

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
DELHI - 110 007

29. 1. 2024

FRIDAY RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

You are cordially invited to the
Friday colloquium of the Department

By

PROF. IRFAN AHMAD
(Professor, Department of Sociology,
Ibn Haldun University, Istanbul, Turkey)

who will present a paper

on

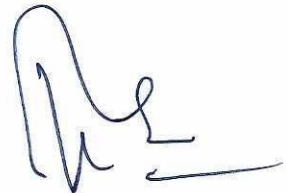
**"POWER/KNOWLEDGE IN INDIA:
THE CASE OF ANTHROPOLOGY-SOCIOLOGY AS A DISCIPLINE"**

on

Friday, 2nd February, 2024 at 3:00 PM

in

Room No: 10 (First Floor),
Prof. M. N. Srinivas Seminar Room
Department of Sociology



(Dr. Tila Kumar
&
Prof. Janaki Abraham)

Coordinators,
Friday Research Colloquium (2023-24)

FRIDAY RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

2/2/2024

IRFAN AHMAD

(Department of Sociology, Ibn Haldun University, Istanbul, Türkiye)

**Power/Knowledge In India:
The Case of Anthropology-Sociology as a Discipline**

ABSTRACT

This talk is about how Indian Anthropology-Sociology has historically theorized Islam and Muslims. In it, I demonstrate how anthropologists' discourse on Islam and the majoritarian Hindu discourse on nation – Muslims being its constitutive “other” – dovetail into each other. Three main catalogues through which anthropology has dealt with Muslims are: ‘silence’, ‘alienness’ and ‘erasure’. Against sociology’s and anthropology’s self-perception as the most reflexive discipline, I argue how Indian Sociology- Anthropology has been intertwined with nation-state as both an ideology and a set of practices. I also identify connections between symbolic violence of Anthropology-Sociology manifest in the “othering” of Islam and ‘anti-Muslim’ political violence in postcolonial India. Discussing influential texts, schools of thoughts, departments, individuals, institutions, professional association in a framework that comparatively alludes to the ‘anomaly’ of Jews vis-à-vis German anthropology, this essay also charts out a different genealogy of Sociology-anthropology in India, one that remains hushed in the regnant accounts. In so doing, it maps the discipline’s trajectory from its moment of formation to the present. One key aim of the essay is to unveil the theory behind methodological nationalism to discuss the (im)possibility of writing an ‘alternative’ anthropology-sociology of India.

Prof. Irfan Ahmad

(PhD. Cum Laude, University of Amsterdam) is Professor of Anthropology-Sociology at Ibn Haldun University, Türkiye. Earlier, he was Senior Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute, Germany. He has taught, among others, at Monash University, Australia and University of Amsterdam.

Author of two monographs, he has (co)edited four volumes on democracy, liberalism, anthropology/ethnography, and nation form and globalization. A public intellectual, he has been interviewed, inter alia, by Al-Jazeera, Deutsche Welle, Frontline, HuffPost, The Hindu, New York Times, Outlook, and SBS. In 2020, he gave the TED-X talk, Twins Unknown at the University of Gottingen, Germany