market by reinforcing tradition.

The Speaker:

Paramjit Singh Judge was professor of Sociology at the Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, where he served from 1991-2020 in various capacities. He was the President of the Indian Sociological Society from 2019 to 2021. Beginning with his first book on the Naxalite movement in Punjab, he has published extensively in a wide variety of fields including social movement theory and Dalit studies. Among India's best-known sociologists, he has a second vocation as an acclaimed writer with seven novels in Punjabi to his credit.